

## **Dentist called a hero in crash**

By Rob Daniel

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A local dentist rescued a woman and valiantly tried to save her toddler after Tuesday morning's plane crash.

Lanny Kampfe, who maintains an endodontist practice at 1321 Sunset St., was performing a root canal procedure on Lenni Kangas when a small plane crashed across the street, skidded and stopped about 50 feet from his door.

The plane had just taken off from the Iowa City Airport en route to Decatur, Ala., to take a mother and her 2-year-old daughter home to Thomasville, Ga.

Kampfe, 61, said he was doing the root canal when he heard what sounded like a tornado. He looked outside and saw "debris and grass blowing up the street." He told his staff to call 911 and rushed out to help.

"I didn't think about an explosion," he said. "You just think about getting the people out of the plane."

When he got to the plane, Kampfe said he saw the pilot, Lewis Martin of Bloomington, Ill., leaning unconscious in the cockpit. A passenger, Christina Blanton of Thomasville, Ga., was holding her 2-year-old daughter, Sydney Blanton, who was covered with blood, Kampfe said.

With the help of a nurse and University of Iowa police officer Capt. Loren Noska, who both happened to be in the area when the crash occurred, Kampfe helped Blanton and also pulled out the toddler, who was unconscious and without a pulse. He said he used CPR to temporarily revive her.

"Her face was covered with blood," Kampfe said. "The child choked once and we continued with the CPR."

Sydney began to breathe after a second round of CPR before the paramedics arrived.

Her grandfather called him a bit later to report that Sydney was in stable condition, Kampfe said. However, she died at University Hospitals a few hours later.

"We just ask that God bless this family and that child," Kampfe said.

Kangas, who had a temporary filling placed in his mouth when the appointment was interrupted, said Kampfe did the right thing in helping.

"The guy's a hero," Kangas said. "Very calm; Dr. Kampfe did a good job."