

Rathje, Brenden J.

Brenden J. Rathje, 16, of Elkton, died Sunday afternoon, December 3, 2006, in Oliver Township from injuries he received in an auto accident. He was born August 19, 1990 in Bad Axe to William Rathje and Kimberly (Brill) Clunis. Brenden grew up and lived in the Elkton area most of his life. He was a freshman at Bad Axe High School where he was on the Cross Country Track Team. He had also been very much involved in baseball and football. Brenden had been in the Elkton Cub Scouts and was in the Elkton Boy Scouts. He was a member of the Community Wesleyan Church and enjoyed fishing, snowmobiling, four-wheeling, paintball and loved music. Surviving are his father, Billy Rathje, of Bad Axe; his mother, Kim (Doug) Clunis, of Elkton; three brothers, Ryan, Austin and Zack; and two sisters, Heather and Madison, all at home. Also surviving are his grandparents, Nancy and Bob Bursick, of Bad Axe, William and Carol Rathje, of Standish, Ken and Sandi Brill, of Swartz Creek, Linda Robarts, of Bad Axe, and Doug Clunis Sr., of Elkton; great grandparents, Jim and Pauline Buchholz, of Mayville, Jim and Burgi Hockmuth, of Livonia, Ward and Loretta Sheldon, of Walled Lake, Mary Bursick, of Bad Axe, Arthur Brill, of Roscommon, Dick and Boots Abrams, of Swartz Creek; and many uncles, aunts and cousins. Preceding him in death was his stepfather, Richard Varty. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2006, at the MISSIONARY OUTREACH CENTER at the north end of Elkton. The Rev. Daniel Stone, pastor of the Community Wesleyan Church in Elkton, and the Rev. Jerry Sutton, pastor of the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church, will officiate with burial in Riverside Cemetery in Elkton. Visitation will be at the Champagne Funeral Chapel, Elkton, from 2 to 9 p.m. today and at the Missionary Outreach Center from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Thursday. Memorials may be given to the family. Words of condolence may be expressed at www.cfcelkton.com.