

Joshua Willis, 15, dies

Joshua N. Willis, 15, of 59 Harwood Ave., died unexpectedly July 14. Officials reported that heart problems caused the youngster to be stricken while playing frisbee at Pittsfield State Park.

The lifelong Littleton resident was playing with friends early Monday evening when he complained of illness and lay down, said police spokesman Lt. Alan Chamberland. One of Willis' friends later noticed he was not breathing and called for help, according to the police. Willis was pronounced dead at 7:17 p.m. in Hillcrest Hospital. Cardiac arrhythmia, or irregular heart-beat, caused the death, said the spokesman for the Berkshire County district attorney's office.

Joshua Willis was born in Concord May 24, 1971. He had lived in Littleton all his life, and attended the Littleton school system. He had just completed his freshmen year.

He was active in Little League baseball, he raced BMX bicycles, and was very active in music. He played bass guitar for a group called "Black-out" and among the members of the band were his sister Jessica, Karen Ramage and Rob Woodbine. He played in the Littleton High School Band and in the stage band.

He is survived by his parents, William and Susan (Breit) Willis of Littleton, his sister Jessica Willis of Littleton, his grandparents Dr. George and Bunny Breit of Becket, Mass, and George and Peg Willis of West Hartford, Connecticut. He is also survived by several cousins.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 3 p.m. at the Badger Funeral Home, Route 2A, Littleton. There will be no visiting hours. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to the Littleton Middle School stage band, c/o Littleton Middle School.

d: July 14, 1986 *