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CRIME & SAFETY

Police: 2nd kayaker's body has been found in Seneca River in Baldwinsville

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1/8



Search continues for missing kayakers in Seneca River



BALDWINSVILLE, N.Y. -- Emergency crews have recovered the bodies of two kayakers who went missing Saturday, Onondaga County Sheriff's spokesman Jon Seeber said Tuesday night.

Deputies have identified the kayakers as 27-year-old Robert Mead, of Syracuse, and his 25-year-old brother, Joseph Mead, of Liverpool. Both men are presumed to have drowned, Seeber said.

Robert and Joseph Mead went missing around 11 a.m. Saturday after their kayaks capsized near the dam in the Seneca River in the village of Baldwinsville.

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Crews spent the last several days searching the river. Around 9:35 a.m. Tuesday, a resident in the 3300 block of Hayes Road in Lysander saw a body floating in the river close to shore and called 911, Seeber said. That was more than two miles downstream from the dam where the men had gone missing, he said.

Sheriff's deputies, Baldwinsville Fire Department and GBAC Ambulance crews arrived on the scene within minutes of being dispatched and confirmed there was a body in the water, Seeber said. Deputies assigned to the sheriff's Navigation Unit also were called to the scene to help with the investigation.



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Then, at about 2:25 p.m. Tuesday, while the sheriff's Navigation Unit was searching the river, deputies spotted a second body floating near a channel marker just east of Klein Island in Lysander, downstream from where the first body was discovered, Seeber said.

Both bodies were recovered from the river and taken to the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office, where they were identified as Robert and Joseph Mead. Autopsies are scheduled Wednesday morning to determine the exact cause of death, Seeber said.

"It's a very tragic incident," Seeber said. "We're glad we were able to recover the two victims in a timely manner to get some closure for the grieving family."

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