

Man, 20, drowns in old quarry

Four friends were swimming
at Montville gravel bank site

By **EILEEN McNAMARA**
Day Staff Writer

Montville — A 20-year-old Groton man died Monday afternoon after he was pulled unconscious from the waters of an abandoned quarry where he had been swimming with three friends, the friends told emergency workers.

It was the third drowning in the region in a little more than two weeks.

Sean D'Angelo, of 237 Gales Ferry Road, was given CPR at the scene by paramedics and then flown by Life Star helicopter to The William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, where he was pronounced dead, Sgt. J. Paul Vance, a state police spokesman, said.

Emergency workers found D'Angelo floating in about six feet of water after a rescue-team member struck him with his foot, said Gary Murphy, chief of the Oakdale Fire Department.

Murphy said the rescuers were getting ready to call in a dive team from Waterford when they found D'Angelo. Murphy said the quarry was at least 80 feet deep. "We were lucky we found him," he said.

Police from the Montville resident state trooper's office, along with Montville EMS and fire departments, responded to the 911 call that came in at 4:05 p.m.

D'Angelo and his friends, whom Murphy described as being between the ages of 18 and 20, apparently snuck into a gravel bank operated by Kobyluck Sand & Gravel Inc. off Oxoboxo Dam Road. The construction company was closed on Monday.

D'Angelo's friends told emergency workers that he swam about halfway across the wide chasm when he became tired and tried to make it back to his starting point. They said his head disappeared below the water's surface.

One of the friends called 911 and then ran through the thick woods that separate the gravel bank from Oxoboxo Dam Road, Murphy said.

The friend hailed emergency workers on Oxoboxo Dam Road and led them through the woods to the quarry.

Murphy said D'Angelo was likely underwater for at

See **GROTON** page **B3**

2006 Jul 20 year old drowns at quarry

Clipped By:
usmra_rob
Oct 10, 2024

Groton man drowns in abandoned quarry

From **B1**

least 20 minutes before he was found. Murphy would not comment on whether attempts to resuscitate him were successful.

Montville police took the three friends in separate cruisers to the state police barracks for questioning.

"They were pretty shook up," Murphy said.

Vance said state police determined there were no criminal aspects to the death. He said the state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death.

Two young men drowned in separate incidents June 16 in Waterford and Norwich.

Javon Saucier, 20, of Waterford, was swept away from friends while swimming in the Thames River at Smith Cove in Waterford.

At about the same time, Michael Martino, 18, of Norwich, drowned after falling into rapids at the Upper Falls Dam on the Yantic River in Norwich.

Saucier was pronounced dead the next morning at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

e.mcnamara@theday.com

2006 Jul 20 year old drowns at quarry

Clipped By:
usmra_rob
Oct 10, 2024