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Local Teen Killed in Mexico

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Jessica Borg
More: Bio, News Team
By Jessica Borg

MEXICO CITY - July 23, 2007 (WPVI) -- Taylor Crane arrived in Mexico a few days ago, and now his parents are waiting for his body to be recovered. Divers have been searching the mine shaft where he fell.

On his MySpace page you get a sense of Crane was outgoing and very giving. This was his second summer going abroad and doing community service. Over the weekend, Taylor died in Mexico after falling 300 feet down a mine shaft.

"Like losing your own son. That is how close we were," said Frank Berry, a neighbor. He says Crane's parents and 18-year-old brother are in a state of disbelief. So is he. Crane was over at Berry's home the day before he left. "Good kid. Never had bad word to say about anybody," said Berry. Crane was among a group of teens visiting the country to work with local day care centers, a trip organized by the company "Travel for Teens."

He was playing with children when he jumped onto a wall and lost his balance. He fell into the abandoned mine which, according to Travel for Teens, was not visible or marked, unlike other mines in the area.

Christopher Crane, Taylor Crane's father, also said in an e-mail message to newspapers that his son fell to his death Friday while playing tag with children.

"What he didn't know (and what the staff and others also didn't know) was that there was a mine shaft there," his father wrote. "As he lost his balance and apparently realized his predicament, he tried to jump to a tree that was growing out of the other side of the wall. He never made it."

Police earlier quoted witnesses as saying the youth tried to jump over the 10-foot-wide shaft of the Cinco Senores mine in Guanajuato state.

Efforts to recover the body continued Monday with no reported success. Authorities in San Luis de la Paz said earlier that the recovery effort had been complicated because the mine is flooded with water contaminated with arsenic and lead, making breathing difficult.

Christopher Crane said he was impressed with the effort, which included residents, workers and government officials.

"I'm surrounded by really great people," he told the Daily Local News by phone. "It looks no different than a huge-scale mine recovery effort. We're so grateful. The community is responding remarkably."

Crane's school, West Chester B. Reed Henderson High School, will have counselors on hand for students and staff on Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Principal Marc Bertrando said.

(Some information from The Associated Press.)

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