

PS Diver Monthly



SEPTEMBER 2008

ISSUE 55

HURRICANE IKE

PS Diver NEWS

ANOTHER LODD

**Underwater
Decomp
Experiment**

EVENTS

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION**





Greetings,

Three years ago Hurricane Rita passed just East of us here in South East Texas. The wind damage we suffered here was unprecedented. Damage to homes and businesses was tremendous. There are many homes here that are or were still covered with "Blue Roofs". (Blue roof refers to the blue tarpaulins that were given to homeowners to cover damaged roofs while waiting for repairs.) When Hurricane Rita rolled through we escaped damages from rain, flood and storm surge. The news reports that came from our area were overshadowed by the news out of New Orleans and the effects of Hurricane Katrina there.

For those not in the bulls eye, you probably remember little about the damages caused by Hurricane Rita and now the comparison standard is the damages New Orleans received during Hurricane Katrina. The question that is constantly asked around

here is, "If the levees in New Orleans had not failed, how much damage would New Orleans really have suffered from Hurricane Katrina?" The flood damage was terrible and life changing for those effected but it was a flood – not a wind driven tidal surge that caused the damages.

Some of the areas here in Texas learned the difference a few weeks ago when Hurricane Ike erased entire communities.

Unless or until you experience it yourself, nothing can describe the effect such a devastating event has on a population. Having had to evacuate the region just a week or so before because Hurricane Gustav was pointing at us made a second evacuation for Hurricane Ike even more difficult. We started evacuation just 4 days after the last of our Gustav evacuees returned home.



Beachside in Gilcrest. Only one house left standing for miles!

I was finally able to gain access to Bolivar Peninsula and the photos simply cannot show the devastation. Gilcrest is a small community where our family had a home until beach erosion finally took the land. Of

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PSDiver™ Monthly Issue 53

the hundreds of homes, there are 7 left and Gilcrest is the first in line of the beach communities.

Perhaps because those areas are more accessible, the news media seems to have focused on Galveston Island and the Houston areas more so than other places. Driving down the cleared road, there is almost nothing left standing to offer landmarks and the debris is as intense as it is varied. Entire homes are sitting in fields miles from where they started. Unrecognizable piles dot the fields. It is a surreal view of a once thriving region.

Below are some stories you may not have seen. They offer a view that I have not see a lot on the national media. While large numbers of folks are still missing, common sense dictates that if thousands were missing, families and friends would be screaming by now. The true number of fatalities may never be known.

Hundreds Of Texans Still Missing Three Weeks After Hurricane Ike

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7012540477>

October 5, 2008 Amy Beeman – AHN

Two More Hurricane Ike Victims Found

<http://arkansasmatters.com/content/fulltext/news/?cid=123771>

Sunday, Oct 5, 2008 Reported by: RNS



Two more bodies were found on Texas' Goat Island this weekend, raising the total number of Hurricane Ike deaths to 70. "The Daily News" cites a spokesman for the Galveston County Sheriff's Office as

saying rescuers found a man and a woman Saturday afternoon. The two were recovered from marshland near Bolivar Peninsula just west of Rollover Pass. The only way to get to marshland areas is by way of airboat.

The sheriff's office arranged for the bodies to be transported and they were released to the Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office. The bodies have not been identified.

Two weeks after Ike, more than 400 are still missing - MORE ON SITE

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/6027458.html>

Hurricane Ike: The Missing Have Names; Ike Is Missing From The Mainstream Media

<http://snarkfood.com/hurricane-ike-the-missing-have-names-ike-is-missing-from-the-mainstream-media/>

Some of Ike's missing may have washed away - With no idea of numbers, authorities say final accounting may take years.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26765035/>

Hurricane Ike news blackout on dead bodies Bolivar Crystal Beach

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ge0dxJfxsa8>

HURRICANE IKE SURVIVOR SWIMS FROM HOME!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=267elh0-U4s>

Survivor - It aint worth it

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb9Nj9gENpl&feature=related>

Hurricane Ike Eyewall Video 100 MPH Winds

Plus Storm Surge

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8iqLcGN3Go&feature=related>

Hurricane Ike Eyewall In Galveston Texas

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1y40nX7ioc&feature=related>

Hurricane Ike - Worst Of Hurricane Ike (Zurvita)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTZTN_iWBmU&feature=related

Hurricane Ike! Insane surf prior to landfall

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43TRyusNu4g>

There will be a great deal of "Lessons Learned" come from this event. The way local, state and federal governmental responses were handled will be reviewed and revised. There were obvious improvements since Hurricane Rita but still much room to improve.



Those coastal communities on the surge side of the hurricane were drowned and washed away. Some communities inland but near sea level saw surge flooding beyond anything ever experienced. Power interruption, food and water needs, bathrooms, dead and dying herds of cattle, and every other possible challenge you can think of occurred.



When it was safe, our evacuees returned home. Some had problems but the majority had homes to come back to. Some of our firefighters who were assisting folks back home had their own homes totally destroyed or severely damaged but took care of others first. The loss of life could ultimately be in the hundreds, the total property damage will be in the billions but the dedication of the first responders who serve the public here is priceless.



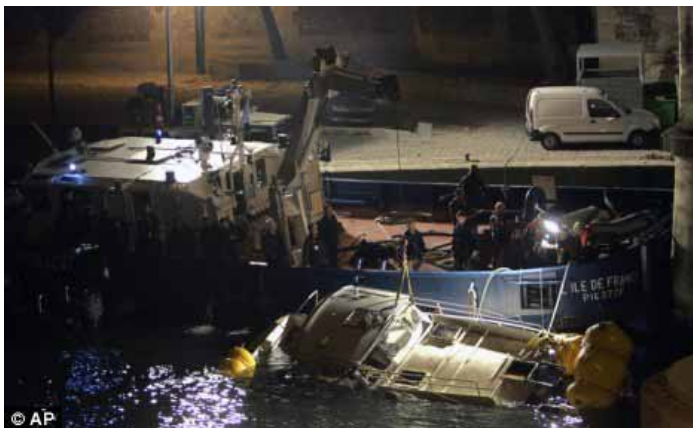
Be Safe,
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly

Boy, 6, and man die in horrific tourist boat accident in Paris

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1055735/Boy-6-man-die-horrific-tourist-boat-accident-Paris.html>

14th September 2008 By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

A six-year-old boy and a man died after being trapped underwater on a tourist boat that sank in the River Seine in the heart of Paris. Ten other passengers on the vessel leapt overboard when the disaster happened near the famous Notre Dame cathedral.



Rescuers said the boat is thought to have struck the bridge as it swerved to avoid a Bateau-Mouche tourist boat moored at the riverbank.

A six-year-old boy and a 45-year-old man both died after a tourist boat sank in the River Seine

Police divers raced to the scene to free the 45-year-old man and child trapped in an air pocket in the sunken boat.



They were brought to the surface within 20 minutes in a critical condition, but both died within hours of the accident at around 10pm on Saturday.

The other passengers - five adults and five children and 3 to 14 - were plucked from the river by rescue boats suffering slight injuries. All the victims were French, officials said. French emergency services managed to save the 10 other passengers.

The boat was raised from the riverbed overnight and was being examined to determine the cause of the accident on Saturday. A Paris fire service spokesman said: "It appears the boat hit a pillar of the bridge as it moved to avoid a larger boat, but we are unsure whether it struck the larger Bateau Mouche boat as well."

The captain and first officer of the Bateau Mouche were later arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving and causing accidental injuries. They have been placed "garde

à vue" - the first step to formal charges in France. Rescuers searched the scene for survivors of the fatal incident.

The 45-year-old victim died at 4am in Paris's Georges-Pompidou hospital, while the six-year-old boy died at 8am in the Necker hospital. Hundreds of tourist boats ply the River Seine every day and accidents were extremely rare, officials added.

Little girl's body found in bag

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/northland/4690528a11298.html>

Friday, 12 September 2008 By CLIO FRANCIS - Stuff.co.nz Reuters

FOUND: Israeli police believe they have found the body of four-year-old Rose Pizem in a Tel Aviv river, four months after she first went missing. She is believed to have been murdered by her grandfather - who is also her mother's live-in lover.

Police divers in Israel have pulled a red duffel bag out of a Tel Aviv river which is believed to contain the remains of a four-year-old girl



caught in a bizarre love triangle.

French-born Rose Pizem, who has been missing since May, is believed to have been murdered by her grandfather - who is also her mother's live-in lover.

The search for Rose has dominated headlines in Israel for weeks, and sparked a national debate as to how a child could disappear for months without anyone noticing, the Associated Press reported. The results of an autopsy are pending but police believe that the remains found in the suitcase were that of the blue-eyed four-year-old. "We found the girl's body, but it needs to undergo tests so we can be completely sure it's her," Police Commissioner David Cohen said. Police commander Avi Nauman told reporters there was "a terrible stench coming from the suitcase".

Rose's grandfather, Roni Ron, 45, had first told police he killed the little girl by accident before dumping her body in the river. He changed his story several times, saying he had trafficked her to the Palestinians, sent her to a Jewish boarding school and arranged for to go abroad. He has since retracted the statement in which he admitted to killing her, saying he had confessed to the police under duress.



For nearly two months, Rose's disappearance went unnoticed, until her great-grandmother notified social workers the child had been missing since May and she held grave fears for her safety.

Her son, Ron, was arrested three weeks later. Rose's mother, Marie-Charlotte Renault, 23, is also in police custody.

Much of the Rose Pizem's life remains a mystery, although investigation by police has painted a picture of a disturbing and dysfunctional family life. Police investigators said the Ron's son and Rose's mother had married as teenagers in France after their daughter was born. The couple visited Israel, where the mother became smitten with her Israeli father-in-law, Ron, and moved in with him.

Father and daughter returned to France, but the mother won a French court order for the girl to live with her and the grandfather in Israel.



Click Photos for Related Stories

[Israeli divers find child's body in suitcase](#)

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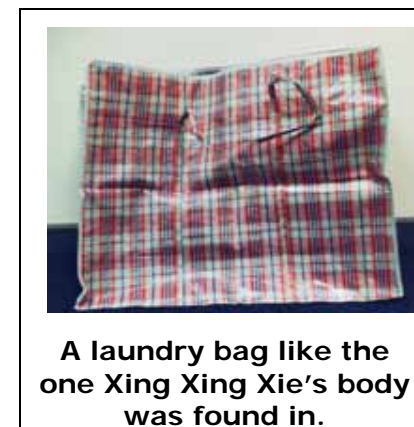
THE SHOCK DISCOVERY AND HOW THE POLICE FOUND THEIR KILLERS

<http://www.southwarknews.co.uk/00,news,11684,440,00.htm>

7 August 2008

THE INVESTIGATION into the murder of Xing Xing Xie began after the discovery of the laundry bag floating in South Dock Marina.

Steve and Patricia Price live on a houseboat in the marina and had seen the large bag floating around. It was still there the following day so they pulled it out of the water.



A laundry bag like the one Xing Xing Xie's body was found in.

The couple was confronted by what they thought to be the headless and handless remains of a young child, but it later turned out to be those of Miss Xie.

Police divers were then dispatched to search the area, but could find no other clues. It was not until Saturday, April 24, that Miss Xie's flatmate Rui Li reported her missing to the local police station. The details were

Horror as water worker discovers woman's head in Rotherhithe dock



then picked up by members of the team investigating the body that had been found. DCI Carl Metha, said: "It turned out that we were looking for the same person."



After the police had the identity of the victim, they were able to get a DNA profile from her toothbrush.

DCI Metha said: "Rui Li was a key witness for us because she had been out with Xing in the days prior to her disappearance, and specifically to Knoyle Street, New Cross - where we say she was killed."

On April 26 the police conducted a search of the address, which then became a crime scene.

DCI Metha said: "That scene was then subject to a very thorough investigation by finger print and DNA experts. Searches at the property were conducted for a period of two weeks. "In the searches of the house we found some blood on a shower head and on the edge of a door. There was also evidence of a big clean up of the premises after the incident. "It was through that and other investigations that we identified that Trach Lon Gian and Noor Mohd-Yusoff had been with Xing at the address."

Six weeks after the discovery of the dismembered body in South Dock, workmen cleaning debris from the corner of the adjacent Greenland Dock discovered a black bin liner with a human head inside. It was identified as that of Miss Xie by the markings it had on it - she had tattooed eyebrows.

DCI Metha said: "We had DNA from the head and the body - it is fair to say that the profile wasn't an exact match - but there were characteristic similarities between the injuries on the head and the body." He added: "We believe that the body parts were disposed of in the same area that they were found, sometime between 9.15pm and 9.45pm."

Prior to the discovery of the body at South Dock, Gian and Mohd-Yusoff fled the city to take up residence in the Birmingham area. But, on July 28 they were arrested and brought back to London.

DCI Metha said: "Neither defendant gave evidence. The jury were clearly not satisfied with this."



Youths get life for river murder

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/beds/bucks/herts/7597258.stm

Two teenagers convicted of murdering a student who was beaten and thrown into a river have been given life sentences. Sean Downes and Thomas Luddington, from Bedford, were convicted of the murder of Robert Gill, 17, who was found in the River Great Ouse near Bedford.



Sean Downes and Thomas Luddington were found guilty of murder

Downes, 19, of Acacia Road, was told he would serve a minimum of 17 years and Luddington, 18, of Dunham Close, must serve 18 years. Both had denied murder. A youth was given four-and-a-half years for manslaughter at Luton Crown Court.



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Robert Gill had been on a night out with his brother two days before Christmas 2007. His attackers stole his wallet and beat him like a punchbag, the court was told.

'Plied with drink'

Sentencing, Judge John Bevan QC criticised the youngsters' families and the pubs and clubs which served them

drinks. He said: "There was at least half-an-hour of robbery, false imprisonment, bullying, punching, humiliating and terrifying a drunk, naive, harmless, non-aggressive, 17-year-old student who soiled himself in fear towards the end of the ordeal. "There are elements here of parental responsibility, or the lack of it, and also the responsibility of the clubs and pubs in Bedford - in particular the Bricklayers Arms, Midas and New York New York.

Parents forgive son's killers

"If premises like that put financial gain ahead of the appalling damage they do to youngsters, in particular Robert Gill, they should have a feeling of shame about the events of Boxing Day in Bedford. "The parents and grandparents, according to Luddington and Downes, also plied them with drink and they must have known that those two were liable to be aggressive in drink."



Downes and Luddington were also convicted of charges of robbery and false imprisonment. The youth, who was 16 at the time and cannot be named, was also convicted of robbery and false imprisonment. Police divers recovered Robert's body eight days later.

Timothy Spencer QC, for the prosecution, said the three had behaved like "predators, picking on their prey". They subjected their victim to a savage attack, punching and kicking him before he went into the water, the court had heard.

Robert's parents, Fred and Fran Gill, of Wilstead in Bedfordshire, said their son was "a wonderful lad" who was missed "by all his family and friends, particularly by his brother Duncan".

'Coward' cops flee crocs

<http://www.sowetan.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=837151>

05 September 2008 Alex Matlala

Man's body in dam for five days

The community of Thohoyandou hurled insults at the police yesterday because they chickened out of diving into a dam to retrieve a body that has been missing for five days.



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"The police are useless and hopeless," Given Dzivhani said. "What type of security and protection do we have when people you thought would protect you show that they are weaklings?"

Walter Mungungoni, 46, drowned in the Nandoni Dam on Sunday, but the cops have been too scared to dive into the crocodileinfested dam to retrieve the body. "Had they gone in on Monday, maybe our son could have been found alive," Dzivhani said. "So we hold them responsible for our son's death."

The reluctance of the Limpopo and Mpumalanga police divers to put their lives at risk sparked a row that nearly resulted in physical confrontation .

The police said they were scared of being eaten alive by the crocodiles, which had already devoured a number of residents.



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Police assessed the situation from a helicopter and confirmed that there were crocodiles in the dam. But incensed bystanders shouted that they were cowards and that there were no crocodiles. Some of them threatened to get into the dam and search for the body themselves but police said they would arrest them if they did.



Dzivhani said the family had lost faith in the police and hope of finding Mungungoni alive. "We already suspect that he is dead. All we want is his body so that we can conduct his funeral."

Thohoyandou police spokesman Captain Mashudu Malelo said the situation was "very volatile" and that the cops were looking for the body only on the dam's banks. "We cannot allow our police divers to get into the dam because it is dangerous since there are crocodiles," he said. He said Mungungoni was with a friend when their fishing boat capsized.

Dredging up the past

<http://www.metronews.ca/ottawa/Local/article/114565>
September 19, 2008 TRACY TONG, METRO NEWS

The litter pulled from the Ottawa River yesterday by city police divers looked mundane enough: traffic barriers, a pylon, beer bottles, a burlap sack and even a young girl's bicycle.

But police know from experience that their participation in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup can go beyond civic-mindedness. It can also solve crimes. "We (once) found a motorcycle that was part of a cold case," said Eric Solomon, an executive with the Vancouver Aquarium and an organizer of the national event. "It resulted in a conviction."

Strange things get dredged up when citizens tackle their local shoreline cleanup campaigns. "Last year, we found a hotel safe that had been cut in two, bras and a washing machine. And we pull out cars sometimes," said Solomon.



Marine and Dive Unit constable Marc-Andre Sheehy, right, passes a bicycle to colleague Brent MacIntyre yesterday. City police recovered dozens of discarded items, including beer bottles, steel barriers and a traffic cone, in the Ottawa River near the Rideau Canal locks yesterday as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

Members of the Ottawa Police Marine and Dive Unit kicked off this year's local cleanup by pulling hundreds of pounds of garbage from the Ottawa



River yesterday. The event will see 62,000 volunteers in every province and territory removing 100,000 kilograms of garbage from over 1,400 sites. Twenty-eight of those sites are in the nation's capital. "It tells me people in Ottawa really want to make a difference," Solomon said.

Entanglement and litter ingestion kills a million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles annually. "A bird can starve to death with a stomach full of cigarette butts," Solomon said.

Although police removed plenty of beer bottles and coffee cups yesterday, it's not just simple litter that's found in the Ottawa River. "We still find bottles from the 1850s," said Constable Brent MacIntyre, with the dive unit.

The area of the river police searched yesterday goes down nine metres, but most litter is found in shallower depths – "within tossing distance" of shore, MacIntyre said.

Heroic Laval Cop Plays Down Rescue Effort

<http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/story.html?id=96d82ad1-1e5f-49a6-91c7-64306d0c4311>

'You don't think. you just do it'; Police officer saves woman who drove car into Rivière des Prairies
September 04 ANNE SUTHERLAND, The Gazette

Laval police Constable Jean-François Roussele said he didn't think twice before stripping down to his uniform pants and jumping into the Rivière des Prairies early yesterday. He was responding to 911 calls from people who had seen a woman drive her car down a boat launch and into the water about 2:30 a.m. "My only thought was to save her," said Roussele, 28, who's been on the force for five years.

When Roussele and his partner, rookie Constable Rudy Perreault, reached the riverbank at the foot of du Crochet Ave. in the Laval des Rapides district, the woman's car, a blue Kia sedan, was already under water. After removing his bullet-proof vest, sidarm, shirt and shoes, Roussele jumped in the water to swim to the woman, who had managed to get out of the submerged car.



Perreault used the squad car's headlights to illuminate the dark waters for his partner and prepared tow line. Rousselle quickly swam the 20 metres to the woman, who was flailing in the strong current. "She was in shock but I asked her if she was alone, were there others in the car and if she was hurt, and she answered the questions," he said.



Using lifesaving techniques he learned in police training, Rousselle towed the woman to shore, where she was put in an ambulance and taken to a hospital. The woman is a Laval resident in her mid 30s, Laval police Sgt. François Dumais said. She was in a depressed state and suffering from shock when she was put into the ambulance, he added. "It's the first time I have done something like this. You don't think, you just do it," Rousselle said, playing down his heroism.

The car was still at the bottom of the river yesterday afternoon but had shifted due to the strong currents. Sûreté du Québec divers would be brought in today to locate and bring up the vehicle, a Laval police spokesperson said.

In mud up to his neck, boater rescued in M.R.

<http://www.nj.com/bridgeton/index.ssf?/base/news-15/1220597715278720.xml&coll=10>

September 05, 2008 By JEAN JONES

MAURICE RIVER TWP. - A Leesburg man who got stranded by a falling tide had to be rescued by the Heislerville Fire Company after he sank in mud almost up to his neck while trying to walk ashore Wednesday.

Wayne Cox had launched his 14-foot boat with outboard from a ramp at the PSEG Wetlands Restoration Project, inland from Thompson's Beach, to go fishing. The area is connected to Delaware Bay by a dredged inlet.

When Cox attempted to return to the ramp, he found the tide had gone out, and he could only get about 150 feet from shore. When he attempted to walk to shore across the shallow impoundment, he sank and couldn't get free. Fortunately, there was an outgoing tide.

Heislerville firefighter Karen Ritchie said that it was also fortunate that someone else showed up at the ramp, which is part of an




observation platform used by birdwatchers and people wanting to enjoy the area's spectacular sunsets or find a breeze.

They spotted the empty boat and Cox, who was wearing a white cap, in the water and called 911. "He had a cell phone with him, but as soon as he went into the water it didn't work," she said. "He had been in the water about an hour."

Downe Township Fire Rescue 1 also was summoned when the call came through for a water rescue, but it soon was found their divers and boat wouldn't be needed. It was about another 45 minutes before firefighters could get Cox out.

Junior firefighter Albert Huff walked along the shoreline, sometimes sinking into the mud himself, until he was able to get close enough to Cox to throw him a line. "He caught the line and tied it around himself, and they pulled him in," she said. "He refused treatment. He said the only thing that was hurt was his pride."



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Lidless manhole claims life

<http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=53707>

2008-09-07 Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh - A lidless manhole cost a young man his life at Motijheel in the capital yesterday. Identity of the victim aged around 25 could not be known. The ill-fated pedestrian fell into a manhole on the road in front of Madhumita movie house around 6:00pm. Other people who saw the tragic incident tried to rescue him but failed. Later, on information from them, fire service divers reached the spot and recovered the victim's body after a more than 20-minute search. Police said the body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

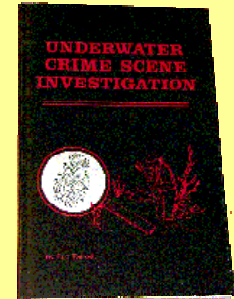
Locals said the manhole is lidless for about 25 days, and they complained about it repeatedly only in vain.

18 children, driver feared dead as school van falls into canal

<http://www.dawn.com/2008/09/07/top8.htm>

September 07, 2008 By Khurshid Anwar Khan

"Underwater Crime Scene Investigation"



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MIANWALI: The school van which fell into Muhajir Branch Canal near Wan Bhachran, leaving 19 people dead. —Dawn

MIANWALI, Sept 6: Eighteen schoolchildren, including seven from a family, drowned when their van plunged into a canal about 25km from here on Saturday morning.

Khadija and her brother Atif survived as they jumped out of the vehicle moments before it

fell into the canal. The van was going from Muzaffarpur Shomali to Wan Bhachran and the accident took place near the narrow Pathi Tharokhel Bridge on the Muhajir Branch Canal.

The surviving boy and girl raised alarm and called for help. Farmers, who were working in nearby fields, tried to rescue the children, but their efforts failed. The canal is 12 feet deep and has a flow of 1,200 cusecs.

Irrigation authorities closed the canal to retrieve the bodies. Divers were called in from the Chashma Barrage and the police department. A crane pulled the van out of the canal.

Bodies of 11 students and van driver Imran could be

retrieved till late night.

Students whose bodies were retrieved were identified as Maqsoodur Rehman, Riffat, Hayat, Ibrar, Naveed, Qasier Abbas, Saqib Hussain, Mohammad Akram, Kulsoom, Murtaza and Sher Ali. Saleemullah, Jafar, Fazal Karim, Adnan, Sabiha Kausar, Kausar and Saima remained unaccounted for.

Moving scenes were witnessed as people stood on either banks of canal, waiting for the bodies of their loved ones.

Ali Mohammad lost all of his children — two sons and two daughters. Salah Mohammad was handed over the body of his daughter and he was still wailing for another whose body was yet to be retrieved.

Khadim Husain lost one of his daughters, Sabiha. His other daughter and a son survived. The van driver not only lost his life but also those of six children related to him. Riffat, who was on her way to seek admission to the Degree College in Mianwali, was among the dead.



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Divers search for clues in woman's death

http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080905/N_EWS01/309050002/1002

BY JAMI KINTON • News Journal jkinton@nncogannett.com

LOUDONVILLE — Her body was found last March, but questions remain unanswered in the death of Holly Metzger Carruthers. According to the Holmes County Sheriff's Department, the Lexington woman's body was discovered March 18 in the Mohican River along County Road 23, near Arrow Point Campground.

On Friday, six members of the Ashland County Sheriff's Office Dive Team spent hours searching the river for Carruthers' car keys, gray sweatshirt and black winter jacket, the clothing she was last seen wearing when she disappeared Dec. 17.

A DVR video snapshot from the Wal-Mart on Possum Run Road showed Carruthers holding a thick set of keys on what appeared to be a lanyard. When her car was found near the intersection of Ohio 97 and 3, the keys were not inside. "Even if the current was fast at

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the time, the keys would have dropped to the bottom pretty quick," said Lexington police Lt. Jeff Hoffer.

"Finding the keys would establish

where she entered the water," he said. "We still don't know how she got in the water or why she got in the water — and that would help explain that."

Smart said the dive team used the search as part of their monthly training exercises. Hoffer said he's been waiting to search the river for months. Richland, Ashland and Holmes counties are involved in the ongoing investigation. "The water is really down right now," Hoffer said. "There are no canoes out here, the water's low — it's simply the best time to do it."

In December, the water had risen above the bridges, said Hoffer. On Friday, the water was relatively clear, and about six inches to two feet deep around the edges.

Pairs of dive team members, dressed in bright orange and black dry suits, began by walking the edges with metal detectors. Later they waded through the middle of the river, targeting the areas surrounding bridges on State Route 3, near 97, and another along County Road 629.



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"These are the most logical places to search," Hoffer said. Both areas are not far from where Carruthers' car was found.

Lt. Scott Smart, of the Ashland County Sheriff's Department, said Carruthers body was found approximately 10 miles down the river. "If she went in around this area, those keys would have traveled a little with the current, but could have easily gotten hung up on a rock or stick," Smart said.

At the end of the day, none of the three items was located. "This is still an unresolved death — as to how she got in the water, and will probably remain unresolved," Hoffer said. "But that doesn't mean we'll stop trying to find answers. Everyone deserves the right to have their case investigated fully, and as long as there are things to check out, we're going to continue to do that."

Visiting divers assist in near drowning on West Lake

<http://www.spencerdailyreporter.com/story/1458777.html>

09/05/08 By Anitra Wolf, Special to the Daily Reporter

Names of victims not yet released



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Two visiting divers from Aberdeen are credited with helping bring two struggling young men to shore on Saturday evening in a near drowning scare on West Lake Okoboji.

The Arnolds Park/Okoboji and Milford Fire and Rescue departments responded to a call at approximately 5:45 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30 at Terrace Park on West Lake Okoboji. Yungbluth said he could not legally release the names of the victims involved in the incident since his department provided emergency care to them. Officials from the DNR were also unable to provide names for the individuals.

Yungbluth said he believed the victims were college students from Cedar Rapids. Initial reports indicated that two male victims in their twenties were possibly submerged. "They were swimming at a local beach," said Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire Chief Chris Yungbluth. "It is my understanding that they were playing catch with a ball when it got away from them when they got into trouble."

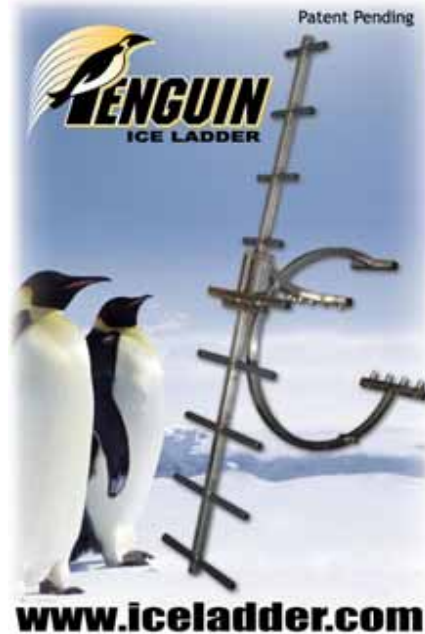


(Photo by Abby Koolhaas)
Witnesses at a near drowning incident Saturday evening at Terrace Park were questioned at a nearby dock as rescue personnel worked on the two victims.

Upon arrival of the Milford Fire and Rescue team, it was determined that one man had already been rescued by a pair of recreational divers who had just completed a dive in the area. One man was still missing.

Divers Dr. Mark Voss and Kevin Vaughn, a member of the Aberdeen Dive team, had just completed a dive and were putting their equipment away when they noticed a pair of young men in trouble. A 911 call was made, and the divers went out to see if they could assist the victims. Upon arrival, one of the young men was clearly exhausted and unable to swim so the divers assisted the victim to shore. In the meantime, the other victim slipped below the surface of the water. One diver remained in the area completing a brief surface search using goggles and a snorkel while waiting for his dive gear to come to the end of the dock.

A Milford Rescue member also jumped into the water to assist with a surface search. When the diver was able to get his equipment on, he submerged and began a circular search pattern and them moved in a little closer to shore and repeated the search and at that time found the victim. "These two gentlemen chose to get involved when



someone was struggling in the water and by doing so saved a life," said Yungbluth.

As the diver surfaced with the victim, the Dive Team, Lakes Area Fire Boat and Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire and Rescue surface team arrived at the scene, within seven minutes of the rescue call. They transported the victim to shore where the Arnolds Park/Okoboji and Milford rescue teams assisted the paramedics from Lakes Regional Healthcare to provide emergency care.

The victim was thought to have been submerged for around 15 minutes. He was transported in critical condition to Lakes Regional Healthcare and later airlifted to Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls, S.D. Yungbluth said last he knew the victim was still listed in critical condition.

The second victim was transported to Lakes Regional Healthcare by ambulance in stable condition.

Assisting at the scene was the Department of Natural Resources Lake Patrol, Milford Police Department, Dickinson County Sheriffs Office and Lakes Regional Healthcare Ambulance.



SEAL museum director proud of the history of these warriors

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2008/sep/08/monday-chat-capt-michael-howard-executive-director/>

September 8, 2008 By Joe Crankshaw

Capt. Michael Howard, a retired U.S. Navy SEAL, is a Jacksonville native and Citadel graduate whose career placed him among the elite warriors of our nation and sent him Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He earned a master's degree in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and graduated from the Defense Acquisition University in 2002.

After retiring in 2003, he and his family moved to Fort Pierce. He is executive director of the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum on the north beach in Fort Pierce. SEAL is an acronym standing for Sea, Air and Land, the place where the special force fights.

Q. Why is the word "national" important in the museum's title?

A. It is the only one dedicated to the Navy Underwater Demolition Teams and the SEALs, and designated by the president and the



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Congress, in the nation.

Q. Does the designation put it under any federal agency? Does it involve federal funds?

A. No. It just gives us a little more status. We are a nonprofit organization. We get minimal support from the county, but the bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations, special events and sale of items from our store.

Q. So, the national designation is a source of pride but not necessarily a source of funding?

A. Well, we hope it will become a source of funding because of the prestige it brings at the national level.

Q. Why is this museum on this site?

A. It is dedicated to the Navy Combat Demolition Teams of World War II and the SEALs who followed them. It is here because this was where they were trained for their roles in Europe and the Pacific. It is the birthplace of the Navy Frogman program, which started here in 1943 on our beaches.

Q. Describe the difference between a Frogman of those times and a today's SEAL.

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A. Equipment and technology has improved. The tools of war are more sophisticated. The training is longer. But the person who was a Frogman or is a SEAL is essentially the same. The type of individual remains the same. He is a rugged individual, street smart, looking for a challenge.

Q. What is the mission of the SEALs?

A. They are the special operations forces of the Navy. All the special operations units of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines are headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. They have an unconventional missions centered on combating terrorism.

Q. Do you see many of the veteran Frogmen and SEALs here at the museum?

A. We do, particularly at the annual Muster, which this year is on the weekend of Nov. 15, so we won't compete with the Stuart Air Show on Nov. 11. That is when you will see the older and younger guys getting together to trade stories. It is a special time.

Q. How many visitors do you get at the museum?

A. Annually about 35,000, but that number is increasing because of our youth outreach program in the schools.



Q. There are big plans for the museum, please describe them.

A. We are building a \$250,000 memorial to all the UDT-SEAL men killed starting with World War II. We are also launching an expansion program to get more space and seeking national accreditation as a museum.

Q. If people want to donate, what do they do?

A. They can send us mail at 3300 N. Highway A1A, Fort Pierce, FL 34949-8520, or through our Web site www.navysealmuseum.com, or anyone may join. You don't have to be a SEAL.

Divers hunting for stolen car in Lacamas Lake come out with 5

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2008172404_stolencars11.html

09/11/08 By [Laura McVicker](#) *The Columbian*

When recovering stolen cars underwater, divers often also find discarded fishing poles, lures and boat anchors. Here's what they don't usually find, but came across Tuesday: four more stolen cars.

The vehicles were recovered in 20 feet of water in Lacamas Lake by members of the Southwest Washington Organization of Rescue Divers after a boater reported seeing the tip of one car sticking out from the water. "Expecting to only find one, we did our sweep and three hours later came out with five," said SWORD team leader Tim Woodring.

Two Acuras, two Hondas and one Chevrolet sport-utility vehicle were found within 50 feet of the boat ramp on Southeast Leadbetter Road. After the license plates were traced, Camas police officers discovered they all had been stolen: The first was taken last February and the most recent in June, said Camas Police Sgt. Rob Skeens.

Two of them were reported stolen from Portland, while the remaining three came from Clark County. None of them had been stolen from Camas, Skeens said. The vehicles, all of which had been stripped and totaled, were impounded.

The hunt started at about 9 a.m., when divers dipped below the lake to comb for the first vehicle. To navigate in murky water with only 6 inches to a foot of visibility, divers held onto a rope connected to an onshore partner, who gave them directions on which way to look, Woodring said.

After they found the first car, divers continued combing the lake floor. One after another, divers found the other vehicles.

After searching 100 square yards, a local towing company



Issue 53 Summer '08
Emergency Response
Accidents by Ivan Hansen
Mud/Debris flow by Larry Collins
Immersion Hypothermia
Part I by Sean Johnson
Gear Reviews & MORE!
<http://t-rescue.com>

was called. Divers attached the tow truck's cable to each vehicle, and the truck hauled them out, Woodring said.

Divers had continued searching on a hunch there were others: Lacamas Lake is where divers uncovered five vehicles three years ago." [Lacamas Lake] has kind of become a dumping ground for cars," Skeens said.

Woodring said his team has never come across so many submerged dumped cars at once at any other site.



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aftermath of Hurricane
Gustva in Louisiana.
Battalion Chief Bob Ameche
briefed the workers before
they loaded the supplies.

\$45,000 Fine For Hoax Call To Coast Guard

<http://www.witn.com/home/headlines/28484254.html>

Sep 16, 2008 Dave Jordan  [Play the Video](#)

An eastern Carolina man is paying the price for making a fake distress call to the U.S. Coast Guard. Joe Mills Junior of Newport was fined \$45,000 and sentenced to 60 months probation.


Back in May Mills pled guilty to using a handheld VHF radio while standing on his front yard to fraudulently report a vessel taking on water to Coast Guard Sector NC. The distress call was recorded and specifically referenced the Coast Guard.

According to Mills, he then turned off his radio and went back into his house. The Coast Guard attempted to call Mills back, but he did not answer them. The Coast Guard then engaged in a substantial effort totaling \$45,000 to search for and rescue the vessel. Local fire and rescue also spent significant resources.

The vessel was never found, and the Coast Guard launched an investigation and determined that the distress call was a hoax.

VCFD help rescue hurricane victims
Swift water rescuers face dangerous conditions
<http://www.toacorn.com/news/2008/0918/community/052.html>
September 18, 2008

The Ventura County Fire Department deployed 14 members of its swift water rescue team to assist people affected by Hurricane Gustav in Louisiana. "We realized after Hurricane Katrina that there was no national pact in place for one state to request help from another," said

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Chief Bob Roper. "That's changed now, and this deployment is the result of a request directly from the governor of Louisiana to the governor of California."

The Ventura County team was expected to rendezvous in Blythe with teams from Long Beach, Sacramento and the Sacramento Metro fire

departments.

Battalion Chief Bob Ameche warned the team that they would face danger from more than just floodwaters. Alligators, snakes and insects were also a concern. We'll have to look out for each other," he said.

The Ventura County Fire Department water rescue team is trained to respond to a variety of rescue situations. The team uses personal watercraft, specialized water rescue tools and other equipment in their lifesaving missions.

Five detained after trespassing
<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/9/21/nation/20080921172520&sec=nation>
September 21, 2008 By TAN SIN CHOW

GEORGE TOWN: Five men who trespassed into the Air Itam Dam here have been detained following the death of

a 33-year-old man, who was believed to have jumped into the dam and later drowned.

Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang (PBAPP), which operates the dam, is also conducting an internal investigation to tighten security in the area. Plumber Thendauthapany Subramaniam's body was recovered at 2.45pm Sunday, some 13 hours after he was reported missing at the site. This is believed to be the first drowning case in the dam.

A security personnel, who declined to be named, said Thendauthapany had entered the dam site with his five other friends on at least four motorcycles at about 10.30pm on Saturday. He said the group was not stopped from entering the dam at about 10.30pm on Saturday as he thought they were using the road to get to Balik Pulau. However, some three hours later at about 1.30pm, he said Thendauthapany was spotted speeding on his motorcycle along the road around the dam before jumping into the water. "I heard a commotion at the site and saw a man (Thendauthapany) jumping into the



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water. Two of his friends tried to get him out of the water but to no avail," said the security personnel when met at the site.

Thendauthapany's elder brother, who declined to be named, said he was told that his brother took off his shoes, and placed his wallet and handphone on the ground before jumping into the water. "He did not even switch off his machine's engine. "When his friends tried to coax him into getting back to the shore, Thendauthapany told them he was a good swimmer and asked them not to worry," he said.

Six divers from the scuba unit based in Bukit Mertajam were deployed to search for him at 10am. They used an underwater robot, a US-made remote operating vehicle (ROV) which has a camera and lights, to help locate him. Some 50 police, Civil Defence Department officers and Fire and Rescue Department officers also joined in the rescue operation.

PBAPP corporate affairs manager K. Jeyabalan said in a statement that the dam premises was in darkness on Saturday night as there was a power shutdown due to Tenaga Nasional Bhd works in the Air Itam area

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He said PBAPP was very concerned with the incident. "We will co-operate with the police. We do not allow the public to enter the dam area after 7pm for safety reasons. We will conduct an internal inquiry with a view to further tighten security at all dam sites in Penang," he said.

Monday Chat with Capt. Michael Howard, executive director of the UDT-SEAL museum

Gadgets police use to help catch bad guys

http://www.gastongazette.com/news/police_25404_article.html/gastonia_ro_bots.html

September 26, 2008 [Corey Friedman](#)

Police robots that can cripple crooks and disable detonators at the jerk of a joystick exist only in Hollywood movies. The real-life robotic rovers are valuable law enforcement tools, but difficult to operate and maneuver. Sgt. Ed Turas said the Gastonia Police Bomb Squad's robots have little in common with action movie mainstays or video game simulators. "It's much like trying to



The unmanned aerial vehicle is guided by a global positioning system and can record photos and video from an altitude of 3,000 feet, letting police hover over a hostile environment to obtain information.
Gazette file photo

steer a remote control car that maybe has 50 extra controls," Turas said. "You don't have enough hands and fingers."

High-tech tools improve police work and, in many cases, protect officers by putting gadgets rather than people in harm's way. Miniature surveillance cameras can help keep an eye on criminal suspects. Taser stun guns can subdue an unruly arrestee and allow officers to keep their handguns holstered.

Real-life Robocop

Robots can't squeeze into tight spaces - or even enter through a narrow doorway. The bumper car-sized bots lurch forward in awkward spurts. Cameras help police direct the small vehicles, but the video feed is often grainy, and peripheral vision is nonexistent. "Exclude everything else, and you can only see things as a flat screen in front of you," Turas said. "It's very much being like a person who closes their eyes and pretends to be blind."

The Gastonia Police Department has two robots - a Remotec Mini-Andros II and a Remotec F6A. They cost



Designed by Israeli intelligence agents for urban warfare, the Eye Ball contains a camera that can rotate 360 degrees and survive a two-story drop. It has night-vision capabilities and transmits live video to a wireless display unit.
Gazette file photo

between \$160,000 and \$280,000 apiece, with prices varying widely based on accessories. Department of Homeland Security and state public safety grants cover a large portion of the expense for many law enforcement agencies, including the Gastonia Police.

Gastonia uses the robots about 30 times a year, which includes demonstration exercises.

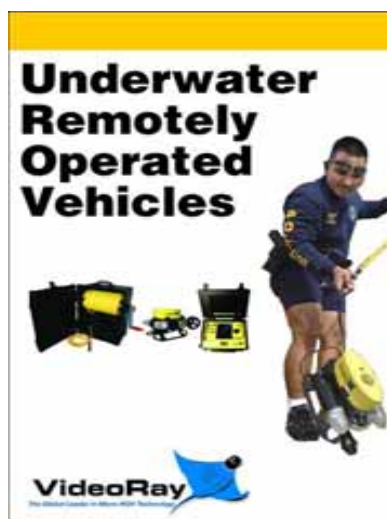
For all their shortcomings, the robots are invaluable tools that can save an officer's life. A June 14 demonstration at the Gaston County Firefighters Association's Fire Muster featured a bomb squad robot rolling its metal frame toward a yellow toolbox.

Startled spectators cheered as the robot blasted the toolbox apart with a sudden burst from its arm-mounted gun.

The yellow submarine

Detective Heath McMullan opens a large case and removes what looks like a toy submarine. The yellow underwater submersible weighs just 5 pounds and is equipped with both color and black-and-white video cameras. "It's the same thing they used to find the Titanic," McMullan said. "It's a smaller version of that."

The Gastonia Police Dive Team doesn't hunt for



shipwrecks, but police do use the submersible for evidence recovery. Two years ago, the craft was lowered into Lake Norman to help investigators find a body. "We can send it down before we send divers down, especially in hazardous situations," McMullan said. "It saves a lot of time, and we can send the ROV down to deep water."

Manufactured by VideoRay, the remotely operated vehicle cost Gastonia about \$20,000, which included a 280-foot fiber-optic cable. Unlike the robots, the ROV is relatively simple to control. "It's a joystick," McMullan said. "If you can play video games, you can operate it."

The seven-member police dive team averages a dozen calls per year, but members train each month. McMullan, who is the group's training coordinator, said each member makes about 20 dives per year.

You can reach Corey Friedman at 704-869-1828.

GASTONIA POLICE GADGETS

Here are some of the high-tech tools local police use to catch suspects and investigate crime. Gastonia Police



Gazette file photo

Designed by Israeli intelligence agents for urban warfare, the Eye Ball contains a camera that can rotate 360 degrees and survive a two-story drop. It has night-vision capabilities and transmits live video to a wireless display unit.

have two robots, the Mini-Andros II and F6A, both manufactured by Remotec.

Purpose: The Bomb Squad uses hazardous-duty mobile robots to inspect, disable or detonate suspected explosives. The Gastonia Police Dive Team has one VideoRay remotely operated vehicle.

Purpose: ROVs are equipped with cameras for underwater evidence searches.

Three years ago, Gaston County Police purchased a Remington Eye Ball R1 mobile display system. The information below is from a *Gazette* story published in July 2006.

Purpose: Designed by Israeli intelligence agents for urban warfare, the Eye Ball contains a camera that can rotate 360 degrees and survive a two-story drop. It has night-vision capabilities and transmits live video to a wireless display unit. Police can throw the Eye Ball down a hallway or into other tight spaces, and it is especially useful in hostage situations.

The Gaston County Police Department has a CyberBug remote-controlled airplane that can capture still photographs and live video.

Purpose: The unmanned aerial vehicle is guided by a global positioning system and can record photos and video from an altitude of 3,000 feet, letting police hover over a hostile environment to obtain information

FATALITY

09-13-2008 Firefighter Dennis Rhoads Swift Water Fatality

Rescuer Called a Hero in Death

http://www.kansascw.com/Global/story.asp?S=9005306&nav=menu676_1

Sep 13, 2008 by Megan Strader (SUMNER COUNTY, Kan.)

Hero is the word being used to describe Argonia native Dennis Rhodes. He didn't know how to swim and he didn't know the people who were trapped inside a raft on the Chikaskia

River but he went into the water to save them anyway. "I'm on your team and I said let's go in and do it and I thought if somebody could it would have been him," explains Daren Drouhard.

He watched as his best friend made the choice to wade out into the water. He was attempting to save 19 year olds, Miranda Brozovich, Rylee Doll, Jordan Fields, Wesley Gilbert and another juvenile who were stuck on the dam. Three rescue workers were also in the water after a failed rescue attempt. "We brought him up here and this is where we did our CPR," Drouhard walked us through what happened on the banks of the river. For twenty minutes they tried to revive Rhodes, but the man, who friends jokingly called the rambo of Argonia, was no

 [Friend Describes Rescue Attempt](#)
 [Argonia Man Dies Trying to Save Boaters](#)

match for the dam that he had a hand in building. "I told him don't give up. We prayed, I said there's still a hair of hope, but it didn't happen." Dennis had one daughter who his family said meant the world to him. She lost a father and a town lost a man who was said to be friend to all. "He's the town hero."

Rhodes was wearing a life jacket when he went into the water. The people Rhodes was trying to save were not wearing life jackets but were pulled out safely.

Argonia firefighter dies making water rescue

<http://www.wellingtondailynews.com/news/x55307252/Argonia-firefighter-dies-making-water-rescue>

Sep 16, 2008 By Teresa Lee Wellington Daily News

Wellington, Kan. Raging flood waters claimed the life of an Argonia volunteer firefighter, Saturday night, after he attempted to save eight people, three of them emergency workers. Dennis Rhodes, 47, of Argonia was killed when he decided to walk out into the Chikaskia River to the trapped victims. The rescue unit leader directed Rhodes to remain out of the water and to not attempt an individual rescue, said Sumner County Emergency Management Director James Fair.

After entering the river, Rhodes lost his balance and was swept under the current until he was retrieved by emergency workers. Members of the rescue crew brought Rhodes back to shore — performing CPR and transporting him to an area hospital.

The tragic ending started at around 8 p.m., when Argonia Fire, Argonia EMS, the Sumner County Sheriff's Department and Sumner County Emergency Management were notified by Sumner County 911 dispatch of five people stuck on the Chikaskia just south of the City of Argonia after attempting to raft, Fair said.

Miranda Brozovich, Rylee Doll, Jordan Fields, Wesley Gilbert, all 19, and a minor female had put their raft into the river at the bridge on south Argonia Road and started floating eastward, Fair said. Problems occurred for the group after their raft went over a concrete diversion dam and became trapped in the undertow of the bottom side of the dam. None of the five were wearing life jackets, Fair said.

At 9:30 p.m., Wellington Fire/EMS made a first attempt at a rescue. Wellington Fire Chief John Lloyd said his crew did all they could to help the rafters and had a plan in place when they entered the water. But the plan failed and three emergency workers ended up in the river.

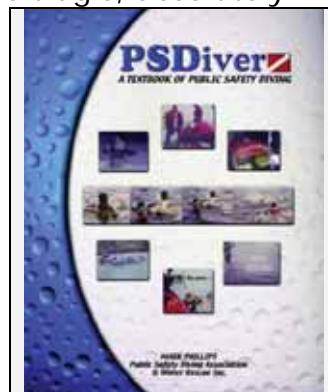
Lloyd said, the plan was to take a small boat out to the rafters and take them back to shore two at a time. The fire chief stands by the original plan saying the rafters caused the boat to capsize, sending two Wellington firefighters and a firefighter from Conway Springs into the fast-moving water. "They got life jackets to all of them and then got two in, and from what was reported by our crews the rest of them tried to get in the boat too," Lloyd said. "They had their plan set. They assisted what they needed to do before they even put the boat in...that's all you can do. It was nothing that was rushed into," Lloyd

said. "They felt comfortable in what they planned to do and it is what it is and when you are dealing with swift water it is very dangerous."

The speed of the water in relation to the size of the boat and the number of people in it is what sent the crew sprawling, Lloyd said. Wichita Fire and Rescue was called out with an additional swift water rescue team who arrived on scene at 11:30 p.m. At 12:45 a.m., Lloyd said all victims were safely out of the water and either transported to Harper Hospital or Sumner Regional Medical Center for observation.

Throughout the entire ordeal, no injuries were reported to anyone other than Rhodes who was later pronounced dead at Via Christi St. Francis. "It's tragic, absolutely tragic," said Lloyd. "It's very emotional for everyone concerned."

Conway Springs Fire, Conway Springs EMS, Mayfield Fire, Norwich EMS, and Harper County Emergency Management also assisted with the call. Rhodes is the second death related to the recent flooding. Robert N. Bennett, 64, of Sedgwick was found early Saturday by a grader operator who was inspecting barricades in the 1200 block of



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North West Street in Sedgwick. It is believed Bennett drove through deep water there with his Chevy Blazer.

Bennett was married to Carol Harris, originally of Wellington, according her aunt Dorothy Troutman. The two met and got married, eventually moving to the Sedgwick area.

Man Dies After Chikaskia River Rescue

<http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/28357429.html>

Reporter: [Abby Barnett](#)

Around 8 o'clock Saturday night, a page went out to Argonia Volunteer Firefighters. Five young adults were stuck on a raft, trapped in the raging currents at the swollen Chikaskia River dam. They were not wearing life jackets.

Kevin Catlin was the first responder on the scene. He said he knew the situation was too much for their crews

to handle on their own, so crews from Wellington were called and arrived a short time after.



Wellington Fire Fighters arrived and immediately put their boat in the water, but instead of things getting better, the situation continued to grow worse.

The boat with three Wellington Fire Fighters capsized. Now eight people were trapped in the waters of the roaring river in need of rescue. We asked Wichita crews come down and assist us, and we greatly appreciate them," said Catlin.

Before they arrived, a former volunteer firefighter from Argonia braved the terrifying currents trying to save those in harm's way. The currents proved too strong. 47 year-old Dennis Rhoads was pulled from the strong waters and was taken to Via Christi St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Wichita where he died a short time later. You could call it heroism," said Catlin. "Our prayers go to the family and I'm sure the whole city is behind me on that one," he said.

A fund has been set up by the [Fire Department](#) to honor the life and memory of the town's fallen hero. For more



information on this fund you can contact the Argonia Fire Department.

Firefighters like Kevin Catlin also want to remind the public to always wear a life jacket when on the water. If the waters are swollen and rapid, do not go in. It's just too dangerous, he says. "Not only are you putting your life in danger," he says, "But you're putting the lives of the rescue workers in danger as well."

The occupying pictures are courtesy of Craig Hacker, with permission from the Wichita Fire Department.

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The **VENUS Project** offers a perfect research environment to observe what happens to a dead body that's submerged over time. *This experiment was designed to simulate a homicide in which the body of a murder victim is weighted down and sunk.* Such research results can be used in police investigations and eventually presented and challenged in court. Therefore, it is important to use a scientifically accepted animal model to simulate the human body. Pig carcasses are recognized worldwide as the best mimic of a human body. Pigskin is very similar to human skin and can even be used for human skin grafts. Pigs have gut bacteria similar to ours as they are also omnivores. They are relatively hairless, and a small pig is roughly equivalent in size to the average human torso.

[Click HERE to go to the web site for the rest of the story](#)

EVENTS

OceanTech Exp

<http://www.oceantechexpo.com>

30 September 08 - 3 October 08

Location: Providence, RI, USA



VideoRay International Partner Symposium(VIPS)

<http://www.videoray.com/VIPS/>

***Attention All VIPS 2008**

Registrants*

Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike and the continuing recovery effort on the island of Galveston, TX, and driven by concern for the safety and well-being of our attendees, VideoRay has been compelled to act upon our contingency plan and move this year's conference to an alternate location. **VIPS 2008 will be held at Marriott Key Largo Bay Resort in Key Largo, Florida.** Visit www.marriottkeylargo.com



Dates and fees will remain unchanged. We realize that this change in venue may cause an inconvenience to our registrants. Please know that VideoRay explored all viable options in the Houston/Galveston area before coming to this decision. These circumstances are beyond our control, but we do sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and assure you that VIPS 2008 will nevertheless be the biggest and best VIPS yet.

Please contact your travel agent or airline immediately with your information. Should a refund or credit not be possible, please check the availability of connecting flights from Houston to Miami utilizing either Hobby (HOU) or Intercontinental (IAH) airports of Houston and either Miami (MIA) or Ft. Lauderdale (FLL) airports for Miami. Most flight options are currently available for less than \$300.00 USD.

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Marine Sonic Technology, Ltd.

Register for Chesapeake Technology 2008 Workshop September 14th, 2008

Sign up now for Chesapeake Technology software training for the conference December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.
View or download the registration form:
www.chesapeaketech.com/2008WorkshopRegForm.pdf.



BENEATH THE SEA'S 33rd annual Ocean Adventure Exposition and Travel Show will convene the weekend of March 27th , 28th and 29th, 2009 at the Meadowlands

Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey.
For more information call 1.914.664.4310, e-mail info@Beneaththesea.org , or visit our web site for a complete up-to-the minute report on the show:
www.Beneaththesea.org

PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education



ERDI Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.

The **Public Safety Diving Association** (PSDA) recognizes and approves the PSDiver CE program. Each month's Q&A program credits 1 CEU for renewal up to a maximum of 3 CEUs from this source for each year's renewal.



PSDM-CE-55

- 1) Air in your scuba tank is comprised of _____ nitrogen and _____ oxygen
 - a. 79% 21%
 - b. 50% 50%
 - c. 21% 79%
 - d. Pure and no
- 2) Breathing dry air, a scuba diver tends to become dehydrated while diving due to:
 - a. Moisturizing inhaled air
 - b. Excessive perspiration
 - c. Saltwater absorbing moisture from the skin
 - d. Eating too much kelp
- 3) A scuba cylinder should be hydrostatically tested every:
 - a. 6 months
 - b. Year
 - c. 5 years
 - d. 15 months
- 4) A dive team caught in a rip current taking them in a direction they do not want to go should:
 - a. Descend immediately
 - b. Swim at a right angle to the current
 - c. Swim against the current
 - d. Swim with the current
- 5) A safe ascent rate would be:
 - a. 30 feet/minute
 - b. 60 feet/minute
 - c. as slow as you can bear
 - d. Follow your quarter sized bubbles
- 6) When you practice neutral buoyancy inhalations will cause you to _____ and exhalations will cause you to _____:
 - a. Ingas, outgas
 - b. Roll, wiggle
 - c. Rise, fall
 - d. Implode, explode

- 7) A precautionary safety stop at a depth of 15 feet for 3 minutes....
- Is a no-no
 - Prevents air embolisms
 - Mandatory for dives deeper than 20 feet
 - Helps eliminate nitrogen in your system safely through respirations
- 8) If you take a balloon to the bottom of a swimming pool the density of the air in the balloon will:
- Decrease
 - Increase
 - Not change
- 9) On ascent, remember to release expanding air in you BC to prevent:
- Rapid ascent
 - Squeeze
 - Nitrogen narcosis
 - An explosion
- 10) Choose the correct equation for Boyle's Law:
- $P_1V_1 = P_2V_2$
 - $Y = MX + B$
 - $E = MC^2$
 - $P/V + P/V$



TEAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Discuss the importance of periodic basic scuba skills and basic scuba knowledge review.

- Do the skill sets being reviewed apply?
- Can you suggest other or more applicable skills review?
- Do you see a need to perform skills in clear water?
- Do you see a need to perform skills in latched out masks?
- Are there skills relative to PSD that you would like to see added and practiced?
- Where are you weak?
- How comfortable are you with basic scuba physics and information?
- How could you improve yourself?
- What would you do to improve your team?

Join our PSDiver and Water Rescue Discussion Group at:

(Just click the link or copy and paste the url into your browser.)

[Public Safety Divers Forum](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-PublicSafetyDiversForum)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-PublicSafetyDiversForum>

GALVESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DIVE ACADEMY

Underwater Crime Scene Series

~~DECEMBER 5-7, 2008~~

CANCELLED DO TO HURRICANE IKE

WE WILL RESCHEDULE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Galveston, Texas

Underwater Crime Scene Series

Weapons and Body Recovery

STUDENTS MUST BE AFFILIATED WITH A FIRE, LAW
ENFORCEMENT, SAR, EMS or PUBLIC SAFETY
TEAM.

Underwater Crime Scene Series Weapons and Body Recovery

Underwater Crime Scene Specialties

The **Underwater Crime Scene Specialties** are designed to present a new aspect of Public Safety Diving to Fire, Police and SAR Dive Recovery Teams. These courses offer classroom lecture, theory, controlled pool work and real dive scene scenario training. Participants will be introduced to a variety of new skills and will be shown and allowed to practice, safety measures and techniques that should enhance their skills, operational safety and abilities.

Weapons and Body Recovery Course

Participants will gain classroom knowledge on evidence

handling, terminology, safety issues, standards information and concepts of the job of a Public Safety Diver. Participants will practice those classroom skills to an acceptable level of proficiency in a clear water pool using blacked out masks and will gain real experience in



methods of underwater search and recovery in the simulated zero visibility environments. During our scenario training, participants in the Weapons and Body Recovery Course will successfully perform a search and evidence recovery of at least one weapon and will successfully perform a body recovery. Participants will also be challenged with an underwater obstacle / confidence building course that will test their ability to handle a variety of stressors including entrapment problems and self rescue issues.

Each scenario is a separate crime scene and the participants will be responsible for assessing the site, gathering intelligence, setting up the dive and recovering either a weapon or a body. Each team must complete the recovery and submit all documentation related to their task to successfully complete the course.



[GPD Dive Academy](#)

[Public Safety Diving Association](#)

[ERDI](#)



FBI Agents and Pizza Man

<http://www.onlyfunnystories.com/FBIAgents.asp>

FBI agents conducted a raid of a psychiatric hospital in San Francisco that was under investigation for medical insurance fraud. After hours of reviewing thousands of medical records, the group of agents got quite hungry. The FBI was taping all conversations at the hospital, this is what was recorded when the agent in charge called a nearby pizza delivery service to order.

- Agent: Hello. I would like to order 20 large pizzas and 70 cans of coke.
- Pizza Man: And where would you like them delivered?
- Agent: To the psychiatric hospital please.
- Pizza Man: The psychiatric hospital?
- Agent: That's right. I'm an FBI agent.
- Pizza Man: You're an FBI agent?
- Agent: That's correct. Just about everybody here is.
- Pizza Man: And you're at the psychiatric hospital?
- Agent: That's correct. And make sure you don't go through the front doors. We have them locked. You will have to go around to the back to the service entrance to deliver the pizzas.
- Pizza Man: And you say you're all FBI agents?

PSDiver Monthly is a free subscriber E-Zine distributed by Press Release notice and website download. We have a world wide distribution and a verified email subscriber list of over 12,000.

PSDiver Monthly is the magazine for PSDiver and is edited and published by
[Mark Phillips](#)

Assistant Editor: [Dominique Evans-Bye](#)

Continuing Education Editor: [Chuck Elgin](#)

For advertising and sponsor rates, please email:
psdivermonthly@aol.com

- Agent: That's right. How soon can you have them here?
- Pizza Man: And everyone at the psychiatric hospital is an FBI agent?
- Agent: That's right. We've been here all day and we're starving.
- Pizza Man: How are you going to pay for all of this?
- Agent: I have my checkbook right here.
- Pizza Man: And you're all FBI agents?
- Agent: That's right. Everyone here is an FBI agent. Can you remember to bring the pizzas and cokes to the service entrance in the rear? We have the front doors locked.
- Pizza Man: I don't think so.
Click.