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Section: News

Deputy involved in crash, woman killed

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Article Text:

A Powell woman killed Wednesday evening in a two-vehicle crash involving an Anderson County Sheriff's Department patrol car was not wearing a seat belt, but air bags in her car deployed.

Teresa R. Bridges, 25, of Powell, died at the scene of the 5:58 p.m. crash on Andersonville Highway. Bridges was driving a 2005 Nissan Sentra and was not wearing a seat belt, Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Kelly Smith reported. Although the air bags in her car deployed, Smith's report said seat belt usage would have made a difference in the outcome. Bridge's car was hit in the passenger side front when she pulled out of a side road near North Park Drive into the path of an oncoming patrol car driven by Deputy Jim Leinart. Leinart was going east on Andersonville Highway using emergency lights and sirens. Reports do not indicate the speed of either vehicle but the speed limit on Andersonville Highway is 45 mph. Smith reported that Bridge's vision was obstructed by a tractor-trailer in the turn lane of the east-bound side of the four-lane highway.

Reports said Leinart was using a seat belt and was not injured. He was taken to Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge for evaluation.

Because the crash involved a Sheriff's Department vehicle, the crash is being investigated. The Tennessee Department of Safety may release more information on Monday.

Leinart, 57, a resident of Briceville, is a veteran officer and started with the Sheriff's Department in 1988 as an auxiliary reserve officer.

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Caption:

Photo:

Scott Fraker/Staff

The driver of a 2005 Nissan Sentra was killed Wednesday after her car was hit by a patrol car on Andersonville Highway.

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