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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE FROM OURAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, OURAY COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE, CITY OF OURAY, OURAY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OURAY ICE PARK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Ice Climber Dies Following Incident in Ouray Ice Park

Ouray County, Colo. – Following an incident in the Ouray Ice Park, ice climber Ryan Wong, 27, of Fort Collins, Colorado, died early this morning. Around 4:00 PM on February 24, 2023, Mr. Wong was discovered by other ice climbers in the South Park area of the Ouray Ice Park, hanging unresponsive from his climbing harness. The ice climbers lowered Mr. Wong and performed CPR, successfully resuscitating Mr. Wong. During this time, Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) were dispatched to the area. OCEMS transported Mr. Wong to Fellin Park in the City of Ouray where they met CareFlight from St. Mary's hospital. Mr. Wong was then transported by CareFlight to St. Mary's in Grand Junction.

On March 1, 2023, Mr. Wong was pronounced dead but was kept alive artificially in order to preserve his organs for organ donation. Early this morning, Mr. Wong's body was officially pronounced dead.

Mr. Wong was heroically an organ donor, and because of this, his liver and 4 other organs have direct matches to recipients needing these vital organs. It is possible that more organs will be donated as well.

Ouray County offers its deepest condolences to Mr. Wong's family and extends its sincere appreciation to all responding agencies during this incident: OCEMS, Ouray Mountain Rescue Team, Ouray County Sheriff's Office, Ouray Police Department and St. Mary's CareFlight.

The cause of Mr. Wong's incident is unknown as it was not witnessed by others in the Ice Park. No further information will be provided.

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