



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Search and Recovery of Rock River for Missing 9-Year-Old Girl

For Immediate Release

Date: June 29, 2020

Case: SO2025378

Contact Person

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On June 25, 2020, at 7:20 p.m., first responders were summoned for a water rescue of two persons in the Rock River near the Monterey Bridge. Shortly thereafter, first responders were told one person was recovered by a fisherman while the second person, a 9-year-old girl, remained missing. In all, elements of the Janesville Fire Department; Janesville Police; Rock County Sheriff's Office Dive, Rescue, and Drone Teams; Jefferson County Dive Team; Wisconsin DNR; Wisconsin State Patrol; Beloit Police; Milton Fire Department; Town of Beloit Fire Department; Beloit Fire Department; K9 Search on Site; Southern Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Team; and Bjoin Limestone Inc. responded.

Upon arrival, first responders secured the shoreline, along with launching multiple search boats in the area the 9-year-old girl was last seen. Rescue and dive efforts continued for several hours until darkness and extremely swift currents rendered rescue efforts futile.

In the early morning hours of June 26, 2020, first responders were aided in their search efforts through the closure of the Indianford Dam, as well as a trench box placed upstream of the search area in order to divert the river's current and create a manageable diving environment. By noon, divers were able to effectively search the area the missing 9-year-old girl was last seen. Search efforts by means of boats and drones continued through the weekend.

On June 29, 2020, at about 11:00 a.m., authorities were alerted by a citizen to the area of the Bellrichard Bridge for a body in the water. This location is approximately 5000 feet downstream where the 9-year-old girl was last seen on June 25, 2020.

Although the media has named the 9-year-old missing girl, official release will come from the Rock County Medical Examiner's Office.

Representatives from different agencies will be available for a press conference at 1:30 p.m. This press conference will be at Angler's Park in the 800 block of Washington Street located in the city of Janesville.

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SHERIFF

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