

DECATUR YOUTH DIES IN FIRE

DECATUR - Craig Welker, 19, of Decatur, was found dead of smoke inhalation in a blaze early Sunday after a woman told Decatur police she heard screams in an apartment.

Fire in Welker's second-floor downtown apartment was reported to authorities at 3:12 a.m.

Police stated a neighbor, Mrs. Trudy Brown, heard screams from the apartment but heat was too intense for authorities to get to the victim. Fire fighters quelled the blaze at 4:30 a.m. and police found the body. All other occupants of the apartment dwelling escaped injury.

Firemen were able to keep the fire confined to Welker's apartment but there was damage to a first floor decorating store. Cause of the fire is unknown.

Welker was a 1974 graduate of Adams Central High School and was a member of the wrestling and cross-country teams.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Welker of Monroe and three sisters.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. EST Tuesday at the Winteregg-Linn & Haggard Funeral Home. Friends may call at the funeral home after 2 p.m. today.

Contributed by Karin King