

Morgan County teenager drowns in rock quarry

The Associated Press

HARTSELLE — Authorities in Hartselle have recovered the body of a teenager who drowned while swimming across a rock quarry where at least five others have died in recent decades.

Morgan County Coroner Russ Beard said Monday that the name of the 16-year-old boy who drowned Sunday afternoon at Cedar Cove rock quarry was not immediately available.

Emergency personnel pulled the boy from the water but were unable to revive him with CPR.

Danielle Parker, a teenager from Arab, was among those swimming with the boy when he apparently became fatigued and started to panic. Parker said the others tried to save him.

"He was so close to making it," she said. "He was dragging us under, but that's an instinct. I swam to the rock

and I was like, Come on, baby, you can do it; swim on your back like this, but he wasn't listening. I swear, I did everything I could."

The Decatur Daily reported Monday that five others have died at the quarry, the most recent a 16-year-old from Falkville who drowned in May 1996 when he

apparently suffered a cramp while swimming. The paper said four others died at the quarry between 1982 and 1996, including two 19-year-old Decatur boys in separate accidents in 1990. At least three of the deaths resulted from dives off the 40-foot limestone bluffs surrounding the water.

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