

Wednesday wreck leaves family injured

By **Nick Todaro**
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The second three-vehicle accident in as many days on U.S. 167 left three people injured Wednesday.

At about 8:55 a.m. Wednesday, a 2006 Nissan Pathfinder, 2004 Ford F-150 and 2005 Chevy Silverado collided on U.S. 167 at Woodhaven Road.

Nicole Postel, the driver of the Nissan, apparently turned off Woodhaven Road headed southbound into oncoming northbound traffic, said Ruston Police Department Public Information Officer Lt. Curtis Hawkins.

"For reasons unknown, she turned into traffic without seeing the oncoming vehicle," Hawkins said.

That vehicle, the Ford, carried two juvenile male twins from Jonesboro. The Ford struck Postel's Nissan on the driver's side and spun, while the Nissan flipped onto its passenger side. Postel and her two children,

ages 6 and 9, who were in the back seat, were wearing their seat belts, as were the two teens in the Ford.

When that collision occurred, the northbound Chevy, driven by Donna Atkins, 52, of Ruston, was unable to avoid running into the Ford. Atkins was also wearing her seat belt, Hawkins said.

Airbags deployed in both the Chevy and Nissan, Hawkins said.

Postel and her two children were taken to Northern Louisiana Medical Center to deal with minor injuries. Atkins and the two juvenile twins were not significantly injured, Hawkins said.

He said that seat belts likely saved lives.

"We were very thankful that all the drivers and passengers were buckled up," Hawkins said. "This could have had a very different outcome if they weren't. That parent did what she was supposed to do — she buckled her children in."