

Caldwell crash claims Wilkes man

Written by

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A head-on collision on North Carolina Highway 268 yesterday evening left a North Wilkesboro man dead and two others seriously injured.

According to N.C. Highway Patrol, a pickup truck being driven by 17-year-old Jeremy Tyler Watts of Lenoir was traveling westbound just before 8 p.m. last night. Watts, believed to be exceeding a safe speed, ran off the right hand side of the road and over corrected, troopers say, hitting an eastbound pickup head-on.

Watts was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected through the windshield of his vehicle. He was airlifted from the scene to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

The driver of the eastbound pickup, 54-year-old Gary Michael Parsons of North Wilkesboro, was pronounced dead at the scene. His 13-year-old juvenile passenger, believed to be a relative, was transported to Caldwell Memorial Hospital, and then airlifted to Baptist Medical Center in Winston Salem. Both occupants of the eastbound pickup were wearing seatbelts.

Watts was returning from church, troopers say, and alcohol was not involved.

A source within Highway Patrol says charges against Watts may be pending.