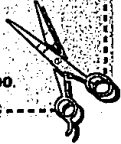


Look for coupons Thursday

- Cut your weekly grocery bill an average \$20 to \$30 a week clipping coupons by Kraft, Nabisco, Heinz and others that will be inserted into Thursday's issue of your home-delivered Observer newspaper.
- While you are clipping turn to the Taste section in Monday's paper for quick and easy recipes your family will enjoy.
- Don't miss out on the savings: To have the Observer delivered to your home, call 591-0500.



IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Life in the Hills: *It's good and getting better, according to Nancy Bates, outgoing mayor of the city.* /2A

STREET SCENE

Covered: *The Chisel Bros. are like no other cover band. With Thornetta Davis, they make the Tuesday night jam sessions at Alvin's in Detroit something special.* /4A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Family night: *First Wednesdays at a suburban shopping mall bring out the stars as well as the community.* /6A

TASTE

Quick meals: *Learn how to prepare easy, low-fat dishes in your microwave oven.* /1B

Exceptional values: *Newlan and Armida, new wines from Napa and Sonoma valleys, are excellent selections.* /1B

SPORTS

Hoop action: *Farmington had an important Western Lakes basketball game Friday at Northville.* /1C

Volleyball: *Ladywood prevailed in a Catholic League match against rival Mercy Thursday.* /1C

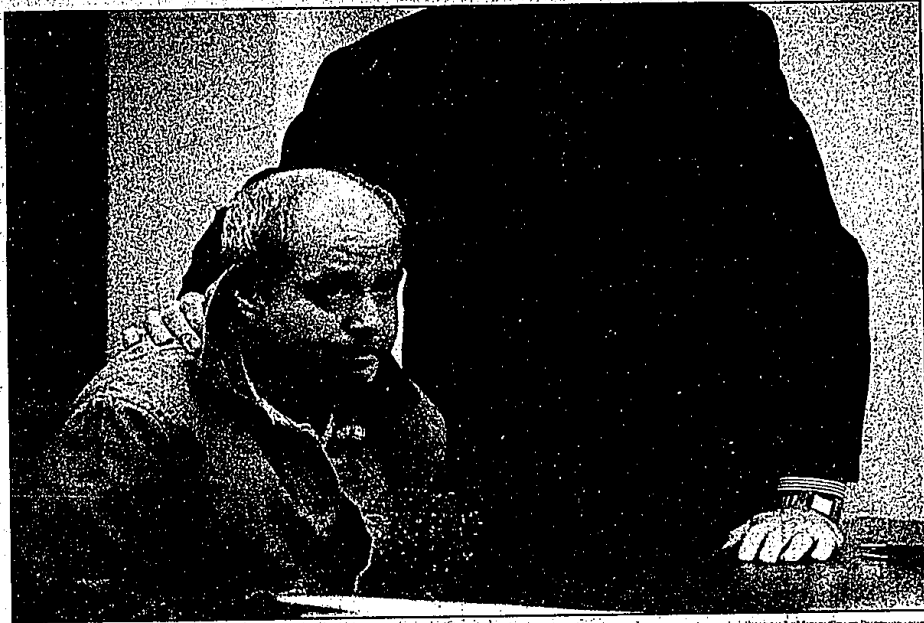
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Raymond Ponke in court



SHARON LEMIRUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Having a word: Raymond Ponke (left), charged with first-degree murder in the hammer slaying of his wife Jackie in Farmington Jan. 8, listens to one of his attorneys Friday in Farmington's 47th District Court.

Man 'broken up,' exam delayed

The preliminary examination for Raymond Ponke accused in the brutal murder of his wife, has been delayed until Feb. 2. Many people connected with the case had lots to say, however.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The man accused of hammering his wife to death in Farmington has a message for his daughter: He loves her.

"He's very broken up. He feels very bad for (his 9-year-old daughter) Ashley," said one of Raymond Ponke's attorneys, Tim Ash.

"He wanted me to let you know Ashley, if you're listening, that he loves you."

Ash commented after Friday's preliminary examination, which was adjourned until Feb. 2. Raymond Ponke is charged with the Jan. 8 murder of his estranged wife, Jackie, in the Freedom Road dentist's office where she worked.

On Friday, 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris granted the delay after attorneys for Raymond Ponke said they needed more time to review evidence and talk with their client.

The accused remains in Oakland County Jail without bond.

Raymond Ponke, dressed in prison garb of orange surgical scrubs and a blue jean jacket, responded yes when asked by Harris if he understood why the exam was being temporarily adjourned.

Jackie Ponke was beaten to death when a man entered the dental off-

ice of Dr. Alan Bredin and began striking her in the head with a hammer as the dentist and a patient watched in horror.

Bredin, after trying to stop the attacker, took the patient to a nearby residence where police were called.

Raymond Ponke's attorneys said their client continually breaks down and cannot focus when asked about the events of Jan. 8.

Defense attorney Ron Chapman said they're not sure what defense strategy they'll take. He added they

See **PONKE**, 3A

Weather King Windows & Doors to open reign

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A window and door manufacturer has opened a new chapter for industry in Farmington.

Weather King Windows & Doors Inc. is moving into the 90,900-square foot facility that once housed Chesley Industries. The plant on Chesley Drive, near Eight Mile and Farmington roads, has been vacant for nearly three years.

Chesley Industries, a wire products company, was shut down by its parent company, the Husmann Corp. of St. Louis, in 1990.

Earl King, president of Weather King Windows & Doors, said his company had been in negotiations on and off with the building's previous owner for a year. He wouldn't disclose the sale price.

Weather King Windows & Doors has operations in Detroit and Cincinnati. The company manufactures doors and windows for sale to home improvement contractors as well as retail door and window businesses in a four-state region.

Weather King Windows & Doors has been in operation for 43 years and

employs a little more than 100 people.

"The main thing is we plain run out of space," said King on why he's expanding the business.

Some 55 to 60 employees from the Detroit plant are expected to be transferred to Farmington. The Detroit facility will stay open as a pick-up and distribution center.

The larger plant size will allow for additional operations, and the hiring of new workers, King said.

The company plans to manufacture steel-entry doors at the Farmington plant, which until now have only been

made at the Cincinnati facility.

"We expect to do some hiring," King said. ". . . but it's hard to say how many people."

"We like the city of Farmington," King said. "It's a smaller community, so it's easier to work with people."

Farmington city manager Frank Lauhoff called the arrival of Weather King Windows & Doors a positive move for the city.

"I think it's an indication we're coming out of a time when small industry wasn't much in demand," Lauhoff said. "I think it's a sign of an expanding economy."

See **FRANCE**, 2A

Music money: Trip to France requires band aid

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Before the Farmington High School marching band can play some musical notes abroad, some bank notes need to be drummed up.

Since the marching band was invited as one of 60 prep outfits to represent the country in France for the 50th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion (June 6, 1944), organizers have been busy trying to raise money

for the trip planned on spring break, April 1-9.

So far, \$20,000 has been pledged. France-ly, organizers say, they need more.

"We haven't had any big sugar dad-

dies who have laid \$20 or \$30,000 on us . . . That's what we're looking for," said Farmington High Band director Norman Logan.

See **FRANCE**, 2A

Quick thinking, Jeff

When 13-year-old Jeff Guy finally gets his driver's license, there are bound to be a lot of jokes about the time he drove the family car into a guard rail on I-696.

Jeff did grab the wheel recently and guide the Grand Prix to safety on the freeway after his father had suffered a fainting spell. In so doing, Jeff became something of a hero.

Jeff and his father, Tom Guy, were returning from a Red Wing hockey game a few days before Christmas. On I-696, Jeff got his first clue that his father wasn't feeling well.

"Jeff said he told a joke and his dad didn't laugh," said Nancy Guy, Jeff's mother. "His dad said, 'I don't feel well. I'm pulling over.'"

But Tom, who had been suffering from the flu, apparently blacked out before he could pull to the

FARMINGTON FOCUS

side. Jeff then grabbed the wheel, steered the car on to the side lane and called 9-1-1 on the car phone.

"He said, 'Mom, I couldn't reach the brake, so the car scraped the guard rail,'" Nancy Guy said. "All's well that ends well . . . Tom Guy came to and didn't even need an ambulance. He was taken home by an off-duty police officer."

But Jeff, who delivers the Farmington Observer in the Hunt Club subdivision in Farmington Hills, was recognized for his quick thinking. He was given a plaque at Our Lady of Sorrows School, where he's an eighth-grader.

"I think it (the incident) helped put the holiday into the proper perspective for him," said Nancy Guy.

Memory Lane

From the Jan. 14, 1954, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

State police were investigating two break-ins at Murrill's Lunch, 30400 Grand River.

Farmington High took over first place in the Inter-Lakes League basketball standings with a 50-38 win over Walled Lake.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21838 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336; dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.