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Thursday, October 23, 2003

hometownlife.com

50¢

Volume 48 Number 21

Novi, Michigan

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Fall Back Sunday



Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour before you hit the sack Saturday, or you'll be early for everything Sunday.

REG. MARKETPLACE

Serra Floor Covering

Long gone are South Lyon's dirt roads, replaced by pavement. Miles and miles of farmland have now become new subdivisions. So, too, the more than three-decades-old Serra's paint, wallpaper and upholstery business that has evolved into Serra Floor Covering. Jim Serra started out in the heart of downtown South Lyon in 1972. As the community grew, so did Serra Floor Covering.

— Page 24A

SPORTS



Battle for the Baseline Jug

Wildcat QB Mike Hart will go toe-to-toe with his childhood friend and competitor, Mustang quarterback Mark Sorenson, this Friday night in the Baseline rivalry game.

— B Section Special

INDEX

- Business9A
- Calendar of Events
- Classifieds1D
- Engagement11A
- Library Lines7A
- Obituaries11A
- Opinion / Letters20-22A
- Police Report4A
- Schools13A
- Senior Calendar11A
- Sports11B
- Wedding11A

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Detroiters plead guilty to murder

■ Wixom factory worker was executed while eating dinner in his auto

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Wixom Police say a pair of Detroit men who plotted the execution-style slaying of a Wixom factory worker last December will spend much of the next three decades behind bars in a

Michigan prison. According to Wixom Detective Jim Osborne, Samuel Lee Henderson, 25 and Kevin Leon Russell, 24, opted to plead guilty to second degree murder Tuesday rather than go to trial on first degree murder charges in the death of Eric Barnes.

A first degree murder conviction would have sent the pair to prison for life without parole. As it is, Henderson is expected to spend at least the next 25 years in prison. Russell, said Det. Osborne, will serve at least 22½ years behind bars. He explained Russell's sentence is a combina-

tion of his plea bargain and years he owes the Department of Corrections for parole violation.

When officially sentenced in Pontiac Nov. 11, the pair could get up to 37 years for pleading guilty to second degree murder.

continued on page 5



Novi Police Photo/Detective Mike Warren

These remains lay undisturbed for close to 800 years before a construction crew uncovered them while working on a sewer line project Friday.

Human remains located

■ Bones could belong to Novi's first inhabitants

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

No one will ever know their names, but it's certain the remains found at a construction site on Novi's northeast corner Oct. 15 belong to some of Michigan's earliest people.

According to Dr. John Halsey, the state archaeologist, the bones of as many as a dozen people lay undisturbed for around 800 years before being uncovered by a bulldozer working on a sewer line project.

"It's rare, but it's not ultra rare," said Halsey noting that a construction crew working in Mackinaw City stumbled across some historic remains just a few weeks ago.

Al Rasmussen, Novi's Deputy Chief of Police, said the Medical Examiners Office told him the bones found Oct. 15 were "over 50 years old and probably much older." He said in his 28 years with the department, he's never encountered anything quite like this.

Novi Police Detective Dennis Jelly said the bulldozer operator who uncovered the bones first thought he'd uncovered an animal, but when he found part of a human skull, he told his supervisor, who in turn called Novi Police.

Jelly said it was obvious that the bones were quite old when investigators arrived on the scene. He said the bulldozer operator told investigators that he thought he'd uncovered animal bones at first, but then he found part of what appeared to be a human skull.

Investigators collected numerous bones, including what appeared to be parts of two skulls, several leg and arm bones along with ribs and vertebrae. Based on the number and types of bones, investigators initially believed that the site contained more than two adolescents or younger adults.

Jelly said no clothing or other

continued on page 3

Concentration



Photo by John Heider

Dressed in her leopard costume, Victoria Kincaid, 3, intently paints a pumpkin as her mom, Wendy Carter, looks on during last Saturday's Halloween events at the Novi Civic Center.

Tower to move headquarters to Novi

■ Supplier plans to close Rochester Hills location

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Tower Automotive, a global designer and producer of structural components and assemblies used by automotive manufacturers, will relocate its company

headquarters from Grand Rapids to Novi early next year.

Kathleen Ligocki, Tower's president and chief executive officer, announced several organizational changes in the company Tuesday.

The company is moving its headquarters to Novi to be closer to its customer base.

By Pierce, company spokesperson, said that the company will consolidate its technical center in Rochester Hills to the Novi technical Center. About 170 employees from the Rochester Hills location will be transferred

to the Novi location.

"Eleven employees from the Grand Rapids office have also been offered the opportunity of moving to the Novi office," Pierce said.

"The Novi facility is a nice facility, and we were able to lease extra space," she added.

About 200 employees currently work at the Grand Rapids loca-

tion.

Although the company headquarters will be relocated to the current Novi location at 27175 Haggerty Road south of Twelve Mile Road, the supplier will not close the Grand Rapids location.

Tower announced a series of organizational changes in its North American operations, including consolidating its North American product groups, making management changes and moving its headquarters.

"Tower Automotive is at a

continued on page 3

Novi resident offers library \$2 million donation

■ Businessman wants library in family's name

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A retired Novi businessman and his wife have offered to donate \$1 million to the Novi Library and to double the dona-

tion, if the library can come up with \$1 million in matching donations.

"I like books. I have a thousand books of my own in my personal library. Furthermore, I have the ability to do what I'm doing with moneys that I've earned over the years," said Novi businessman Charles Walker, explaining the offer.

The offer comes just as the city's seven-member Library Board is contemplating its strate-

gic plan for the next five years.

In 2001 the board asked city voters to approve a 2-mill tax to replace the library's existing 23,000 square foot building with a new 80,000 square foot facility and the voters said no by a 60-percent margin.

Library Director Brenda Evans said she believes the proposal to build a new \$20 million library for the city failed for a variety of reasons, not the least of which that the proposal came on the

heels of a string of tax proposals.

Terry Margolis, president of the Library Board, said she was "very thrilled" by Walker's offer, but she doesn't see it changing the library's strategic plan. "That's really about what we want to be in the community."

While it could be months before a final agreement is drawn up between the Walkers and the library board, Margolis said he thinks it's an exciting opportunity.

A spokesman for the family's financial advisors at Morgan Stanley said the Walkers are interested in leaving a living legacy to the city they've called home since 1975.

Although the Walkers haven't

continued on page 7

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POLICE REPORT

One and One

After stopping a 1996 Geo on Heck Road near Eight Mile Road at 9:43 p.m. Oct. 13, Officer Paul Leslie noticed an empty and a full bottle of beer underneath the passenger seat. He charged the driver, a 36-year-old Wixom man, with operating under the influence of liquor after the man failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .14. The man was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Car vandalized

A 22-year-old West Bloomfield man told Officer Paul Leslie Oct. 13 that his 2001 Volkswagen was vandalized sometime before 7 p.m. while he was at the Imagine Theater.

Cell phone missing

A 14-year-old Novi girl told Officer Steve Patterson that her cell phone disappeared during a fire drill at Novi Middle School Oct. 13. The girl said the phone was worth \$200.

Car stolen

A 57-year-old Novi woman told Officer Jeremy Stempert that her Chrysler Cirrus was stolen while she was shopping at Home Fabrics Oct. 13. The woman said that when she discovered the car missing at 1:48 p.m., she hit the panic button on her key fob, but nothing happened.

Tables taken

A spokesman for Concrete Software told Officer Larry Lennard Oct. 14 that someone stole four folding tables and 20 folding chairs from outside the company's offices on Orchard Hill sometime between Oct. 3-6. The spokesman said two bicycles, missing front tires, were found on the company grounds and two folding chairs were found in a nearby woods. The spokesman said 50 tables and 400 chairs had been left outdoors at the company over the weekend.

Wallet taken

A 79-year-old Novi woman told Officer Larry Lennard that her wallet and \$65 in cash were taken from her room at Clarier House sometime before 1:40 p.m. Oct. 13.

Collateral damage?

A Novi man told Officer Larry Lennard Oct. 14 that someone threw a beer bottle through a five-by-eight foot window in a theater's office in the Karim building. Officer Lennard noted the office is next door to an alcohol and drug testing clinic.

Pocket picked

A 23-year-old Novi man told Officer Craig Chismar Oct. 14 that someone lifted his wallet while he was at the Post Bar Oct. 11.

Car burglarized

A 19-year-old Novi man told Officer Paul Stulgness Oct. 14 that his 1991 Ford was burglarized at his Woodstone Street residence sometime before 2:10 a.m. He said a CD player and a tachometer were taken.

Safe cracked

A 37-year-old Romulus man told Officer Larry Lennard that the vending machine delivery truck he drives for Sterling Services was burglarized outside the Country Inn sometime before 12:56 p.m. Oct. 13. He said someone entered the unlocked truck, cut a lock off the truck's safe and made off with two briefcases containing between \$1,500 and \$1,700.

Cigarette burn

A 29-year-old Novi man told Officer Paul Stulgness Oct. 13 that someone vandalized his car at his Lakewood residence sometime before 9:30 a.m. He said someone burned the driver's seat with a cigarette.

Easy to spot

A 38-year-old Commerce Township man told Officer Scott Backens Oct. 13 that thieves made

off with a red 1985 Ford dump truck and two Masha plate compactors from the equipment yard of Bonamie of Michigan sometime before 5:50 a.m. The man noted the truck had the company's name painted on the side. He estimated the loss at \$18,600.

Half beer too many

Officer Andrew Hudochek stopped a 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer at 12:07 a.m. Oct. 13 after he watched it straddle two east-bound lanes of Grand River Avenue before turning abruptly into the parking lot at the Library Pub without signaling. The driver, a 21-year-old Brighton woman, said she'd only had a beer and a half at the theater, but she failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .35. After charging the woman with operating under the influence of liquor, Officer Hudochek discovered that one of her companions, a 24-year-old Southgate man, was being sought by police in Detroit and Wyandotte. The man was taken into custody, but later released after posting a \$250 bond and \$10 processing fee.

Internet report

A 35-year-old St. Clair Shores man notified Novi Police via the Internet Oct. 14 that his 1996 Volkswagen was burglarized while he was at Borders Books Oct. 12. The man told Officer Paul Leslie that after he got home, he noticed someone had taken a Kel Tech 2mm

handgun and three clips from his glove box and his HP laptop computer from his case in the back seat of his car.

Smile, you're on camera

Officers Timothy Farrell and Kevin Gilmore charged a 28-year-old Farmington Hills woman with retail fraud Oct. 16 after loss prevention specialists at Lord & Taylor told them they had videotaped the woman taking a \$40 pair of earrings from the store without paying for it. The woman was later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Van damaged

A 58-year-old Brighton man told Officers Timothy Farrell and Kevin Gilmore Oct. 16 that his 2002 Ford van was vandalized while it was parked on Irvine Street between 1-8 p.m. Oct. 11. He estimated damage at \$1,000.

Warrant arrested

Following a traffic stop on West Drive at 11:45 p.m. Oct. 15, Officer Eric Zuer discovered the driver, a 21-year-old Madison Heights man, was being sought by Madison Heights Police. The man was handed over to Madison Heights Police in a Southfield shopping center parking lot.

Strong box emptied

A 29-year-old Novi woman told Officer Scott Woodley that her

Long way from home

Officers Kevin Gilmore and Timothy Farrell charged a pair of 18-year-old boys from Chesaning and Saginaw with retail fraud Oct. 15 after loss prevention specialists at Marshall Fields told them they caught the Chesaning teen with \$440 of unpaid for clothing and the Saginaw youth a \$109 of clothing taken from the store. The pair were released after they each posted a \$100 bond.

Pinckney girls pinched

Officer Michael Prough charged two 17-year-old Pinckney girls with retail fraud at 5:20 p.m. Oct. 15 after loss prevention specialists at Kohl's told him they stopped the girls outside the store with \$96 worth of clothing they had not paid for. The girls were released after they each posted a \$50 bond.

Boat trailer taken

A 24-year-old Highland man told Officer Paul Van Pelt Oct. 14 that his father's boat trailer was stolen from R&J Truck Sales sometime in the past two weeks.

Mountaineer mutilated

A 40-year-old Novi man told Officer Diane MacGregor that would-be burglars pried the name plate off his 1997 Mercury Mountaineer and damaged to locks while it was parked outside his Westgate apartment sometime before 8:25 a.m. Oct. 15.

Dodge damaged

A 46-year-old told Officer Scott Woodley Oct. 15 that would-be burglars damaged the door handle on his 2001 Dodge while it was parked outside his Westgate apartment sometime before 8:32 a.m.

Plate pilfered

A 23-year-old Wixom man told Officer David Martino Oct. 15 that some stole the license plate off his 1991 Ford Escort sometime before 4:07 p.m. while he was at work at Mesquite Grill.

Van damaged

A 30-year-old Novi man told Officer David Martino Oct. 15 that someone before 4:56 p.m. that would-be burglar did \$30 damage to his 2002 Dodge Durango.

Burglar fails

A 30-year-old Novi man told Officer David Martino Oct. 15 that he was burglarized at 4:56 p.m. that would-be burglar did \$30 damage to his 2002 Dodge Durango.

Burglar doesn't

A 19-year-old Glen Carbon, Ill. man told Officer Scott Woodley Oct. 15 that his 1996 Ford Explorer was burglarized at a Kensington Street residence sometime before 4:54 p.m. He said a calculator and sunglasses, worth \$280, were taken.

Dodge damaged

A 46-year-old told Officer Scott Woodley Oct. 15 that would-be burglars damaged the door handle on his 2001 Dodge while it was parked outside his Westgate apartment sometime before 8:32 a.m.

Compiled by Phil Foley

Advertisement for Will Arrangement Center featuring the text 'There is a difference' and 'Making decisions following the death of a loved one is never easy...' along with contact information for 47670 Grand River, Novi, Michigan 48374.

Advertisement for The Novi News newspaper, including subscription rates, publication details, and contact information for the Post Office Box 470, Howell, MI 48844.

Advertisement for Novi Community School District Warehouse Building, including bid package details, contact information for Skanska USA Building Inc., and a list of bid categories such as Earthwork and Site Utilities.

Large advertisement for Nextel wireless services, featuring 'FREE INCOMING CALLS', '400 Cellular Minutes (outgoing)', and '@Wireless' branding. Includes a list of service areas and contact information.

Detroiters plead guilty to murder

Continued from front page. 'I think it's great,' said Det. Osborne. 'Yes, I'd like to take them both to trial but this is a guarantee and there are no guarantees when you go before a jury.' Although they had Henderson's confession, detectives never found the gun that took Barnes' life. Barnes, said Det. Osborne, was shot once in the head Dec. 17, 2002 at close range as he sat in his car, eating his dinner before going to work at Forest City Technologies, an auto parts supplier located in an industrial park off Pontiac Trail on the city's west side.

Noting that the 21-year-old machine operator from Detroit was found in his car with his wallet intact, Det. Osborne said robbery was almost immediately dropped as a possible motive. Investigators also thought it was highly unusual that Barnes was shot in an extremely well lit parking lot outside a busy factory that employs nearly 100 people. However, he said, investigators soon learned from family, friends and co-workers that Barnes was afraid of his girlfriend's cousin, a man who had threatened to get him, if he did not treat the young woman right.

That someone, according to members of the Western Oakland Major Crime Team, was to convince Henderson to shoot Barnes, Henderson, said Det. Osborne, was a weak-willed, easily manipulated individual. 'Sam was a stooge. Kevin pressured him. Kevin was responsible for all of this. Sam never would have killed anyone, if not for Kevin.' Armed with the knowledge of Barnes' fears about his girlfriend's cousin, the 22 detectives from the Western Oakland Major Crime Team fanned about across Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties, questioning more than 300 people in the weeks following the shooting, said Det. Osborne. He noted that the 22 detectives, drawn from the Wixom, Walled Lake, Novi, Milford, South Lyon, Wixom, Lake, White Lake police departments as well as the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police, 'can move a lot of mountains.'

'I felt threatened by Kevin and came to us as a last resort.' According to Osborne, Russell had been released from prison shortly before the Wixom shooting after serving six years on an attempted murder conviction. He said Russell was convicted of shooting another Detroit man in the back following some sort of dispute. Det. Osborne said that knowing this and that Russell and her husband had plotted to kill Barnes convinced the woman that she could be next. The woman, said Det. Osborne, told investigators that while watching television one night, Henderson turned to her and

Large advertisement for Parisian Super Weekend, featuring a grid of clothing items like sweaters, jackets, and shoes with significant discounts (e.g., 30% OFF, 50% OFF). Includes store location at Village of Rochester and contact information.

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@hl.homecomm.net

Realtor of the Year

Real Estate One employee honored by peers

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Recognition is always good. But it's even better when it comes from one's peers.

That's why Northville resident John O'Brien, who works out of the Real Estate One office in Novi, was so excited to be named Realtor of the Year for his district.

Members of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors selected O'Brien for the top spot a few weeks ago. Colleagues presented the award to him at the association's annual convention at Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

"My reaction was basically shock," O'Brien said when he learned he'd received the honor. "Lou Rongyate, a fellow Realtor, called to tell me about the award a few weeks ago."

O'Brien doesn't know who nominated him for the award.

"When I found out I'd been nominated, I wasn't going to send in the application. But then I thought I should as a courtesy to the person who nominated me," he said.

"There are about 3,800 members in our local association, so it is a high honor," he added.

Award honors involvement

"It's a nice feeling any time your peers do something like that for you."

O'Brien has served on several Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors committees, including finance, government affairs, grievance and the nominating committee, which selects the association's officers.

"He's also a member of the local real estate association, which is separate from the county's organization. And, he's a member of the Michigan

Association of Realtors, headquartered in Lansing, an organization that deals with issues that affect the real estate industry such as recent legislation supporting the National Do Not Call Registry and personal property rights.

O'Brien and his wife of 20 years, Karel, have two sons, Mickey, 19, and Jeremy, 12, and a daughter, Molly, 15. Active in the community, he's a member of the committee that organizes the Northville Fourth of July celebration and has coached his son's baseball and basketball teams in the Northville Recreation leagues.

Realtors of the Year from other associations will be recognized at the state convention later in the year when more than 40 associations will be represented. A Realtor of the Year from the entire state will be selected from the top Realtors in each association.

"You have to be available when your customers are, which is usually nights and weekends," he said.

"You also need people skills. This may be one reason nurses and teachers do so well in the field."

Winner hails from Novi office

O'Brien has worked in the Real Estate One Novi office for more than 20 years.

"They've been really good to me. It's a good company, and I enjoy the people I work with," he said.

As a Realtor, O'Brien followed in his parents' footsteps. Jack and Barbara O'Brien have worked together at O'Brien Real Estate, a family-run business on their farm in Benton Harbor, since he was a boy.

"I started out in real estate with my dad in Benton Harbor. He was a licensed real estate broker, and my mom works with him," he said.

"I basically grew up in the industry. I used to sell real estate during the summer when I came home from college," he said.

After receiving an associate's degree in history from Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor and a bachelor's degree in business and marketing from Michigan State University, O'Brien worked as a salesman for Standard Brands, a food broker in Detroit, for about five years.

He soon decided, however, on a full-time career selling real estate and became a licensed Realtor in the early 1970s.

Besides earning his Realtor license, O'Brien is also a Certified Residential Specialist and an Accredited Buyer Representative, which are both national accreditations.

Why does he like the field so much?

"In the 20 years I've sold real estate, no two days have been the same. I like the diversity of the job," he said.

O'Brien noted that selling real estate is obviously not a 9-to-5 job.

"You have to be available when your customers are, which is usually nights and weekends," he said.

Internet has changed industry

Matching buyers and sellers is obviously the key to success as a Realtor.

"You have to know your market and stay up on the latest technology, which has changed our field quite a bit," O'Brien said. Today, buyers can take virtual tours of properties online, saving them time and money.

"Now they can sit at their computers and research schools, price ranges of homes and take virtual tours to see what their money can buy them," he said.

"People are much more educated as far as the housing market than they used to be by the time they actually contact a Realtor," O'Brien said. "So, as an agent, you have to be up on the market, too."

O'Brien noted that with current home mortgage interest rates being historically low, there's never been a better time to make a real estate investment.

"When I started in the business, they were around 13- to 14 percent. Now 6 percent is considered high," he said.



Photo by John Heider

John O'Brien, of Real Estate One in Novi, was recently named Realtor of the Year. Here he stands in front of one of his offerings in Northville Township.

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Local Color welcomes jazz trumpeter Marcus Printup

Jazz fans will get a rare treat next month when trumpeter Marcus Printup performs at Local Color Brewing Company in Novi. Printup will be backed by the Professors of Jazz at Michigan State University, a stellar ensemble that includes:

- Rodney Whitaker - bass
- Randy Gillespie - drums
- Rick Roe - piano
- Vincent Gardner - trombone
- Diego Rivera - saxophone

Those who attended the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra's show at Novi High School this past June may recognize Printup, who sits beside Wynton Marsalis in the trumpet section.

"Marcus Printup possesses the deepest level of soul and sophistication," said Marsalis, "and with the Professors of Jazz, you are guaranteed a profoundly good time."

Like Marsalis, Printup is also familiar with Local Color. He is one of the musicians who jammed at the afterglow party following the LCO's June 18 concert.

At just 35 years of age, Printup already embodies the experience of an extraordinary career. In addition to his nine-year tenure with the LCO, he has recorded with Marsalis, Marcus Roberts, Dianne Reeves, Cyrus Chestnut and Eric Reed.

For the past eight years, Printup has also been building a solid solo career, having released five albums - "Song for a Beautiful Woman," "Unveiled," "The Music of Freddie Hubbard" (with Tim Hagans), "Nocturnal Traces," and



MARCUS PRINTUP

his latest, "The New Boogaloo." With his vast background in jazz, Printup is proud to present

fresh music rich in the language of the great jazz heroes, but with his own signature of a soul-stirring gospel strength, mixed with the force of Parliament Funkadelic.

This very individual interpretation of jazz resonates with the fire-filled echoes of the Baptist church he attended with his family during his youth in Conyers, Georgia.

While attending University of North Florida, Printup won several national competitions, including the 1991 Thelonious Monk International Competition and the National Collegiate Jazz Competition.

Printup's playing showcases his affinity for the hard bop school of trumpet, with nods to influential legends like Booker Little and Fats Navarro.

"It is eloquence of style and his ability to express his own unique voice are characteristics that distinguish Printup from many young musicians of his generation," according to the *Encyclopedia of Popular Music*.

The Professors of Jazz at MSU is a jazz group established and maintained through the Jazz Studies area at Michigan State University. Nationally and internationally acclaimed bass player Rodney Whitaker, a Detroit, is the director of Jazz Studies at MSU and is the artistic director of the PMSU. The ensemble has a new recording, "The Third Floor."

Printup and the Professors will be signing copies of their recordings at Local Color.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Author Tom Graze signing books**
 DATE: Thursday, Oct. 23
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Borders, Novi Town Center
 DETAILS: Former Northville resident and author Tom Graze will be signing copies of his latest book, the "Twisted Web". Copies of the 400-page science thriller will be available for \$6.99.
 PHONE: (248) 347-0780
- Meadowbrook Congregational Church "Bids & Bites" Auction**
 DATE: Saturday, Oct. 25
 TIME: 6 p.m.
 LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, between Eight and Nine Mile Rds.
 DETAILS: Tickets are \$15 per person, available at church and at door; 25 live auction items as well as 100 silent auction items. Hors d'oeuvre and dessert stations from local restaurants.
 PHONE: (248) 344-9412
- Grand Court, Novi, Annual Health Fair**
 DATE: Friday, Oct. 24
 TIME: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 LOCATION: Grand Court, Novi
 DETAILS: Low cost screening for stroke, peripheral arterial disease and osteoporosis and other testing. Also, physicians and other health care professionals will discuss issues related to local seniors.
 PHONE: (248) 669-5330
- Novi Theaters production of "The Adventures of Stuart Little"**
 DATES: Fri-Sun, Oct. 24-26
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi.
 PHONE: (248) 347-0400
- Halloween Party**
 DATE: Saturday, Oct. 25
 TIME: 7-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: All Star Gymnastics, Novi
 DETAILS: This event is for children in first grade and up and includes food, games and a costume contest.
 PHONE: (248) 380-5330
- Childtime's Community Halloween Party**
 DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 28
 TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
 LOCATION: Childtime, 2720 Oakley Park, Commerce.
 DETAILS: Free food, costume contest, free arts and crafts. Public Welcome.
 PHONE: (248) 669-7448
- Fru Shots**
 DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 28
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.-noon
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road
 DETAILS: Cost is \$7 for those able to pay; Medicare and Medicaid cover the cost (bring I.D.).
 PHONE: (248) 452-9174
- Harry Potter Halloween Party**
 DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 29
 TIME: 7-9 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Kids, get on board the Hogwarts Express for an evening of fun at our first ever Harry Potter Halloween Party. Candy, Games, Prizes, Arts and Crafts. Refreshments for kids, and Moms and Dads too! Children ages 3-years-old through fifth grade.
 PHONE: Jessica Holder, (248) 427-2700
- Send calendar items to Cal Sone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to csone@luhomecomm.net.**

WHAT: 9th Annual Fall Novi Sugarloaf Art Fair
 WHERE: Novi Expo Center
 WHEN: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Sunday, October 24-26.
 WHAT: Fine art and contemporary craft - glass, pottery, metal spinning, and more.
 HOW MUCH: Daily adult admission: \$6; children under 12: admitted free.
 Parking-free, courtesy of Sugarloaf.
 WHO: Sugarloaf Mountain works, Inc., Gaitherburg, Maryland-award-winning promoter of eighteen annual art fairs and craft festivals now held in seven states.
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matter. Many of the participating fine artists and craft designers in this show are from the Detroit metropolitan area. This is your chance to see how it's done - glassblowing, metal spinning, and more.



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OTHER OPINIONS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

Primary elections – there's a novel idea to try

Few people are thinking much about next year's presidential election — yet. Yet the startling truth is that within less than five months, we'll almost certainly know who the nominees of both parties will be.

Michigan voters will get their chance to weigh in even sooner, on Feb. 7. Except most of them won't. The scandal is that in this state both major parties — especially the Democrats — have worked hard to limit the voters' ability to have a say.

This wasn't always so. Time-travel back to 1992, when there were just races for both nominations. Then President George Bush was being embarrassingly challenged from the right by Pat Buchanan, who chose Michigan to test his theory that white, blue-collar union workers were secretly in his camp.

Bill Clinton was being dogged by Paul Tsongas, Jerry Brown, and lingering doubts. But on St. Patrick's Day, Michigan voters effectively settled both races. Clinton won a solid majority. President Bush crushed Buchanan by almost three to one.

They also had to find out where their caucus site was (almost never at their usual voting place) learn during what few hours voting was allowed, and go and wait through a tedious process. Few voters bothered, which is just what the party hacks wanted.

Republicans stayed true to their principles, but they

began to mutter after George W. Bush, the establishment choice, was roundly defeated by U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona in the Michigan Republican Primary in 2000. Bush supporters alleged that without a primary of their own, Democrats crossed over to vote for McCain.

This year, neither party will hold a primary. Legislative Republicans chose to "temporarily" abolish it, on the grounds that this would save the state a little money, and wasn't really needed this year, since they are not expected to have a contest and Democrats refuse to use the primary.

That makes some sense on paper — though not in reality. The fact is that a vast number of voters want the freedom to oscillate between the parties. Gov. John Engler, a hard conservative, got 62 percent of the vote in 1998. U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, a liberal, got 61 percent four years later.

Democrats argue that their rules don't allow them to participate in primaries in states like Michigan, which don't have voter registration by party. However, that is exactly what happens in Wisconsin, which asks for an exemption — and got one.

Both parties have also worried that if one side doesn't have a contested race, voters may come and make mischief in the other party's primary. But political scientists have found essentially no evidence this happens. Surveys showed that while some McCain voters thought of themselves as Democrats and independents, they voted for the Arizona senator because they liked him.

Indeed, in Michigan, Republicans might have been much better off with John McCain as the candidate. President Bush lost the state by 217,000 votes.

This year the Democrats will once again have a caucus system. Stung by criticism in the past, they say they've tried

to make it more inclusive. Anyone willing to swear that they are a Democrat can vote from 10 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7.

If you can't make it there, you can request a mail ballot from the state party. Matter of fact, you can get one in Spanish if you want, or Arabic. That is, if you can figure out how to get one. Finding out where to vote isn't that easy, either, though you may be able to figure it out if you get on the Internet and go to www.nfd-democrats.com.

That's how you get an absentee ballot, too. Poor and/or don't have access to the Internet or knowledge of how to use it? Well, you can send the Michigan Democratic Party in Lansing a letter, or a fax, or an e-mail if you can borrow a friend's log-on.

Or, you can vote via the Internet. That worries all of the Democratic presidential candidates except Howard Dean and Wesley Clark. The gang of seven has sent the national party a letter opposing Internet voting in Michigan's Democratic caucuses.

Some say they are more worried because the "Internet community" essentially created Dean's candidacy and is believed to be potentially friendly to Clark's. And that may be so. Nevertheless, this summer a virus seized this column's computer, and sent out hundreds of treacherous e-mails under my name. Why couldn't a Lyndon LaRouche virus, say, be designed to hijack a party's primary?

I doubt that we are ready for Internet voting. However, there is another system available. It is a bit old-fashioned, but it worked tolerably well for Bill Clinton, and John and Robert Kennedy, and for other candidates for many, many years. They call it a primary election. For democracy's sake, they might once again give it a try.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of *Hometown Communications*. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.



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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 1A

Thursday, October 23, 2003

MONEY MATTERS

Should you pay off your mortgage with a home equity loan?

Homeowners have long known that home equity loans and home equity lines of credit (HELOCs) are good for financing home improvement projects and eliminating high-rate unsecured debt, but they're also discovering they serve another function: loans and lines are an attractive way to retire a small mortgage.

Which borrowers could benefit from replacing their mortgage with a home equity loan or line of credit? Homeowners who owe less than \$30K on a primary mortgage and who balk at the idea of paying thousands of dollars in closing costs and fees for a lower-interest five-year mortgage, that is, if they can find a lender that's willing to issue a short-term mortgage.

One of the advantages of taking out a home equity loan or HELOC is that you'll likely pay much less in closing costs than you would in a mortgage refinancing. And your interest rate may be lower than it would be for a traditional short-term mortgage. Another advantage — the interest you pay on both a home equity loan and a HELOC is tax deductible. Consider the following examples from the latest issue of Home and Family Finance.

Say you're now paying 6.5 percent on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage for \$100,000, with monthly interest and principal payments of \$632. And you still have five-plus years of payments and an unpaid balance of \$32,320. If you take out a home equity loan with a five-year fixed interest rate of 5 percent, your monthly payment — interest and principal — will be \$610. You'll realize a \$22 savings each month and an overall savings of \$1,347 over the life of the loan.

On the other hand, if you refinance the loan at 5 percent for five years, any interest savings you'd hope to enjoy by refinancing at a lower interest rate will be eaten up by closing costs.

Loan or HELOC

Which is better? If you choose to pay off your mortgage with a HELOC, say with an interest rate of 4 percent, you'll trim an additional \$15 off your payment each month and you'll realize a savings of over \$2,200 over five years. HELOCs, unlike home equity loans, typically have a variable interest rate. (Financial service providers often link the rate to an index, such as the prime rate, which rises and falls.) A HELOC interest rate starts out relatively low, which makes them look more attractive than home equity loans, but over time they begin to nudge upward. There's typically a cap on how much the interest rate can rise each adjustment period, and over the life of the loan.

If, for example, your rate adjusts a half-percent every quarter, and the lifetime cap is 6 percent, your 4-percent rate could climb to as high as 10 percent in just three years. Another consideration, HELOCs have a longer repayment period than home equity loans, often 15 years. To realize savings, you'll need the self-discipline to pay the balance off in five years. If you take longer, you'll pay more in interest over the life of the loan.

Other considerations — If you want to pay off your mortgage in five years at a lower interest rate than the 6.5 percent you're paying now, but neither a home equity loan nor a HELOC appeals to you, consider taking a 15-year mortgage and prepay your principal to pay off your balance in five years. (But before you start prepaying the mortgage, review your loan documents to make sure you won't be slapped with prepayment penalties.) You'll likely reap the same interest savings you would with a short-term mortgage, but the downside is you'll probably have to pay a couple of thousand dollars in closing costs. Unless, of course, you find a lender that will pay your closing costs in exchange for a slightly higher interest rate.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mcul.org.

ADVERTORIAL



Photo by Jim Farkas

The enthusiastic and professional staff (from left to right): Sandy, Dawn, Tracy and proprietors Vicky and Jim Serra in front of their beautiful, 4,000-square-foot showroom.

Expert service, wide array of choices make shopping easy at Serra

James C. Farkas
SPECIAL WRITER

Long gone are South Lyon's dirt roads, replaced by pavement. Miles and miles of farmland have now become new subdivisions. So, too, the more than three-decades-old Serra's paint, wallpaper and upholstery business that has evolved into Serra Floor Covering.

Jim Serra started out in the heart of downtown South Lyon in 1972. As the community grew, so did Serra Floor Covering. About five

years ago, they expanded to their new 4,000-square-foot showroom and warehouse located on Pontiac Trail between Eight and Nine Mile roads. This beautiful, relatively-new facility is a showcase for all the latest floor coverings from carpet, hardwood, vinyl and laminate. They carry an extensive line of window coverings as well as area rugs to complement any home or business decor.

It's interesting to note that Jim and his wife, Vicky, met 23 years ago while attending a floor covering convention. Jim had already established his business in South Lyon, and she was working for a floor covering business on the eastside. Both are natives of the Detroit area.

Vicky joined her husband in the business in 1982 while raising three daughters, Andree, 21; Renee, 19; and Tori, 16. While Tori is a senior in high school, both Andree and Renee attend Central Michigan University, and all three help out in the store during vacations, holidays and weekends. The Serra family is well-known in the community and consider themselves an integral part of the South Lyon lifestyle. They are active members of the Chamber of Commerce and Jim is a Downtown Development Authority member. They have always been active in the South Lyon school district supporting teams, bands and theater groups as well as other local and community events.

"So much has changed over the years in the floor covering industry," said Vicky, "with all the mergers of large and smaller companies. The competition amongst manufacturers is fierce. However, it's the consumer that benefits."

"Due to technology, carpets are now softer, more durable and easier to clean. There is improved padding that will actually extend the life of your carpet and even a padding that contains an odor-eater for pet-owners. There are vinyls that do not discolor as easily and laminates that give the appearance of real hardwood and ceramic tile. Hardwood surfaces come in a wide array of colors, woods and widths, prefinished with a first-coat of aluminum oxide which adds another level of protection against dents and wear-through, said Vicky.

There is such a wide selection to choose from whether you are thinking of carpet, hardwood, vinyl or laminate. It requires someone with the expertise and knowl-

edge of all the innovations that have taken place in recent years to assist in your selection.

Jim and Vicky attend industry seminars and conventions on a regular basis to keep their customers informed of all the latest product improvements.

"We believe dealing locally with a smaller business has many advantages over the larger and sometimes not-so-convenient mega stores," said Vicky. "We have a knowledgeable, professional and courteous staff who take a personal interest in each and every customer as compared to the mega store where it is sometimes difficult to find someone who wants to help you let alone being knowledgeable and experienced in floor covering. Then you have to deal with installation and warranty which can sometimes be a problem."

"Our reputation in the community is our number one priority, and a large percentage of our business comes from referrals. Therefore, we will bend over backwards to be sure our customers are pleased with their purchase, installation and service."

"Besides the manufacturer's warranty, we include a one-year warranty on installation, and our prices are competitive. As an added convenience, we offer six months same as cash," said Vicky. "Once the customer has visited our showroom, we will go to their home for a field measurement and give them a guaranteed price quote for the complete job," she added.

In addition to residential customers interested in replacing old, worn floor coverings, Serra Floor Covering works with builders and their homebuyers as well as commercial businesses and offices.

You'll discover all the recognizable brand names in carpets from Shaw, Mohawk, Milliken and Gullistan featuring Stainmaster, Anso Nylon and Wear-Dated Fiber. In hardwoods, popular names like prefinished Bruce,

DETAILS
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Phone: (248) 437-2838
Fax: (248) 437-7333
www.serrafloorcovering.com
Hours: M-T-W-F - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thurs - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Muskoka and Somerset. In the laminates and vinyls there is Armstrong, Congoleum and Mannington. All styles and types of window coverings from Hunter-Douglas and Graybar. The unique area rugs in varying sizes, colors and patterns come from suppliers in Georgia and as far away as Egypt.

In addition to Jim and Vicky and their daughters, there is a staff of four salespeople. Sandy, who is the new recruit; Dawn who has been with them four years; Shariess, 16 years; and Joan a remarkable 25 years! There is Tracy, their competent bookkeeper for six years; and in the warehouse is the young and strong Darlene.

Of course, the selection is only 50 percent of the sale. The other 50 percent is in the competent and qualified hands of their installation crews who are not satisfied until their job is done to the customer's satisfaction.

Serra Floor Covering is proud to have received the coveted South Lyon Herald People's Choice Award on two separate occasions.

If you're tired of looking at that dingy, worn carpet in your home or business, or you're new to the area and building a home that needs window coverings as well as floor coverings, or maybe just a big area rug for under the diningroom table, your first stop will be your last stop when you visit Serra Floor Covering in South Lyon.



Photo by Jim Farkas

Proprietors Jim and Vicky Serra explain the different Oriental weaves, colors and sizes available in area rugs to complement and protect your floors.

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Novi competes with state's elite

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Now that's one heck of a finish.

The Novi Wildcats girls tennis team, led by coach Jim Hanson, showed that they deserved all of the nods they received in the rankings this year as they fought to an applaud-worthy, fifth-place finish in the state of Michigan's Lower Peninsula tennis finals.

"The girls played some outstanding tennis," Hanson said. "They played extremely well and competed at the hardest level this sport has to offer. I am very proud of my kids."

The Wildcats collected 15 points to finish in fifth place in Division I, while Troy took first with an impressive 28. Second went to a very strong Ann Arbor Pioneer team with 23 points, Grosse Pointe South tied for third with Midland Dow with 19 points.

"We had four flights go to the semi-finals," Hanson said. "Out of those four, three of them lost to the eventual state champion."

One such flight was fourth singles, Diana Ticu, a sophomore, was seeded first in the tournament and played strong throughout the day. After earning a bye in the first round, Ticu took on and defeated Port Huron Northern's Ashley Hinton 6-1, 6-4 before edging out a very strong Stehannie Kossaras from St. Johns in three sets, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. In the semi-final round, Ticu finally fell to a surprise state champion in Rachel Hovatta, who hails from Midland Dow. The final of the match was 6-4, 6-3.

"Diana has been playing some extremely good tennis this year," Hanson said. "She was undefeated until her first loss of the season in the semi-finals of the state tournament. That's a season she should be very, very proud of."

The fourth doubles team of Lauren Thomas and Becky Thomson found themselves seeded in first place as well in the state finals. Their march to

the semi-finals was an impressive one. In their first match of the day, which was the second round, Thomas and Thomson pounded out a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Jean Kim and Risha Kotecha of Midland Dow before beating Port Huron Northern's Diana Haidar and Ashley Schneider 6-1, 6-1. In the semi-final round, the Wildcat duo fell to second-place finishers and third-seeded Amelia Eaton and Sophia Zhou 6-4, 6-4.

In first doubles, Colene Brockman and Emily Holt found themselves with a second-seed and a lot of top teams to contend with. After a first-round bye, the girls went to work. Their first victory came in the form of a 6-2, 6-2 drubbing of Romeo's Kerry Serecky and Sarah Stonehouse before they advanced to top Troy's Sarah Campian and Sara Suckstorf 6-2, 6-3. The following match didn't have such a happy ending though, and the girls fell to the fourth-seeded and eventual state champion Traverse City Central duo of Alex Alward and Christine Milliken, 6-1, 6-2.

"If you can beat my first doubles team, then you have a great doubles team," Hanson said. "Colene and Emily make a great doubles pair, and they played some great tennis this year. Colene has played some great tennis through her entire career, and was a four-time KVC champion."

Anna Switzer had a great showing at third singles. The senior was awarded a first-round bye and then proceeded to fight her way over fourth-seeded Kari Larson of Ann Arbor Huron for a 7-5, 6-1 victory before topping Port Huron Northern's Kelsie DeGrow 6-3, 6-0. In the semi-finals, Switzer couldn't hold on and fell to top-seeded Jessica Leonard of Grosse Pointe South, who went on to win the flight championship, 6-0, 6-2.

"Anna never quits fighting," Hanson said. "She's always been that way and that's her

Continued on B3



Photo by John Hoeder

Novi's Anna Switzer uses her backhand to return a shot to her Northville opponent Chelsea Johnston in their late-August match. Switzer proved she is one of the toughest players in the state with some impressive play at the MHSAA state finals.

Count on a good contest

It's that time of year again and there's really no way you can't call it the game of the week.

The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats will be squaring off on the gridiron tomorrow night at Novi High School with a kick-off slated at 6:55 p.m.

When these two teams play, emotions run high and football is at its finest. I absolutely think this is always the best game of the season, no matter what the records are or who the players are.



Sam Eggleston

I have a feeling that 2003 isn't going to be any different. I expect a hard-fought game with plenty of impressive plays on both sides of the ball. And what kinds of plays do I expect? Plenty of passing, plenty of running and plenty of hard hits.

When it comes to football, both of these teams have some impressive players out there on the field. Northville will go to Novi High School with a slew of big mules up front who are looking to open some holes for junior Mac Stille. And they'll want to keep out the Wildcats with some good pass blocking to give Mark Sorenson some time to pick apart the defense by hitting receivers like Mike Jansson.

Novi, on the other hand, has four of the best receivers in the Kensington Valley Conference in Mark Angelocci, Joey Fratto, Kerry Kreuzberg and Trevor Hoover. Throwing to them? None other than Mike Hart.

On the defensive side of the ball, both teams have a solid corps of linebackers and a decent group of defensive backs. Both defensive lines have the ability to shut down the run, but Novi's has the edge when it comes to speed and running down the plays that try to hit the ends.

The defense is what both of these teams pride themselves in, so don't expect to see too many touchdowns scored in this contest. In fact, I wouldn't expect more than 40 or so points to be scored in the game as a total.

And if this game comes down to a field goal? Well, both teams have some stellar kickers in Northville's Bill Brown and Novi's Angelocci. Both can hit the field goals, and Angelocci is hoping for a chance to hit a 48-yard attempt to set his school's record if he gets the chance.

I wish the best of luck to both of these teams. Play good, clean games and it's going to be a good time for all. I am, however, not going to try to predict a winner in this one. I learned my lesson about picking winners between Novi and Northville a long time ago.

We here at the *Northville Record* and the *Novi News* hope to see a good game from all, and look forward to awarding the winning team a chance to hoist the Baseline Jug.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats Football

BASELINE JUG

Friday, October 24
6:55 p.m. at Novi

Wildcat linksters play take a number

Long days don't equal good golf, as Novi finds out in finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It wasn't the showing Brad Huss was hoping to see out of his Wildcats - but what could he expect out of a match that lasts over seven hours?

The Wildcats golf team had to struggle through those conditions as they found themselves shooting a 326 on the first day - a score that failed to move them up into the top 13 schools for the second day of competition.

"With difficult playing conditions and an excruciatingly slow pace of play, the round took a little over seven hours with waits as long as 40 minutes between holes," Huss said. "That was frustrating because

even though we worked very hard this season to prepare for this big meet, we did not expect to have a seven-hour match."

Huss said that it was near impossible to prep for such a grueling playing environment. "There is no way to prepare someone for such a thing," he said. "A very, very slow round takes six hours. Some of the kids just couldn't stay focused that long, and it's hard to blame them, I know I couldn't."

It ended up being just one stroke that cost the Novi Wildcats a qualifying score, and they finished for a tie in 14th-place in the state with Brighton and Holt.

"Not bad, but it could have been so much better," Huss said.

Winning the state finals with a two-day score of 636 (300-336) were the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks. Taking second and third were Saline and Muskegon. Mona Shores, respectively.

Qualifying for second-day competition as individuals were Brandon Cigna and Eric Aytes.

"After day one, all players within seven shots of the low round qualified and the cutoff was 78," Huss said. "Brandon shot a 75 and Eric was on the cut with a 78."

The second day proved much more challenging than the first, but not quite as slow. The major obstacle was a 35-mile-per-hour wind that howled over The Meadows Golf Course at Grand Valley State University, not to mention the greens were double-cut and the pin placements were tough as well.

"Brandon hit the ball beauti-

fully, but three-putted too many times and shot an 80," Huss said. "His two-day total of 155 put him in sixth-place overall."

Aytes also had a good day, shooting a 78 on the first day and an 86 on day two for a 164.

"Eric shot 86, which was about average," Huss said. "I've never seen such high numbers in a state meet."

Huss noted that it was the first year the Michigan High School Athletic Association had used The Meadows as a state finals course.

"I believe they need to seriously reconsider," Huss said of future state finals locations. "Every coach I talked to complained about the course and the setup."

The Wildcats found their total coming from a 75 from Cigna on day one, while Aytes shot a 78. R.J. Makoski recorded an 86 on the day, Mark Eberline shot an 87 and Brett

Jaussi carded an 88.

Novi finds itself in a situation where they will be graduating a number of players who are seniors this year.

"I will truly miss all of my seniors," Huss said. "Jesse Lachman, Avi Sridharan, Terry Welsh and James Peurach didn't get the opportunity to play often in matches, but they are all great kids and true team players."

Huss noted that he was very satisfied with the talent his seniors brought to the team - including those who didn't get as much playing time as he would have liked to see them get.

"On any other team, they all would have started in the top six," Huss said. "I appreciate their efforts and I wish I could have done more for them."

Also graduating will be

Continued on B3

Trevor Hoover Senior Football



Hoover made the long trip back to Pinckney to play in his old hometown, in front of his old fans and against his old team. The difference? Instead of watching the game from the sidelines like he did last year in Pinckney, Hoover was instrumental in the 45-6 win over the Pirates the Wildcats were able to engineer.



Athletes OF THE Week

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Ashley Glover Senior Tennis

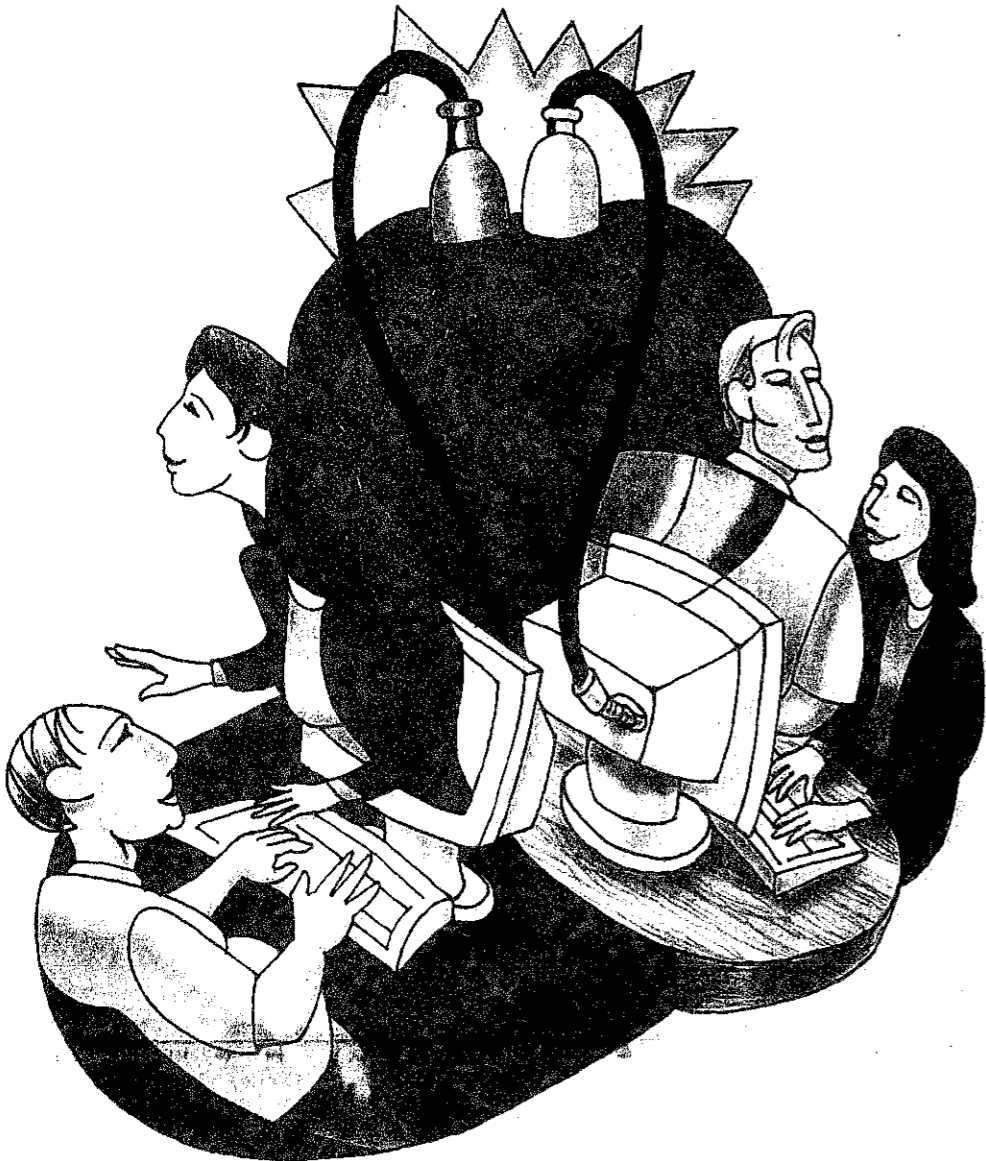
Though she didn't go the furthest in the state finals, Glover has been a major part of Novi Wildcat tennis for the past four years. Her contributions at first singles

have not gone un-noticed, and coach Jim Hanson only has very positive things to say about his player that has to take on the best that each team has to offer each week.

TECHNOLOGY

HomeTown Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com



Computers, color printers make counterfeiting easy

By Derek P. Jensen

While identity theft keeps law enforcement agencies increasingly busy with unraveling name scams, the computer has also revolutionized one of the oldest crimes in the book: counterfeiting.

Finding love, virtually

A multitude of Web sites offer the ability to connect you to that special someone

Finding a compatible date would be easier if romance seekers could read minds. Is she single? What religion is he? Do we have any common interests? How much money does he make?

"It really takes no work whatsoever," Odea said. "I guess the worst thing is that it's really kind of a crapshoot."

Clicking for dates

Thinking of taking a dip in the online dating pool? Dating Web sites are as varied as the people who use them.



Photo by Maria J. Avila / SHS

The EarthRoamer XV-LT. \$150,000 EarthRoamer comes loaded with luxury

By Gargi Chakrabarty SCRAPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE The creators of EarthRoamer XV-LT, a big four-wheel expedition vehicle, are looking for adventurous buyers.

"I think if you actually asked a lot of young people, they would tell you that they can't find anybody, and so they don't necessarily perceive that they have such a big pool of people as approachable."

"I think it's a good supplemental form of dating. I don't think anybody should seriously consider using online dating to replace going out and talking to real people, but it's fun. I'll probably play around with it, see what happens."

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EarthRoamer specs
A partial list of the truck's specifications:
■ Two 255 amp-hour marine batteries
■ 2,000-watt inverter
■ 6.0-cubic-foot compressor refrigerator/freezer
■ 6,000-Btu air conditioner
■ 1.5-cubic-foot microwave oven
■ 100-gallon fresh water supply
■ Dual fresh water filtration system
■ 25-gallon gray water holding tank
■ Enclosed bathroom/shower

HEALTH & FITNESS

HomeTown Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

Modern science Vampire bat may be key to stroke treatment

By Jenni Laidman

A vampire bat may be the key to saving your life. The Medical College of Ohio is one of 16 hospitals nationwide testing a stroke treatment based on vampire bat saliva.

While tPA effectively reduces permanent damage from strokes caused by blood clots, its use is limited. A patient who reports to the emergency room more than three hours after a stroke cannot take the drug.

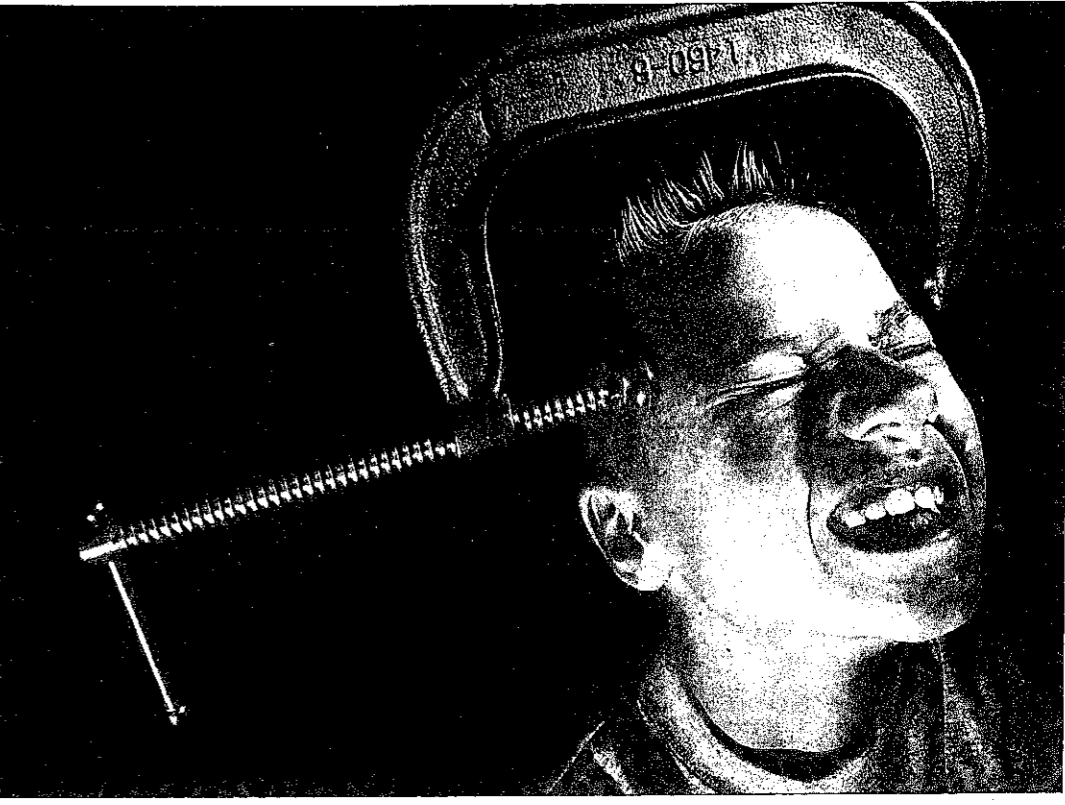


Photo illustration by Mary Calvano/Scrapps Howard News Service

SPLITTING HEADACHES Kids suffer from migraines, too, doctors say

By Susan Glairon

The lightheaded feeling warns Austin Williamson that it's coming. Then come the floating spots before his eyes, the pounding, throbbing pain in his head: the nausea.

Rountree says when treating migraines, the first approach is to identify the trigger and eliminate it. He recommends kids try an elimination diet where they go off wheat, corn, dairy, eggs and nuts for three weeks to determine the triggers.

There's a misconception that migraine headaches only occur in adults, says Dr. Alan Scay, who runs the Pediatric Neurology and Headache Clinic in Denver. Studies show that migraines — pulsing headaches — occur in 3 percent to 10 percent of children under age 18.

Some of the newer daily medications work to prevent migraines, while others are taken at the time of a migraine to relieve pain. Other methods such as relaxation techniques and biofeedback are also used to help control pain, as well as some herbal remedies that are on the market.

Ultra-fast diagnostic scan gains greater acceptance

By Lisa Marshall

Fifty-four-year-old Jerry Fultz walked into Colorado Heart and Body Imaging in Boulder with a nagging worry on his mind. His father and brothers all suffered from coronary disease, and just three weeks earlier his 47-year-old cousin had dropped dead of a heart attack.

At Colorado Heart and Body Imaging, a patient lies fully clothed on a moving table slowly ushers him through a tube-like device. Behind him, a giant gun shoots a beam of electrons to a series of rings surrounding the patient, releasing a fan of low-magnation X-rays that take pictures of the organ or organs.



X-ray technician John Serburn instructs patient Jerry Fultz about how to position his hands and how to breathe during a heart scan at Colorado Heart and Body Imaging.

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FOR BREAST HEALTH

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AWARENESS**

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3. Have a baseline mammogram by age 40. (A mammogram is a low dose x-ray that can find cancer too small to be found by hand.)

Between 40 and 49 years old:

1. Examine your breasts monthly
2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
3. Have a mammogram every 1 to 2 years.

Age 50 and over:

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2. Have a breast exam by your doctor every year.
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Breast Cancer Facts

➤ Breast Cancer is the second major cause of cancer death in women. ➤ The risk of breast cancer increases with age. ➤ Mammography is the best way of detecting breast cancer in the earliest stages. ➤ Women who have a personal or family history of breast cancer have an increased risk. ➤ A majority of women have one or more risk factors for breast cancer. ➤ Although women may not be able to alter their personal risk factors, maintaining a healthy weight and reducing alcohol consumption may offer some risk in breast cancer risk. ➤ Early detection is the best opportunity to reduce mortality. ➤ Today, the relative survival for early breast cancer is 97%. As breast cancer invades other areas of the body, chances for survival decrease to 76% for regional spread and 21% for spread to other parts of the body.

