



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEWIS

Brothers watch: At left, Stephen (left) and Dennis Lutz, brothers of murder victim Jackie Ponke, are spectators of Raymond Ponke's preliminary examination in 47th District Court. Above, Jim Tucker, the Oxford man who housed Jackie Ponke, goes through a metal detector check and a search by Joe Schornack of the Farmington Public Safety Department.

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may look into the possibility their client has psychiatric problems.

'A normal . . . person'

"He misses his daughter . . . This is a normal middle class American person who loves his family," Chapman said.

The attorney said he thinks Raymond Ponke has seen TV reports, in which his daughter said she hated her father. He criticized the media for interviewing the 9-year-old.

"That little girl was pumped to say whatever it was she said," Chapman said. "She loves her daddy."

Jackie Ponke's family — including brothers Dennis and Stephen Lutz — attended the proceeding. Both looked at Raymond Ponke as he was led out of the courtroom.

"I didn't know how he would react when he saw me," Dennis Lutz said. "I know he wouldn't look at me."

As for Raymond Ponke's message through his attorney that he

■ 'He misses his daughter . . . This is a normal middle class American person who loves his family.'

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defense attorney

loved his daughter, Lutz said, "She won't believe it, I believe. How can you believe someone telling you stuff like that after what you did to her mother."

The 'whys' and 'ifs'

Many people are still focusing on the "whys" and "what ifs" of the dental assistant's murder.

One of Raymond Ponke's brothers told Farmington police of a conversation Dec. 30 in which he made threatening remarks about his wife.

In the conversation at the Rustic Pub in Farmington, Raymond Ponke was heard to say, "If I'm going down, she's going down."

In a request to Harris, Oakland County prosecutor Robert

Hedges Friday asked that Nick Ponke and John Ponke, both of Farmington Hills, be added to the list of witnesses.

Others also say they heard threats Raymond Ponke made toward his wife of 15 years.

The Tucker family of Oxford, whom Jackie Ponke was staying with since Nov. 22, taped a phone conversation between the estranged couple, according to the police report.

Raymond Ponke reportedly said he was going to be her "judge and jury."

When asked by Jackie to explain what he meant, Raymond replied, "You're a smart girl; figure it out."

Ashley Ponke told Farmington police about incidents Nov. 20



Ron Chapman
defense attorney



Tim Ash
defense attorney



Robert Hedges
prosecutor

and Dec. 26 involving her father.

Oxford police were called to the home Nov. 20 after Raymond Ponke had been drinking. Ashley said she heard her mother screaming and her father saying, "I'd rather be in jail and see you dead."

On Dec. 26, Raymond Ponke took Ashley out to eat at Arby's

and then told her he was taking her on a "surprise vacation."

Ashley told police they spent the night in Cincinnati and proceeded south. He bought his daughter some new clothes along the way.

While staying in Kimball, Tenn., she sneaked downstairs while her father slept and told

people at the front desk she was from Michigan and to call police.

Family friend Jim Tucker and Jackie Ponke went to Tennessee to pick her up.

"Ashley is a strong little girl," Dennis Lutz said. "She understands what happened . . . She's sometimes stronger than we are."

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

■ VANDALISM

A baseball bat or club was used to break the windshield and driver's window on a 1985 red Ford van parked on Buchanan in Farmington Hills Jan. 2. The van's six tires were slashed and it was spray painted causing \$3,000 in damage.

A bullet broke a window at a residence on Averhill in Farmington Hills Jan. 10-11 causing \$200 in damage.

Shots from a pellet gun or 22 caused \$1,200 in damage to a 1986 Lincoln Towncar parked at Clancy's Bar on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills Jan. 11.

■ THEFT

A Kenwood stereo system worth \$3,800 was stolen from a gray and blue Jeep Wrangler parked on Grand River in Farmington Hills between Dec. 15 and Jan. 8.

Wheel covers (\$200) were taken from a Ford Tempo in the parking lot of a business on Halsted Road in Farmington Hills Jan. 12. Hubcaps (\$400) were taken from a 1988 Ford Tempo at Botolph Hospital on Grand River Jan. 7.

A portable CD player (\$300) was stolen from a 1987 Jeep Wrangler parked on Smithfield in Farmington Jan. 13.

A license plate (\$10) was stolen from a 1990 gray Toyota parked on Heritage in Farmington Jan. 12.

■ FIRES

Farmington Hills firefighters from Stations 1 and 4 responded to a fire at the First Presbyterian Church on Farmington Road at 7:32 a.m. Jan. 12. The fire started in a bathroom being added to the church. A painter on site had been using a roller to paint the ceiling of the bathroom, when the roller contacted two electrical leads protruding from the ceiling, which were not capped and were live. An arc ignited the fresh coat of paint, which flashed across the ceiling. The fire quickly went out, and there was no sustained burning. Firefighters removed the smoke under positive pressure. Station 1 was canceled en route. Damage was minimal and there were no injuries.

Aftermath of a gambling raid



SHARON LEWIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Counting and sorting: Farmington Hills police Sgts. Doug Anderson (left) and Gil Kohls look over some of the money, gambling equipment and a handgun taken after a Jan. 12 raid at 31879 Kingswood Square in the Hunter's Ridge complex. The loot amounted to about \$65,000. Of the 20 people arrested, 17 were ticketed for loitering. Felony warrants were being sought for the other three. "It's still being investigated," said Anderson.

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