

Smoke inhalation

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fire began in an adjacent master bedroom and no accelerants were used. The cause of the fire remains undetermined.

Three of DiCenzo's officers tried to break into the apartment but ran into a deadbolt.

"They couldn't make entry so they started to evacuate the building," DiCenzo said.

Eventually, Fire Department of North Versailles volunteers used a hydraulic tool to open the door.

"They found the children in a bedroom," DiCenzo said. The younger boy was revived by volunteer firefighters but KiDonn "had already succumbed."

Dozens of other tenants were evacuated, most of whom could return later to their apartments.

"We stood outside for about four hours," neighbor Brianne Walk said.

All three FDNV companies responded to the 2:29 a.m. alarm, as did volunteers from Turtle Creek.

"Close to 1 (a.m.) I heard some ruckus upstairs," said one neighbor, who declined to be identified. "That was not unusual, what with the kids and sometimes (the mother) had friends there."

He kept hearing "what sounded like rain," then heard the police tell residents to get out.

"That's when I noticed the flames," the neighbor said. "They had to fight it from both underneath and on top."

DiCenzo said the fire was brought under control approximately an hour later.

After the boys' mother returned home, she became hysterical and had to be taken to UPMC Presbyterian for observation, DiCenzo said. She later went to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC where KrisDon was flown after initial treatment at UPMC McKeesport.

"They're really nice," Walk recalled about the boys. "From what I heard, the kids were always happy and well-behaved."

Her comment was echoed by Desiree Pettus, another tenant who referred to the mother as "my home girl."

A family of four living in the second-story apartment is getting food, clothing and shelter from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross.

A spokeswoman for the Red Cross said her agency was talking to other families that also might need assistance. DiCenzo said county officials were providing counseling for the firefighters — one of whom became a new father just a few weeks ago.

Rick Willis of Tribune-Review News Service and Patrick Cloonan of The Daily News contributed to this story.

McCain: Afghan drawdown is an 'unnecessary risk'

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Three U.S. senators visiting Kabul said Sunday they are worried that President Barack Obama's planned withdrawal of 33,000 American troops by September 2012 could undermine Afghan morale, embolden the insurgency and hamper efforts to defeat Taliban fighters.

John McCain, Joe Lieberman and Lindsay Graham said they are heartened by the progress of Afghan security forces, but worry that Obama's withdrawal plan could deplete American military strength before dealing a decisive blow to the Taliban, especially in eastern Afghanistan. That part of the country is a haven for the Afghan and Pakistani wings of the Taliban, and al-Qaida affiliates.

"I believe that the planned drawdown is an unnecessary risk," McCain, a Republican from Arizona, who claimed that no military leader has spoken in favor of the timetable.

Lt. Gen. John R. Allen, a Marine general expected to carry out the president's drawdown order, has said the schedule is

a bit more aggressive than the military had anticipated. Allen has cautioned that successfully winding down the war will require new progress on a wide front, including more help from allies and less Afghan corruption.

McCain — during a stop at the Kabul headquarters of the foreign military contingent, called the International Security Assistance Force — said he's concerned there may not be enough American troops for a move from southern Afghanistan to the east to "finish the job there." There are currently about 90,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan among a total international force of more than 132,000.

NATO has deployed the bulk of its forces to Helmand and Kandahar, two southern provinces where Afghan Taliban influence is strong, but international terrorist groups are less influential.

McCain said the drawdown will deprive NATO "to a significant degree" as it attempts to pacify eastern Afghanistan next summer.



— Photo by J.L. Martello/For The Daily News

McKeesport police are investigating a crash at the BP gas station at the corner of Walnut Street and Lysle Boulevard Saturday morning.

Police seek driver in city BP crash

By **MICHAEL DIVITTORIO**
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McKeesport police are investigating a crash at the BP gas station at the intersection of Walnut Street and Lysle Boulevard.

Clerk Leo Hernandez said he was called to the store by another employee after a black sedan hit the side of the store Saturday shortly before 6 a.m.

The car broke through the front glass of the store, sending glass block everywhere. The car also struck beverage coolers, pushing the other merchandise backward.

Hernandez said the accident was caught on surveillance cameras, and police have the license plate of the vehicle.

The owner is reportedly from White Oak, Hernandez said. One customer also was reportedly in the store, and was startled but not injured, the clerk said.

White Oak police Chief Joe Hoffman said Sunday night that McKeesport police contacted his department to assist in trying to locate the vehicle involved in the incident.

He said McKeesport police are handling the investigation.

The store was open Sunday. One cooler is broken and has no merchandise in it. Another cooler also was damaged, but is in operation and the aisles were back to normal.

No additional information was available at presstime.



— Photos by Lexie Dabin/For The Daily News

Caricaturist Ray Kuchinka, above, draws portraits of guests Sunday at the Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg. Below, the Western Pennsylvania Region Antique Automobile Club of America is raffling off this 1981 Chevy Camaro. Each raffle ticket costs \$5 with part of the proceeds going to Westmoreland Cleanways.



Heritage Festival

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the Billy Price Band.

Another artist, accordion player Henry Doktorski, was enjoying his first time at the festival. He strolled through the area Sunday playing for the crowds on his way to the Laurel Stage for a solo performance.

"I think it's fantastic," Doktorski said of the festival.

Attendees have many opportunities to take something home, including a new car.

Guests have a chance right at the entrance to the festival to enter a drawing for a yellow 1981 Chevy Camaro courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Region Antique Automobile Club of America. That group is celebrating its 61st year, and a portion of the proceeds will go to Westmoreland Cleanways.

Craft-making, a petting zoo, interactive hands-on workshops, juried art exhibits for students, poetry and short-story competitions and readings are among this year's

children's activities.

The 2011 Youth Poetry & Short Story contest is sponsored by Robert Rhoton.

Children's entertainers include Goowin's Balloowins, David Lawrence, Dan & Galla, CasSandra, Princess Party, Matt Jergens and Spring Hill Barn Band.

Shuttle buses are available during festival hours at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and St. Vincent College.

There is off-site parking surrounding the festival. Private lots are available by local homeowners and rates vary.

Pets are not allowed at the festival. Twin Lakes Park is controlled by the Westmoreland County Department of Parks & Recreation. Park policy prohibits pets at the lower lake where the festival takes place.

More information, including a complete list of performers, is available online at www.artsandheritage.com. Inquiries also can be made via email at info@artsandheritage.com or by calling 724-834-7474.

Judge delays Casey Anthony rebuttal

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Casey Anthony briefly wept Sunday as prosecutors told jurors during closing arguments that she murdered her 2-year-old daughter Caylee to reclaim the carefree life she had before the girl was born.

Prosecutors portrayed Anthony as a young mother who killed her daughter because she got in the way of her love life.

"Something needed to be sacrificed, that something was either the life she wanted or the life thrust upon her. She chose to sacrifice her child," prosecutor Jeff Ashton said during his 90-minute argument.

Defense attorney Jose Baez said the prosecutors' case was so weak they tried to portray Anthony as "a lying, no-good slut" and that their forensic evidence was based on a "fantasy." He said Caylee's death was "an accident that snowballed out of control."

Prosecutors contend Caylee was suffocated with duct tape by her mother, who then crafted elaborate lies to mislead investigators and her parents. Defense attorneys countered that the toddler accidentally drowned in the family swimming pool, and that Casey in fact was hiding emotional distress caused by alleged sexual abuse from her father. Her father has denied that claim.

Judge Belvin Perry ruled Sunday morning that there was no evidence of such abuse and that the defense could not allude to it in closing arguments. Jury deliberations are now expected to begin Monday after the prosecution gives its rebuttal arguments.

Baez began his closing argument by telling jurors they have more questions than answers, including the biggest: How did Caylee die? Neither prosecutors nor the defense have offered firm proof of how Caylee died.

"It can never be proven," he said.

Baez spent most of his four-hour argument attacking the prosecution's forensic evidence. He said the prosecution's air analysis of the trunk of Anthony's car, which allegedly showed air molecules consistent with decomposition, could not be duplicated. He said no one could prove a stain found in the trunk was caused by Caylee's body decomposing there. And witnesses showed maggots found in the trunk came from a bag of trash that was found there, he said.

"They throw enough against the wall and see what sticks. That is what they're doing ... right down to the cause of death," Baez said. He later conceded his client had told elaborate lies and invented imaginary friends and even a fake father for Caylee, but he said that doesn't mean she killed her daughter.

He also attacked Anthony's father, George Anthony, as unreliable. He said that a suicide note that George Anthony wrote in January 2009 that claimed no knowledge of what happened to Caylee was self-serving and that the attempt was a fraud. He said George Anthony claimed he was going to kill himself with a six-pack of beer and some high-blood pressure medicine.

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