

THE WEEK AHEAD

Congressional Visit: Congressman Joe Knollenberg is expected to attend a public reception for the Farmington Area Arts Commission's Artist in Residence, held at Farmington City Hall Monday, August 6, from 6:30 p.m.-7 p.m. The City Council meeting begins at 8 p.m. City Hall is located at Liberty and Grand River in downtown Farmington.

TUESDAY

Cafe on the Porch: Refreshments and conversation will highlight your visit to Cafe on the Porch at the Governor Warner Mansion, which begins at 7 p.m. tonight. For \$5, visitors can enjoy unlimited hot and cold beverages. Proceeds will benefit the Mansion, which is located on Grand River west of Farmington Road.

THURSDAY

Music under the stars: The Stars in the Park music series, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Special Services Division, continues this evening at 8 p.m., in the Heritage Park amphitheater. The Farmington Community Chorus will perform. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for more comfortable seating. Heritage Park is located on Farmington Road, between Ten and Eleven Mile.

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Pedophile faces new charges



Convicted sex offender Jim Thompson, convicted last year of molesting two Farmington Hills boys, is wanted on charges of violating his probation by paying boys to beat him up and failing to report to his probation officer.

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@homecomm.net

A man convicted last year of fondling 12- and 14-year-old Farmington Hills brothers is alleged by St. Clair County police to have initiated at least six incidents where he paid teens and young men to beat him.

Det. Terry Baker said the incidents involving Jim Thompson, 66, constitute violations of his probation. The actions involve him in sexual activity prohibited under his terms of probation.

Baker said that Thompson's alleged payments to teens and young men are not in themselves violations of law, as the acts involve individuals old enough

to be deemed consenting adults.

Det. Baker said that beginning in February, "There have been ongoing incidents in St. Clair and Sanilac Counties. He talked to several teenage boys and paid these boys \$1,000 each to beat him up. In doing this, he violated his probation guidelines."

The teens and young men ranged in age from 17 to 20, Baker said. "There were at least half a dozen incidents I can verify through hotel rooms receipts," he said. The detective also questioned participants in the beatings for pay.

"The bottom line is he (Thompson)

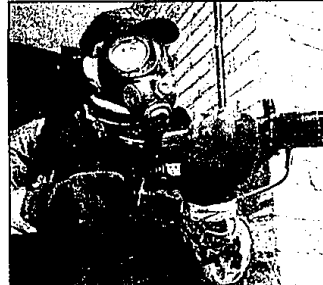
has totally disappeared," Baker said.

Since June 8, Thompson has failed to return to his residence in Melvin, a small town in St. Clair County.

Thompson is already being sought on a warrant that he absconded or skipped court-ordered meetings with probation officers in Sanilac County, where he began living after his release from jail in December 2000. He has also failed to show since early June for sex offender therapy sessions, also ordered by authorities.

Thompson in April 2000 pleaded no

Please see THOMPSON, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLEY
This is only a test: After clouds of gas poured into the Smith Theater at Oakland Community College Thursday morning, the Special Response Team secured the site (above) as victims stumbled outside. The mock drill involved emergency teams from Oakland and Wayne counties.

When disaster strikes

Emergency teams respond to mock drill at OCC

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER
hneedham@homecomm.net

Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus turned into a scene of terrorism Thursday when two men, apparently representing a right-wing group, released mustard gas into the auditorium during a foreign dignitary's speech.

In all, 31 people were injured, including five who were transported to area hospitals. Three people died as a result of two explosions set off outside the auditorium.

That's what would have happened had the scene been real and not merely a mock disaster staged by the Farm-

ington Hills police and fire departments, in cooperation with police and fire agencies from throughout the region. The mock disaster drew 140 emergency workers to the campus.

As a fire drill prepares students and school staff, the mock disaster was intended to help police, fire and paramedic professionals prepare for a life-or-death emergency.

The speech started a chain reaction during which two men representing a right-wing political action group released mustard gas into the auditorium. People fled the building, complaining of burns to the mouth, throat and eyes.

As the "victims" trickled outside and

collapsed on the ground, there was an explosion just south of the auditorium, originating in some bushes. A burst vehicle airbag provided the popping sound, and talcum powder provided the "smoke," which gave the humid air a baby powder smell.

Adding to the touches of realism was some carefully applied makeup simulating victims' injuries and wounds.

Farmington Hills Police secured the scene with police tape, while Oakland County Sheriff Department's Special Response Team worked its way inside - to get victims out and apprehend any suspects. Two were taken into custody, one wearing camouflage pants.

Mike Kisch, Farmington Hills Fire

Department's hazardous materials coordinator, gave observers a play-by-play while the "events" unfolded behind the police tape.

"There's going to be an explosion shortly. Normally this would pan out for hours."

Instead, the exercise was wrapped up by 11:15 a.m., about two hours after it started.

The explosion, called a secondary explosion, was similar to one during the Atlanta Olympics.

"The explosion is designed to injure or maim the responders," Kisch said.

The "burn victims" were taken to a

Please see DISASTER, A7

Rising temp - rising danger

Teaming up to beat the heat

BY PAUL BRAUDRY
STAFF WRITER
pbraudry@homecomm.net

It's in the mind of virtually every parent of every athlete: If a professional athlete can die from heat stroke, can it happen to my child?

They're not alone. Coaches and administrators

worry about it, too. And they'll tell you there is no one answer to make sure it doesn't happen. A cooperative effort between coach, player, trainer and parent can help lessen the chance of it happening.

"There's a time to be a hero and a time to be smart," said Chuck Gordon, football coach at Westland John Glenn High School. "Players need to alert coaches if there's a problem and coaches need to realize that you're not going to get a team game-ready in one day so it's better off going slow, bring them along and do things the right way."

Tuesday's death of Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman Kory Stringer from heat stroke suffered during practice is a rarity. But with the beginning of high school football practice around the state on Monday, and many other fall sports on Aug. 13, combined with the hot, humid weather in the last couple of weeks, the fear of it happening here is a very real one.

"You don't want to learn from that kind of tragedy," said Marc Hage, Livonia's Churchill High School athletic director. "Any administrator will tell you that their biggest nightmare is a catastrophic injury. It's a phone call you don't want to make or receive. You need to do everything right and it could still happen."

While school districts generally don't have hydration policies, many districts - Livonia and Garden City among others - follow guidelines on when to break for water and rest periods established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and borne out of the grueling two-day football practices.

BEAT THE
HEAT WITH
H₂O



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM IANUZZI
Drink plenty: Andrew Shaw of the Clarenceville High football team takes time out in conditioning drills this week for water.

Please see TEAMING, A3

High temps add to ERs

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER
dvarga@homecomm.net

Local hospitals report seeing more people - and many younger ones - for heat-related symptoms.

"Definitely, over the past several days we have seen an increase," said Dr. Donald Lawrenchuk, Wayne County medical director.

Heat-related illness isn't required to be reported, said Lawrenchuk, so statistics are hard to come by. Also, states record their data differently.

Still, the heat can be a killer. According to the Center for Disease Control, extreme heat kills more people in the nation each year than lightning, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and earthquakes combined. From 1979 to 1998, the CDC said that 7,421 deaths around the nation can be blamed on excessive heat.

Exposure to excessive heat can cause heat exhaustion. At that point, the body is unable to perspire and dissipate heat, said Dr. Lawrenchuk.

Symptoms include clammy skin (cold, sticky moisture), headache, dizziness, extreme fatigue and nausea. In extreme cases, a person can suffer a heat stroke - vision impairment, disorientation, loss of consciousness, temperatures of up to 108 degrees and possibly death.

Please see TEMPS, A3

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