Written by Steve Frank
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Wilkesboro: A Wilkesboro woman was killed and five injuries reported in a four-vehicle crash on U.S. 421 Friday, just as the holiday weekend was getting underway.

Donna Smith Johnson, 48, of 322 Smokeywood Lane was killed when her car was hit from behind at the Wal-Mart traffic light southbound on 421, according to police. Her husband, Dennis Lee Johnson, 52, front seat passenger, was taken to Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, where he was listed in fair condition Friday night, according to the hospital.

Police said that three cars were waiting at the light when a car driven by 82-year old James Helvey Jr., of Winston-Salem, slammed into the Johnsons' car from behind. Police say there were no skid marks from the 1:15pm accident. Helvey was treated at Wilkes Regional Medical Center, while Helvey's wife Doris Helvey, 79, was taken to Wake Forest Baptist where her condition was being evaluated Friday night. The other vehicle involved was driven by Breece Foy Brinegar of North Wilkesbor, the 64-year old and his wife Pamela both listed by police as injured and treated at Wilkes Regional Medical Center. The Brenegar car struck one driven by Rebecca Sanders of Carthage, but she was not listed as treated.

Wilkesboro traffic on busy 421 was tied up for some time during the early afternoon after the wreck, according to Wilkesboro Police.