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Apartment fire kills five

LAKE JACKSON (AP) — Family members of five people killed in an apartment complex fire say they are still coming to grips with their loss.

Ray Attar lost his twin 18-year-old sons, Daniel and Omar Attar, in the Tuesday morning blaze.

"To lose one child maybe you could accept as a parent, but two of them together at the same time is very hard," he said. "All we can say is for all their friends and relatives and people that know them, pray for them to be with God in good hands."

The brothers, along with Omar's wife, 18-year-old Felicitia; their 1-year-old son Omar Jr.; and their downstairs neighbor, 50-year-old David Proffitt, died in the blaze. Daniel Attar was visiting his brother.

The fire might have been accidentally set by Proffitt, who was smoking while on oxygen in his downstairs apartment, said City Manager Bill Yenne.

Three women, including Proffitt's wife, were taken to Brazoria Memori-

al Hospital in Lake Jackson to be treated for smoke inhalation and were in intensive care Tuesday, officials said.

"It was such a helpless situation."

— Scott Matthews
Lake Jackson Assistant Fire Chief

The state Fire Marshal's Office and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were investigating but had not officially determined what sparked the blaze in this city about 60 miles south of Houston.

Firefighters, who were called to the scene at 3:48 a.m., found Felicitia Attar trapped in her second-floor apartment, holding her infant boy. They urged her to hand them the child through the window by which she stood, but she would not let go of the child.

"They couldn't get to the window," said Lake Jackson Assistant Fire Chief Scott Matthews. "It was such a helpless situation. She was yelling for help and police officers were trying to calm her down. There was nothing we could do."

Ten of the 180 units at the Whirlwind Apartments were gutted, another 10 were heavily damaged, smoke and water.

It took seven fire departments from Lake Jackson and surrounding communities about five hours to extinguish the blaze.

George Castillo, 62, was one of the first people awakened by the fire. "I was asleep and then I heard somebody yell for help," said Castillo, who lives near the victims' apartments. "I put on my clothes, went outside, and I heard (the mother) cry for help."

Castillo said he rushed to the apartment of his adult daughter and 6-year-old grandson, Michael, and helped them escape before flames invaded.

Death row inmate files for clemency

FORT WORTH (AP) — A petition for clemency has been filed on behalf of convicted killer Jeffrey Dillingham, whose attorney admits that chances are slim his client will escape execution next month.

Dillingham, 27, was condemned for the 1992 stabbing and bludgeoning death of Caren Koslow, 40, who was killed after Dillingham and an accomplice broke into her home and attacked her and her husband, Jack Koslow.

Dillingham is scheduled to die on Nov. 1. "This is his last shot," said Fort Worth lawyer Robert Ford.

Dillingham's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court was rejected Oct. 2. Prosecutors said the attack was masterminded by Jack Koslow's daughter, Kristi, who was 17 at the time. She wanted her father and stepmother killed so she could inherit what she thought would be millions of dollars she would share with the attackers.

Dillingham was the only one of the three to receive a death sentence. Brian Salter, who was Kristi's 19-year-old boyfriend, pleaded guilty to capital murder and was sentenced life in prison.

Kristi Koslow took her case to a jury and was sentenced to life in prison for capital murder.

Ford said the clemency petition to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rests on the fact that only his client was sentenced to death.

"I'm just asking them to take a look at the fact that three people were involved in this crime, and he's the only one facing execution," Ford told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "I'm not arguing the law, just the equity in this case."

Tarrant County prosecutors have said that Dillingham deserves the death sentence because of his actions, regardless of the sentences received by the other defendants.

"This is his last shot."

— Robert Ford
Jeffrey Dillingham's lawyer

News in Brief
Police accuse doctor in murder-for-hire scheme

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston physician who claimed he was being harassed called the police, then tried to hire the unformed officer who responded to kill a patient, authorities said.

Dr. Armando Sanchez, 45, has been charged with solicitation of capital murder.

The investigation began last week after Sanchez reported that a patient had been following and harassing him, according to Wednesday's editions of the *Houston Chronicle*.

While Sanchez was detailing his complaints to the officer the doctor asked if the officer would kill the patient and offered to pay him for his services, police said.

After arranging to meet with Sanchez again, officer Glenn Hill, a 17-year veteran, contacted homicide investigators.

Investigators said Sanchez met with the officer several times to discuss details of the proposed killing. During one of those meetings, Sanchez made an \$8,000 down payment to Hill and promised to pay more later, they said.

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Did You know.....

- Fraternity and Sorority Alumni are much more likely than nonmembers to participate in community service activities after graduation.
- Forty-three of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate are members of a fraternity or sorority.
- Twenty-nine percent of the House of Representatives are Greek affiliated.
- Greek affiliation had a significant impact on the current income of alumni.
- Greek affiliated alumni said there was a greater match between what they studied in college and their first job, when compared to nonaffiliated students.

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