Woman killed in Woodbine crash, child airlifted to UK

MACEE SWAFFORD
TIMES-TRIBUNE

WOODBINE — A woman was killed and her 4-year-old daughter was injured Tuesday morning following a single-vehicle collision on Piney Grove Road in Whitley County, according to the Whitley County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies were dispatched to the scene around 7:22 a.m. on Nov. 17 after Whitley County 911 received a report of an injury collision involving a possible fatality.

According to Sheriff Bill Elliotte, a preliminary investigation determined that a 2008 Chevrolet Suburban, driven by Samantha Lockhart, was traveling eastbound on Piney Grove Road when it left the roadway and struck an earthen embankment.

Lockhart sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene by Whitley County Coroner Andy Croley.

Lockhart's 4-year-old daughter was also inside the vehicle and was properly secured in a child safety seat at the time of the crash. The child sustained injuries and was airlifted to the University of Kentucky for treatment. Her injuries were reported as non-life threatening, according to WCSO.

Preliminary findings indicate Lockhart may have swerved to avoid an animal, possibly a deer, in the roadway before losing control of the vehicle.

Investigators also determined Lockhart was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the collision. Authorities believe that may have contributed to the severity of her injuries.

The investigation remains ongoing and is being led by Sergeant David Rowe of the Whitley County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office was assisted by the Woodbine Volunteer Fire Department, Whitley County EMS, the Whitley County Coroner's Office and Whitley County Emergency Management.

Kidnapping, assault and wanton endangerment top Whitley County indictments

MACEE SWAFFORD
TIMES-TRIBUNE

WILLIAMSBURG — The Whitley County Grand Jury handed down indictments this month ranging from first-degree assault and attempted kidnapping to child abuse, assault, wanton endangerment and more.

— Andrew Siler, 62, of Williamsburg, was indicted on first-degree assault (domestic violence) and nine counts of intimidating a participant in the legal process.

According to the indictment, Siler caused serious physical injury to an individual during an incident between Sept 3. and Sept. 4. The nine intimidation counts involve incidents between Oct. 2 and Oct. 27, during which Siler is accused of using harassing communications, physical force or threats directed towards the individual in an effort to influence their testimony, vote, decision or opinion.

— Charles Crisp Jr., 22, of Williamsburg, was indicted by information on attempted kidnapping of a minor. According to the indictment, Crisp attempted to unlawfully restrain a juvenile on Oct. 6 with the intent to advance the commission of a felony, inflict bodily injury or terrorize the juvenile.

— Johnny Morris, 60, of Campbell County, Tennessee, was indicted on six counts, including first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine), two counts of first-degree wanton endangerment of a police officer, first-degree fleeing or evading police (motor vehicle), tampering with physical evidence and first-degree possession of a controlled substance.

The charges stem from an Oct. 29 incident in which Morris is accused of creating a danger of death or serious injury to Whitley County deputies, fleeing from law enforcement while under the influence, tampering with evidence and possessing methamphetamine for the purpose of sale.

— Carlton Douglas, 27, of Williamsburg, and Heather Douglas, 38, of Whitley County, were each indicted on first-degree criminal abuse or neglect of a child under 13 and first-degree wanton endangerment.

According to the indictment, both reportedly abused or neglected a child and placed the child in a situation that created

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION
The Times-Tribune is published Thursday by cnhi, LLC, 818 S. Main St., London, KY 40741.

Periodicals postage paid at 301 Roy Kidd Avenue, Corbin, KY 40701-9998.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to the The Times-Tribune, P.O. Box 516, Corbin, KY 40702.

(USPS 132-480)

Whitley Fiscal Court approves sanitation rate increase

MACEE SWAFFORD
TIMES-TRIBUNE

WILLIAMSBURG — Whitley County Fiscal Court approved several financial measures during its regular meeting on Tuesday.

Among the items approved was Resolution 2026-10, which increases the county's monthly sanitation rate from $22 to $25.

"I think that's comparable to what the City of Corbin is charging now," said Judge Executive Pat White, Jr. "It's always been our goal with sanitation that we provide an affordable service as reasonably as we can."

The court also approved the second reading of Ordinance 2026-09, authorizing a general obligation lease to help fund projects, including paving improvements at the judicial center. Officials said the arrangement will allow the county to move forward with multiple projects while spreading repayment over an eight-year period.

Additionally, magistrates approved the second reading of Ordinance 2026-10, authorizing Budget Amendment No. 2, primarily to account for FEMA funding and opioid-related funds.

The court approved its 2026-27 salt agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, securing 200 tons of salt ahead of the winter season. Officials noted difficulties obtaining additional salt and said current pricing has increased to $138.75 per ton.

"We usually try to buy another around 200-400 tons, depending on how much is in our bin that we could store," said White. "But salt seems to be pretty difficult to get this year. I'm glad to get this

SEE **FISCAL,** PAGE **A3**

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