Boy Dies in Wednesday Morning Fire

Levi Hunter Shellhammer, 16, was sleeping in a heated outbuilding on the property at 225 Oak Hill Road on Wednesday morning. The parents awoke shortly before 2:30 AM to find the building fully engulfed. Shellhammer was unable to get out of the building.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Brian K. Myers. An autopsy was conducted and toxicology results are pending. Positive identification was made with dental records.

According to Myers, there was no sign of foul play. The cause of the fire is under investigation by members of the PSP Fire Marshall. The incident is still under investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police in Kittanning and the Coroner’s Office.

Volunteers from Elderton, Kiski Township, Burrell Township, Iselin (Indiana County) fire departments assisted at the scene. Kittanning Hose Company #4 sent their air truck to fill air packs while they were on scene.

Police in Kittanning and the Coroner’s Office. The incident is still under investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police in Kittanning and the Coroner’s Office.

The children have been living with relatives since the incident.

When police arrived at the residence, Mr. Snyder was still in bed, bleeding from his neck and head. Emergency medical personnel were summoned and he was transported by helicopter to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh. Doctors performed emergency surgery throughout the afternoon. After being released from the hospital, Mr. Snyder has spent the last several months at the Kittanning Care Center.

Mrs. Snyder did not show emotion as Manor Township Police questioned her and transported her to a holding area at the police station. She was then arraigned before District Magisterial Judge Gary DeComo. He charged her with attempted criminal homicide, aggravated assault charge in the first degree, and another aggravated assault charge in the second degree - all three felony charges, as well as simple assault and endangering the welfare of her children.

According to Mr. Snyder’s sister Facebook page, funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Snyder-Crissman Funeral Home in Kittanning. Viewing is scheduled from 11AM until the time of the funeral at 1PM on Saturday, December 30.

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