

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 08, 2014

SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATES FATAL ACCIDENT IN TOWN OF GHENT

Ghent, NY- Columbia County Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that Sheriff's Patrols handled a two vehicle accident at about 11:45pm last night on County Route 9, near the intersection of Konig Road in the Town of Ghent.

K9 Deputy Travis VanAlstyne was on routine patrol on County Route 9 and observed a Chevrolet Traverse traveling northbound in the southbound lane operating recklessly. The Deputy initiated a traffic stop and once he exited the patrol unit to walk up to the suspect vehicle, she accelerated away. By the time the Deputy had caught up to her, she had already struck a 2004 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck operated by 19 year old Kyle Macfarlane from Old Chatham. Kyle Macfarlane and two passengers, 23 year old Timothy Laraway Jr. and 24 year old Brian Macfarlane, were all transported to Albany Medical Center.

Deputy Sheriff's found that the 2014 Chevrolet Traverse, operated by 26 year old Kasandra Solverson from Minnesota, was traveling northbound on County Route 9 and traveled over into the southbound lane striking the pick-up truck. Kasandra Solverson was pronounced dead at the scene by Columbia County Coroner James Bertram.

The accident is still under investigation by Sheriff's Investigators, the Sheriff's Accident/Incident Investigation Unit and Coroner Bertram. Investigators are looking into the possibility that alcohol or drugs were involved.

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The Chatham Rescue Squad, Greenport Rescue Squad, Valatie Rescue Squad, Chatham Fire Company and Ghent Fire Company assisted at the scene.

Investigating for the Sheriff's Office are Sheriff David Bartlett, Captain John DeRocha, Sergeant Andrew Broockmann, Investigator William Dunspaugh, K9 Deputy Travis VanAlstyne, Deputy Jeffrey Hofstetter, Deputy Joshua Oakes, and Deputy Kris Bauhoff.