

Kearney home fire last week is total loss

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Gene and Laura Bittner of Holyoke received alarming news last week when Gene's daughter's family lost their home in an early morning fire north of Kearney, Neb. Jan. 24.

Gaynor and June Collison and their two daughters, ages 10 and 12, escaped their home at 5:25 a.m. after calling 911 to report smoke was coming from their hot tub, which was located in an enclosed area on the north side of the two-story home.

The fire spread quickly to the house, which was a total loss. But firefighters from Kearney and nearby Amherst and Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Departments were able to protect nearby storage buildings from the flames.

No injuries were reported. Laura Bittner said last week one of the Collison daughters' bedrooms is on the top floor of the home, but she was miraculously sharing her sister's room on a lower floor that night.

Members of the Fort Kearney Chapter of the American Red Cross responded to the scene to provide assistance to the family. Donations for the family are being taken at Glenwood Elementary School and at Farmers and Merchants Bank in Kearney.

Holyoke Enterprise February 2, 2012