

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHESNEE MAN RECEIVES 15-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR DUI WRECK

A Chesnee man received a 15-year prison sentence and a \$5,000 fine today after he admitted to driving drunk and causing a wreck that critically injured a motorcyclist.

Bobby Shane Hipp, 30, pleaded guilty to felony driving under the influence with great bodily injury before Circuit Judge Mark Hayes. Hipp injured Brian Charles Oursler, 36, of Rutherfordton, NC during a Sept. 3, 2009 wreck on Highway 11 near Bishop Road. Hipp was driving a 1998 Jeep in the northbound lane when he attempt to turn into a private driveway. Hipp crossed into the path of Oursler's Honda motorcycle. An eyewitness told the Highway Patrol she saw Hipp swerving in his lane prior to the wreck. The witness said Hipp used his turn signal and he came to a complete stop before turning into the path of Oursler's motorcycle and striking it. Oursler sustained a disfiguring leg injury that required multiple surgeries. He also underwent surgery to repair broken bones in his face. Oursler was on crutches when he appeared in court today and described his injuries to Judge Hayes.

The defendant's blood-alcohol level was .13. He also had traces of Valium and Marijuana in his system.

Hipp's guilty plea occurred about two months after he pleaded guilty to driving under the influence on an unrelated case.

"Bobby Hipp proved he can't learn from his mistakes," Principal Deputy Solicitor Barry Barnette said. "He will have plenty of time behind bars to think about the consequences of his pathetic actions."

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