

14-year-old Christina Renee Royal of Ronda died early yesterday morning when a car she was riding in lost control on U.S. 321 approximately 10 miles northwest of Boone.

Royal was seated in the lap of an unknown male. Neither the driver, 18-year-old Tiffany Absher, or the victim were wearing seatbelts. When Absher lost control of the trail blazer, it ejected Royal and the unknown male, who then fled the scene. The vehicle then rolled over Royal, killing her, according to Highway Patrol. Other passengers in the vehicle were 14-year-old John Railing and 16-year-old William Hugh Frye. Highway Patrol knows the identity of the white male, who was apparently uninjured. According to statements from Highway Patrol, the individual is believed to have been under house arrest. The driver and other passengers were treated at Watauga Medical Center. No word on whether any charges will be filed