

Aaron McCarter
Aviation Accident Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: April 23, 2026

Subject: Witness statement to the FAA regarding the accident.

Contact: Eyewitness: [REDACTED]
FAA Inspectors: Gunnin, William and Lawrence, Danny (FAA FSDO)

"On Wednesday 4/22/2026 at around 6:15 PM CDT, I was flying with my student when we witnessed N5958W veer off the runway and crash. While we were inbound on the 45 degree entry to the downwind for runway 24 at 7A3, we heard the other aircraft say over the radio that they were entering the 45 for runway 24. However, ADSB data showed the aircraft on the 45 for runway 6. The aircraft flew the traffic pattern for runway 6, at which point I broke off the downwind for runway 24 and resequenced back for runway 24.

N5958W executed a go-around for runway 6 stating "unstable approach" over the CTAF frequency. I re-entered the traffic pattern on the left downwind for runway 24 and landed. As I was taxiing back to the ramp, I noticed N5958W on final approach for runway 24. They were coming in extremely fast, and I don't think I saw flaps extended. The aircraft touched down with the nose wheel first about three quarters down runway 24 and was lightly porpoising down the runway. The aircraft was veering left and right of centerline. I heard an audible sound of "oh no" on CTAF or something along those lines. The aircraft then veered right off the runway, and hit one of the signs and ultimately came to a stop in the grass.

When I parked the aircraft I was flying, both me and my student walked down to the aircraft. I noticed two people at the aircraft, one male (probably early to mid 30s) and one female. I noticed significant damage to the aircraft including the propeller, landing gear, and underside of the left flap. When I approached the aircraft, the flaps were in the UP position. Emergency services showed up to the aircraft and took over from there. Please let me know if you have any questions."