



## **Woman dies after collision in North Wilkesboro**

**by Chuck Hubbard**

(Photo caption) Chuck Hubbard/staff photo-A North Wilkesboro woman died Friday afternoon on N.C. 18 North after her car (at far right) was struck from behind by a pickup truck.

A woman died following a rear-end collision Friday afternoon on the four-lane section of N.C. 18 North in North Wilkesboro, according to Officer J.A. Johnson of the North Wilkesboro Police Department.

Ella Mae Helman Goeken, 84, of Fairplains Ridge Road, North Wilkesboro, driver of a 1990 Ford, died at the scene.

There is evidence that Ms. Goeken may have been experiencing a medical problem at the time of the collision, North Wilkesboro Police Chief Joe Rankin said. An autopsy is being done to determine whether the cause of death was the collision or an unrelated medical issue.

Ms. Goeken was traveling north when she stopped in the highway and was struck from behind by Timothy Brian Richardson, 23, of North Wilkesboro, driver of a 2005 Nissan pickup truck, Johnson said.

Richardson declined treatment by Wilkes EMS personnel at the scene of the wreck, which happened around 1 p.m.

Both vehicles were damaged beyond repair.

North Wilkesboro first responders and firemen provided assistance at the scene.