

# NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Fire crews work to extinguish an apartment building fire in Huntington, W.Va., on Sunday. Authorities said at least seven people were killed in the fire.

## At least seven killed in blaze

### Cause of fire in apartment building in West Virginia not yet determined

By TOM BREEN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### HUNTINGTON, W.Va.

Fire ravaged an apartment building, killing at least seven people, including a child, and authorities said Sunday they feared the death count could grow. The fire broke out in the 64-unit, five-story building late Saturday. Firefighters discovered two bodies and a child on the building's top floor while fighting the blaze, and crews found four more bodies Sunday morning on that floor, Fire Chief Greg Fuller said. The child died on the way to a hospital.

"We have not been able to complete the search," Fuller said. He said some of the fifth floor was blocked because the building's roof and part of the floor collapsed.

Fuller said the building housed both city residents and Marshall University students.

Fourteen people were rescued, Fuller said, and four were listed in serious or critical condition Sunday afternoon. One firefighter was treated for smoke inhalation and released.

Firefighters had called off their search for trapped residents during the night out of fear the structure could collapse, city Fire Marshal David Bias said.

"It's a very sad day," Bias said. "It's very troubling when you have a building of this size and you work as hard as they have and you just come up a little short."

Fuller called it the worst fire in nearly 50 years in the Ohio River city.

The fire was reported around 11 p.m. Saturday. Fire departments from nearby Ohio and

Kentucky also responded.

Bias said it could take days to determine the cause of the blaze that began in a second-floor unit. From that apartment, flames and smoke shot up utility access channels to the upper floors, Fuller said.

The building, built in 1924, is owned by Woodlark Enterprises Inc. of White Plains, N.Y., Fuller said. A message left at the company was not immediately returned.

Fuller said there were some smoke alarms in the building, but he was unsure how many were working at the time of the fire. Fuller was not aware of any fire code violations at the building.

Resident Dreama Tackit said her family made it out safely.

"All I heard was people screaming, 'Get my baby out of here!'" Tackit said. "And then it was like 'Run! Run! Run!'"

Patricia Betts said she arrived home to find smoke filling her apartment.

"My brother was in my apartment watching our kids and smoke started coming from the closet. They were outside in the hallway sitting on the steps when I got home," she said. "We opened the door and smoke was everywhere. Then my whole apartment just blew up."

Officials did not immediately release the victims' identities. Fuller said several of the bodies were sent to the state medical examiner's office in Charleston for identification.

The building is on one of Huntington's largest thoroughfares. Officials said it would be several days before the street would be reopened for traffic.

## Study links gene to Alzheimer's risk

By MALCOLM RITTER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### NEW YORK

A huge international study has identified a gene that apparently can raise the risk of developing the most common form of Alzheimer's disease, a discovery that may help scientists develop new treatments.

Scientists analyzed DNA from more than 6,000 people from a variety of ethnic groups and found evidence implicating certain versions of the gene, called SORL1.

It's too soon to tell how much those gene versions raise the risk of getting Alzheimer's, or what percentage of cases they account for, the researchers said. They said the effect on risk appears to be modest.

Still, if the finding is confirmed by other scientists, it would be "a very substantial step forward in our understanding of the genetics of Alzheimer's disease," said one expert not involved in the work, Jonathan Haines of Vanderbilt University.

By shedding light on the biology of the illness, the discovery could help lead scientists to find new treatments, he and other experts said.

Up to 4.5 million Americans are estimated to have Alzheimer's, which gradually destroys memory and other mental abilities. No cure has been found.

The study, released Sunday on the Web site of the journal Nature Genetics, focused on Alzheimer's that appears after age 65, the most common type.

Only one gene, called APOE,

has been firmly linked to raising susceptibility to the common form. A Harvard-based group lists about 20 other genes it considers promising candidates, based on research. Some authors of the new paper said they believe the evidence for SORL1 is unusually strong.

Experts familiar with the new work said SORL1 probably is involved in Alzheimer's, but cautioned that it will be important for other scientists to confirm that.

"People will jump on it pretty fast," said Rudy Tanzi of Harvard Medical School.

Gerard Schellenberg of the University of Washington said the paper's evidence is "pretty solid, so I'm optimistic that it will be replicated."

Dr. Sam Gandy, a researcher who chairs the medical and scientific advisory council of the Alzheimer's Association, which helped finance the new study, said that he doubted SORL1 or any other gene plays as big a role in causing the disease as APOE does.

#### MARTINSVILLE

##### Raymond V. Deckard

Raymond V. Deckard, 87, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2007, at Grandview Convalescent Center in Martinsville. He was a resident of Martinsville.

Survivors include his companion, Emma Smedley of Indianapolis; two daughters, Kaye (Tom) Dixon of Martinsville and Nancy (Bob) Starling of Shawnee, Kan.; a son, Ray (Bonnie) Deckard of Amoret, Mo.; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George Robert and Alpha Gladys (Decker) Deckard.

The Rev. Karla Norton will conduct a funeral service at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Neal & Summers Mortuary, 110 E. Poston Road, Martinsville. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the mortuary and one hour before the service Wednesday at the mortuary. Burial will be at Greenlawn Cemetery in Martinsville.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.nealandsummers.com](http://www.nealandsummers.com).

#### FRANKLIN

##### Rodolfo 'Rudy' Garza Sr.

Rodolfo "Rudy" Garza Sr., 59, died Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007, at the Indiana Heart Hospital in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Franklin.

Survivors include his parents, Felix and Amelia Galan; his wife, Janice M. Garza; nine children, Amy Richards, Rudy Garza Jr., Andy Garza, Elizabeth Garza, JoJo Garza, Pepe Garza, Timoteo Garza, Lydia Schilling and David Lucas; three brothers, Jose Garza, Juan Galan and Felix Galan Jr.; two sisters, Julie Rivera and Mary Diaz; 19 grand-

## Experts: Missing boy controlled mentally

By CHRISTOPHER LEONARD  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### KIRKWOOD, Mo.

For more than four years, Shawn Hornbeck seemed to have had every chance to escape.

But mental health experts say that Hornbeck likely was kept mentally shackled by terror and domination from the man accused of kidnapping him, 41-year-old Michael Devlin.

Terri Weaver, an associate psychology professor at St. Louis University and expert on post-traumatic stress disorder, said children in such situations kick into survival mode, "doing what needs to be done to keep yourself going day-to-day."

Devlin, a 300-pound pizza parlor manager, is accused of abducting Hornbeck four years ago when the slight boy, taken as he was riding his bike, was just 11. Now a gangly 15-year-old with floppy hair and a pierced lip, he was found by surprise Friday when police acting on a tip went to Devlin's modest two-bedroom apartment in the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood to rescue 13-year-old Ben Ownby, who had been snatched four days earlier.

Now investigators are piecing together the details of Hornbeck's captivity and Ownby's abduction, trying to discover how the man kept the boys captive in an apartment where neighbors often heard banging, shouting and arguing.

Residents in Hornbeck's hometown of Richwoods were shocked the boy could have so much contact with the outside world but remain at his captor's side, refusing to flee even as Devlin worked two jobs that forced him to leave Hornbeck and, later, Ownby, alone.

Weaver said repeated contact with outsiders can actually reinforce an abducted child's sense of helplessness.

"Over time, your safety has been threatened. You are a child. You may have been traumatized in other ways. You may feel helpless to reach out to other people," she said.

The case is reminiscent of the Elizabeth Smart kidnapping. The Salt Lake City teen was taken by a religious zealot and passed up several chances to escape.

Franklin  
Rodolfo Garza Sr., 59  
Russell D. McTarsney, 71  
Greenwood  
Dave McKenzie, 62  
Dorothy I. Russell, 89  
Indianapolis  
Grethel Kates, 75  
Elsewhere  
Raymond V. Deckard, 87

children; and four great-grandchildren.

Robert Clark will conduct a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2508 N. Morton St., Franklin.

Memorial contributions may be made to Jehovah's Witnesses, 2508 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131, or to the American Heart Association, 6100 W. 96th St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

#### INDIANAPOLIS Grethel Kates

Grethel Kates, 75, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Kates; four sons, Steve, Larry, Mike and Tim Kates; a sister, Patty Meid; a brother, Bill Reed; and 13 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Smith and Pauline (Fry) Reed.

A funeral service will be conducted at 2 p.m. today at Little and Sons Beech Grove Chapel, 1301 Main St., Beech Grove. Friends may call from 11 a.m. until service time today at the funeral home. Burial will be at New Crown Cemetery in Indianapolis.

#### GREENWOOD

##### Dave McKenzie

Dave McKenzie, 62, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2007 in Paducah, Ky. He was a resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include his wife, Judy (Everetts) McKenzie.

Arrangements are pending with Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service and Crematory, Greenwood Chapel.

#### FRANKLIN

##### Russell D. McTarsney

Russell D. McTarsney, 71, died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007, at Homeview Center of Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin.

Arrangements are pending at Jessen Funeral Home in Franklin.

#### GREENWOOD

##### Dorothy I. Russell

Dorothy I. Russell, 89, passed away Friday, Jan. 12, 2007. She was a resident of Greenwood.

She was born March 24, 1917, in Martinsville, to the late Perry and Lillie Bell (Bowman) Sloan.

She married Paul L. Russell on June 19, 1937, and he preceded her in death Oct. 26, 1987.

She is survived by a son, Paul R. (Marjorie) Russell of Greenwood; a brother, Sam Sloan; a sister, Barbara Martin; six grandchildren, Chaun M. Ray, Charles (Angie) Russell, Bobbie (Tony) Scisco, Cheryl Schuster, Robert L. (Julia) Russell and Craig A. Russell; eight great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a

son, Lawrence R. Russell; a grandson, Paul I. Russell; three brothers; and two sisters.

Dorothy was a member of Bluff Creek Christian Church.

The Rev. Stan Icenogle will conduct a funeral service at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Vandivier-Tudor, Bargersville Chapel, 103 Main St., Bargersville. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Bluff Creek Cemetery in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bluff Creek Christian Church, 6286 State Road 144, Greenwood, IN 46143.

Online condolences may be sent to the Russell family at [www.wilsonstpierre.com](http://www.wilsonstpierre.com).

#### Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

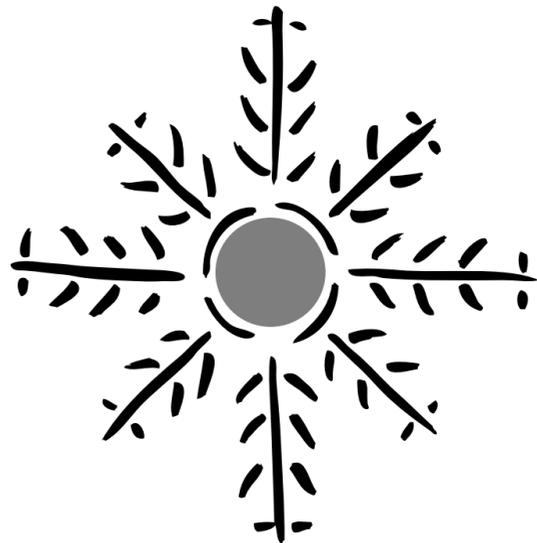
A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

The Daily Journal takes obituary information from funeral homes. All obituaries must be verified with funeral homes before publication.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.



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**John Daniel "Danny" Brown**  
08/21/50 - 01/15/87

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