Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

For Immediate Release: November 26, 2026
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Highway Patrol Investigates Fatal Crash on Prairie Lane Road

Franklin Township – The Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash involving a four-door sedan that struck a mailbox and ditch/embankment in Franklin Township, Wayne County.

On Thursday, November 26, 2026, at approximately 7:21 PM, troopers from the Wooster Highway Patrol Post responded to a report of a serious injury crash.

The preliminary investigation indicates a gray, 2013 Kia Optima LX was traveling north on Prairie Lane Road. The Kia Optima departed the eastern road edge and struck a mail box and ditch/embankment.

Aaron J. Hershberger, 20, of Apple Creek, Ohio, was operating the Kia Optima LX and sustained minor injuries.

Chriss Hershberger, 18 and Herman Hershberger, 18 were transported from the scene to Wooster Community Hospital with serious injuries

Samuel Hershberger, 17, of Beach City, Ohio, was pronounced deceased at the scene

Alcohol is a suspected factor in the crash.

No occupants in the vehicle were wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash.

The crash is currently still under investigation

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Wooster Township EMS, The Wayne County Coroner, and Accelerated Towing

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