



Contacts:
Linda Bowman
Police Information Coordinator
Grand Junction Police Department
(970) 244-3601

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PRESS RELEASE

Motorcyclist dies after crash at 1st & Pitkin

(Grand Junction, CO) – A Grand Junction man has died of injuries he sustained after crashing his motorcycle on 1st Street at the Pitkin Avenue curve.

The crash occurred shortly before 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31st, after the motorcyclist, 20 year old Wesley Bretey, turned from westbound Main Street on to southbound First Street and drove at a high rate of speed around the Pitkin Avenue curve. Bretey apparently lost control of his motorcycle and crashed in to the cement divider. He was wearing a helmet but sustained multiple injuries.

Just minutes prior to the crash, a Grand Junction Police Officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a motorcycle he observed traveling at a high rate of speed on North Avenue at First Street. The motorcyclist in that incident accelerated away from the officer, who attempted to follow at a safe distance on Rimrock Drive, 25 ½ Road and Crosby Avenue; without jeopardizing other motorists in the area. In the area of First and Main streets, the officer determined he had lost his opportunity to safely negotiate a traffic contact. A few minutes later, 911 dispatch notified officers of a motorcycle accident which occurred in the area of First Street and Pitkin Avenue.

It is believed that Bretey is the same motorcyclist that the officer observed traveling westbound at North Avenue and 1st Street at a high rate of speed.

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