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Dixon perishes in home fire

By Charles Mattox
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A fire, which engulfed a mobile home at Lot 59 in the Bluegrass Trailer Park on Concrete Road, in western Carlisle, claimed the life of a local man, Saturday.

Officials say Danny "Trick" Dixon, 53, of Carlisle perished in the fire.

Dispatch officials notified Nicholas County Volunteer Firefighters at approximately 2:45 p.m., with firemen arriving at the scene within minutes.

"We arrived very quickly and began knocking the fire down almost immediately with two attack hoses," said Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes. "We were told as soon as we arrived of the possibility of someone being inside. The living room of the home was completely engulfed in flames and we

made a forced entry into the rear of the structure. That's where we located Mr. Dixon."

Efforts to revive Dixon by firefighters and Nicholas EMS personnel, who also arrived quickly, were not successful; as Mr. Dixon had suffered from smoke inhalation and heat.

"I saw absolutely no signs of foul play involving Mr. Dixon," Nicholas County Coroner Bill Clark said. Clark also arrived quickly on the scene and pronounced Dixon dead at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Forensic scientists performed an autopsy on Dixon at the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office in Frankfort the following day, but autopsy results have not been completed thus far.

"The firefighters did an excellent job of containing the blaze as there were several mobile homes nearby," said

Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, who also arrived quickly on the scene.

Hughes praised the dedicated efforts of the "hogsmen" in their attempts to save Dixon from the blaze, with several on the scene believing Mr. Dixon had succumbed to the smoke and heat prior to a neighbor notifying the dispatch office. The neighbor made the emergency call upon seeing smoke and fire. It is unsure how long the blaze had been going prior to the call.

"Our guys did exactly what they've been trained to do and were very quick in subduing the blaze," Hughes said. "We were also assisted at the scene by Sheriff Dick Garrett and officers with the Carlisle Police Department. Herbert Booth and William Earlwize of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also assisted."

According to Hughes, all responders worked together,

with law enforcement officers keeping motorists and pedestrians at a safe distance, which allowed the firefighters to work quickly and contain the blaze and preventing its spreading across the trailer park.

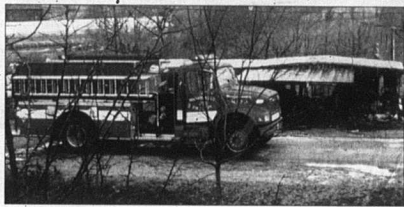


Photo by Josh Harper
Danny "Trick" Dixon, 53, perished in a fire at his home at Lot 59 in western Carlisle at Bluegrass Trailer Park, Saturday.

the fire department has been remarkably busy in recent years, particularly in recent months, this was the first fatal home fire he and his fellow firefighters had witnessed in approximately 15 years.

"Many of us, like myself,

know Mr. Dixon personally and that can make things more difficult to deal with, but we discussed these things with our younger members and we have a great group of guys who are very dedicated to the community."

White Found Guilty

By Charles Mattox
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A six-person jury consisting of three men and three women sentenced Mary White, 62, to one year in jail on the charge of falsely reporting an incident, at the conclusion of a trial in Nicholas District Court, Friday March 13.

The sentence was the maximum penalty imposed at district court level.

Veteran Kentucky State Police Detective Clinton Graves arrested White, formerly of South Walnut Street, Carlisle, last April and charged her with falsely reporting an incident and a criminal charge of facilitation to commit arson, second degree.

The charges came in the wake of a Feb. 26, 2008, fire at White's home when she told investigators she was the victim of a home invasion and was shot during the act, with two perpetrators starting the

fire after she was shot.

The arson charge against White was not bound over to the grand jury by Honorable Judge Jay Delaney following a preliminary hearing in Nicholas District Court May 7, 2008, with Judge Delaney saying probable cause had not then been established following the hearing. Delaney said if new evidence was forthcoming the arson charge might be presented to a future grand jury.

White's attorney Jeremy Mattox asked Delaney to dismiss the charge of falsely reporting an incident at the conclusion of testimony from witnesses called by County Attorney Dawn Letcher. Friday, Judge Delaney overruled Mattox's request and the trial continued.

Graves was the primary witness called by Letcher to testify against White.

Graves told jurors that his investigation revealed that White's story was inconsistent and explained

the details of his investigation into the criminal charges against White, which he said began when he was called just after midnight in the extreme early morning of Feb. 26, 2008, from officers at KSP Dry Ridge Post-jetting him to respond to Carlisle, and that Mary White had been shot and her house had been set on fire.

Graves said he immediately contacted KSP Arson Investigator Curtis Combs and then traveled to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where White was being treated for a gunshot wound to the left side of her abdomen.

Graves testified that after a brief initial interview with White at the hospital her story of what occurred the night of the fire at her home on South Walnut Street, in Carlisle, continually changed in subsequent interviews.

Graves said he became suspicious of the nature of the incident when he ex-

amined White's clothing she allegedly wore during the incident, when she told him she struggled with intruders, was shot, blacked out, awoke inside her burning home and crawled outside (Graves said he found no indication of smoke or soot on the pajama pants White was allegedly wearing that night).

Graves also testified that White initially said she did not know who her attackers were but later recanted and identified the two alleged attackers as Josh Abnee and Stewart Jones.

Graves said he questioned Abnee and Jones and "exhausted all leads."

He told jurors that Stewart Jones was incarcerated in the Montgomery County Detention Facility on the night of the fire and had been an inmate there for several days prior to the incident.

Mattox, caused jurors



Student recovers following accident

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A Nicholas County High School student is recovering at the University of Kentucky Medical Center following a single-vehicle accident, which occurred March 10.

Ben Layne, 17, son of Tammy and Tim Layne of Moorefield, was seriously injured last week when the 2006 black Cobalt he was driving slid off the roadway and struck a tree on Howard's Mills Road in Montgomery County at approximately 10 p.m.

Layne suffered a broken femur, broken ribs, and multiple spinal fractures, according to his mother, who with his father, remains at Ben's side.

"We want to thank everyone for all their prayers and everything they have done for Ben," Ben's mother said Monday morning. "Ben is getting stronger every day and the doctors

say it is remarkable that he has suffered no paralysis as a result of the spinal fractures."

Family members say Ben, who was the sole occupant of the car at the time of the accident, has no recollection of the accident.

"We learned that Heather Holland was the first person to arrive at the accident scene," Timmy said. "She lived nearby and happened to be going to the store when she came up on the accident. She called for help and stayed with Ben and helped him. She's been our angel."

Layne, a junior at NCHS, is very athletic and was preparing to begin baseball season. He was a strong player for the baseball team last year and was also a strong contributor to the football team last season.

"Ben's doctors say it will take at least six to nine



Photo by Charles Mattox
District Judge Honorable Jay Delaney, far left, listens intently to testimony from former Kentucky State Police Detective Clinton Graves, who was questioned by attorney Jeremy Mattox, legal counsel for Mary White, far right, during Friday's trial in Nicholas District Court. White was found guilty of falsely reporting an incident and sentenced to one year in jail at the conclusion of a one-day trial.

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