

# Teen swimmer drowns at abandoned quarry

By **JANELL ROSS**

*Staff Writer*

A teenager swimming with a group of friends in a Bellevue-area rock quarry drowned Friday.

Shortly after 7:30 p.m., Tennessee Emergency Management Agency divers pulled the body of the boy from the former Hutton Stone Quarry off U.S. 70 near McCrory Lane in western Davidson County, said Metro police Capt. Michele Donegan. The quarry sits about 500 feet from the Harpeth River, near a set of railroad tracks.

Metro police declined to release the teen's name late Friday, because the boy's parents had not yet been notified.

"As you can imagine, this is a difficult situation," Donegan said.

Shortly after 4 p.m., mem-

bers of the group called emergency rescue crews for help. A friend was in distress and had disappeared beneath the water's surface, Donegan said. The teen's friends watched as divers searched and emergency crews used four-wheel-drive vehicles to move needed equipment to the quarry's edge.

Early last year, the quarry was part of a zoning dispute over a proposed townhome development. Developers sought to fill the quarry holes as part of the 67-acre project. But Metro planners limited development to a portion of the property and said the quarry itself could not be filled.

The previous year, legislators and developers sought to turn the quarry into a "reclamation" landfill that would

have accepted construction and demolition materials. Proponents of the project said such a site was needed in that fast-growing area.

A locked gate sealed the entrance to the quarry in 2006, *The Tennessean* reported.

Those who opposed the landfill project, such as the Harpeth River Watershed Association, were appalled by the idea of using a quarry so close to the Harpeth River to store waste.

Proponents said using the quarry as a landfill would eliminate an "attractive nuisance" — a term used to describe something, such as the water that collects inside the quarry, that can be attractive but dangerous.

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