



Office of the County Coroner

Angie F. Rita- Coroner

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Coroner Identifies Victim in Fatal Motorcycle Collision

Saluda County, S.C. (04/23/2026)- Saluda County Coroner Angie Rita has identified the victim of a fatal motorcycle collision that occurred April 22 on Columbia Highway as Mark W. Wharton, 61, of Monetta (Aiken County).

The incident occurred at approximately 10:10 p.m. on Columbia Highway near Roseland Drive. Based on initial investigation, a 2000 Suzuki motorcycle traveling westbound struck a deer. After striking the deer, Mr. Wharton was subsequently struck by an unknown vehicle that left the scene. Mr. Wharton was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The incident remains under investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and the Saluda County Coroner's Office.

The Saluda County Coroner's Office extends its heartfelt condolences to Mr. Wharton's family and friends during this difficult time.

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