

Man drowns in abandoned quarry

From Our Staff and Wire Services

JASPER — An 18-year-old man drowned Monday night after he dived from a 40-foot cliff into a 30-foot-deep pool at an abandoned quarry near Jasper, the Jasper County sheriff's department said.

Chief Deputy Larry Parnell said the victim, Kelvin Dean Whitlock of Jasper, could not swim.

Parnell, who has scuba dived in many of the lakes in abandoned pit mines in the county, said he didn't know that the water-

filled quarry in the northeast corner of the county existed until he was called to investigate the incident.

The deputy, who heads the county's underwater rescue team, said Whitlock, a brother and several other Jasper residents were at the quarry about 11:30 p.m. and were diving into the pit.

One of the men said he thought he grabbed Whitlock after he dived into the pool and didn't surface, but was unable to keep hold of him, Parnell said.

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