Duke Energy: Safety a top priority at lakes

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Addressing last week's drowning of a teenager from Greer at a popular Lake Keowee swimming destination, Duke Energy issued a statement Thursday saying it promotes swimming and boating safety for visitors of Lake Keowee and safety is a top priority at all lakes and recreation areas managed by Duke.

Duke Energy works with local agencies such as the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to help educate lake visitors about boating and water safety, company spokeswoman Jennifer Jabon told

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The Journal in an email.

Jabon said the water safety outreach includes the posting of signs and informational resources on access area kiosks. She said Duke Energy has also partnered with various stakeholder organizations to make life jackets available at the swim beaches and boating access areas at South Cove Park and High Falls Park on Lake Keowee.

"Life jackets are essential for water safety, especially for young or inexperienced swimmers," Jabon said.

The drowning of 17-year-old Treven J. Tolliver last Friday occurred at Fall Creek Landing, which has become a popular access point by visitors who park their vehicles in the vicinity and walk through the woods to get to the area. Part of the point's attraction is an island offshore called "The Rock" and a nearby waterfall. It's also a spot where boats can be launched.

However, in response to a question by The Journal, Jabon said Duke Energy does not plan to develop a swimming beach at the Fall Creek access area.

During the summer months when recreation activities spike at lakes Keowee and Jocassee, Jabon said Duke Energy sends out news releases promoting boating and water safety.

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