

Father, son drown in Chester

By Don Lehman
Staff Writer

CHESTER — A man and his teen-aged son are believed to have drowned in the Schroon River on Friday afternoon after the son went over the Starbuckville Dam while tubing and his father attempted to save him, police said.

A search for Timothy Riley, 39, of Sherwood Drive, Latham, and his son, Steven, 15, was called off just before 10 p.m. after the two disappeared in the boil below the dam, said Warren County Sheriff's Major Larry Cleveland.

Steven Riley was tubing on the river along with his brother and another boy when he went over

the 6-foot-high dam about 7:05 p.m., Cleveland said.

The two other boys — Shawn Riley, 13, and Bret Kennedy, 13 — managed to get out of the river at the Riverside campsites, where the Rileys were staying, but Steven was caught in the current and pulled over the dam.

He then struggled and went underwater in the strong current at the foot of the dam, Sheriff Frederick C. Lamy said.

The other two boys called for help, Cleveland said, and Timothy Riley responded, dove in and disappeared.

The water is 4-12 feet deep in this section of the river, and has been bolstered by recent rains, Cleveland said.

"Right there it can get pretty turbulent," Lamy said.

The water is also still quite cold, which doesn't allow a person to stay in long, Lamy said.

The sheriff's department, State Police and state Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Rangers searched until 9:50 p.m. but to no avail.

Dive crews were not used and will not be called in due to the hazardous conditions, police said.

The Lake George Scuba Unit, Chestertown Fire Department and Emergency Squad, Horicon Fire Department and Schroon Lake Fire Department all responded to the scene.

The search will resume this morning.