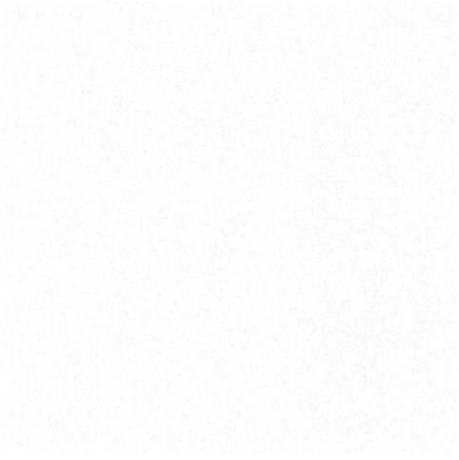


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http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/missing-florissant-woman-s-car-found-in-mississippi-river-with/article_5d2a3478-b161-5e6b-9306-9aee342accb1.html

Missing Florissant woman's car found in Mississippi River with body inside

Rachel Rice St. Louis Post-Dispatch 10 hrs ago



Barbara Higgins' car was found in the Mississippi River in Lincoln County with an unidentified female body inside.

LINCOLN COUNTY • A car registered to a missing Florissant woman was found submerged in the Mississippi River on Friday with a body inside, the Missouri Highway Patrol said.

The body was a woman, police said, but it has not yet been identified.

Barbara Higgins, 59, was last seen Nov. 5 at a Petro Mart at 1200

Shackleford Road in Florissant.

Higgins' car was pulled from the Mississippi River in the B. K. Leach Memorial Conservation Area, the patrol said.

Investigators are waiting for official autopsy results to determine if the body found inside the car is Higgins.

Higgins' sister Elizabeth Thompson said her family reached out to the the Illinois-based nonprofit Team Watters Sonar Search and Recovery, whose volunteers have searched for Higgins on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers with sonar equipment since she disappeared.

"They spent countless hours out there," Thompson said. "They were relentless ... a lot of people who cared for (Higgins) were helping to look."

It's been four months since Higgins went missing, but still, Thompson said, she was in shock over the discovery of her sister's car in the river.

"She was a good sister and an animal lover and a good aunt and a very fun person," Thompson said. "A lot of people have been missing her."

Rachel Rice