

# Missing Ohio teen, Harley Dilly, found in Port Clinton home's chimney; death ruled accidental

Massive search for missing boy(East 171 off St. Clair)

By Alan Rodges

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PORT CLINTON, Ohio (WOIO) - Port Clinton Police said Harley Dilly, the missing 14-year-old boy, was found in a vacation home very close to his parents' home.

Police said the death was accidental and foul play does not appear to be a factor.

Police said Dilly was climbing up an antenna, slipped off into a 9-inch by 13-inch chimney, and was stuck.

An autopsy is currently being conducted.

"It's not the outcome we wanted, but the family has closure," said Port Clinton Police Chief Rob Hickman.

It was an emotional press conference.

"I promised myself not to breakdown today," Hickman said.

Investigators said they wanted to search the area again in an attempt to find Harley.

The vacation home that Dilly's body was located in was across the street from his home and was vacant for quite some time.

The investigation led to the abandoned home on the 500 block of Fulton Street.

Police checked the abandoned home multiple times, but since there was no sign of forced entry and the doors seemed secure, there was never a reason for them to check-in.

Authorities said Dilly slipped in the chimney, shoved his coat, and glasses down a flue, and then got stuck.

Dilly was last seen on Dec. 20 while walking to school.

A reward for information on his whereabouts surpassed \$20,000.

The community was worried about Dilly; they came together every Saturday to search for the teen.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office canceled a search for the teen early Tuesday.

19 News is in Port Clinton now gathering up-to-date information.

Around 4 a.m. Tuesday, Port Clinton Police left the scene of an investigation near the home of Dilly.

Dozens of residents gathered in the neighborhood in a show of support for Dilly on Monday night.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office canceled a search for the teen early Tuesday.

"The child has been recovered," according to the AG's office.