

LOCAL

Drowned kayaker was doctor at St. Francis

Corey Jones

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A Lawrence man who drowned Friday while kayaking along the Kansas River near Topeka's water treatment plant was a physician at St. Francis Health Center.

A city official late Friday identified the victim as 36-year-old Ryan L. Moore.

On Saturday, hospital officials confirmed Moore was a medical doctor at St. Francis. Robert Erickson, president and CEO of St. Francis, issued this statement:

"It is a shocking, tragic and sad day as we lose a very special part of our St. Francis family. He was truly a talented, caring, 'rising star' in our organization. To our staff and patients, he was someone who always put others first and was a true collaborator and team member."

Police officers and firefighters were sent at 2:03 p.m. Friday to a boat ramp at 1201 N.W. Warren.

Employees at the city's water treatment facility, which is on the south side of the river, saw a person kayaking near the intake to the plant. They later saw the kayak tumbling in the water below the notch in a weir in the river.

Emergency response personnel found Moore's body in the water about 300 yards downstream from the weir near the city's water treatment facility.

According to St. Francis' website, Moore was a hospitalist at the facility. Moore was certified in internal medicine and pediatrics. He went to medical school at The University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed his residency at KU medical center.

Corey Jones can be reached

at (785) 295-5612

or corey.jones@cjonline.com.