



Garfield County Coroner's Office

Robert M. Glassmire
Coroner

PRESS RELEASE

Date: June 26, 2017

Subject: Identity of teen killed near Blair Lake on Sunday June 25, 2017

Identity of Deceased: Zachary Collett, 17 year old male, resident of Rifle Colorado.

On Sunday June 25, 2017 at approximately 2:00pm the Garfield County Coroner's Office was notified of a search and rescue operation in the area of Blair Mountain near the Garfield County/Rio Blanco County line. The Garfield County Coroner's Office responded and after arrival learned that the subject of the rescue mission had died.

Coroner's Office investigators learned that Zachary Collett, a 17 year old Rifle, CO resident was at the location on a four wheel drive road with his girlfriend and another male friend. They had been camping the night before. The decedent and his friends had stopped on the Blair Mountain road overlooking Blair Lake. Investigators learned that the decedent had been near a log alongside the edge of the steep slope. The decedent apparently tried to push the log of the edge off the slope when he fell down the slope, which included a significant cliff, and an additional steep sloped ravine. It is estimated decedent fell a total of about 150 feet. About 50 feet of that fall included a 90 degree cliff.

The recovery of Mr. Collett included a rapid response from a Classic Air Medical helicopter based in Glenwood Springs, CO. However, reaching the patient required the expertise of Colorado River Fire Rescue personnel and search and rescue personnel who had angled ropes rescue experience. Additional responders who arrived by vehicle included Colorado River Fire Rescue personnel, Garfield County Search and Rescue Inc, Garfield County Sheriff's Office, Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office, Rio Blanco County Search and Rescue, and the Garfield County Coroner's Office.

On Monday June 26, 2017 an autopsy was performed on the decedent by the Garfield County Coroner's Office contract forensic pathologist. The decedent's cause of death is multiple blunt force injuries and his manner of death is accident.

No further information is available.

Robert M. Glassmire
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