

Hoax from page A1

ing most of its 1,200-plus students — onto the football field behind the building for nearly two hours.

Given as long as they were out there, it's a tribute to the kids how well they handled it," he said. "Some were out there without coats."

He said assistant principals Ron Jones and Linda Langan and their staff and teachers "did an outstanding job" and added it was "really remarkable" how everyone "jumped in to help." Principal Deborah Clarke was out for the day.

Friday was the last day of class before the holiday break and after a week of final exams. It's not known if that played a role in the hoax, police said.

"Our gut feeling is that around exam time or around critical times at school, it's not completely unusual to have someone rile things up in a kind of macabre celebration," Bledsoe said. "It's something we take serious, but it's not totally unexpected either."

■ 'Our gut feeling is that around exam time or around critical times at school, it's not completely unusual to have someone rile things up in a kind of macabre celebration.'

Martin Bledsoe
assistant chief
—Farmington Hills Police

It was the first bomb hoax in the Farmington district since one at Harrison High about a year ago, said Don Cowan, district executive director for instruction and student services and the former principal at North.

The situation was a bit surreal for a while. People driving up to the school entrance on 13 Mile Road to pick up students were being directed by police around to the football field at the back, where they found students calling to them from inside the cyclone fences and school personnel outside the fences telling them they couldn't come in and must leave.

All of it caught senior Tom Ouellette off-guard. He said he was coming back from lunch at home when he saw police cars and fire trucks racing to the school. He was directed by police to the football field.

There he met a fellow senior, Kelise Fournier, who told him she had been taking a quiz in class when someone came into the class and "told us it was an emergency and we had to get out of here, to get as far away from the building as we can."

"There were tons of cops," she said.

"It all went very well," said Cheryl Berling, one of the office secretaries who went room to room to announce the evacuation. "All the students were evacuated in a very orderly fashion. The staff and students were great."

Another secretary, Anne Jakubus, noted a bit sadly it was the last day of school before the holiday break and that "most of the kids were having class parties. There was pop and cookies in every class I went into."

But Annie Frank, a sophomore waiting outside afterwards for a ride, summed up the hoax more succinctly.

"I think it's stupid," she said. "Pathetic, you know?"

One nearby resident, Arlene Sukkamp of Colony Circle, complained that nobody notified the immediate neighbors of the school about the situation.

The school could have notified "at least the two blocks adjacent to the parking lot," she said.

Teen from page A1

The boy and his mother repeatedly claimed he had no prior contacts with police. His mother also said she never lived in California, which she did, the case worker noted.

"The defendant and his mother weren't completely honest with me as it pertains to his background," Gross said.

Those convictions also didn't turn up on checks of the state LEIN and the National Crime Information Center systems, an Oakland County prosecuting attorney said. What juvenile crimes are reported vary state to state.

The teen's report was forwarded to Oakland County Family Independence Agency, where a case worker monitored his three-year probation stemming from California. His probation was terminated Oct. 1.

"He didn't tell her (the caseworker) he got popped on the Aug. 13 charge," said Scott Hamilton, prosecuting attorney.

Due to the viciousness of the attack, Pam Radzinski remained suspicious about the teen's back-

ground and hired a private investigator. He discovered the defendant's criminal past and the family alerted the prosecutor's office.

The North Farmington High student received a concussion and cut lip requiring six stitches after receiving several football-style kicks to the head, police reports said.

In the courtroom, Jay was joined by his sister, Lisa, and friends, including those who witnessed the attack and came to his aid. He was content with the outcome, but the incident will not be forgotten.

"It won't be over with knowing that there are still people like this out there," Jay said.

He appreciated his mother's vigilance. "I just wanted to forget about it and move on," he said. "She's been great. I'm glad it happened the way it did."

Pam Radzinski was still perplexed how a juvenile's previous criminal record nearly slipped past court officials.

She believes all violent juvenile crime should be registered on a national computer system.

"That's my next crusade," she

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FEELING MIDNIGHT TIRED AT 5 P.M.
If you have arthritis, you have experienced more often than you care to count, the problem of undue fatigue. That is, you arise in the morning stiff and aching. It takes you hours to reach a point where you feel able to work, shop, or take a walk. Just when you are ready to act — say at 5 P.M. — fatigue and stiffness comes on you, and you feel as exhausted as if you had put in a full day of hard labor and had worked past midnight.

Friends and family counsel you saying that you are not in shape, what you need to do is try harder, and work through the aching and fatigue. Otherwise, they say, you will just perpetuate the cycle of weakness and fatigue.

What friends and family do not understand is that arthritis disrupts the efficiencies of movement that nature took pains to build. Once you lose the rhythm of your waking you become like a car trying to run on three wheels — your whole structure suffers.

No amount of exercise can or will overcome this loss.

In addition certain arthritis, like rheumatoid arthritis, makes chemicals that hurt the efficient action of muscles and that interrupt the way tendons contract.

If medicine cannot control your arthritis, then you have no choice but to go only as far as your body permits. When you have fatigue, you must stop. Either you or your physician need to educate family and friends, that your fatigue is real, and can only be overcome with rest.

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