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Swimming Victim Dies

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REXBURG – Brigham Young University-Idaho students mourn the loss of one of their own.

The violent water accident that happened at Monkey Rock near Newdale Thursday evening, claimed a life over the weekend.

BYU-I student Parker Bradford died Saturday morning at Portneuf Medical Center in Pocatello as a result of his injuries.

Logan Gerratt, of American Fork, Utah, was released from Madison Memorial Hospital Friday evening.

Bradford and Gerratt fell into a canal and were eventually flushed out over a 15-foot waterfall Thursday evening, while at the popular swimming hangout with a group of BYU-I students attending the Freshman Academy.

According to Fremont County Sheriff Ralph Davis who was one of the first emergency responders to the scene, both young men were pulled to the bank and fellow students had been administering CPR to Bradford for at least 10 minutes when he arrived.

"We had to revive him," Davis said, adding that Fremont County ambulance took both young men to Madison Memorial Hospital and then Air Idaho took Bradford to Portneuf Medical Center.

Davis said he was able to speak to Gerratt that evening at the hospital and was told that Bradford had fallen in first.

"At first, he thought his friend was just joking with him, but then he realized he wasn't and reached down to get him, but then he slipped in," Davis said.

He said Gerratt had told him that he remembers just fighting for air whenever he surfaced for a brief second. Then he said Gerratt told him that he felt he couldn't fight anymore, and just then the water flushed he and Bradford out of the rolling waters.

Davis said Gerratt estimates they were trapped in the rolling water for about five minutes.

Davis added that from what he had gathered, the other students didn't even know something was wrong until the two young men fell over the falls.

"Never go into the canals. There is a huge undertow there and with the speed, multiplied with the weight of the water, it creates tremendous hydraulics there," Davis said. "I have never known a grown man to ever be able to stand in something like that."

He said it was a miracle that Gerratt had survived the incident.

Marc Stevens, BYU-I public relations specialist, said BYU-I held a memorial service on Sunday which was attended by fellow students.

Bradford was from France and had been in Rexburg for about two weeks for the Freshman Academy when the accident occurred.

"Our hearts go out to his (Bradford's) family. Many of us have lost family in tragic situations. We understand that this is a huge tragedy," Davis said.

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