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ME's office: 2nd NVT boy died of smoke inhalation

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The brother of young boy killed in an apartment fire in North Versailles Township also has succumbed to injuries related to the incident.

Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office officials said KrisDon Williams-Pollard, 4, died of anoxic brain injury due to smoke inhalation Friday at 2:44 p.m. at Children's Hospital of UPMC in Lawrenceville, where he had been on life support since firefighters found him in a bedroom with his brother KiDonn Pollard-Ford, 7.

KiDonn was pronounced dead at the scene early Thursday morning of carbon monoxide and cyanide poisoning caused by smoke inhalation in their apartment along East Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard.

Manner of death for both boys is pending investigation. The boys lived in a third-floor apartment with their mother Kiara Pollard, 27, who was reportedly at work at the time of the incident.

Township police Chief Vince DiCenzo said Sunday that he spoke with Allegheny County Homicide investigators Saturday, and the incident remains under investigation. Allegheny County Communications officials said the fire marshal's office would not be open until Tuesday to provide any update about the investigation.

On Saturday, signs of how residents are trying to deal with the tragedy could be seen around the building in the 900 block of East Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard.

In the parking lot of the 27-unit building, children wrote sentiments in chalk including "RIP (rest in peace) Little Guys" and "RWG (rest with God) Kidonn."

A makeshift memorial of flowers, candles, balloons, toys, drawings and stuffed animals was set up on the ground below the charred exterior of the third-floor apartment where the boys lived.

"Of the 14 children who live in this building, those two were the most well-behaved, respectful kids here — including my own," said Desiree Petus, 27, whose 5-year-old daughter Caprese regularly played with the boys. "The death of these two wonderful children is devastating for everyone who knew them."

Investigators are trying to find out who was watching, or supposed to be watching, the children at the time of the incident.

"There was supposed to be a baby-sitter there," DiCenzo said Thursday. However, no baby-sitter was found.

"The only thing we know is the fire was within that apartment and the kids were definitely alone," Allegheny County police Assistant Superintendent James Morton said. "We're just trying to determine who's responsible."

The fire was so intense that it burned through the floor and the ceiling of a second-story apartment, while smoke and water damage was reported in an apartment on the first floor.

County Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Don Brucker said the See **SMOKE INHALATION**, Page 4



— Photos by Lexie Dabin/For The Daily News

Accordian player Henry Doktorski performs Sunday while wandering through the Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg.



Arianna Zecha, 3, whose family traveled from Maryland, plays with sculptures created by artists at the festival.



From left, Tank and Cody Miller show off their handcrafted toys from 16 Shot Rubber Band Guns created by vendor Jim Selinger.

Clairton man killed in JH crash

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Jefferson Hills police and the Allegheny County Police Homicide Unit are investigating a fatal crash along Miller Road that claimed the life of a Clairton man.

A Jefferson Hills police officer traveling southbound on Route 885 observed an approaching northbound vehicle driven by Peter Gribshaw, 30, fail to negotiate a curve in the roadway Sunday at approximately 2:15 a.m., according to a press release from Jefferson Hills police Chief Gene Roach.

The vehicle crossed over into the southbound lane and then went partially off the roadway, before the driver regained control and continued toward the officer's location, Roach said.

As the vehicle passed the officer, the driver accelerated and turned east onto Miller Road. The officer activated emergency lights in an attempt to stop the car; however, the vehicle accelerated on Miller Road at a high rate of speed, Roach reported.

After losing sight of the vehicle and approximately one mile onto Miller Road, the officer came upon the vehicle crashed and overturned against an embankment along the roadway, Roach said.

The driver, who was the vehicle's sole occupant, was found partially ejected from the vehicle.

Gribshaw was pronounced dead at the scene at 2:19 a.m. Cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head, and officials have ruled his death accidental.

No further information was available at presstime.

2011 Heritage Festival

Last chance to see sights, sounds at Twin Lakes Park

By MICHAEL DIVITTORIO
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A festival that has become a holiday staple in Westmoreland County is coming to a close.

The Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg concludes its four-day celebration today. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission is free to the 37th annual event, which features live performances, programs, activities, exhibits and more.

"We come every year," said Amanda Mooney of Latrobe while her son Robert Mooney Jr., 7, was getting his face painted and daughter Audrey Mooney, 2, sat in a stroller Sunday.

Their father, Robert Mooney Sr., said the best thing about the festival is the food.

"It's been a few years since we've been here," North Huntingdon Township resident John Johnston said. "There are more craft booths here, and new ones that we haven't seen before. They have a lot more seating here, too."

"I like the entertainment they have," said Johnston's mother June Johnston, also from the township.

The festival features approximately 220 crafters and 42 food booths, along with four stages with constant entertainment.

Organizers said they saw a surge in attendance the past few years, and the festival is really doing well.

"We're getting back to where we were about 10 years ago," said WAHF board president Marianne DeCaro. "We were really a strong festival (then). There's just such a variety of vendors and the quality is unbelievable."

"The weather is key," WAHF public relations and marketing coordinator Adam Shaffer noted. "The rain's held out. These crowds are consistent this year. If you look at the stages you see packed stages. People come to this event because of the variety. ... It's the most beautiful setting you can find."

The rain held out until approximately 6 p.m. Sunday when the thunder began to crash and the precipitation began to fall. Many vendors adjusted their tents to provide some shelter for patrons.

Vendors such as Jim Selinger of jpswood.com had much success this year showing his family's hand-crafted wood items such as rubber band guns.

"The kids are very good to me," he said. Artists at the festival include Raphael Pantalone, a mural artist and art teacher from Crabtree; and Alan Matsumoto, a sand sculptor from Vancouver, Canada.

Performers have included The Commonwealth Ancients, The Marcells, The Bad Boys Blues Band, Sugar Mountain, Banjo Man, The Lowland Highlanders, The Substitutions, Flow Band, One World Tribe, Shirley from Gashouse Annie, Jefferson Thomas, Sweaty Betty, Mon Valley Cloggers, Gary Pratt, Matthew Foster Moore, Conjuto Son Boricua, the 28th Division U.S. Army Band, Beatlemania Magic and See **HERITAGE FESTIVAL**, Page 4

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STAYING POWER

When Ocie J. Yarborough joined his co-workers on a construction job more than 500 miles from home, he had no idea he was traveling to the region where he would build a successful life and career. — Page 10

SPORTS

Former East Allegheny science teacher Bill Viola's contributions to the creation of Mixed Martial Arts was recognized with an exhibit in the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Senator John Heinz History Center. — Page 11

