



Mesa County Coroner's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

The Mesa County Coroner's Office has completed its examination regarding the death of Francis "Peter" Bierstaker (pronounced beer staker), a 55 year-old male resident of Deerfield, FL. Decedent was returning from a hunting campsite to his cabin when the ATV on which he was a passenger, jackknifed while pulling a trailer. The trailer was carrying another passenger along with hunting gear for the three people. As a result of the vehicle and trailer jackknifing, both the driver and passenger were ejected. Both rolled approximately 30 feet down an embankment. None of the parties were wearing helmets. The driver was uninjured. Contrary to published reports from one local television station, only one ATV was involved. In addition, injury patterns were inconclusive if a "crush" injury occurred as reported. The cause of death is multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death is accident. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor.

The coroner's office would like to caution all media regarding publishing statements describing the cause of death without such information coming from this office. Erroneous reporting, however well intended, causes additional grief for families when they are trying to reconcile the conflicting accounts.

The law enforcement agency overseeing this investigation is the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. Please contact them for any further details regarding this case.

Thank you