

## Austin deaths ruled murder/suicide

Written by Administrator

Monday, 24 January 2011 00:00 - Last Updated Monday, 24 January 2011 14:39

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This past Friday afternoon, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at about 4:21 p.m. an officer from the Austin, IN Police Department responded to an Austin residence at 310 New York Street to check on the welfare of the home owner and other occupants.

Upon arriving the officer had to make a forced entry into the residence. Once in the residence he saw parts of the home had suffered recent fire damage and also located four deceased persons in the home. Authorities from the Austin Police Department subsequently requested assistance from the Indiana State Police to conduct a death investigation.

Based on extensive investigation at the scene and over the weekend, coupled with collaborating information from preliminary autopsy reports, detectives of the Indiana State Police Criminal Investigation Division have preliminarily concluded three of the victims were juveniles and were apparently shot by their biological mother, Amanda Bennett. After shooting the children indications are Amanda Bennett started a fire in the home and then took her own life. The family dog was also shot, but remains alive at a veterinary clinic in Scott County.

While the investigation remains open until the autopsy reports are finalized, indications are this case is a tragic case of murder/suicide that claimed three innocent lives along with the suspect of the murders, Amanda Bennett.

Preliminary autopsy results and positive identification of the suspect and victims are listed below.

Please note that the official cause of death for each person will not be determined until all aspects of the autopsies are completed, which typically takes up to six weeks. All the victims resided at 310 New York Street, Austin, IN.

- 1.

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Amanda Bennett, female, age 30. Preliminary cause of death, gunshot wound to the head area and smoke inhalation.

2.

Jasmine Abbott, female, age 14. Preliminary cause of death, gunshot wound to the head area.

3.

Katelynn Bennett, female, age 9. Preliminary cause of death, gunshot wound to the head area and smoke inhalation.

4.

Ryan Bennett, male, age 4. Preliminary cause of death, gunshot wound to the head area.