



**JERRY DOVE** of the N.C. Highway Patrol investigates an accident at the intersection of N.C. 130 and Sabbath Home Road near the Holden Beach causeway Tuesday morning. A pickup truck swerved to avoid another vehicle, crossed the median, rode up a telephone guide wire and overturned. The driver was wearing a seat belt and was not injured.

### Eleven People Injured In Six Local Accidents

Three adults and five children were taken to the hospital with minor injuries after a two-car collision in Leland Friday morning, according to Rebecca Floyd of the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

The driver of one of the vehicles, Lisa Ann Smith, 27, of Leland was charged with failing to reduce speed to avoid a collision by trooper T.W. Calder.

Smith was driving a 1977 Toyota eastbound on Village Road (SR 1492) at about 5:10 a.m. behind a 1982 Chevrolet operated by Maria Estella Jesus, 30, of Wilmington when she failed to notice that the Chevrolet had slowed to make a left turn in front of her. The two cars collided, causing about \$1,000 damage to each, according to Calder's report.

Smith was taken to Cape Fear Memorial Hospital along with five passengers in her car, including Pixie Bass, 25, Hope Bass, 5, Heather Bass, 1, Holly Patrick, 6, and Cory McMullan, 5, all of Leland. Also transported with minor injuries was Jesus and her passenger, Linda Coffee, 38, of Leland.

Earlier that morning, two men were seriously injured when a pickup truck ran a stop sign and crashed into a house on N.C. 904 about 6.4 miles from Shallotte.

Johnny Charles Tharpe, 38, of Calabash was driving south on Old Shallotte Road (SR 1316) at about 2:45 a.m. when he failed to stop at the intersection of N.C. 904, according to Trooper R.L. Murray's report. Tharpe's 1984 Chevrolet pickup crossed the road, jumped a ditch and crashed into the bedroom of a house, causing about \$10,000 damage to the structure.

Tharpe and his passenger, Timothy Bennett, 17, of Shallotte were

taken to The Brunswick Hospital with serious injuries, the report said. There was about \$3,500 damage to the truck.

Tharpe was charged with driving without a license, driving while impaired and a stop sign violation.

Also on Friday morning, Murray investigated another one-car accident that occurred on Marlowtown Road (SR 1356) about 2.2 miles west of Calabash.

Jennifer Green, 19, of Calabash was driving south in a 1986 Chevrolet when she ran off the road and hit a ditch bank, causing about \$150 damage. She was taken to The Brunswick Hospital with moderate injuries, according to Murray.

Green reportedly told Murray that she swerved to avoid a dog.

Trooper Jerry Dove investigated three accidents that occurred within two days on N.C. 130 between Shallotte and Holden Beach. In each incident, the drivers were wearing seat belts and were not injured, Dove said.

A 1975 Opel was "demolished beyond repair" when it ran into the back of another car on N.C. 130 about a mile east of Shallotte Monday morning.

Cary Richard Hester, 23, of Sea Aire Estates, Shallotte, was driving the Opel when he apparently failed to notice that Erica Gertrude Swanson, 50, of Calabash had slowed down for a car making a turn in front of her, Dove said.

There was an estimated \$800 damage to Swanson's 1984 Chevrolet.

Hester was charged with failing to reduce speed to avoid a collision.

Kimberly Deanna Watts, 20, of Supply had just purchased a new 1993 Nissan Monday when she was hit from behind Tuesday morning by

a car that apparently failed to slow down for a stop sign.

Watts was eastbound on N.C. 130 when she stopped at the intersection of Mt. Pisgah Road. Frederick Henry Culpepper, 27, of Ocean Isle Beach was heading in the same direction in a 1993 Dodge.

As he slowed for the intersection, he apparently did not notice that Watts was still stopped in front of him, Dove said. The two vehicles collided, causing about \$800 damage to the Nissan and about \$900 damage to the Dodge.

Culpepper was charged with failing to reduce speed to avoid a collision, Dove said.

Also on Tuesday, at about 7:05 a.m., a pickup truck swerved to avoid another vehicle, crossed a traffic island and hit the guide wires of a telephone, which flipped the vehicle onto its side.

Ronald Dean Williamson, 26, of Supply was travelling west on Sabbath Home Road, approaching the intersection of N.C. 130 at the Holden Beach causeway, when a 1989 Suzuki towing a boat trailer pulled out of the Quarterdeck Restaurant, Dove said.

Williamson swerved to the left to avoid a collision and drove across the intersection, where his 1991 pickup overturned, causing an estimated \$5,000 damage. The other car was not damaged.

Robert Michael Johnson, 25, of Hope Mills was charged with failing to yield right of way, Dove said.

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