

Southern Oregon reservoir drowning victims IDâ€™d

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Deputies have released the names of the two young men who drowned in the Topsy Reservoir near Keno in Klamath County Tuesday evening, and now say they believe the pair had not been drinking, nor had one of them pushed the other into the water -- but instead drowned after jumping in to save his friend who was not a strong swimmer.

Details are still sketchy about the altercation, the drownings, and the stabbing of another young man, but Klamath County Sheriffâ€™s deputies report that they now believe the two drowning victims, both teenagers from Klamath Falls, got into a physical fight with at least two other young men prior to the first victim entering the water.

Christopher T. Cudo, 19, went into the water first about 7 p.m. May 29, reportedly calling for help and yelling that he couldnâ€™t swim well.

His friend, Brian R. Copeland, 18, attempted to rescue Cudo but he also drowned. Copeland was pulled into a fishermanâ€™s boat, and the fisherman and a witness performed CPR without success.

The dive team recovered the body of Cudo about 9 p.m.

Investigators believe that about six young men were above the river on a 20-foot ledge commonly used as a dive platform when a scuffle broke out.

Cameron R. West, 18, of Klamath Falls, was stabbed at least twice in his upper torso, and was transported by private vehicle to the Keno Fire Station, and then was taken to Sky Lakes Medical Center for wounds described as "non-life threatening". According to the latest news release, West remains in the hospital in stable condition.

Investigators from the Klamath County Major Crime Team continue to piece together the circumstances surrounding the incident, with an estimated 20 witnesses to interview.

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