

Teen may face charges in fatal accident

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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The Watauga district attorney's office will be considering charges against an Ashe County teenage driver.

18-year-old Tiffany Absher of Fleetwood was traveling approximately 65 miles per hour in a 1997 Chevrolet Blazer on U.S. 321 when she lost control and hit a tree, authorities say. Both Absher and her cousin, 14-year-old Christina Renee Royal of Ronda, were ejected from the blazer. Neither teen was wearing a seatbelt. Royal was killed when the vehicle rolled over her. She had just completed eighth grade at East Wilkes Middle School. Authorities allege Absher was driving carelessly when she lost control of the vehicle. Absher may be charged with failing to restrain her passengers with seatbelts, according to highway patrol. Highway patrol investigators will be submitting their report to the Watauga County District Attorney's Office, who may bring charges against Absher based on their findings. Three other teens were in the vehicle at the time of the crash, two of whom were injured. Neither drugs nor alcohol appeared to be involved, according to highway patrol reports.