

'No Trespassing' to be enforced at quarries after man's death

By Susan Schramm
STAR STAFF WRITER

Monroe County officials said Monday they'll aggressively enforce bans on trespassing at abandoned quarry holes in light of the weekend drowning of an Indianapolis man.

"We're going to actively enforce it (the trespassing law) and see what happens. But I don't know if that's the answer," said Maj. Dave Toumey, chief deputy of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.

The Sheriff's Department, he warned, is fighting 60 years of tradition by strictly enforcing the law.

The tentative plan was prompted by the death of Jonathan E. Graves, 26, 1100 block of Rockville Road, who drowned Saturday after diving off a 65-foot cliff in Sanders Quarry south of Bloomington, officials said.

"No Trespassing" signs are posted at privately owned quarries such as Sanders, but the signs are routinely ignored, Toumey said.

The Sheriff's Department doesn't have enough manpower to patrol the abandoned quarries regularly, he said.

But deputies will be on the lookout for anyone on quarry property, and the prosecutor's office said it will file charges in as many cases

as it can, he said.

Under Indiana law, criminal trespassing occurs when a person knowingly enters private property without the owner's consent. It is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

According to police, Graves climbed a quarry cliff known locally as "Rooftop" about 5 p.m. Saturday. He had been swimming with three friends in the quarry.

Witnesses said Graves then apparently dived and struck his head on several bushes along the cliff's wall before reaching the water, said Monroe County Coroner George Huntington.

Rescuers pulled Graves from the water. He was taken to Bloomington Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Although death was by drowning, Graves likely was unconscious before he entered the water, Huntington said.

Earlier this month, a 16-year-old girl was injured after diving from the same cliff, authorities said.

Toumey said keeping people away from recreational swims at such water holes is difficult.

"We don't wish to be reactive to these things," Toumey said. "But where do you put the blame? It takes a combination of everyone involved to get something done."

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