



**HEATHER S. BENJAMIN**  
Information & Communication  
Manager/PIO

Direct Phone: (970) 244-3929  
Cell Phone: (970) 986-0950  
Heather.Benjamin@mesacounty.us

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MISSING DENVER MAN, OVERDUE ON DIRT BIKE** **Search & Rescue Mission in desert north of airport**

Mesa County, Colo. — Around 5 p.m. on June 11, the deceased body of Nolus Xavier Sunoon, 34 of Denver, was located by search volunteers. His body was found nearly a mile from his dirt bike, and while he had some superficial injuries that were consistent with crashing his dirt bike, there was no obvious cause of death. The Mesa County Coroner will determine cause and manner of death.

Sunoon's dirt bike was found near Skinny Ridge, at the base of the Bookcliffs. Both the dirt bike and Sunoon were north and slightly east of the go-kart track off 29 Road, in the desert area north of Grand Junction.

**PREVIOUSLY RELEASED AT 3 P.M. ON JUNE 11TH**—The missing man is identified as Nolus Xavier Sunoon, 34, of Denver. Emergency personnel on scene located his dirt bike and helmet east of the Command Post, just before 2 p.m. They continue to search for Nolus in the area north of the Grand Junction Regional Airport. If anyone sees Sunoon, they should call 911 immediately.

**PREVIOUSLY RELEASED AT 11:15 A.M. ON JUNE 11TH**—A 34-year-old Denver man came to Grand Junction on Saturday for a few days of dirt biking in the desert area north of the Grand Junction Regional Airport. He was expected back in Denver, by his friends, on Monday, June 10, 2013. When he became overdue, they reported him missing on Monday evening.

Deputies and Mesa County Search & Rescue volunteers have been on scene, on 27 ¼ Road—north of the airport, since 9 p.m., last night. About 9:30 a.m. today, a local helicopter owner and SARC volunteer deployed his helicopter for this mission, searching the Bookcliff area in north Mesa County. A fixed wing airplane is joining the mission today from the Colorado National Guard/Civil Air Patrol and will be used to search the vast open desert space.

The missing man was reported to be on a Honda 125cc dirt bike with aftermarket performance accessories, red, black and white in color. He was wearing standard dirt bike riding gear, but no detailed description is available. It is believed he was riding in the desert north of the airport starting mid-day Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who may have seen this man—riding alone, is asked to call **non-emergency dispatch at 970.242.6707** and provide location, time/date and description, along with contact information for deputies to follow-up if needed.

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