



Mesa County Coroner's Office

Dean M. Havlik, MD, Coroner

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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 Daniel J. Richards, a 19-year-old male resident of Grand Junction. Mr. Richards was taken by friends to Community Hospital on April 10, 2012 and subsequently transferred to St. Mary's Hospital's Intensive Care Unit. The **Cause of Death** was **Strangulation** and the **Manner of Death** was **Homicide**. The use of the word homicide does not imply any culpability on any of the parties involved.

Toxicology results revealed the decedent had Alpha-Pyrrolidinopentiophenone (Alpha-PVP) in his system, evidence of Marijuana use and a 0.067% blood-alcohol level. According to the forensic pathologist who performed the examination, "Alpha-PVP is one of several synthetic compounds commonly regarded as "bath salts" and acts as a potent stimulant. Bath salts have been known to cause agitation, increased heart rate and blood pressure, paranoia, hallucinations, aggressive behavior and sudden death."

The law enforcement agency overseeing this investigation is the Grand Junction Police Department. Please contact them for any further details.

Thank you