

The Salt Lake Police Department confirmed reports of two deaths during the past 24 hours—one alleged homicide and one accidental.

Police received word of a fatal shooting yesterday at 11 p.m. at Tom's Pizza. Later, a missing child was discovered without a heartbeat in a freezer in the garage of his home. Hospital personnel reported that the boy died at the hospital shortly after 1 a.m. today. The deaths appear to be unrelated.

Thomas Alvarez, the victim of the shooting, was working as the clerk of the carry-out pizza restaurant at the time of the shooting. The suspect, William McDowell, reportedly said, "I really want all your money," when Alvarez inquired which toppings he wanted on his pizza.

Alvarez then reached behind the counter. Claiming that he thought the clerk was reaching for an alarm or a weapon, the suspect fatally shot Alvarez. The suspect then attempted to open the cash register and, unable to do so, threw it to the ground and fired five or six shots into it.

Anne Capiello, Alvarez's girlfriend, was studying in the back corner of the kitchen at the time, but the gunman did not see or shoot at her. As the suspect left the premises, she called authorities and reported the shooting.

The suspect then ran to a waiting vehicle, which two eyewitnesses described as an old, white Ford Mustang. Witnesses described the driver of the vehicle as a white male.

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Andrew Caspenwall, a deliveryman who arrived at the time of the crime, chased the getaway vehicle. In the Pauley Park area the suspects reportedly fired several shots at Caspenwall, but he was not hit.

The getaway vehicle flipped onto its side as the driver attempted to turn onto Parkvue Avenue, allowing police to apprehend McDowell. Dazed but otherwise unhurt, he admitted to having a crack problem and that he attempted to rob Tom's Pizza. He is now charged with murder. Authorities have not yet found the driver.

Earlier yesterday, Sara Curtis reported that her son, Derek Curtis, 8, was missing. She said the boy returned home from school and asked for a popsicle, to which she replied that he should eat some fruit instead. At 6:52 p.m. she called police to report that he had disappeared around 4 p.m., shortly after their exchange.

In an attempt to obtain the popsicles anyway, Derek apparently climbed atop a toolbox and some other boxes piled in front of a box-type freezer in the garage of the family's home. Reaching inside, he tumbled in, and the lid closed and latched above him.

Searches continued through the evening with the help of family and neighbors, even involving dogs, a police helicopter and over 20 officers.

At 11:10 p.m. Danny Jones, Derek's grandfather, discovered the boy in the freezer. On-site paramedics reported that Derek had no heartbeat and a body temperature of 70 degrees, with icicles forming on his body.

Though he had been trapped in the freezer for approximately seven hours, hospital personnel were able to restore the boy's heartbeat. However, he never regained consciousness and died shortly after 1 a.m.