



Mesa County Coroner's Office

Dean M. Havlik, MD, Coroner

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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: September 14, 2012

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For Immediate Release

The Mesa County Coroner's Office, with assistance from the Mesa County Sheriff's Office and local media, has identified the person discovered in the irrigation canal in the 1200 block of 17 ½ Road in Fruita on Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

The person found was identified as Donald A. VanMatre, a 34-year-old resident of Grand Junction. Mr. VanMatre was believed to have been walking to visit a friend near his home when he fell into the Grand Valley Irrigation Canal near his home. He travelled approximately 17 miles through the canal system before being discovered.

The autopsy revealed the Cause of Death as Drowning and the Manner of Death as Accident. Mr. VanMatre's blood alcohol was .346.

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

Thank you