

The Westfield Republican

"First Republican Newspaper Printed in U. S. A."
Also serving the communities of Chautauqua and Mayville since 1856

WESTFIELD REPUBLICAN, Thursday, January 20, 2022



Submitted photos

Holden and Archer Taylor are pictured with their little brother, Watson. The 1-year-old Watson died in a house fire Wednesday in Sherman. Two other siblings remain hospitalized in Pittsburgh.

Community rallies after fire in Sherman

By ERIC TICHY

etichy@post-journal.com

SHERMAN — The parents of a 1-year-old who died last week remain in Pittsburgh to be close to two children who also suffered serious burns in a devastating house fire.

Both Elliye Ball, age 12, and Miles Taylor, age 7, are expected to be hospitalized for several months. As of Sunday, the pair was at UPMC Mercy Burn Center, with their parents, Tiffany and Josh Taylor and Josh Ball, close by.

See SHERMAN, Page A3

SHERMAN, From Page 1

Fire broke out early Wednesday at the Taylors' West Main Street home in Sherman. Tiffany Taylor managed to escape the flames with her twin 4-year-olds while Elliye and Miles were forced to jump from a second-story window due to fire blocking a staircase.

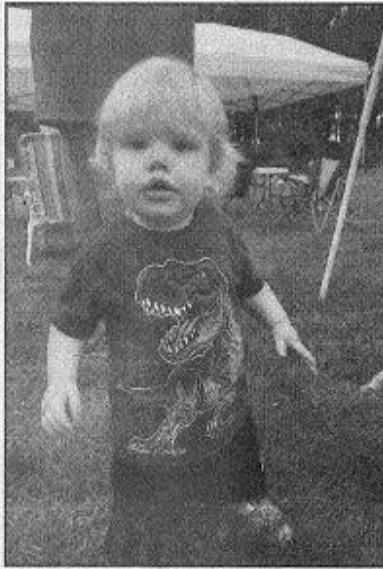
Watson Taylor, described by Tiffany Taylor's cousin, Julie Griswold, as a "miracle baby" when he was born, died in the fire.

An investigation determined the blaze was caused by an electrical issue at the property.

Griswold said Elliye, who suffered burns to 65% of her body, could be hospitalized for up to four months while Miles, suffering burns to 88% of his body, could be in the hospital for six months.

"Those three parents are going to be up there for the majority of it," Griswold said in an interview.

The families briefly have been able to see the children in the hospital. "Obviously, they're crying all the time," Griswold said of the parents, "but I think what their No. 1 thought is on their minds is trying to get those kids up at the hospital,



Submitted photo

Watson Taylor was described as a "miracle baby" following his birth.

make sure that they're on the road to recovery."

A candlelight vigil for the family was held at the Taylors' home Saturday night. "There were quite a few people who showed up," Griswold said. "I expected there to be

a decent turnout, but the amount of people that were there, for how cold it was, it was amazing."

Griswold said the family remains devastated after the loss of Watson Taylor. She noted the pregnancy was not a smooth one, and described his safe delivery as a "miracle" for Tiffany and Josh Taylor.

The early morning blaze leveled the property, and the twins — Holden and Archer — are currently residing with relatives after escaping injury.

Meanwhile, an online fundraiser (<https://gofund.me/0f5b113b>) has brought in more than \$81,000 for the family as of Sunday morning. Clothing and other donations were also collected at the Sherman Fire Department.

Griswold, who started the GoFundMe drive for the Taylor family, said the outpour of support was "almost overwhelming," but also noted that it's what makes Sherman such a great community.

"It's amazing how everybody pulls together when it's really needed," she said.