



**Richard Ploch**  
**LaSalle County Coroner**

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**\*\*\* 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 "R. Ploch", is written over a horizontal line.

LaSalle County Coroner