

# Two water related deaths in 24 hours on Blue River


Published: Jun. 20, 2013 at 12:28 AM MDT | Updated: Aug. 4, 2013 at 2:27 AM MDT



In less than 24 hours, there were two tragedies on the Blue River.


START




1. Click on "Start"

2. Start the Installation

3. Block Ads & Malware









Mary Ruth Higdon







Indiana Conservation Officer Jim Hash

MILLTOWN, IN (WAVE) – Two people drown in the same water and it happened in less than 24 hours. The first happened Tuesday night, the second Wednesday afternoon, both in the Blue River in Harrison County.

Mary Ruth Higdon has lived in Milltown near the Blue River all her life. "It's always been some place for people to come and swim and fish and canoe," she said.

In this summer heat, those are the activities that are on people's minds, but there are risks.

"Any amount of water, no matter how tranquil it seems to be, it can be very, very dangerous," said Indiana Conservation Officer Jim Hash.

ADVERTISEMENT

In less than 24 hours, there were two tragedies on the Blue River. Tuesday night, Alissa Knight, 15, was swimming near this low head dam.

"As she attempted to swim back, she was overcome by the current in the river and was washed over the dam," said Hash.

Knight's body was recovered about a half mile down stream. "It doesn't really matter what type of skill level or what strength of swimmer you are because whenever you have conditions such as these, because of recent rains that have raised the water level, then you get a situation where even the best of swimmers can get overcome," said Hash.

The next day, William Chappell, 69, and his wife, Shirley of Boonville were canoeing with their grandson and his girlfriend when their boat hit a log underwater.

ADVERTISEMENT


"There canoe capsized and one victim made it to shore and the other victim actually got trapped underneath the canoe and the log and had to be pulled out of the water by another member of the party," said Hash.

William and Shirley Chappell were taken to University Hospital, but hours later Mr. Chappell passed away.

Chappell was wearing a life jacket, but he was trapped under water for at least a minute.

Two fun days in the water that have taken a deadly turn. "It's just sad," said Higdon.

ADVERTISEMENT



### Single Person EVs For Seniors

Stylish new EVs with affordable prices. Browse with these searches.

SearchFavorites

Open >

According to conservation officers, you can swim in the Blue River at your own risk, but there is a sign that warns you not to swim near the dam.

Officers can't stress enough the importance of wearing life jackets and paying attention to changing water levels.

Copyright 2013 [WAVE News](#). All rights reserved.

TaboolaFeed

The Actual Cost Of Metal Roof May Surprise You

This metal roof will skyrocket your home value.

Metal Roof Nation | Sponsored

Learn More

The Crystal Mug Is Taking Utah By Storm

Falling In Love With These Magical Crystal Mugs In Just One Glance — Nobody Could Resist Such A Wonderful Gift!

GRISHAY | Sponsored

Shop Now

Here’s What a 6-Hour Gutter Upgrade Should Cost You In 2024

HomeBuddy | Sponsored

Who Has the Cheapest Car Insurance in Utah (Check Zip Code)

Ottoinsurance.com | Sponsored

Dating for Mature Singles

Share your feelings and emotions with someone.

Secretmeet | Sponsored

Read More

STOMP is playing at Eccles Theater downtown SLC this January 31- February 1.

STOMP is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, sexy, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages.

Live at the Eccles | Sponsored

Get tickets

Cats That Headbutt Their Owners Are Actually Trying To Give Them An Important Message

PlayJunkie | Sponsored

Read More

Home Goods Store Sale Online Is Offering Unbeatable Deals

Find the official sale at Home Goods Store with prices that will surprise you.

Top Searcher Now | Sponsored

Learn More

Easy Trick to Eliminate Mice (2024)

Expert Tip: This Simple Trick Eliminated Mice And Rats Like Crazy

Vamoose | Sponsored

Learn More

