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The night before the shooting, Lydia Nowos testified she drove to Holly Township to meet Hockenberry, 31, and discuss a possible reconciliation.

The two talked for awhile and went out to eat around midnight. After that, Lydia Nowos testified that Hockenberry forced her to strip and demanded she make love to him to see if she had been with anyone else.

"He told me to strip so he could see signs of evidence," she testified. "I didn't want to, but he told me he wanted to test me. He said he wanted to check if I had been with anyone else. He said he'd know."

Somewhere up north

Hours later, Hockenberry told Lydia Nowos that he planned to take her and their daughter somewhere in northern Michigan so they could attempt a fresh start.

"I was more afraid at that point than I've ever been in my life," she testified. "I knew if I went up north with him, I'd never come back."

Hockenberry followed Lydia Nowos to her parents' house in Rochester Hills, where she was staying with Holly. They arrived around 5:30 a.m. as Hockenberry sat in his pickup truck and gave her 20 minutes to pack her belongings.

Lydia Nowos said the commotion woke her parents and her sisters, Monica and Alicia. Her father, Edmund Nowos, testified he took out his .22-caliber rifle to protect his family.

Warning her family that Hockenberry would "kill everyone" if she didn't leave, Lydia Nowos grabbed Holly and left through the front door with Edmund Nowos following behind her.

She testified her sister, Monica Nowos, must have slipped out the back door.

Wearing a pair of red pajamas, Monica Nowos walked barefoot through the snow toward Hockenberry's truck. Lydia Nowos testified she saw her sister carrying a shotgun "like a suitcase or something."

Lydia Nowos said she never saw her sister shoot the gun. But she did hear the blast.

"I saw Mike's truck moving, but I couldn't see him because the windows were foggy," she testified. "I looked at the window and it looked like a flash, like a glow or a sphere. And I was wondering what that was."

"It lasted for a second or so, and a moment later I heard the shot."

Dead from blast
Dr. Waldemar Palutke, deputy medical examiner for Oakland County, said the blast from the



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN BRONCKOWSKI

Court talk: Prosecutor Cheryl Matthews (second from left) speaks with Chris Coher, sister of Michael Hockenberry, and his father, Laurence Hockenberry, at the exam for Monica Nowos.

12-gauge shotgun killed Hockenberry within minutes.

When questioned by Matthews, Lydia Nowos said she was "pretty sure" it was her sister who shot and killed her husband.

Lydia Nowos testified her sister later passed her note that said, "He was going to kill us." Other than that, she said the two never discussed the shooting.

Nicholson bound Monica Nowos over for trial on one count of open murder and a second count of felony firearm possession. She's scheduled for arraignment in circuit court at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, before

Judge Jessica Cooper.

Michael Hockenberry's father, Lawrence, wrote out a prepared statement that said his son was actually the abused victim and that Lydia Nowos was constantly stalking him.

'The bond's ridiculous'

After the exam, Matthews said she plans to file an appeal in circuit court to revoke a \$250,000 bond that was set for Monica Nowos and allows her to remain free under house arrest.

"The bond's ridiculous," Matthews said. "How can you argue self-defense against an unarmed man?"

John Brake, Hockenberry's cousin, also filed a complaint

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Lydia Nowos

—sister of suspect

with the Judicial Tenure Commission against Rochester Hills Magistrate Robert Badgley.

State law prohibits Badgley from representing clients in the 62-3 District. In his complaint, Brake said Badgley improperly represented the Nowos family

for several hours after the shooting.

Badgley admitted talking to the Nowos family, but said he quickly told them to contact another attorney once he realized there was a potential conflict of interest.



Having her say: Hockenberry's widow, Lydia, testifies.

Fee to be charged at Art & Apples

BY SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

Organizers of the annual Art & Apples festival will charge a \$3 admission to the event this fall for the first time in its 22-year history.

But most Rochester residents will get into the two-day cultural event free. The city plans to distribute free admission coupons to Rochester residents through its quarterly newsletter. Each coupon will admit two residents.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts, which sponsors the popular arts festival, also plans to allow senior citizens, age 65 and over, and children, age 12 and under, to enter without charge.

"This will raise money for Paint Creek and for the city. It's a win-win situation," said Betty Ruedisueli, center director.

The city will get \$1 and Paint Creek Center will get \$2 of every paid admission.

The city plans to spend its portion on park improvements.

City council set the fee Monday. It will review the idea in two years.

Reaction was mixed.

Mayor Tom Werth, Ann Marie Boyce, Karen Lewis and Robert Head supported the idea.

David Kattulic and Bob Lytle voted against it.

David Becker abstained because his wife is employed by Dinosaur Hill, one of the community recreation areas that will benefit from the city's portion of the fee.

"If I were to vote on it, I would support a \$3 fee, but with an extremely heavy heart," Becker said, urging free admission for Rochester residents.

He noted that an admission fee for non-residents will provide "better support for our parks."

That's why Werth favors the idea.

"I'm afraid we're going to find ourselves in a difficult situation trying to adequately budget what I could consider one of the crown jewels of this community."

In the past, Werth has suggested park user fees for non-Rochester residents.

"Now you're faced with costs in the parks and Proposal A restricting the amount of revenue generated from BEV," added City Manager Ken Johnson.

He said the Art & Apples admission fee may avoid the need for a future millage increase to pay

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Betty Ruedisueli
—center director

for park upkeep and improvements.

"A few people may say you're ruining a good thing, but you can't even go to a Rochester Hills park without paying a fee," Johnson added. He also urged the council to consider the \$3 admission as an event fee rather than park entrance cost.

Other portions of municipal park will be open free of charge during the festival on Sept. 6 and 7.

"I agree with Ken's statement that it's not for the use of the park but for an event," Head explained. "And it's not unusual to pay a fee to an event."

But that argument didn't convince Kattulic and Lytle.

"I look at this as a shining light in Rochester. It's one of those fresher things that people have become accustomed to," Lytle noted. "I'm not convinced the art commission can't generate that money some other way."

Kattulic said he's concerned that admission to a public park would benefit the "private sector."

Paint Creek Center for the Arts is a non-profit community organization that offers art classes and sponsors exhibits and other cultural events.

Ruedisueli said about 1,300 artists across the country have applied for a chance to rent one of Art & Apples' 300 exhibitor booths.

The festival started in 1965 as a four-day, every other year event. Ruedisueli said organizers added a fundraising dimension to the festival in 1982 when Paint Creek Center for the Arts opened.

But it's more than just a fundraiser.

"We have three purposes there. One is to bring a high quality cultural program to the community," Ruedisueli explained.

Community involvement is another. Non-profit civic groups raise funds for their own causes by staffing food and beverage booths at the festival.

"Our third is to raise funds to support Paint Creek Center for the Arts."

Kids author to visit library

Children's author Steven Krull will visit the Rochester Hills Public Library, 500 Old Town Road, Wednesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.

60 books for children, beginning with the publication of "Is Milton Missing?" in 1975. Most of the major holidays have been touched by Krull's pen: "The Biggest Pumpkin Ever," "One Tough Turkey," "Big Bunny" and

more. Tickets, available in the Youth Room of the library, are required to meet Krull. Krull's books will be available for purchase the evening of March 19

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