

# Searchers find body below Dresbach dam

From staff and news services

Searchers this morning found the body of one of the four St. Paul residents who went missing Saturday in the Mississippi River.

The body was found on the Wisconsin side of the river about 80 yards upstream from the Interstate Hwy. 90 bridge. The bridge is about a quarter-mile downstream from Lock and Dam No. 7 in Dresbach, where the boat capsized.

Cha Kong Yang, 34, his fiancée, See Her, 34, and her two young children Amanda Xiong and Josh Xiong, disappeared Saturday when their boat capsized near the base of a dam in Winona County.

Authorities found one body at about 10 a.m., but haven't released the victim's identity.

Since the drownings Saturday, a massive search has been going on from dawn to dusk, averaging about 100 volunteers and workers a day.

The search resumed this morning about 7 a.m.

A new tactic may have helped find the body. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began a coordinated raising and lowering of each of the five gates that regulate water flow through the dam.

When they opened the first of the gates, tons of water and debris washed through the dam. The boat carrying the family was pinned against the first roller gate Saturday just before it capsized.

Officials hoped that the churn caused by opening and closing the gates would free debris and allow the bodies, if they're pinned at the dam, to break free.

A line of seven boats stood ready to search through the debris. Several boats were using sonar to detect anything suspended below the surface.

Tom Lee, a volunteer for Winona



John Weiss/Post-Bulletin

**The continuing search for four people presumed drowned below the Dresbach Lock and Dam on Tuesday included divers, search boats and this large net. One body was found this morning.**

County Dive & Rescue, said Tuesday the search below Dresbach Lock and Dam has been difficult. They drag the bottom of the river using a 5-foot metal bar with big treble hooks attached. "You want to find (them), but every time you're dragging and you feel something, is it the body at the end of it?" he said.

Lee, of Winona, is a retired college accounting professor. "Sometimes we think it's not worth it, but somebody has to do something like this thing," Lee said.

It's especially tough on the divers. The water is deep, swift, dark, cold "and kind of scary," he said.

**LONG DAYS FOR SEARCHERS A4**

# Search for missing family members takes on routine

By John Weiss  
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**DRESBACH** — On Tuesday, in the fourth day of the search for four members of a St. Paul family presumed drowned below the Dresbach Lock and Dam, people at the landing had settled into a routine.

Volunteers boated to shore for coffee and food, rested, checked with coordinators and left again to scour shores or look for the four.

Red Cross volunteers stood by with the coffee, food, pizza and doughnuts, much of it donated.

Relatives sat in a cluster on the banks of the Mississippi River that apparently claimed the lives of four friends or relatives.

The search has been averaging about 100 volunteers and workers a day, coming from the Winona, Hennepin, Houston, Dakota and Ramsey county sheriff's departments, fire departments from La Crescent, Dakota and Lakeville, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Minnesota and Wisconsin departments of natural resources.

This is one of the biggest searches in Winona County in many years, said Sheriff Dave Brand. The biggest was March 1997 when five Saint Mary's University students were missing for several days; their car, and bodies, were found in the Mississippi River.

Monica Herman, executive director of the Winona County Red Cross, said she has been

working since Saturday evening. "My family owes me a Mother's Day," she said. "That's on hold in our house."

When she put out the call for more food and water, people responded with boxes of pizzas, fruit and bottled water or coffee.

Most Red Cross work involves shorter times, like helping during a house fire or searching for someone who fell off a bluff, she said.

"This is new to us," she said. But she said that's part of her job. "This is what we do, and we do it really well," Herman said.

A spokeswoman for the friends and family presumed drowned, said she hesitated to do it.

"It's a little bit uncomfortable," said the woman who identified herself at KT. "But I realized if I didn't do it, no one else would do it, it's for a good cause."

Family and friends sat in folding chairs near the boat launch Tuesday afternoon.

They talked about those missing, telling happy stories about them, but mostly about the six children the two adults left behind, she said. It's hard for them to sit and wait, not knowing if the next boat going out will find one or more people.

"Right now, we are hoping we can find all of them," KT said.

*To learn more about safety around locks and dams, go to [postbulletin.com/weblinks](http://postbulletin.com/weblinks).*