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LOCAL

Tyler State Park ranger's body recovered three days after kayak mishap in Bucks County



JD Mullane Bucks County Courier Times

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The body of a ranger who went missing on Friday in Tyler State Park was recovered on Sunday, the Pennsylvania State Police said.

Ranger Alec Campbell, 38, of Delaware County, was in a kayak on the Neshaminy Creek near the picnic area when his boat capsized in fast moving water near a stone dam.

Previously Tyler Park to remain closed Sunday as search for missing ranger in Neshaminy Creek continues

The park will be closed Monday and will reopen on Tuesday, May 27. Campbell was a park resource ranger with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Tragic creek deaths Mullane: The dark allure of the Neshaminy Creek

"We are deeply saddened by the death of Alec Campbell, a dedicated member of our Pennsylvania state park staff," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn in a statement released Sunday night. "I've spoken with his wife and family, and on behalf of all of us at DCNR, I want them to know they are in our thoughts during this incredibly difficult time. Our hearts go out to them, as well as to Alec's friends. loved ones, and colleagues. Every day, state park employees play a vital role in welcoming visitors, protecting our natural spaces, and ensuring the safety of all who enjoy Pennsylvania's beautiful parks.

"Alec's commitment and passion touched many lives, and his loss is felt deeply across our entire community. We honor his memory and extend our sincerest condolences to all who are mourning his passing," she said.

The Pennsylvania State Police Troop M Criminal Investigation Unit are in charge of the investigation. The Bucks County coroner will determine cause of death.

Few details of what happened about noon on Friday May 23 are clear. Ranger Campbell set his kayak into the water, which was running faster and higher than normal after two days of rain. Last week, a news account said he was lacing a buoy near the stone dam when his kayak capsized, throwing him into the water.

No more details were released Sunday night.

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