

Update: Friday Morning Traffic Crash

Two young Doniphan County residents apparently remain hospitalized following an early Friday morning crash in Jefferson County.

However, while it's confirmed that the passenger, 20-year-old Dyllon Butrick, of White Cloud continues to receive hospital care at the University of Kansas Medical Center, little is known about the current condition of the driver.

According to a spokeswoman at Stormont Vail Hospital, in Topeka, the family of 19-year-old Gary Daniel Koelliker, of Highland, has requested that no information be released about him.

However, Butrick's family is forthcoming, posting updates about his condition on the website caringbridge.org.

According to the latest posting, Butrick Monday morning opened his eyes and moved his left arm up on his own, with doctors believing him to be making slow, but certain, progress.

The family is continuing to ask for prayers and support as Butrick remains in the early stages of his recovery. He is officially listed in serious condition.

The wreck happened Friday morning, around 1:45, east of Perry, when Koelliker, who had pulled his westbound pickup onto the shoulder of US 24, made a u-turn, crashing into a westbound passing semi that had moved into the opposite lane to pass Koelliker's pick-up.

The Kansas Highway Patrol says Koelliker and Butrick were not wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash.

Koelliker was transported to Stormont Vail while Butrick was flown to the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City.