

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

Eugene J. Conway

Sheriff



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Head-On Collision occurs on Route 481 North

Town of Clay, New York – Sheriff Gene Conway is reporting that Sheriff's deputies responded to a head-on collision this morning on Route 481 North in the Town of Clay this morning.

A 2005 Dodge Stratus driven by Ashley Nelson (30) of 956 Middle Road, Oswego NY was travelling in the passing lane of Route 481 North with her two children in the vehicle. A 2013 Hyundai Elantra driven by Ronald Torrick (68) of 202 Mariposa Street, Syracuse had entered Route 481N from the off-ramp that leads to Caughdenoy Road. After Torrick entered the highway via the off-ramp, he continued to travel south in the northbound lanes of Route 481 and at one point crossed from one lane to the other leaving him travelling southbound in the passing lane of Route 481 North. As Torrick was travelling the wrong way on Route 481 North he struck Nelson's vehicle head-on. Nelson was not able to change lanes due to the traffic in the other lane, but she was able to turn the wheel slightly before impact which caused the crash to not be a direct head-on collision, but still caused significant damage to both vehicles.

Ashley Nelson complained of minor pain and was taken to Upstate Hospital to be evaluated. Her children, Malakai (3) and Serenity (1), suffered no visible injuries and were also taken to Upstate Hospital for evaluation. Ronald Torrick suffered no injuries but was taken by ambulance to Crouse Hospital for evaluation. Both Nova and Navac Ambulances were on scene for transport, and Clay Fire Department assisted on the scene as well.

At this time it appears the cause of the accident may be related to a medical condition of Ronald Torrick. Traffic related tickets will be issued. Route 481 North was closed for a period of time while the crash was investigated but was opened for regular traffic by 11:30am.

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