

SATURDAY

Jan. 3, 1987

Office receives Hewitt autopsy results

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A copy of autopsy results on the two Hewitt boys killed in a fire in August was received Friday by the McLennan County district attorney's office.

Results were withheld pending completion of the investigation.

On Aug. 26, neighbors of Edward and Clare Graf reported hearing a muffled explosion as far away as two blocks.

Jason Graf, 8, and Joby Graf, 9, died in a fire in a storage shed at their residence at 505 Angel Fire Drive in Hewitt.

The shed was fully engulfed in flames when the Hewitt Volunteer Fire Department arrived. After the fire was extinguished, the boys' bodies were found lying face up on their backs.

A preliminary autopsy done Aug. 27, ordered by Justice of the Peace John Cabaniss, showed soot

in both boys' lungs, indicating they were alive when the fire started. Authorities, however, found no evidence the boys tried to escape from the shed.

The boys' bodies were exhumed on Sept. 11 and taken to the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas for more extensive autopsies.

After receiving the toxicology examination, the district attorney's administrative assistant,

John Ben Sutter, said, "We cannot comment because it's a pending investigation."

An October inquest labeled the shed fire as an arson.

The report from the state fire marshal's office concluded that the Hewitt fire was "suspicious." Investigator Joseph D. Porter reported the fire that engulfed the shed bore characteristics common to arson.

Large areas of the shed's wooden floor appeared to have burned simultaneously. The burned area was too large, Porter said, to have occurred with the products and fuels kept in the shed. Burn patterns on the wood, too, indicated the presence of accelerants.