



Richard Ploch
LaSalle County Coroner

707 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350
Phone – 815-434-8268
Fax – 815-434-8306

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

DATE: December 27, 2022

FROM: LaSalle County Coroner's Office

The two individuals who died in the Saturday, December 24, 2022, fire at 1522 Sycamore St. Apt. A, Ottawa, Illinois have been identified as:

Arthelia M. Brewer, age 44, of Ottawa, Illinois and her daughter, Melani A. Embry, age 3 of the same address.

The preliminary autopsy findings indicate that both decedents died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide intoxication as the result of the fire.

This incident remains under investigation by LaSalle County Coroner's Office, Ottawa Police and Fire Departments, and the Illinois State Fire Marshall.

Rich Ploch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Ploch".

LaSalle County Coroner