

# Drowning *from page 1A*

him, they said. Fire department rescue personnel took over when they arrived.

Donald, known as a good student and an excellent swimmer, was visiting his grandfather, a Livonia resident, and his mother and stepfather, who live in the area. A younger brother was with him at the pool.

A preliminary finding from the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office called the death an accidental drowning.

The family has requested anonymity, Kirksey said. "I'm a father and I'm a grandfather ... I think about how much they must be grieving."

One witness, upset at a television report that implied lifeguards did not respond adequately, said he was standing at Donald's feet after he was taken from the pool.

"There were two lifeguards attending to him," said Livonia resident Dean Henry. "He was still breathing, although he was

breathing with difficulty."

People were shouting his name, trying to get him to respond, and monitoring his pulse and breathing, Henry said. At one point, it was obvious there was fluid in his mouth, he added, and a lifeguard turned his head and he expelled it.

Henry, who was at the pool with his daughters, 10 and 12, and a friend of theirs, said a lifeguard did four repetitions of rescue breathing and chest compressions — cardiopulmonary resuscitation — after the teen stopped breathing. By that time, an ambulance had arrived and firefighters took over, he said.

"Those lifeguards, from the time that boy was out of the water, they did everything right," Henry said.

There were four lifeguards on duty, said Ron Reinke, director of the city's parks and recreation department. One was working as a cashier and three were on

the pool deck. There were between 25 and 40 people at the pool, Reinke said, though not all were in the water.

Kirksey said an investigation has found Donald had been using the pool for about a week and liked to swim under water. He had been trying to set a personal record by swimming two lengths of the 50-meter pool under water, the mayor said.

The drowning was the first at a public pool in the city's history, Reinke said. The pool was closed after the accident and reopened Tuesday.

Kirksey, himself a former lifeguard, said he is proud of the way lifeguards, rescue workers, police and other city employees responded.

"In spite of the magnitude of the tragedy, you see the best of people at a time like this."

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Fatal Drowning Investigation  
Location: City of Livonia  
Clement Circle Pool  
Livonia, Michigan 48150

Investigator: Ken Ascher

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