



Police Department News Release

**Roanoke County Public Safety Center
5925 Cove Road • Roanoke, Virginia 24019
Non-Emergency (540) 562-3265 • Emergency Dial 9-1-1**

Contact: Name Commander Steve Turner
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Date: September 16, 2015

- **Type of Crash:** Crash involving Pedestrian or Cyclist
- **Date of Crash:** September 16, 2015 **Time of Crash:** 1 PM
- **Location of Crash:** Dent Road
- **Investigating Officer:** T. Farmer
- **Victim Name(s):** Marvin Heck, Jr.
- **Victim Age:** 49
- **Victim Residence Location:** Eastern Ave. NE Roanoke, VA
- **Suspect Name(s):** Rhonda Simmons
- **Suspect Age:** 55
- **Suspect Residence Location:** Wildhurst Ave. NE Roanoke, VA
- **Charges if Applicable:** Driving Under the Influence of Drugs
- The road was blocked to traffic
- Alcohol and/or drugs may have been a factor, see narrative.
- Seatbelts N/A
- Weather was not a factor in the crash.
- **Additional Remarks:** At approximately 1 PM today a 2001 Chevrolet Lumina driven by Rhonda Simmons was travelling eastbound on Dent Road in Roanoke County. About 250 feet east of the intersection of Carefree Lane, the Lumina veered out of its lane, and traveled a short distance partially on the shoulder of the road. In doing so, the front of the Lumina struck a pedestrian on the shoulder of the road. The pedestrian was identified as Marvin Heck, Jr. who was transported to Roanoke Memorial Hospital with life threatening injuries. Mr. Heck passed away a short time later.

Rhonda Simmons was arrested at the scene and taken to the magistrate's office located at the Roanoke County Jail where she was charged with Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID). This crash remains under investigation by Officer Farmer and Officer M. Banks. They will be able to return any calls after 9 AM on September 17.

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