



Release of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 2/6/2009

Larry Campbell
Sheriff

Leon County Sheriff's Office
2825 Municipal Way
Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 922-3300

Sgt. Tony Drzewiecki
Public Information Officer
Office-(850) 922-0732
Fax-(850) 410-2960

Leon County Sheriff's Office Completes Preliminary Investigation into Plane that Struck Jeep

On Sunday February 1, 2009, at approximately 3:00PM, Leon County Sheriff's Deputies, the Tallahassee Fire Department and Leon County Emergency Medical Services responded to the report of a plane crash at Ayavalla Field, a small private grass airfield off Gardner Road in northern Leon County. The small single engine Piper Cub piloted by Paul Langston and occupied by Marissa Walton was taking off from the airfield when the left wing impacted a jeep which was following along side the aircraft. The jeep was occupied by driver Dennis Boyle and his passenger, Carmen Langston. After the impact with the airplane, the jeep veered off the runway and struck a tree. Dennis Boyle and Carmen Langston were both killed in this incident.

A preliminary investigation conducted by the Leon County Sheriff's Office, based upon witness statements and crash reconstruction analysis, has revealed the following; As the plane was taking off from the runway, a 1942 Jeep driven by Dennis Boyle and occupied by Carman Langston was in front of the plane also traveling toward the end of the runway to take some photographs. Driving down the runaway at the same time on a dirt bike motorcycle was Ryan Boyle. As Ryan was traveling on the right side next to the Jeep, Carmen Langston took some photographs of him. At this point the Jeep and the motorcycle were still in front of the plane.

After Carmen Langston took a photograph of Ryan, he accelerated toward the end of the runway and the plane lifted approximately 10-15 feet off the ground. Paul Langston reported as he left the ground he experienced a wind gust which caused the plane to shift and he felt a bump. The bump appears to be the point at which the left wing of the plane dipped to the left and struck the Jeep and both Dennis Bolye and Carmen Langston. After being struck by the plane, the Jeep veered to the left off the runway and struck a tree. Paul Langston was unaware of the impact until he was airborne and noticed the left wing light marker had been damaged. Paul Langston then circled back around to the airfield and landed the plane.

The preliminary autopsy results indicate that both Dennis Boyle and Carmen Langston died as result of being struck by the plane wing. Due to the lack of any negligence by the pilot, the Leon County Sheriff's Office will turn over the investigative finding to the NTSB once the final report is completed in 4-6 weeks.



Leon County Sheriff's Office

