

Double Fatality on Hwy 52 West

Written by Debbie Gregory
Tuesday, March 4, 2014



Trooper Justin Mote is still investigating a violent two-vehicle crash that left a man and woman dead on Highway 52 West near the Oakdale intersection and another man in a Nashville hospital. The accident occurred around 11:05 p.m. Sunday night, March 2.

According to Trooper Mote, of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, 23-year-old Devon Speight was driving a black 2005 Honda along with his passenger 23-year-old Kelsey Garner, westbound on Highway 52 when the automobile crossed the center line and entered the east bound lane of travel, where it was struck by a silver 1999 Toyota SUV driven by 40-year-old Eric Holland, of Westmoreland. "Speight and Garner were killed on impact," said Trooper Mote, "and they were pronounced dead at the scene by Medical Examiner Steve Jones. They were both from Hendersonville, although Speight was originally from Macon County."

Both vehicles came to final rest in the eastbound lane of travel on Highway 52 West.

"Weather conditions were a contributing factor in the crash," added Trooper Mote.

Deputy Chief David Cross, of the Lafayette Fire Department, stated they stabilized the SUV, popped the passenger's side door and brought Holland out. "We had to move the SUV in order to remove one of the deceased victims."

When contacted by phone on Monday afternoon, a Skyline Medical Center representative stated that Eric Holland is listed in good condition.

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Trooper Mote was assisted at the scene by other troopers including CIRT Sgt. Ashley Mercer, who reconstructed the accident.

Responding to the scene were: Tennessee Highway Patrol, Macon County Sheriffs Office, Lafayette Fire Department, West Macon Rescue Squad, Medical Examiner Steve Jones, Macon County EMS, and the *Macon County Chronicle*.