

Body recovered at Robinson Dam

Investigation continues while O'Brien family awaits identification

By JOSH SHEPHERD, NEWS WRITER

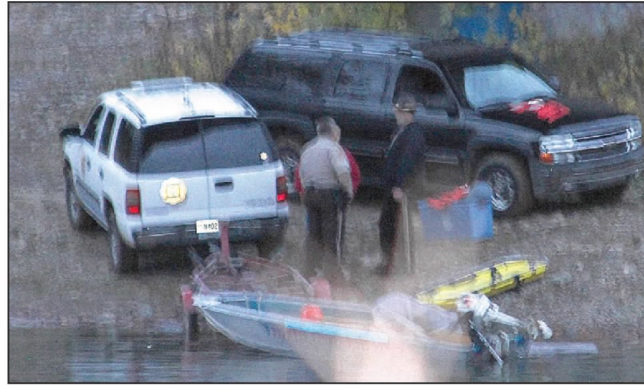
Less than 24 hours after launching a search for a missing Cynthiana man, Harrison County Search and Rescue recovered a body at the base of Robinson Dam Tuesday evening.

Re'Jeana Craft, Chief of the search and rescue team, was unable to provide identification of the body recovered from the waters of the South Fork of the Licking River.

However, the search effort at Robinson Dam was launched following a missing persons report filed for Clinton O'Brien with the Harrison County Sheriff's Office Saturday morning.

An investigation into his possible whereabouts revealed that O'Brien had been seen in several places throughout Cynthiana on Thursday and Friday, said Detective Paul Olin, chief deputy of the Harrison County Sheriff's Department.

But O'Brien's trail went cold on Saturday when the report was filed, Olin said.



On Monday morning, O'Brien's car was located in a parking area near Robinson Dam. Keys were in the car and a tire was flat.

The car's discovery prompted a search and rescue effort along the river, said Craft.

Search teams, which included members of O'Brien's family, began walking the river banks above and below the dam Monday night from 9 - 11 p.m., Craft said.

The next morning, search

and rescue personnel put boats on the water below the dam looking for any indication of O'Brien's presence.

Weather conditions forced a suspension of the search at noon, Craft said. The search resumed at about 2:30 p.m. at which point, search dogs on loan from Grant County were used to locate any sign of the missing man.

"We got a hit of his scent at the dam. We took the dogs down river and we got another

hit on the water itself," Craft said.

It was at that time that search and rescue called the Harrison County Fire Department to bring underwater cameras and water retrieval equipment to the dam for a more intensive search.

About 5:45 p.m., a body was recovered just beneath the Robinson dam, she said.

Throughout the effort, search and rescue members stayed in contact with O'Brien's family and informed them of all that was being done on their behalf, Craft said.

"We hoped that we could eliminate the river from the official search," Craft said. "We would rather our search efforts find a person alive."

The body was turned over to the staff of the Harrison County Coroner for investigation and positive identification.

Pending that final identification, Craft expressed the hope that the O'Brien family will receive a sense of closure from their weekend ordeal.