

Child's body found Sunday, six days after boat mishap

April 19, 2010

The body of five year old Kolton Brim Karnes was found early Sunday morning, six days after the Sutherlin child was plunged into the waters of the Dan River while boating with his father, according to the Danville City Police.

In the news release, the department said Kolton's body was found at 7:47 a.m. by Conservation Police Officers with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The child's remains were found floating in the Dan River approximately 100 yards upstream from the Route 29 Bypass, within the city limits of Danville. His body was to be transported to the Medical Examiner's Office in Roanoke for examination.

The child died in a boating accident on Monday, April 12. At around 1:21 p.m., Kolton and his father were thrown into the Dan when their boat drifted under the waterfall at the dam near the Brantley Steam Plant and tipped over. Both father and son were tossed into the river, with the churning water tearing off the child's life jacket; Kolton's father made it out, but the child did not.

After the initial rescue effort failed to turn up Kolton, recovery efforts continued throughout the week. Searchers initially focused their efforts on the base of the dam, believing that backwash from the falling water might have pulled in Kolton.

The Karnes family are members of the Rodgers Road community in Sutherlin.

Danville Police thanked the many agencies, businesses, private citizens and volunteers who had supported the search effort all last week.