

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 7, 2021

## **3 vehicle Fatality Crash Northeast of Williston**

What: Fatality

Where: Hwy 2 WB MM 41

When: 11-06-21 at approximately 1956

**Road Conditions: Good** 

**Weather Conditions:** Dark

Crash Involvement: Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Head on

**Agencies Involved:** NDHP, Williams County Sheriff, Tioga PD, Ray Fire and Rescue, Williston

ambulance

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2012 Dodge Ram Pickup

**Driver No. 1:** Mark Bearce 52 Williston, ND-Injured

**Restraints:** Seatbelt used

**Charges:** DUI and Vehicular Manslaughter

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2015 Toyota Sienna

**Driver No. 2:** Stephanie Lee 44 Williston, ND(Deceased)

**Restraints:** Seatbelt used

**Charges:** No charges were filed

**Passenger No. 1:** LaDarian Taylor -22 Jonesboro, GA (Injured)

**Restraints:** Seatbelt used

**Passenger No. 2:** 7 year old juvenile Williston, ND (Deceased)



**Vehicle No. 3:** 2019 Ford F350

**Driver No. 3** Zachary Brown-22 Fayettteville UT (Not injured)

**NARRATIVE:** The Dodge ram being operated by, Bearce, was traveling the wrong way on Hwy 2, traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes. The Toyota being operated by, Lee, and Ford being operated by, Brown, were traveling westbound on Hwy 2. Near MM 41 the Dodge collided head on with the Toyota, the Ford was struck by debris. The driver of the Toyota, Lee, and a juvenile passenger died from injuries sustained in the crash and were pronounced dead at the scene. A 3<sup>rd</sup> passenger of the Toyota, Taylor, was injured and transferred by ambulance to CHI Hospital in Williston with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Ford, Brown, was not injured.

The driver of the Dodge, Bearce, was injured as a result of the crash with non-life-threatening injuries. He was transported by ambulance to CHI Hospital in Williston. Bearce was charged with DUI and vehicular manslaughter.

Hwy 2 was closed for approximately 3.5 hours for on scene investigation and to clear the vehicles involved. This crash remains under investigation by the NDHP.

**For More Information Contact:** 

**Sgt. Andrew Cashin** 701-521-0219 acashin@nd.gov