

An Avery County two-year old was rushed to Watauga Medical Center, then flown to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center after being run over by her father's truck yesterday afternoon. The drama unfolded just after 4 yesterday as Watauga 9-1-1 dispatchers received a frantic call that the child was being rushed in a private vehicle down US 321 toward Boone, dispatchers asking the parents to set up a rendezvous point with emergency responders. After losing contact with the car several times in the rural area, that point was finally set at the pull-off at Trash Can Falls, with Beaver Dam fire/first responders meeting up with the gold car, then Watauga Medics, who loaded the child for the emergency trip into Boone. Finally arriving here, the child's abdominal injury was assessed, and she was flown to the Winston-Salem hospital while the State Patrol investigated. In spite of the initial accident occurring at the edge of Avery County, an F-Troop Sergeant did the investigation, reporting that the incident occurred at about 4:10 on private property with an Elk Park address, that the child's father, 28-year old Joshua Allen Bunton, had been moving his 2000 Dodge truck from in front of the garage at the home to open the garage and felt a 'bump,' then discovered he had run over his daughter. The family quickly scooped up the child and rushed her toward Boone, all the while trying to reach 9-1-1 operators for help. The SHP sergeant said no charges would come from the accident. He also said that the child was conscious--crying--throughout the ordeal, something he considered a good sign.