

# Swimmer drowns near Northwood

By DEB NICKLAY

Of The Globe Gazette

**NORTHWOOD** — A 20-year-old Minnesota man drowned in a rural Worth County quarry pond while swimming Saturday afternoon despite exhaustive efforts to revive him.

The name of the man was not released pending notification of relatives. The man was “from this area,” said Worth County Sheriff Gentz.

The victim was pulled from the pond at Kuennen Quarry Park by a Mason City Fire Department dive team just before 5 p.m., almost an hour and a half after he was last seen.

The quarry is located a mile and  
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2005 Sep unnamed male drowns at quarry  
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# Drowning: Victim was swimming with friends

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a half southeast of Northwood on 450th Street.

Emergency personnel attempted to resuscitate the man en route to Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea, Minn., and contacted Mayo One Air Helicopter. Life-saving efforts were suspended about 15 minutes after the ambulance carrying the man left the park.

The man was swimming with two friends in the north quarry pond near a small beach area when, "for some reason, he went down and did not come back up; no one knows for sure," Gentz said. The sheriff's department was contacted at 3:30 p.m.

The depth of the water near the beach is 8 to 10 feet, but drops off sharply to a depth of up to 40 feet, Gentz said. He said the man was found in the deeper part of the pond.

Rescuers had hoped that the pond's cold water temperature at the lower depths might have given the man some precious minutes of hope. Some people rescued from colder water have been revived.

"The water is about 55-60 degrees, but it gets much colder as you go deeper," Gentz said.

The public park is a popular recreational spot, Gentz said. The area is posted with signs cautioning swimmers that they swim at their own risk.

Gentz did not believe there

had been a drowning in the north pond in recent memory. Two drowned in the south pond several years ago, he said.

Gentz said family members were still being contacted Saturday night. The brother of the victim was on the scene.

"You see the look in the family's eyes, hope, the desperation," Gentz said. "It never gets easier."

## CORRECTION FOR THIS WEEK'S SALE CIRCULAR:

Due to delays in product shipping, the Sterling Silver watches featured on page 9 of this week's Shopko Sale Circular, will be unavailable. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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