

Stopped Car Struck; Three Hurt on 321

Written by Steve Frank

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Three injuries were reported in a collision on US 321 between Aho Road and the Blue Ridge Parkway this afternoon. The 1:40pm crash occurred when Rebecca Smith, 21, of Lenoir, was stopped to make a left turn into a realty office, her 2002 Mini Cooper struck in the rear by the 2012 Chevrolet of Paul Petralia, 56, of New York. Petralia suffered neck and back pain and a cut to his hand in the crash, and was transported by Watauga Medics to Watauga Medical Center, while Rebecca Smith and her passenger—her mother, reporting that they would seek treatment on their own for pains from the crash. Paul Petralia was cited for Failure to Reduce Speed by trooper Hendrix.