

Services set for ACCHS student

(KAIR)--Funeral services are set for the 17-year-old Atchison County Community Schools' student who died last weekend.

According to an obituary from the Arensberg-Pruett Funeral Home, Cummings resident Colby Smith will be remembered Thursday afternoon during a Celebration of Colby's Life, at the Atchison County Community High School, beginning at 2:00.

Summed up in his obituary as "the All-American Kid," the funeral notice highlights Smith's athletic accomplishments. Known since middle school as "the Lunch Box Kid," Smith "played football and excelled at wrestling," with the obituary saying "he was a member of the Effingham Wrestling Club" starting at a young age. He was also part of the Kansas National Wrestling Team and wrestled on several traveling teams, including the O-Team.

According to his obituary, memorial contributions are suggested to the Atchison County Community Schools Foundation for use in the construction of a new gymnasium.

A visitation with Smith's family will precede the celebration of life, from noon until service time, at the high school.

Word of Smith's Saturday death was delivered to parents and patrons of Atchison County's USD 377 in a letter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andrew Gaddis. Gaddis, in that release sent Sunday, called the death of the 12th grade student a "sudden and tragic loss," and outlined the school district's response, saying that counselors were being brought in to assist students, staff, and patrons.

In a second letter, sent to parents Monday, Gaddis explained that following "consultation with the USD 377 Board of Education, it has been determined that classes will not be in session Thursday," in order to "provide all students and staff the ability to attend the services for the passing of one of our students and pay their respects to the family." Gaddis also wrote that the school district plans to "continue providing counselors and social workers for any students and staff who need them in the coming days."

Among Smith's survivors are his parents, Greg and Stacey Smith, his brother, Austin, and a sister, Lauren.

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