



Garfield County Coroner's Office

Robert M. Glassmire
Coroner

PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 31, 2017

Subject: Skeletal remains located on Lookout Mountain near Glenwood Springs, CO.

Identity of Deceased: Thomas Norberg, 40 year old male, Rifle Colorado resident.

On March 27, 2017 a hiker alerted the Garfield County Sheriff's Office that he found skeletal remains on Lookout Mountain to the east of Glenwood Springs, CO. Sheriff's Deputies and Coroner Investigators responded and recovered the partial skeletal remains including a skull and mandible. Investigators also located some deteriorated clothing and an identification card belonging to Thomas Norberg.

Investigators returned to the location on April 30, 2017. Earlier attempts to return were cancelled because of bad weather. Investigators were assisted by NecroSearch International (necrosearch.org). NecroSearch is a nonprofit organization consisting of professionals who can assist in locating remains. Investigators were able to recover additional skeletal remains and personal effects.

The remains were located on a parcel of land owned by the city of Glenwood Springs. Glenwood Springs Police are also assisting in the investigation.

From March 27 through early May, Coroner Investigators obtained ante mortem dental and medical records for Thomas Norberg. In early May, the Coroner's Office contracted with a forensic odontologist in Colorado Springs. The forensic odontologist determined that the odontology of the remains matched that of Thomas Norberg. This forensic odontology match provided the coroner's office with positive scientific identification.

Upon obtaining positive identification of the remains, the Coroner's Office notified Norberg's next of kin. Next of kin relayed that they hadn't seen or heard from Norberg since 2012 when he was incarcerated in the Garfield County Jail for assault. Norberg was released in January of 2013 and failed to appear for a court date in February 2013. Garfield County Combined Courts issued a warrant for Norberg for failure to appear. There is no record or information regarding Norberg's whereabouts following his release from the Garfield County Jail in 2013.

The remains are being examined by a forensic anthropologist. A forensic anthropologist is commonly utilized in cases involving skeletal human remains. A forensic anthropologist can often render an opinion regarding skeletal abnormalities to potentially determine cause of death. At this point there is no information to suggest one cause or manner of death over another. The cause and manner of death is pending investigation. Anthropological examination can take several months.

The Coroner's Office is requesting that anyone with information regarding Norberg's whereabouts after his release from jail in January 2013 or with information relating to his death. Please contact Coroner's Office, Investigator Treava Guerette, at (970) 665-6335.

Respectfully,
Robert M. Glassmire
Garfield County Coroner