



Police and Court Briefs

Man acquitted of all drug charges

A Concord Township man who was accused of unlawfully handling painkillers through a Painesville pharmacy was acquitted Tuesday afternoon of all charges.

Michael LaRiccia, 48, of 9735 Alder Court, went on trial Monday before Lake County Common Pleas Judge Paul H. Mitrovich on nine felony charges of illegal processing of drug documents.

He was accused of having a Mentor woman make a false prescription for various quantities of Vicodin for him on nine different occasions in late 2004 and early 2005.

LaRiccia, who owns a Mentor auto repair shop, faced one year behind bars on each count if convicted.

"Mr. LaRiccia insisted on a trial to prove to his family, his friends and his customers that his good reputation is well deserved," defense attorney Joseph R. "Randy" Klammer said. "We're quite pleased with the jury's acquittal."

— Staff reports