



# Garfield County Coroner's Office

*Robert M. Glassmire, Coroner*

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**Date:** August 1, 2016

**Time:** 2:30pm

**Subject:** Victims Identified - August 1, 2016 Rifle CO area double fatal motor vehicle crash.

**Identity:** Driver: Russell Lashus, 48 years old, resident of Parachute, CO. Passenger: Branden Jowell 42 years old, Resident of Parachute, CO.

On Monday August 1, 2016, at approximately 0630 the Garfield County Coroner's Office was notified of a motor vehicle crash involving at least one fatality on Interstate 70, mile marker 86, near Rifle, CO. Upon arrival a second person was determined to be dead.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Russell Lashus, 48 years old and living in Parachute, CO and driver's brother-in-law, Branden Jowell, 42 years old was identified as the passenger. Both Mr. Lashus and Mr. Jowell were wearing seatbelts.

Autopsies for both victims are scheduled for August 2, 2016. In considering the circumstances, the cause of death will be attributed to multiple injuries and the manner of death will be accident.

There is no further information at this time.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Glassmire  
Garfield County Coroner  
(970) 309-1042