Readers: Keep swimming policy at 'The Rock'

New poll asks for opinion on new CWP proposal

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Despite several drowning deaths at a popular Lake Keowee swimming hole in recent years, most voters in an UpstateToday.com poll believe Falls Creek Landing should maintain a swim-at-your-own-risk policy.

Last month, 17-year-old Treven J. Tolliver of Greer jumped into the water from the shore of Fall Creek Landing and began swimming toward the island called "The Rock," located roughly 200 feet offshore.

Tolliver tired and never made it to land. Oconee rescue personnel located his body approximately 26 feet below the surface. Although he was resuscitated at Oconee Memorial Hospital, he died later that night after he was transferred to Greenville Memorial Hospital.

Oconee County Council member Edda Cammick, whose district includes the Fall Creek Landing area, proposed that, given the funds in the budget, the county put a floating platform halfway between "The Rock" and the shore to provide a place for swimmers to stop and rest if needed.

Cammick later said several residents had cautioned that putting a floating platform in that area might encourage some youngsters to swim out to it and make matters worse.

The Journal asked readers what they believed should be done about the rash of drowning deaths, and 57 percent (118 votes) of 206 total votes said nothing should be done, indicating swimmers should continue to swim at their own risk. Voting closed Friday morning.

Eighteen percent (38 votes) said warning signs would be the best idea, while 6 percent (13) liked Cammick's idea of a floating platform. Just two voters (1 percent) believed courtesy life jackets were the way to go, and 17 percent (35) were in favor of some combination of the other solutions.

Now available at UpstateToday.com is a new poll that asks readers to weigh in on whether they agree or disagree with the idea of removing the requirement of a permit to carry a concealed weapon in South Carolina.

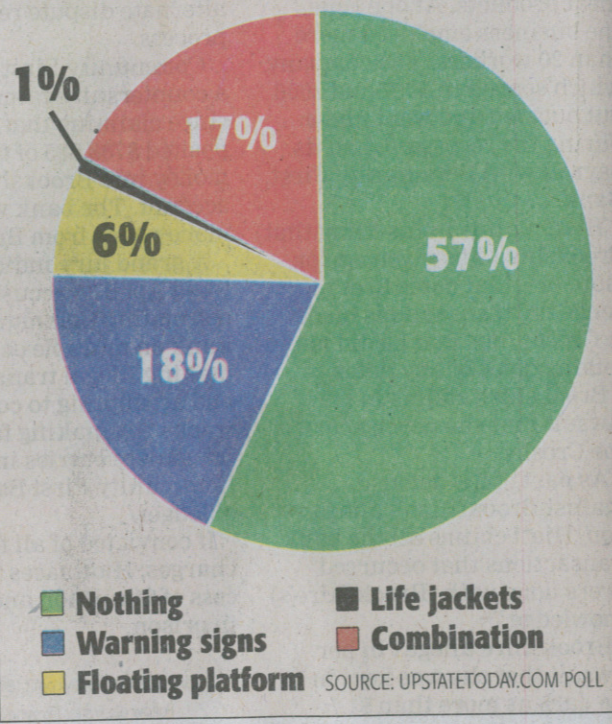
The Journal weighed in with its thoughts on the matter in today's edition, and we want to hear yours as well. And while our editorial board believes CWPs are a good idea, a bill seeking to do away with them altogether passed the state House in a landslide.

H. 3025, which would remove the requirement to have a permit to carry a concealed weapon, passed the state House by a 90-18 vote recently, and Oconee's Republican representatives — Bill Sandifer of Seneca and Bill Whitmire of Walhalla — voted for it.

Oconee Sheriff Mike Crenshaw, meanwhile, believes the bill needs work.

"I do hope that training will be addressed in some way as this bill moves forward, because anyone that does not know how to properly use a firearm could have it taken away and used against them," he said.

What should be done about the rash of drownings at 'The Rock' on Lake Keowee?



SOURCE: UPSTATETODAY.COM POLL