Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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A shooting just after 2 a.m. near Pappy’s Barbeque in Banner Elk left two in the hospital.

The incident began on 105 when Avery County deputies suspected a black pickup truck of having an impaired driver. The chase led into Watauga County then back to Avery where waiting Banner Elk and Sugar Mountain Police Departments attempted to intercept the fleeing vehicle. A roadblock had been set up near Pappy's Barbeque. The vehicle attempted to collide with the blocking vehicles. According to reports, the occupants attempted to use the vehicle as a weapon, driving directly at Officer Fred Shrader of the Banner Elk Police Department. Shrader fired on the vehicle, to protect himself and other officers, according to a statement. At least 7 shots were fired. Both occupants of the vehicle were wounded. The female occupant was treated at Cannon Memorial Hospital for a gunshot wound to the shoulder, and the male was transported to Johnson City Medical Center for more serious injuries. A medical helicopter picked the man up from a landing zone set up near Lowes Foods in Banner Elk. Names of the suspects and their medical conditions are being withheld, but according to Frye, they should be released soon. The State Bureau of Investigations has been called in to investigate the incident, as is routine with officer involved shootings. More information is expected today. Officers have ideas as to illegal activities the suspects were involved in, but are unwilling to release those at this time.