Man, 29, drowns in Lake Keowee; 3rd county drowning in 2 weeks

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THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A Greenville man drowned Saturday afternoon on Lake Keowee while swimming with family and friends, making this the third county drowning in two weeks.

Randy John Osburn, 29, of Greenville, was swimming at about 3:30 p.m. Saturday when he went under the water and did not resurface, according to Oconee County Fire Chief Charlie King. The incident occurred on Lake Keowee off Rollingwood Drive near Harbor Oaks Subdivision.

"It was reported the victim, his fiancée and other friends had rented a pontoon Saturday for an outing on the lake," said Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis. "They had parked the boat near the shore. The victim and his fiancée were swimming when she reported that he suddenly, without warning or panic, disappeared beneath the water surface at approximately 3:30 p.m. The victim reportedly was a good swimmer and in good health."



Osburn

Oconee County Divers located the body about two hours later in a small cove.

Osburn was located approximately 30 yards from shore in a water depth of 12 feet, Addis said, where the water temperature was near 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Osburn's medical exam found no injuries, Addis said. No autopsy will be ordered since the death is classified as accidental and a freshwater drowning.

Specimens were collected and will be submitted to S.C. Law Enforcement Division for toxicology analysis in accordance with state law.

Oconee County Sheriffs Office and S.C. Department of Natural Resources investigated the drowning.

"Oconee County Emergency Services continues to stress the importance of wearing a life jacket while in and around the water," King said. "This is the third recreational drowning in Oconee County this summer, all of which could have been prevented by these life-saving devices."

The Red Cross was also on scene providing food and water to the emergency personnel on scene.

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