

## Deadly accident on Drug Store Hill

Written by

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An Avery man was killed over the weekend, and three others critically injured in an accident police say may happened because of alcohol.

The incident happened at Drug Store Hill on N.C. Highway 221 when driver 22-year-old Matthew Taylor lost control of his vehicle at a curve and ran off the road to the left. Troopers say he hit several signs and slid across Tenant Road then overturned off an embankment, colliding with several trees and a fence. The car rolled several times and came to rest in a field on the northeast shoulder of U.S. 221. Speed was a factor, troopers say.

The accident claimed the life of 22-year-old Justin Vaughn Daniels. 21-year-old Kristina Sharp was ejected from the vehicle and was listed in critical condition at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

Other injured passengers included 21-year-old Corey Allen Singleton, who was also listed in critical condition, 22-year-old Sean Morgan Costner and 22-year-old former McDowell deputy James Brandon Watson. Taylor was also listed in critical condition. All parties involved were in their early twenties.

Unconfirmed reports indicate Taylor was intoxicated. Troopers have launched an investigation and are awaiting toxicology reports. No charges have been filed, but one source within Highway Patrol says District Attorney Gerry Wilson may decide to pursue charges against Taylor.

The accident happened Saturday just after 2:30 a.m.