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IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Up or down?: The Farmington City Council isn't that pleased with a restaurant owner's plan to take the trademark Big Boy down to ground level. /3A

Proper parking: Residents living near Farmington High have "permitted" themselves in order to park on their streets. They hope it deters students from doing the same. /3A

Development showdown: The Farmington Hills City Council may vote on Timbercrest, a controversial development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt, tonight. /3A

Any suggestions?: The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is looking for a few good citizens who can be considered for the annual award. /7A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Tied Up: New fall neckwear designs offer casual dressers something to hang onto. /8A

Merchandise mix: Jacobson's Men's Department takes a new direction to win the contemporary man's business. /8A

TASTE

Food basics: Climb up the new food pyramid with cookbook author Jacquelyn Bowman Cutright to make healthy food choices. /1B

Super Supper: Jo Ann Marsh of Southfield makes good tasting, good looking suppers. /1B

SPORTS

Grid game: Farmington Harrison meets Westland Glenn in a rematch of last year's WLAA championship game won by Harrison in overtime. /1C

Win streaks: Farmington and North Farmington tried to extend their respective football winning streaks to three and four games. /1C

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Raymond Ponke

Ponke trial begins



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

An accused murderer's defense depends on an uncommon degenerative disease so rare that it strikes only five in one million people. Opening arguments start today in Oakland County Circuit Court in the

long-awaited murder trial of Raymond Ponke.

Ponke, 41, is accused of beating his estranged wife to death with a hammer Jan. 8 while she worked at a Farmington dental office.

His attorneys will contend their client was insane when Jackie Ponke

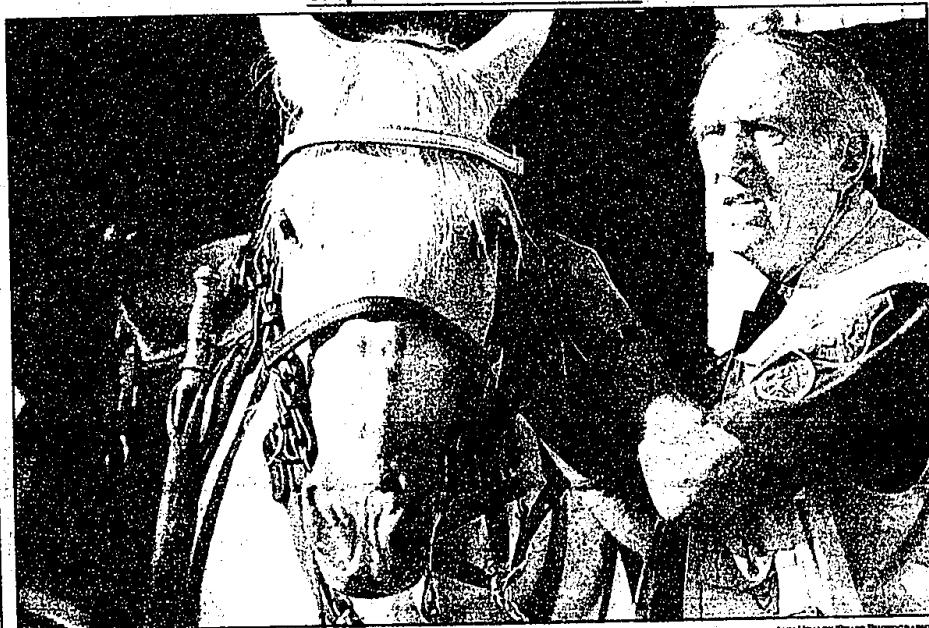
was struck in the head and neck area more than 40 times with a claw hammer. His condition could have been brought on by Huntington's disease, they say.

Irrational, if not violent, behavior is possible with Huntington's disease, according to the department chairman of Neurology at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Such disturbances often signal the onset of the disease, Dr. Howard Roseman said.

See PONKE, 2A

Casper and Bill — What a team!



ANNE HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Working together: Farmington Hills businessman Bill Roethel and his horse Casper are in harness for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Mounted county deputy riding high

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

When Bill Roethel's son joined the Army, the businessman wasn't losing a son, he was gaining a horse.

"When Brian joined, he asked me what I was going to do with his horse," said Roethel, owner of Marvel Equipment Corp. in Farmington Hills. "I said, 'You mean my horse.'"

For the past 13 years Roethel and his horse, Casper, a trim, 27-year-old speckled gray, have been together. And for the past five years, they've teamed on weekends and at other times as members of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Mounted Division.

"In those 13 years, I've only been (fallen) off of him two times," Roethel said. "And both times it

was driver's error."

Roethel said he's loved horses since he was a kid and he would ride his older sister's mount. And since he can remember, the Korean War veteran has liked wearing a uniform — first at Howe Military School in Indiana, then in the U.S. Army, and now as a sheriff's deputy.

"I'm proud to be a member of this organization," he said before put-

ting Casper through his paces at the Windshire Stables near Wixom. "There is a great esprit de corps in the group."

Circus experience

At 61, Roethel still cuts a good figure on top of Casper. Although Casper is a "grade horse," which is

See MOUNTED, 7A

Another Hills teen shoots self in head

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Less than a week after a 14-year-old Farmington Hills teen accidentally shot and killed himself, another Hills 14-year-old has suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Farmington Hills police said Rusty Gutusky shot himself in the forehead with a .22 caliber rifle at his

home on Lytle at about 4 p.m. Friday. He was in guarded condition Friday afternoon.

The boy's father, Steve, was outside at the time, working on his pickup truck. Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said that about 30 minutes before the shooting the father and son discussed the accident shooting of Joseph Misch over the Labor Day weekend.

The two teens may have known each other from school, but that could not be confirmed.

Rusty Gutusky was transported by Hills firefighters from Station 1 to Botsford General Hospital and was airlifted by helicopter to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor.

He was in guarded condition Friday

afternoon, but Dwyer said his prognosis was "grim."

"He was shot in the forehead clean through," said Dwyer, who added that police were investigating the shooting as an accident.

The rifle, which belonged to the teen, had been locked in a gun cabinet, police said. The teen apparently pried it open. His father had the keys.



Doris Lovell

Patrons bust stitch over dress code

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

If they want to sip her tea, Doris Lovell thinks her customers ought to be dressed a little more to a T.

Nothing personal, added the owner of the downtown Farmington tea room. She just wants to maintain an atmosphere of Victorian elegance.

"We're not trying to be snooty," said the owner of Mrs. Doris Lovell's Tea Room. "A pair of slacks and a pair of flats are fine."

Blue jeans are not, though. Denim, depending on what they're worn with, may look sharp, Lovell said. She had to draw the line, though, after some customers turned up in

cutoffs or jeans with holes in the knees.

Said Lovell, explaining the dilemma: "Jeans are jeans. I can't pick or choose between jeans."

The new dress code has not gone down with some people.

Those turned away at the door have instead dressed down Lovell, vowing never to return. Some have even sworn at her in anger, she said.

Elaine Boris of Livonia, who visits the tea room once a week, caught a glimpse of the rage.

"They were walking out, screaming at her," Boris said. "One woman who was walking by had on a sweat suit, not one of the nice ones either."

The other ones had on ripped up tennis shoes.

"Both got into a car that was nicer than mine. These people were not hurting. They were lazy. When you're going out to a nice restaurant, you have to make an effort."

Another customer who was turned away understands what Lovell's doing, but thinks it's being taken to extremes.

Pat Crews of Farmington Hills wanted her two granddaughters to experience the tea room atmosphere. She drove to Dearborn to pick them up and bring them to Farmington.

See DRESS, 2A