

Blue Ridge High to require safe driving class

By Anna Lee • Staff Writer • May 17, 2010

GREER — After recent fatal wrecks involving Blue Ridge High students, the school, starting in the 2011-12 school year, will require students to take a [safe driving](#) course called “Alive at 25” if they want to be allowed to drive to school.

“It’s just a way to help our kids to just be safer drivers,” Principal Renee Watson said. “We want to do anything we can do to help.”

Teachers and students are still mourning the death of Blue Ridge sophomore Michael Nyblom, who died May 9 when the 2006 Dodge pickup he was riding in went off the side of State 101 and crashed into a tree.

The driver, Sean Tervo, 18, was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital, as was a second passenger, Nicholas Coponen, 19, who was ejected from the [truck](#), said Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Scott Edgeworth.

Nyblom died at the scene.

Just two months prior, another Blue Ridge student, senior Josh Bryant, died in a car crash on a country road around the corner from his home and school.

“It’s been very difficult for the students,” Watson said. “The kids up here are extremely close, so I can tell you they lean on each other as well as the [parents](#).”

She hopes the safe driving program will help prevent another teen death in this tight-knit community.

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YOU CAN GO

An informational meeting for parents and students about Alive at 25 will be held at 6 p.m. June 1 at the Blue Ridge High School media center.