

Letter: LTUSD grieving loss of student

To the community,

Our community is still reeling from the tragic turn of events this weekend. I have been receiving phone calls and emails today from concerned community members wondering how they can help Dejon Smith's family in this time of need. I spoke with a representative of the family today and they did not have funeral or memorial plans yet. I will let you know when we hear anything.

I do know that Mr. and Mrs. Smith's cousin has set up a fund to help the family with funeral expenses. I also spoke with a co-worker of Mrs. Smith's at Grocery Outlet, where she is employed, and was told that they are also accepting donations for the family.

Superintendent Jim Tarwater said today, "There are no words to ease the heartache and pain that Dejon's family and friends are experiencing following this tragic accident, but our hearts go out to them. Our counselors and local grief support professionals are providing assistance at school for the students and our tight-knit community will rally to do all that it can to help bring comfort during these difficult times."

Our counseling team will continue to be based in the Stadium View Building (SV107) all week and will be available to work with any student or group of students who need help. Please encourage any children who are expressing concerns at home to avail of the services.

Thank you for your continued support.

Angie Keil, Lake Tahoe Unified School District