

Livonia Observer

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Teen was good student, scout

Donald Jones was an active teen-ager who enjoyed hiking, backpacking and scouting. The 15-year-old died Sunday following a drowning accident at a Livonia public pool.

BY MATT JACHEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Donald Jones is remembered as a good student and a skilled Boy Scout and was respected by adults who knew him.

The 15-year-old from Atascocita, Texas, died Sunday in a drowning accident at Livonia's Clements Circle Pool. He was in town visiting relatives, including his grandfather, who lives in Livonia.

Donald was on the junior varsity swimming team at Humble High School and active in Atascocita Presbyterian Church, said Faren Evans, who knew Donald for slightly over eight years.

Evans, the former Scoutmaster of Troop 384 in the Flaming Arrow District of the Sam Houston Area Council, said Donald was a cheerful young man with a leadership role in the troop.

"If he saw someone who was down in the mouth he would go cheer them up," Evans said.
Donald joined Troop 384 from another troop, Evans said. In the smaller Troop 384, he was able to pass along to other Scouts skills such as backpacking and fire-build-

BY MATT JACHEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Drowning draws scrutiny

The death of a 15-year-old boy after an accident at a public pool has shaken Livonia officials, who have been busy investigating the drowning and fielding media inquiries.

Donald Jones of Atascocita, Texas,

ing.
Earlier this summer, Donald and other Scouts had tested those skills on a week-long hiking tour in the rugged desert terrain of the Davis Mountains in western Texas, Evans said. Donald's father, Paul, was the adult leader on the trip.
According to Evans, other teens said Donald was a high achiever in school, particularly in math and science. He was also active in his church's youth group, which took on projects such as working with homeless people in Houston and doing

was pulled from Clements Circle Pool shortly before 2 p.m. Sunday. He was taken to Garden City Hospital, where he was pronounced dead about a half-hour after arriving, said Livonia Police Department spokesman Lt. William Morris.
"It has been very much on my mind," Mayor Jack Kirksey said.

physical labor around the church.

"I'm not trying to paint a picture of a perfect kid," Evans said. "He had the same problems and questions about life that I wrestle with those." But Donald had started to show a maturity and character that adults look notice of, Evans added.

His funeral will be in Michigan, but friends and relatives in Texas will gather in Donald's memory at Atascocita Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon.

"We're going to miss him," Evans said.

"It's a tragedy, obviously, that we hate to see happen," Morris said.

The teen was still breathing after being taken from the pool, said Kirksey, other city officials and an eyewitness. When he stopped, lifeguards began efforts to resuscitate

See DROWNING, 3A

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

Investigator: Ken Ascher

Information received through independent investigation by Communications Electronics Inc.

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