



MEDIA RELEASE

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Teen Motorcyclist Killed On Louisville Road

On Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at approximately 6:50 p.m., Alcoa Police officers were dispatched to a report of a motor vehicle accident at 1216 Louisville Road. The accident involved a 2002 Suzuki motorcycle and a 2003 Buick LeSabre. The motorcycle was operated by 14-year-old, Matthew C. Wright of Maryville. The Buick was operated by 78-year-old Betty Johnston, also of Maryville. According to witness reports, Wright appeared to have lost control of the motorcycle and nearly struck another vehicle as he was traveling northbound. Wright continued past that vehicle, crossed the centerline, struck the Johnston vehicle and was ejected from the motorcycle. The Johnston vehicle traveled off the roadway and into a ditch, striking a drain tile before coming to rest. Alcoa Fire-Rescue and Rural Metro Ambulance Service provided treatment to Wright and Johnston. Wright was transported to the University of Tennessee Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Betty Johnston suffered minor injuries as a result of airbag deployment. Johnston's husband, 82-year-old Robert M. Johnston, was a non-injured passenger in his wife's vehicle. Both were wearing seatbelts. Betty Johnston was transported to Blount Memorial Hospital for a voluntary blood alcohol test. Inexperience by the motorcycle operator is listed as the contributing factor to this accident. Wright was wearing a motorcycle helmet.

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