

Detroit Lake, Becker County:

In the evening hours of July 7, 2018, a male and female were on Little Detroit Lake when they left their boat to go for a swim. Due to the windy conditions, the boat floated away from them. While attempting to get to the boat, both individuals became exhausted and separated.

At approximately 7:42PM, the Becker County Sheriff's Office received a report of an abandoned boat afloat on Detroit Lake south of the Holiday Haven Motel. Boat and Water Deputies', Jerron Aschnewitz and Cole Sanders were patrolling on Detroit Lake near Long Bridge at the time of the call and responded to the area of the abandoned boat. While attempting to find the owner of the boat, the Sheriff's Office received a report of possibly two injured people in the water between the J&K Marina and Holiday Haven Motel. Someone noticed a person in the lake approximately 200 yards from shore. Sanders took the patrol boat and went to the location where he found a female struggling to swim. Deputy Sanders held onto the female until Deputy Aschnewitz arrived in a different boat. The female was then pulled to safety in the boat.

The deputies then observed a group holding onto a male on the side of their pontoon. They went to the pontoon and assisted with getting the male safely onto the pontoon.

Nathan Rethwisch, Lindsay Anderson, Tracy Rethwisch, Patrick Fritz, and Christopher Fritz were traveling across Little Detroit

on a pontoon. While they were moving, Tracy noticed just the face of a man sticking out of the water. They stopped their pontoon and pulled the male to the side of the pontoon until Deputies Aschnewitz and Sanders arrived to assist in getting the male safely to the floor of the pontoon.

Both individuals were quickly brought to shore and transported to Essentia-St. Mary's Hospital by ambulance.

If not for the quick response and actions of Deputy Cole Sanders and Deputy Jerron Aschnewitz, and the observations and actions of the occupants of the pontoon, this incident could have resulted in tragedy. Thank you to all of you for what you did that day!