

# Missing woman's body located

**JENNY HYKES, ISU Intern and BOB BJOIN, News Editor**

**MANILLA** — Two days after disappearing from her mother's home in Manilla, Darla Dawn Wiese's body was found submerged in water in the Nishnabotna River here.

Manilla Police Chief Bob Titus said, Wiese, 40, of Hadar, Neb., was reported missing on Sunday, July 28, but had last been seen by her family on Saturday.

Wiese's body was found at 8:41 P.M., Monday, July 29.

An autopsy showed drowning as the cause of death and the case was ruled an accidental drowning.

Wiese had been visiting Manilla for a wedding reception of a friend, said her mother, Jerene Wiese of Manilla.

Jerene Wiese said her daughter "was glad to be back to see all her friends."

Her family had no idea where she had gone on Saturday evening, and assumed she was with friends.

It was later surmised, however, that Wiese had asked a friend, Randall Holdsworth of Manilla, to take her to her father's grave at the cemetery, a mile west of Manilla, according to Titus. Her father, Dewey Wiese, died in December 1995.

Holdsworth was the last person to see Darla Wiese alive.

Wiese told Holdsworth she wanted to walk back to her home alone.

Holdsworth followed her a little while as she walked along Highway 141, but when she yelled at him to let her walk alone, he turned off onto a country road, Titus said.

"I think she decided to be alone," Jerene Wiese said.

"I think it was kind of hitting her; she was so strong during his [her father's] funeral. It was just overwhelming her."

Wiese's tracks were found coming through a cornfield heading towards town and towards the river, Titus said.

"I don't know why she decided to walk through that cornfield," Jerene Wiese said. "It's a question for us, but God knows what he's doing."

Crawford County Sheriff Tom Hogan said tracks next to the river showed that Wiese sat on the bank and slid into the river, presumably to wade across it in order to get to town.

This section of river was between 20-30-feet across and was normally about "knee deep," Hogan said.

"I think she got stuck in the mud, it was deeper than she thought and she got caught in it and she drowned," Hogan said.

"Ninety-nine times out of a hundred you could cross it without a lick of trouble," he said.

Titus said many people were involved in the search for Wiese, including the Crawford County Sheriff's office, the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation, the Manilla Police Department, Manilla Fire Department and Manilla First Responders, the Central Iowa Underwater Search and Rescue Team and other volunteers from the community.

The Central Iowa Underwater Search and Rescue Team found Wiese on Monday evening. Her body was taken to Denison and then to a Sioux City doctor who performed the autopsy.

The autopsy reported drowning as the cause of death, Titus said on Thursday morning.

### Services...

Services for Wiese will be held Friday, Aug. 2 at 2 p.m. at Ohde Funeral Home in Manilla, with burial in the Nishnabotna Cemetery near Manilla.

Wiese is survived by her fiancée, Dave Prochaska and his children Kasey and Konnie of Hadar, Neb.; her mother; a brother, Drew Wiese and his son, Dustin, of Norfolk, Neb.; a sister, Jerlyn and her husband Rick Fox, and their children Jade and Joshua, all of Norfolk; her mother-in-law, Jody Lambert, of Torrington, Wy.; aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as other relatives and friends.

Wiese was a 1973 graduate of Manilla High School, having grown up in the Manilla area during her childhood years.

She enjoyed horseback riding, fishing and animals of all types, and was especially fond of motorcycles.

She was employed at an electronics company in Norfolk, Neb.