

Man Wrecks Stolen ASU Van, is Hospitalized

Written by ASU Police

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This morning, at approximately 2:44 a.m., Appalachian State Police Officers attempted to stop a vehicle on Bodenheimer Drive which was traveling at a high rate of speed and without the headlights illuminated. Almost immediately after being noticed by officer, the driver of the vehicle turned onto Rivers Street where he lost control of the vehicle and ran off an embankment striking a tree near Edwin Duncan Hall. Upon further inspection by officers at the scene of the accident, it was determined the vehicle was a university-owned van. The Officer was then notified by Boone Police dispatchers that an employee from the university's Student Recreation Center had just reported that a van had been stolen from the recreation center. ASU Police determined the van involved in the accident was the van which had been reported stolen.

The operator of the vehicle was identified as Paul Ray Kirkland of Belmont, NC. Kirkland was transported from the scene by Boone Medics to Watauga Medical Center where he is currently hospitalized for injuries sustained in the accident. ASU Police have currently charged Kirkland with Driving While Impaired and continue to investigate the incident with further charges against Kirkland expected.