



Tribune photo by Stacey Wescott

Elgin Police Officer Jeff Kendall talks to four youngsters Monday near the quarry where Ivan Nevarez drowned.

Boy, 17, drowns in Elgin quarry

5 were swimming at abandoned site

By John Keilman
Tribune staff reporter

An Elgin teenager drowned Monday while swimming with friends in an abandoned, water-filled quarry, authorities said.

Ivan Nevarez, 17, of the 300 block of Hoxie Avenue had swum from one side of the deep pit to the other and was

trying to make it back when he went under just before 11:12 a.m., police said.

Divers found him 47 minutes later, and medics performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on him on the way to Sherman Hospital in Elgin. He was pronounced dead there at 1:15 p.m., according to the Kane County coroner.

The pit, about a half-mile south of Elgin's Bluff City Cemetery, is a quarter-mile long and 300 feet wide. It was once a popular swimming hole, said Elgin Police Lt. Paul

McCurtain.

That changed in recent years when police started towing cars parked along the adjacent Gifford Road, making it harder to access the water, McCurtain said. A friend had dropped off Nevarez and four companions at the cemetery, and they hiked through woods to



Nevarez

reach the quarry, he said.

The pit is on property owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, which patrols the heavily wooded land, McCurtain said.

The district once had planned to build a water treatment plant there but abandoned the idea, said Joe Zurad, the district's chief engineer. It now leases some of the property to a nature conservancy group and has granted

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Cramps may have caused teen to drown

By ADAM KOVAC
Shaw News Service

GENEVA — An Elgin teenager who drowned in an abandoned quarry may have suffered cramps before he slipped under the water, a coroner said Wednesday.

Ivan Nevarez, 17, died June 23 while swimming in the former gravel pit south of Bluff City Cemetery.

Even though it was a steamy Monday morning, the water temperature in the

quarry was low, Kane County Coroner Charles West said.

"It's easy to cramp in that kind of situation," West told jurors at a coroner's inquest on Wednesday.

Nevarez, of 332 Hoxie Ave., went swimming in the quarry with friends to escape the heat that day, West said.

His friends told police that Nevarez immediately jumped into the water and swam across the 300-foot-wide, quarter-mile long pit.

On the return lap, Nevarez,

who friends said was not a strong swimmer, slid under the water and never resurfaced.

The friends thought he was playing a joke, trying to surprise them by swimming underwater.

When they realized what happened, the friends ran to the cemetery, where a worker called 911.

Toxicology tests found traces of marijuana in Nevarez's body at the time of his death, West said.

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