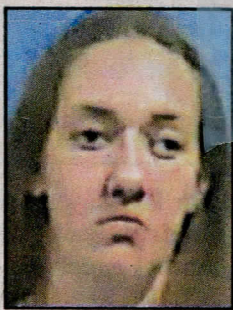


# Driver in fatal wreck charged with murder

**JAY FELSBURG**  
Editor

The driver involved in a single-vehicle crash at 6:55 p.m. Saturday, May 9, that claimed the life of a Midland City child and injured eight others has been charged with murder and assault



**Knight**

According to the Alabama State Troopers, Zyrloh Tucker, 4, was killed when the 2003 Chevrolet Avalanche in which she was a passenger left the roadway and overturned. Tucker, who was not restrained, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the Avalanche, 32-year-old Starlea Nicole Knight, also of Midland City, was transported to a local hospital, where she was listed in critical condition.

The seven remaining children were transported to local hospitals for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. The crash was on Geneva Road 89 three miles east of Geneva.

On Tuesday afternoon Knight, who sat motionless in a blue-grey jail blanket, was charged with one count of murder and two counts of assault 1st in the death of Tucker and injury to a 13-year-old child and 14-year-old child.

District Judge Stephen Smith presided over the first appearance hearing. Smith said there was probable cause for the charges. Knight was accused of using a controlled substance and texting while driving "at a dangerously high rate of speed."

Assistant District Attorney David Rousseau said that Knight was considered a flight risk, and due to the nature of the charges, requested that high bonds be set. Smith set a bond of \$150,000 on the murder charge and bonds of \$50,000 on each assault charge. Knight remains in Geneva County Jail.