



Garfield County Coroner's Office

Robert M. Glassmire, Coroner

1806 Medicine Bow Court Silt, CO 81652

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Date: August 2, 2016

Time: 9:45pm

Subject: Update to alcohol/drug involvement in double fatality, Interstate 70 near Rifle, CO crash.

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

On Tuesday August 2, 2016, autopsies were performed on both the driver and passenger of the vehicle.

Russell Lashus – Driver

Cause of Death: Blunt force head injuries

Manner of Death: Accident

Alcohol/Drug Intoxication: Blood Alcohol Content .226 with a positive drug screen for methamphetamine and benzodiazepines.

Branden Jowell – Passenger

Cause of Death: Blunt force head injuries

Manner of Death: Accident

Alcohol/Drug Intoxication: Blood alcohol content .226 and a drug screen positive for THC.

No further information will be released by the coroner's office.

Respectfully,

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