



MEDIA RELEASE



Bloomington Police Department & McLean County Coroner's Office

For Immediate Release: November 06, 2024

Fatal Traffic Crash

McLean County Coroner Dr. Kathy Yoder is releasing the following information regarding the fatal traffic crash in the area of Fox Creek Road and Beich Road in Bloomington, Illinois on November 3, 2024.

Pronounced deceased on November 3, 2024, at 8:33 pm, in the Emergency Department at Carle BroMenn Medical Center, was Chakquia Echols, age 27, of Normal, Illinois. Preliminary autopsy opinion indicates that Ms. Echols died from multiple blunt injuries due to an automobile collision, reportedly sustained and consistent with a restrained passenger in one of the two impacting vehicles. Toxicology testing is pending.

"It is unfortunate our community lost a life in a preventable crash. We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of Ms. Echols," stated Chief Jamal Simington. *"Users of our highway system expect to travel to and from safely and without any harm. The Bloomington Police Department will continue to make traffic safety, a quality-of-life issue, a top priority to deter and address bad driver behavior throughout our city. We are all in this together."*

The circumstances behind this incident are still pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department, the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team, and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Anyone with information should contact Detective Tyrel Klein at 309-434-2366 or Tklein@cityblm.org.

Previous Release

Bloomington, IL - On Sunday, 11/03/24, at approximately 7:49 p.m., Bloomington police officers were dispatched to the area of Fox Creek Road and Beich Road, for a traffic crash. Upon arrival, officers observed the crash scene and began their investigation. Due to the severity of the crash, the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team was called to the scene.

Initial reports indicate a sedan with two occupants was traveling westbound on Fox Creek Road. The vehicle collided with a sedan traveling eastbound on Fox Creek Road. The single occupant of the eastbound vehicle suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the westbound sedan abandoned the vehicle and left the scene. The passenger, a twenty-seven-year-old female, was

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305 S. East St.
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transported to a local hospital where she was later pronounced deceased. An autopsy is pending.

The driver who left the scene, Michael Mitchell, was located at a nearby apartment complex. Mitchell was arrested and later transported to the McLean County Detention Facility.

Arrested: Michael C. Mitchell, 25, of Bloomington, IL

- Reckless homicide
- Failure to report an accident involving death
- Failure to report an accident involving injury
- Driving on a revoked license
- Failure to give information/render aid in an accident involving injury or death (2 counts)
- Improper passing in a no passing zone
- Unlawful use of weapons/felon possess/use firearm prior (2 counts)

All suspects are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in the court of law.

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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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