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# Northwood teen dies in tubing accident

By KRISTIN BUEHNER, Of The Globe Gazette

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**F**ERTILE - A 17-year-old Northwood youth is dead after a Sunday evening accident on the Winnebago River.

Anthony James Abrahamson was pronounced dead at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa, Mason City, at 10:26 p.m. Sunday.

According to a news release from the Worth County Sheriff's Department, authorities received a report at 9:38 p.m. Sunday about youths in inner tubes stuck against the Fertile dam.

Rescue squads from Fertile and Hanlontown were called to the scene. Rescuers and personnel from Snell's Ambulance Service administered CPR to the victim after he was pulled from the river.

Hanlontown Fire Chief Jamie Sorenson said the Hanlontown department was paged at 9:39 p.m. and was on the scene by 9:52 p.m. "When we were first paged, we were only aware of two people on inner tubes at the dam," he said.

The Fertile Fire Department had already arrived. Some members of the rescue team were at the dam and some were looking for the body down river, Sorenson said.

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Richard Bowman, conservation officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said Abrahamson, his brother, Tim, and two friends, Michael Arndt of Hollandale, Minn., and Josh Hukill, of Lake Mills, planned to tube down the river. "They started in front of the dam at Fertile."

Anthony Abrahamson and Arndt went into the river first, in their inner tubes, Sorenson said. The back-flow of the dam sucked them back to the face of the dam.

Both of the youths were tossed from their tubes. Abrahamson became trapped in a "boil," a strong churning, rolling flow of water, which pulled him up and pushed him under the water repeatedly.

Tim Abrahamson and Hukill jumped into the water in an attempt to help, but they became trapped at the base of the dam in their inner tubes, Sorenson said.

Arndt somehow managed to swim to shore and ran down the shoreline, looking for Abrahamson. When he found him, Abrahamson was not breathing. Arndt then ran to a nearby house, knocked on the door and asked the resident to call for help, Sorenson said.

Assisting at the scene were the DNR, Worth County Sheriff's Department, Fertile and Hanlontown rescue units, Snell's Ambulance, Forest City Ambulance and the Iowa State Patrol.

The investigation is continuing by the DNR and the sheriff's department.

Information regarding funeral services for Mr. Abrahamson may be found on Obituaries, Page A11.

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