

## Two Hurt, DWI Charged in Pre-dawn Crash

Written by Steve Frank  
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Just after 3:15 this morning, Watauga Medics, Deep Gap Fire, Watauga Rescue all were sent to US 421 just east of the Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge for a call of a two-vehicle head-on crash, said initially to involved five persons injured. First units on the scene found that actually passengers in each vehicle were hurt, and most emergency units were turned back. Trooper Collier said that the crash occurred as 32-year old Joseph Derek Eller of Crumpler came well across the center line, his 2000 Ford Taurus slamming into the front of Kernersville resident Roy Everett Nibert's Chrysler van, both coming to rest in the north-bound lanes. One of Eller's two passengers, 33-year old Crystal McMickle of Sparta suffered chest and other injuries, while Nibert's wife, Kay, was also hurt. Trooper Collier charged Joseph Derek Eller with Failure to Maintain Lane Control, Left of Center, and Driving While Impaired in the crash near Orchard Road, and said both vehicles were heavily damaged--possibly totaled in the early morning crash.