

PEABODY— Local award winning chef in critical condition after two-vehicle collision on Route 128.

Early Thursday, the vehicle being driven by Ashley Lewis 42, of Marblehead was hit by the pickup truck of Jack Smith, 27, of Beverly. Lisa, 39, of Salem was a passenger in Lewis' car. According to the police, icy conditions may have contributed. The collision took place on the southbound side of Route 128 in Peabody.

Smith is estimated to have been driving at 80 mph when the collision occurred, sending Lewis and Cooper off the road and into a tree, said police. Lewis was rushed to Salem Hospital with critical injuries to her head, arm and torso. Smith and Cooper were treated for minor injuries at Salem Hospital and were promptly released.

Lewis is the owner and head chef at Fisher Grill in Peabody which recently won her the prestigious James Beard award for best chef.

Jack Smith will be charged with driving to endanger, other charges are still being investigated by the authorities. Commenting on the scene Massachusetts State Trooper Martin Goresuch stated "Luckily there weren't other drivers on the road at the time." This is one of many vehicular accidents to occur on this strip of Route 128 in the last year, according to police.