TEHAMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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PRESS INFORMATION

INCIDENT: TRAX bus accident update

UPDATE: January 14th, 2026, Fatal TRAX Bus Collision – Investigative Findings and Amendment of Death Certificates.

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Division is providing an update regarding the fatal traffic collision that occurred on January 14th, 2026, on Highway 99 West, south of Gyle Road, involving a black pickup truck operated by Christina Whittmore and a Tehama Rural Area eXpress (TRAX) bus.

During the collision, Ms. Whittmore crossed into the opposing lane of traffic, striking the TRAX bus head-on. The collision resulted in the deaths of Ms. Whittmore, the TRAX bus driver (Kelly Langstaff), and four passengers aboard the bus, (Cassandra Moreno, John Perry, Oscar Carrillo, and Trena Cain).

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Division recently received updated investigative findings from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT), which conducted an extensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding the collision.

Information obtained during the autopsy and toxicology report investigators found Ms. Whittmore was under the influence of methamphetamine at the time of the collision. During the investigation, CHP also discovered writings associated with Ms. Whittmore that included references to suicidal ideation, financial difficulties, and illicit substance abuse. CHP also determined from vehicle data that Ms. Whittmore made no effort to slow or stop previous to the collision.

Additionally, CHP investigators obtained dash camera footage documenting an incident that occurred on January 13th, 2026, the day before the fatal collision, in the same general vicinity along Highway 99 West. The footage showed Ms. Whittmore crossing into the opposing lane of traffic in an apparent attempt to collide head-on with a garbage truck. The driver of the garbage truck took evasive action, successfully avoiding a collision.

Following a review of the investigative findings provided by CHP, Deputy Coroners and the medical examiner, the Tehama County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Division intends to amend the death certificates associated with the January 14th, 2026, collision to reflect the following determinations:

Christina Whittmore, the driver of the pickup truck, will have her manner of death amended to suicide. The TRAX bus driver Ms. Langstaff and four passengers Ms. Moreno, Mr. Perry, Mr. Carrillo and Ms. Cain, who died as a result of the collision will have their manners of death amended to victims of homicide.

These determinations are based on the investigative findings and the circumstances surrounding the collision.

Prior to releasing this information publicly, the Tehama County Sheriff's Office contacted the next of kin of all six individuals who died in the collision to inform them of the investigative findings and the resulting changes to the death certificates.

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office recognizes the profound impact this tragedy has had on the families of those who lost their lives, the survivors, and the community.

While these findings are deeply troubling, the Sheriff's Office believes it is important to provide transparency regarding the circumstances of this collision and the findings of the investigation. Our thoughts and condolences remain with the families and loved ones of all those affected by this tragic event.

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office encourages anyone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts, emotional distress, or a mental health crisis to seek assistance. If you know someone who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts or expressing an intent to harm themselves, please take those concerns seriously and help connect them with appropriate resources.

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office remains committed to the safety and well-being of our community and encourages those in need to seek assistance before a crisis results in tragedy.

Sheriff-Coroner Dave Kain