

Fatal Crash In Wilkes County, Saturday

Lincoln Herald Staff

PURLEAR––Two men are dead, following a crash in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

According to Master Trooper Christopher Casey of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, at about midnight on Sept. 28, NCSHP personnel responded to and investigated a fatal collision in Wilkes County on Shingle Gap Road near CC Hayes Road. In a same-day statement, Casey continues that a Honda dirt bike, travelling north on Shingle Gap Road, collided head-on with a southbound Suzuki dirt bike in the center of the roadway.

The driver of the Honda, Matthew Dean Blankenship, 21, of Ferguson, succumbed to his injuries at the scene. The driver of the Suzuki, Orin Thomas Harless, 30, of Purlear, also succumbed to his injuries at the scene, as Casey informs.

“The initial investigation does not indicate impairment or speed as contributing factors to the collision,” he adds. “Both drivers were not wearing helmets.”

Shingle Gap Road was closed in the area for some two hours during the on-scene investigation.