

## Local News: Drowning victims identified

Morgan County Coroner determined both fatalities were accidents in two separate incidents



By [Geoff Baumgartner](#) | The Fort Morgan Times

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**Morgan County Coroner Don Heer has released the names and official causes of death of two women who perished in separate incidents last week.**

**Mirrelle B. Prascher, 36, of Brush drowned in a water incident that occurred in the South Platte River west of MCR 24 on Friday, July 5, the release from the coroner states.**

**Prascher was using a flotation device while floating east in the river. She came to a low head dam in the river that diverts water from the river. She went over the dam and was caught in the diversion.**

**After a short time Prascher was released from the hydraulic activity and was found floating in the river unresponsive. She was pulled to the shore by friends and law enforcement assisted in removing her body from the river and began CPR efforts.**

**Prascher was transported to Colorado Plains Medical Center in Fort Morgan where death was pronounced in the emergency room. Autopsy results revealed the cause of death as asphyxia by drowning. The coroner has officially determined the manner of death as accidental.**

**The coroner also confirmed Zhaoxia Hu, 20, drowned in Jackson Lake Reservoir near Orchard.**

**Hu was with friends jet skiing on July 4 when the jet ski capsized. The four people riding were thrown into the water, the coroner's report stated.**

**Hu was not wearing a life jacket. Her remains were recovered on Saturday, July 6.**

**Hu is from China. Heer said in the release the autopsy results revealed the cause of death as asphyxia by drowning, and the coroner has determined the manner of death as accidental.**

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