

Thank You for using NewsLibrary

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS

METRO/REGIONAL BRIEFING

Wednesday, January 20, 1999

Section: LOCAL

Page: 4B

From staff, wire reports.

Column: METRO/ REGIONAL BRIEFING

PLYMOUTH

Boy who drowned at fitness center identified:

The boy who apparently drowned in the swimming pool at a suburban fitness center was 6-year-old Joshua Jackson of Plymouth, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office said Tuesday.

Joshua was found motionless at the bottom of the pool at about 1 p.m.

Monday, and he was declared dead a little more than an hour later at North Memorial Medical Center in Robbinsdale.

Lifeguards were alerted by someone else at the fitness club that Joshua was at the bottom of the pool. The club said in a statement Tuesday that "Lifetime Fitness does require all children under the age of 13 to be supervised by a parent or legal guardian."

Capt. Bill Chandler of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department said the boy's stepfather had been watching him.

"The father had just tended to the child, helped adjust his swimsuit, and he went back in the water, and the father was doing his best to keep an eye on him. And that's the last he saw of him, and a few minutes later, someone spotted him at the bottom of the pool," Chandler said.

The boy's death remains under investigation.

\ MINNEAPOLIS

Shooting victim a St. Paul man:

Hennepin County medical examiners on Tuesday identified a man who was found fatally shot behind a South Minneapolis nightclub as Miguel Navarro.

Police found Navarro, 21, of St. Paul lying in a parking lot at 1:15 a.m. Sunday behind Vannandy's Nightclub in the 3000 block of 27th Avenue South. Police said the man was shot in the head after a disturbance inside the club continued outside.

Police had no suspects Tuesday.

\ MINNEAPOLIS

City drops trespassing charges against 36 protesters:

The Minneapolis city attorney's office Wednesday dropped all trespassing charges against the 36 people arrested in a massive late December raid on a Minnesota 55 protest encampment.

Several protesters are still charged with resisting arrest. According to Jordon Kushner, an attorney for the protesters, the charges were dropped because a Hennepin County District judge found there was insufficient evidence to proceed.

In the largest law enforcement action in Minnesota history, more than 600 armed officers from the Minneapolis Police Department, the Minneapolis Fire Department and the Hennepin County Sheriff's office removed the few dozen protesters from seven state-owned houses on the 5300 block of Riverview Drive.

The protesters had camped in the houses for several months in an effort to stop the planned reroute of Minnesota 55. Shortly after the arrests, the houses were bulldozed.

\ THIEF RIVER FALLS, Minn.

Authorities seize maltreated horses:

Authorities in northwestern Minnesota seized a herd of about 40 horses on the verge of starvation Tuesday.

At least four horses have already died, sheriff's deputies and Minnesota Humane Society officials in Pennington County said. They believe more dead animals may be buried in the snow.

"It's what people do to animals sometimes ... I don't understand how anybody could do it," said Tim Fields of the Minnesota Federated Humane Society, who was at the farm Tuesday.

The animals belong to a 46-year-old woman who lives outside Thief River Falls. She was convicted in 1995 of failing to provide proper food to animals, court officials said.

Authorities attempted to serve her with a search-and-seizure warrant Tuesday, but she was not home. They were gathering information for possible criminal charges.

ORTONVILLE, Minn.

Air quality tests planned for school:

Classes resumed Tuesday at the public school in this western Minnesota town after the building was closed for air quality tests.

Some of the 745 students in grades kindergarten through 12 had complained of nausea, headaches and bad odors.

A major building and remodeling project at the school is the suspected source of at least some of the smells that caused the complaints Friday.

The school was closed Monday, and tests showed that carbon monoxide levels inside the school were no higher than the outside air. Results of tests for molds, dusts and volatile organic compounds were expected to take another one to 12 days. Those tests are for irritants rather than toxic chemicals.

Superintendent Jeff Taylor said the construction project often brings engine smells into the building, and that a sewer gas odor in December was traced to a sewer vent that was not trapped properly.

All content © 1999 ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS and may not be republished without permission.

All archives are stored on a SAVE (tm) newspaper library system from MediaStream Inc., a Knight-Ridder Inc. company.