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Body of missing kayaker found in Big Walnut Creek after search in Putnam County

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GREENCASTLE, Ind. – Crews found the body of a missing kayaker after search efforts resumed Monday morning in Putnam County.

Search teams were out in the water for about 25 minutes when they located the body about a quarter of a mile away from where the kayaker went missing. Officials said the body found matched the description of the missing man, and family members positively identified him as Timothy Wells, 29, Indianapolis, after the discovery.

Emergency officials were called out to Big Walnut Creek near the Putnam County Fairground shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday, when Wells went missing. A group of six kayakers told officers that Wells, a member of their party, had attempted to pass over the low head dam at the Greencastle City Water Treatment Plant and disappeared.

Officers said his belongings were located within the boil line of the low head dam, but Wells himself never resurfaced.

Crews searched downstream of the low head dam and attempted to probe edges of the boil line along the dam while trying to locate Wells. Sunday morning, officers searched the creek by boat for several miles below the dam, while assisting agencies checked the creek's banks.

Officers continued their search with repeated water patrols, while also constantly monitoring the boil line of the dam for the victim to resurface. Officials said decreasing water levels after recent heavy rainfall aided in the search and estimated that water levels had dropped about two feet since Saturday night.

An autopsy was scheduled for Monday afternoon in Terre Haute.

Suggest a Correction

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