



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 concluded the investigation into the death of Dannah E. Foster, a 23 year-old female resident of Clifton who died of injuries sustained in a fall on April 8, 2010. The release of the information was pending toxicology and an injury pattern comparison by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Toxicology results revealed the decedent's postmortem blood alcohol level was 0.609%, over seven times the blood alcohol level considered intoxicated for the purpose of operating a motor vehicle in the state of Colorado. Therefore, alcohol intoxication has been determined to be a significant contributory factor.

During the postmortem examination, Robert A. Kurtzman, DO, forensic pathologist, noted; in addition to the injuries sustained in the fall, the decedent had a patterned injury that resembled the tread pattern of a shoe that was worn by the decedent's husband. The information was provided to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office investigators and an additional analysis of the injury pattern was requested from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Mesa County Sheriff's Office investigators were unable to ascertain how the patterned abrasion occurred. The CBI report was released June 16, 2010 and stated the "The footwear ... cannot be excluded from having made the impression"

Based upon all information available at this time, the Coroner's Office cannot determine if the decedent intentionally jumped, was pushed or accidentally fell to her death from the cliffs along the Colorado River. With consideration of all aspects of the investigation, the **cause of death** is multiple injuries and the **manner of death** is undetermined. The manner of death may be reclassified if additional information becomes available.

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

Thank you