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THURSDAY
November 16, 2006

WESTLAND Observer

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City conducts meeting on park contamination

Officials expected to explain situation, hear residents' comments, concerns

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Under fire for failing to earlier disclose elevated levels of lead in Central City Park, Westland city leaders have called a public meeting today to address the controversy. City and county officials are expected to explain the situation and hear comments from

concerned citizens during the meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. at Westland City Hall on Ford Road east of Newburgh. Mayor Sandra Cicirelli was hopeful that a representative from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality also will attend the meeting to field questions, although she wasn't certain. Cicirelli closed the park on Nov. 4, but she

has drawn criticism for failing to earlier announce that soil tests indicated elevated levels of lead, particularly on the western ball-fields. Tina Taylor - a parent, former resident and licensed daycare provider in Westland - has joined the list of critics who feel betrayed by city leaders. "The city park was a favorite place to visit for my children and the many children that I cared for in my daycare," Taylor, now of Allendale, wrote to the *Observer*. "I find it frustrating that we, as 10-year citizens, were never notified that the park was a former dump site. ... This, alone, would have raised my concern about ever

allowing my babies and small children to play at ground level." New developments continued to unfold this week as city officials prepared for today's public meeting. Reversing its position again, the Wayne County Health Department confirmed Tuesday that it will test for lead in both children and adults at its facility on the northwest corner of Van Born and Venoy roads. A spokeswoman said the tests will be done on Thursdays at no cost. For more information, call (734) 727-7100.

PLEASE SEE PARK, A6

Glenn food drive helps Salvation Army

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It looked like a trip to the grocery store gone wild. Cases of Ramen noodles stacked six high lined the wall and boxes and bags filled with canned and dry goods were scattered helter-skelter around the floor.

In the middle of it all stood members of the John Glenn High School Student Council, working makeshift assembly lines packing the food into larger boxes.

"Monday we counted and got most of that done. Tuesday, we're basically packing it up, getting it out of the bags into boxes," said senior Kija Colts.

"We counted everything then pushed it against the wall," added fellow senior Bemontai Johnson.

The food was collected during second-hour classes last week as part of an annual Student Council-sponsored food drive to benefit the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps.

The classroom with the most food receives bagels and doughnuts. Second place gets cupcakes and third place candy bars.

The drive lasted for eight days - Nov. 6-13 - and Student Council members used the fifth- and sixth-hour classes on Monday to go from room to room collecting the food.

"When we went to Mrs. (Amanda) Laidlaw's room, it

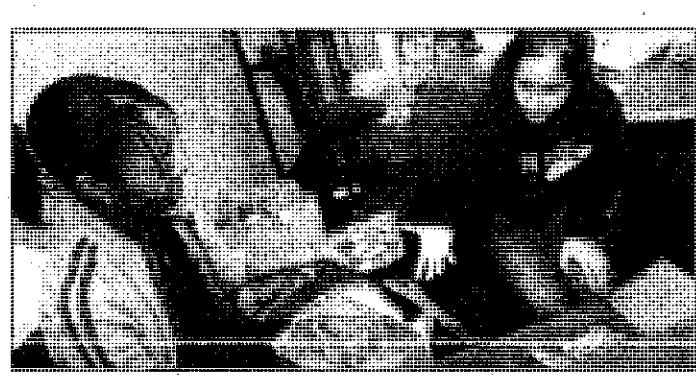


PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn Student Council member Kija Colts (foreground), a senior, carries a box filled with canned goods that's being donated to the Salvation Army. Helping pack up the donations by students at the high school are junior David Sumlin (from left), senior Bemontai Johnson and ninth-grader Lauren Baker.

was crazy," said Colts. "It took three trips. When we went to the next room, we heard they had a lot of cans, so we took both teams and three carts."

There was Jell-O, canned soup, vegetables and fruit, tuna, crackers and cereal as well as heavy amounts of Ramen noodles, a popular donation because of their portability. "We had one student bring in 1,300 packs of Ramen noo-



John Glenn junior Justine Easter (left) and sophomore Asra Najam pack boxes with canned food and dry goods for a Wednesday pickup by the Salvation Army.

PLEASE SEE FOOD, A7

Marine recalled as a 'great guy'

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The flag-draped coffin of Marine Sgt. Bryan Burgess of Canton Township was expected at Detroit Metropolitan Airport today (Thursday), escorted by six Marines who will stand by his side until funeral services and burial Saturday.

Burgess, 35, was killed last week in Iraq by a sniper while on patrol with the 1st Battalion of the 24th Marines in Fallujah.

"They were doing a typical security mission checking vehicles, stopping and searching for weapons," said Gunnery Sgt. Steven Kosinski of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines in Perrysburg, Ohio. "The machine gunner keeps watch, and it was at that point where Sgt. Burgess was shot by a sniper while observing his checks."

Kosinski said military reports indicated Burgess died instantly from the wound. A Purple Heart ceremony is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Friday during visitation at Griffin Funeral Home in Westland.

"The Marines will present some of the awards Sgt. Burgess earned in Iraq and the Marine Corps, and the Purple Heart is one of them," Kosinski said. "They will be presented to his mother and father."

Burgess will be buried with full military honors after a



Sgt. Bryan Burgess

Saturday morning funeral Mass at St. Bernardine of Siena Catholic Church in Westland.

MOTHER'S FEARS

His mother, Evelyn Burgess of Westland, said she knew right away something terrible happened when three Marines showed up at the front door of her home.

"I knew something was wrong; I knew he was gone," Burgess, 61, said about being notified her only child was killed by a sniper's bullet.

Bryan Burgess lived with a roommate the past several

PLEASE SEE MARINE, A6

Field narrows to 4 candidates for library director's position

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Following a nationwide search, officials hope to hire a new Westland library director within weeks.

The Westland Library Board called in four candidates for interviews, and board secretary Daniel Bourdeau indicated Monday that the field could soon be narrowed to two hopefuls. "Our strong desire within the board would be to have a director in place before the New Year," he said.

The board is searching for a director to replace John Patane, who was fired in a 3-2 vote

in May amid allegations he improperly deleted patron fines, used a library credit card, proposed pay raises beyond approved levels and filled jobs without advertising them.

The board hired Ohio-based consultant Larry Corbus in August to help with the search, and Corbus confirmed Tuesday that nearly 30 candidates have applied for the position.

"That's a pretty good number," he said, saying those who came in for interviews represented "a good mix" and a "high caliber" of candidates.

Those four include Susan Wess from the Manistee County Library in Manistee, Mich.; Hallie Silver from the Manitowoc Public Library in Manitowoc, Mich.; Susanna Davidsen from

the electronic Michigan eLibrary; and Clyde Scoles from the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in Toledo, Ohio.

The board has advertised a salary of up to \$84,864 for the next director. That compares to the \$70,000 that Patane was paid.

Patane became the second Westland library director hired within a two-year period. The facility's first director, Sandra Wilson, also lost support from a library board majority.

Some library patrons had worried that the firing of two directors could make it difficult to find a top-notch replacement for Patane, but Corbus said the search produced some quality candidates.

The library marked its 10th anniversary this month, and Bourdeau and Corbus commended employees for keeping the popular facility running smoothly as the search for a director continues.

"I think they've done a good job," Corbus said. Bourdeau said the library board had appointed a two-member interim management team of employees. He said the team has done "a spectacular job" of running the facility.

"All in all, we're very proud and pleased with how they're managing in the absence of a director," Bourdeau said.

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Coming Sunday in Health
Device assists patients awaiting a heart transplant.

Better late than never

80-year-old finally grabs high school diploma

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Charles Britton's high school diploma says he graduated in 1942.

He was actually supposed to graduate in 1944, but never did after missing a lot of school due to a broken leg and then joining the U.S. Marines.

He noticed the misprint a few weeks ago, when his wife and high school sweetheart surprised him with the high school diploma he never earned nearly 60 years ago.

Confused? It doesn't matter, because none of that matters to Britton, the 80-year-old

Plymouth Township resident who is now the proud holder of a high school diploma from Enfield, Ill., High School.

"The point is, I got it!" Britton declared. "I'm very proud of it, because it was hard to get."

Britton traveled a long road to becoming a high school graduate. Born in 1926 in rural Enfield, Ill., a farming community, Britton had to walk some eight miles to school.

That was fine with Britton until his junior year, when he broke his leg, rendering him unable to hobble the eight-mile trip. By the time the leg had healed, Britton figured

he'd missed too much school and, with permission from his parents, joined the U.S. Marines.

While training in San Diego, he saved a buddy from drowning during an exercise. Britton was sent overseas, where he drove amphibian tractors onto the islands of Peleleu and Okinawa.

Britton married his high school sweetheart, Marjorie Winter, and the couple moved to Michigan, where jobs in the auto industry were plentiful. The Britton's had five children, four of whom would become teachers in the area.

Daughters Linda and Jane retired after teaching in the Plymouth-Canton district; son Ken teaches special education in Westland; son Jim teaches physics in Livonia. A third son, Stan, is an accountant.

The kids came by their desire to teach honestly: Marjorie worked for years at Starkweather, Plymouth-Canton's alternative education school.

Her experience at Starkweather came in handy when Charles started making noises about wanting to get his high school diploma.

Marjorie knew a law in Michigan allowed former servicemen to get their diplomas; persistent digging dug up the same program in Illinois.

Marjorie made all the necessary calls and provided the necessary documentation, and Britton's life experience and military training did the rest.

"I tried to get him to take classes way back when, because I saw all kinds of other people going back to school,"



Charles Britton of Plymouth Township recently received his high school diploma - some 60 years after he would have graduated.

Marjorie said. "But he wasn't interested. All of a sudden, he just wanted it."

Officials in Illinois told Marjorie they'd get the diploma to her in the spring, but it got delayed until September. Marjorie sprung it on him for his 80th birthday.

The moment left an indelible impression on Britton's family.

"As his daughter, I speak for our entire family in congratulating him on this achievement," said Jane Patete. "We are very proud of his courage in battle, his honor to his country, his faithfulness to God, his commitment to family and, lastly, his pursuit of education."

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Dillon named next House speaker

Andy Dillon, who represents Redford Township, part of Livonia and part of Dearborn Heights in the Michigan House of Representatives, was elected Speaker of the House by his Democratic colleagues on Tuesday.

Dillon, who won a second House term last week, said he will emphasize job creation, schools and the environment during his House leadership, and will seek to overturn a 1996 law that gives drug companies immunity from product liability claims.

Democrats are set to take control of the state House when the 94th Legislature opens session in January. The Democrats won 58 of the 110 House seats in last week's election; Republicans retained control of the state Senate.

"As the next Speaker, I'm committed to working with all my colleagues in the 94th Legislature to get Michigan back on track," Dillon said. "I'm honored to have this



State Rep. Andy Dillon, D-Redford, speaks to reporters in the House chamber after fellow Democrats elected him Speaker of the House for the 94th Legislature, which will be seated in January.

responsibility, and we will work very hard to make sure Michigan is a great place to live, work, do business and

raise our families." Dillon will take over leadership of House Democrats from Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga,

who is term-limited. He will succeed Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, as Speaker of the House.

Bowling benefit helps teens fund China Trip

Two Westland teens will experience the thrill of lifetime when they visit China next summer. But to get there, they need to raise money to offset tuition and travel costs.

So Margo McClain and Scott James, eighth-graders at Emerson Middle School, will hold a bowling benefit noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at Wonderland Lanes in Livonia.

The fun-filled afternoon costs \$15 for three games and shoe rental. There also will be raffles and door prizes.

The two teens will visit China as part of People to People, a program initiated in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower who believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would nations.

The two students will be part of a contingent of some 30 delegates who will tour China. Participation in the program is by

invitation. Both are honor students. Scott is a competitive swimmer with the Bulldog Athletic Club, and Margo is an active participant in the Drama Club.

During the 17-day trip, they will receive an official Tang Dynasty welcome to Xian, visit Tiananmen Square and hike the Great Wall. Scott and Margo also will interact with other students, teach English during a home-stay with host families and participate in a ceremonial tea with the local residents.

They also will have the opportunity to build new skills in Chinese cooking, art, calligraphy and kung fu, study world economies and learn the effects of British and American policies on China's economy.

People interested in helping their dream come true can purchase tickets online by e-mail at bugsymclain583@cs.com or by calling (734) 261-4253.

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 Sunday, December 10, 3:00p & 7:30p

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 Ticket prices are \$13.75 and \$15.75 per seat depending on location. There are no refunds or exchanges.

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 Tickets are on sale NOW and can be purchased through Star Tickets Plus at 800.585.1717 or at www.starticketsonline.com.

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Please recycle this newspaper

28 teens vie for 2007 Junior Miss honors

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Lions, tigers and leopards will take over the stage of Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium on Saturday evening in a Safari Adventure that will end with the selection of the 2007 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss.

Twenty-eight young women, seniors at Wayne Memorial and John Glenn high schools, are competing in the program in hopes of representing the two communities at the state program in Alpena and hopefully the state at America's Junior Miss program in Mobile, Ala., next year.

And Pat Hermatz, who oversees the program, is delighted.

"We have 14 from Wayne and 14 from Glenn," Hermatz said. "We've never had 14 from Wayne Memorial, and I'm pretty happy about that."

This is the 40th year for the scholarship program, in which contestants are judged based on their scholastics, an interview with the judges and a talent routine. They also perform in an almost nine-minute long fitness routine for the poise portion of the program Saturday.

Judges will select the next Wayne-Westland Junior Miss and the runner-up who, depending on where she lives, will be either the Westland or Wayne Junior Miss. Both will advance to the state competition.

The winners will succeed Westland teen Kim Rutkowski, the 2006 Wayne-



Kim Rutkowski has had a busy year as the 2006 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss.

Westland Junior Miss, and Kelly Doerr, the 2006 Wayne Junior Miss.

In addition to the Junior Miss title, participants also compete for scholarship money raised through ads published in the program and ticket receipts. Last year, the program gave away some \$20,000 in scholarships.

Hermatz isn't saying how much will be awarded this year, only that all money raised, except for 1 cent, will be given out this year in preparation for the possible demise of the Wayne-Westland program.

Hermatz has been building the program since becoming co-chair with her husband, Dennis, 12 years ago. Currently, the only local pro-

gram in the state, its fate is tied in with a decision by the Wayne-Westland program's board to propose taking over the state Junior Miss program and bringing it down-state from Alpena.

Hermatz is waiting to hear from America's Junior Miss if the group will take over the state competition and is waiting to hear from someone interested in taking on the Wayne-Westland program. If the Wayne-Westland ceases operations, young women would be able to compete in the state program as at-large contestants and there would be no limit in how many teens from the two cities could compete. Hermatz had expressed an interest in the state program two years ago,

when there was a lot of turmoil with the national program, but put it on hold until she received a phone call from the national organization in late October, asking for a proposal.

She took the request to the local board, which decided it would "like to pursue it."

"We'd like to help get it back on its feet, even if it's for two or three years," she said.

The Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Stockmeyer Auditorium on Glenwood east of Wayne Road. Tickets are \$12 each and are available in advance at Wayne Lawn and Garden on Wayne Road south of Cherry Hill. They're also available at the door.



Kelly Doerr is completing her year as the 2006 Wayne Junior Miss.

THE 2007 PARTICIPANTS

Participating in the 2007 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Program are:

John Glenn High School seniors Jamie Allen, Natalie Bower, Jessica Burns, Adrienne Camung, Jana Dean, Amanda Femat, Karyn Fowler, Belinda Gee, Kayla German, Michelle Gutkowski, Alysa Lannoo, Alexa Larimore, Nkari Mandisa and Crystal Obiukawu.

Wayne Memorial High School seniors Kelsey Baker, Cara Bell, Ravynne Gilmore, Julie Good, Tracey Halabreda, Jessica Kay, Olivia LaFortune, Karissa Matson, Adrienne Meagher, Nichole Pierson, LeJohnna Reid, Nalisse Smith, Kayleigh Thorner and Bobbi Turner.

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*Limited time offer ends December 15, 2006 and applies only to selected suites at Brighton Gardens of Northville. Certain restrictions may apply.

Coffee Hour

State Rep. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland, will hold a local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 20, at the Westland Big Boy Restaurant, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.

Citizens are welcome to visit with Anderson and discuss issues and/or concerns.

Country breakfast

AMVETS Post 171 and its auxiliary will hold a country breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 26, at the hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill in Westland.

The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for kids up to age 12 for hash browns, pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, coffee and tea. Milk and juice will be available for an extra 50-cent charge.

Food fest

Holiday Taste Fest, featuring food and drink from 19 vendors, mostly restaurants, will come to the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Admission is \$20 per person for the event, sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

The Hellenic Cultural Center is on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

Tickets may be bought 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at chamber offices on Ford Road east of Newburgh. The event also will include entertainment.

For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Christmas Extravaganza

The Westland senior Friendship Center will hold its annual Christmas Extravaganza noon-3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at the center 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. with the Fabulous Fest served at noon. There will be an opportunity for pictures with Santa Claus, a sing-along with the Friendship Center Chorus, entertainment by the Tommie James Trio with Michael Carluccio and gifts.

Tickets are \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. They're on sale at the Friendship Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Grand opening

Westland residents are invited to get fit while helping the Gleaners Food Bank.

Fitzone for Women at 6531 N. Wayne Road is offering a free tanning session to residents who bring in three cans of food for Gleaners as part of its grand opening celebration 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16. Food, massages and facials also will be part of the event.

Fitzone features yoga, Pilates, ball blast, kick boxing, power step and personal training. For more information, call (734) 641-4300.

VFW events

VFW Post 3323 and its Ladies Auxiliary is holding a holiday craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be a snack bar, and vendors are still needed. Call Rich at (812) (734) 812-7978. The post also will start off the holiday season with a Red Cross blood drive 1-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24. Call the post at (734) 721-9876.

Annual bazaar

The Village of Westland will hold its annual bazaar and bake sale 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the senior community at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman, in Westland.

Card party

Ss. Simon and Jude Church will hold a holiday card party 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. Tickets cost \$7 and are available at the door. There will be door and table prizes, 50-50 raffle, light meal and snacks. Proceeds will go to the church building fund.

Scrapbooking event

Scrapbookers and picture people are invited to Another Hot Crop! and Holiday Open House 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Sponsored by the Westland Jaycees, the event allows scrapbookers the time and space to

devote to their scrapbooks and pick up new ideas, tips and techniques. Non-scrapbookers and beginners can learn how to preserve their memories and photos.

The cost is \$35 for the all day crop. It includes lunch and dinner, goody bag, cropping space and much more. Album supplies and tools will be available for purchase. The event will benefit the Westland Fire Department which is raising money to purchase a thermal imager.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call Lisa Graham at (734) 718-5705 or contact her by e-mail at Lisa.Graham@sbc-global.net.

Book sale

The Friends of the Library will

hold a book sale Dec. 8-10, at the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Holiday helpers

Community Hospice is seeking volunteers to help with its Tree of Memories holiday fund-raiser. Activities include setting up Christmas trees at local businesses, assembling mail pieces, and collecting donations at the Westland Shopping Center exhibit.

No experience necessary, just a desire to help others facing terminal illness. Training will be provided. For more information, call Vicki at (734) 522-4244.

Euchre games

Friday Night Euchre/Pinochle Card Parties start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernardine Parish in Westland. Doors open at 7 p.m. No partner is needed. Admission is \$5 admission includes refreshments, snacks and cash prizes. A 50/50 raffle also is available. The scheduled dates are Nov. 17, Dec. 1, 15, Jan. 7, 5 12, 26 and Feb. 2, 9, 16. For more information, call (734) 427-5150.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play Bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Praise and worship

Westwood Community Church holds praise and worship services at 10 a.m. Sundays at 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter in Westland. The church also offers a children's church and nursery. For more information, call (734) 254-0093.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon. Sugar free syrup will be available.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS

today thru Saturday, November 18

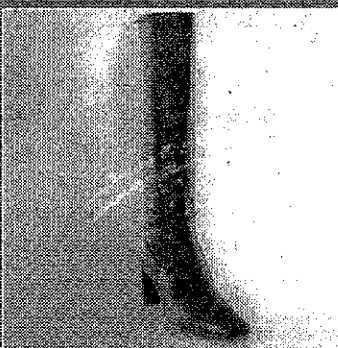


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Charity Event benefits United Home Health

United Home Health Services will hold its first annual Charity Event Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The festive evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a wine and cheese/dessert reception followed by a holiday concert by the 60-member Canton Concert Band at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds go to United's Patient Support Fund, which is used to provide home care to individuals who do not have medical insurance or whose needs go beyond the scope of insurance coverage. It also is used to provide emergency medications, food, clothing, transportation, and medical equipment to patients in need.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by contacting Mary Jane Swanson at United Home Health Services at (734) 981-8820.

Sponsorships also are available for this event. Donations can be sent to 2200 Canton Center

Road, Suite 250, Canton, MI 48187 or made by visiting the United Home Health Services Web site at www.uhhs.org.

United Home Health Services is Garden City Hospital's home care agency. A not-for-profit, Medicare-certified home health care agency, it has been serving the community for more than 23 years.

The agency provides home-based skilled nursing, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, home health aides, social work and registered dietitian services.

Specialty programs include heart failure program, telehealth, rehabilitation, wound care, IV therapy and psychiatric home care.

The agency is accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program and active in the National Association for Home Care and Michigan Home Health Association.

PARK

FROM PAGE A1

"They will test anybody," Cicirelli said after she, too, received confirmation of all-ages testing.

In another development, Cicirelli confirmed that results of new soil tests, conducted earlier this month, are expected during the week of Nov. 27.

Those tests could help to determine whether portions of the park could be reopened, Cicirelli said. Potentially, the results also could mean that certain areas, such as the ballfields, would be fenced off until remediation efforts are completed, she said.

Cicirelli said she has received an e-mail from MDEQ indicating that the playscape area is

"not an issue" for exposure to elevated levels of lead.

"We may be able to open that up very quickly," the mayor said Tuesday during a telephone interview, adding later, "It's a shame to have that whole park not used when there's only certain areas that had elevated levels of lead."

The worst contamination appears to be on the western ballfields, although Cicirelli said there is "one spot" on the park's soccer fields.

MDEQ officials have rejected at least three remediation plans submitted by county officials, Cicirelli said, but she said the city and county are pushing for a cleanup plan as soon as possible.

Some residents have contacted the *Observer* to say that a few children and adults have

continued to use the park, despite signs that it is temporarily closed.

"We've been watching (the situation)," Cicirelli said, "and we haven't seen anybody on the ball diamonds."

Remediation efforts will be the responsibility of the county, which leases the park to the city, Cicirelli said. But, she said city officials want to be involved in the process.

"We want to have a say as to how that area is restored and that it's cleaned up properly," she said.

Cicirelli has said it's possible the ball diamonds could be moved to another area of the park. "We will do whatever we can to facilitate this remediation," she said.

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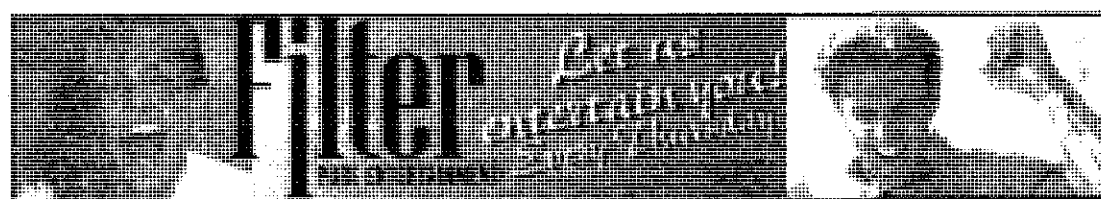
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MARINE

FROM PAGE A1

months in Canton before being deployed, but was raised in Westland and attended Livonia Franklin High School. Evelyn Burgess said her son was in the Marines for 11 years and traveled around the world, but this was his first tour of duty in Iraq.

"He had only been in Iraq for six weeks and I was afraid for him," said Evelyn Burgess, who wears a button with her son's picture. "But he wanted to serve his country and be with his fellow Marines. He didn't want to disappoint them."

"He was on my mind 24 hours a day, but he liked the challenge," she added. "I'm very proud of him."

As a member of the Marine Reserves, Burgess participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, and also spent time training against terrorists in Africa and with soldiers from other countries in South America.

"The Marines were special to him, and he participated as much as he could," Kosinski said. "He was a motivator. He would get down in the trenches with his juniors. He was a great instructor, and would do anything for anybody. He died with honor."

Bradley Compton, 26, of Ypsilanti Township served in the Marine Reserves with

Burgess, where they were also roommates. They were such close friends that Burgess participated in Compton's wedding.

"Bryan would have given his last shirt off his back to a complete stranger," Compton said. "He worked really well with the younger Marines, and they had an enormous amount of respect for him."

"He wanted to go to Iraq to make sure the younger guys, who didn't have the experience, were OK," he added. "He had outstanding leadership ability."

'ALWAYS UPBEAT'

Canton Township Trustee Todd Caccamo, who is currently a Marine fighting in Iraq, said in an e-mail that he bunked with Burgess while they trained at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"Bryan was a great guy, he was always upbeat and smiling," Caccamo wrote. "I talked to him almost every day. He'd yell something from his turret at me and toss me a thumbs up or a wink. 'Hey, Caccy-baby. Go get 'em!'"

"I talked to him no more than 24 hours before his untimely death," he wrote. "All of us at Weapons Company miss him greatly."

Clay Cutchin of Pinckney served with Burgess in 1999, while both were stationed at Mountain Warfare School in California.

"Bryan was a junior Marine,

but his maturity was way beyond that," Cutchin said. "He quickly garnered a lot of responsibility and respect."

"He was the kind of Marine the mystique of the Marines was built on," he added. "He was phenomenal in that way."

Visitation is from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday at Griffin Funeral Home, located at 7707 Middlebelt in Westland. The funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Bernadine of Siena Catholic Church, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland, following a one-hour visitation in the church. There will not be a burial service.

"A bagpiper will play *Amazing Grace*, and a rifle detail outside will give a 21-gun salute," Kosinski said. "Six Marines will fold the American flag draped over his casket and present it to the family."

Leah Bell, 31, who lived three houses down from Burgess while growing up, plans to pay her respects to Burgess and his family.

"Bryan was always the kind-hearted kid, and didn't like to see people hurt," Bell said.

"There are so many memories to share, but I want people to know what a great guy he was, and he believed in what he was doing. His mother raised a great young man, and he will never be forgotten. I will miss him."

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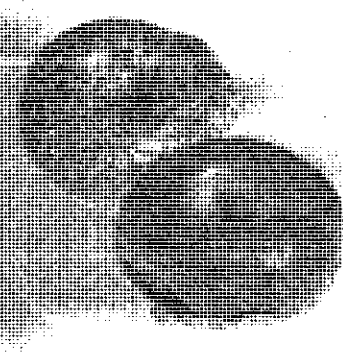
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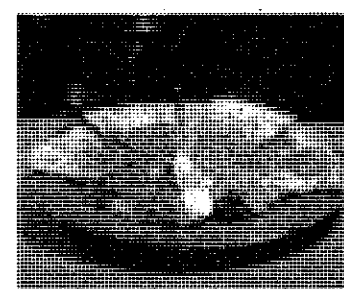
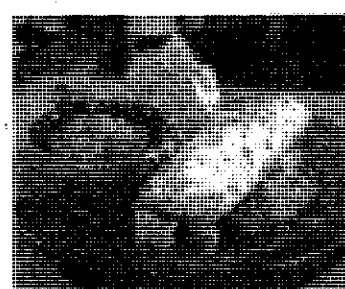
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Palestinian ambassador brings optimistic message

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER



Safieh

Arif Safieh, the Palestinian ambassador to the United States, told a gathering of about 50 area clergyman and Arab-American leaders Wednesday that the situation in the Middle East is on the verge of a breakthrough with the imminent announcement of a new Palestinian coalition government.

Safieh spoke at the East Hall of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Livonia, one of several meetings planned during a three-day visit that began Monday. The events were to conclude Wednesday night with a banquet at St. Mary Church for local Arab-American leaders. Following the speech, Safieh said an announcement would be made in the next 72 hours on an agreement between Fatah and Hamas, the two rival political factions in Palestine. Fatah holds the presidency and Hamas has the majority in the parliament. The U.S. and other governments have been critical of Hamas as a supporter of terrorists activities and have been reluctant to continue negotiations.

"The new government will be adopting a political program that will be more representative of Palestinian society and will allow us to re-engage with the international community and get back to normal and intense cooperation with the American administration and other players," Safieh said.

Safieh, a Roman Catholic, was appointed Palestinian ambassador to the United States in October 2005. He previously served as ambassador to the United Kingdom and delegate to the Holy See. He was born in Jerusalem in 1950 and educated in Jerusalem, Belgium and Paris.

He was accompanied on his visit to Detroit by his wife, Christl Leclercq. His visit was organized through the group Sabeel working with local groups, the Palestinian Office and Ramallah. George Khoury of the ad hoc Palestine Education Fund coordinated the visit.

In the last three days, Safieh met with Arab leaders in Dearborn, spoke at Wayne State University and met with Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. He was scheduled to meet with University of Michigan students Wednesday.

Safieh's message to the assembled clergy, including representatives of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths, was generally optimistic.

AMERICAN NON-ALIGNMENT

"During a moment of diplomatic stagnation, which has been frequent recently, I would start by saying: a Palestinian went to see God and told him, 'God, God Almighty will there ever be peace in the Holy Land?' and God looked at him melancholily and said, 'Yes, yes, of course, but not in my lifetime.'" Safieh said to a round of laughs. "Without any impertinence, I say that I'm sure God wouldn't mind if we proved him or her wrong."

Safieh said it was time for the United States to have a policy of "non-alignment" and treat Palestine and Israel even handedly.

"I'm not inviting America to sacrifice its traditional friend Israel, what I'm doing is bringing you an additional friend, Palestine," he said.

As the last superpower, America risks alienating the Arab community abroad and the large community of Arab Americans, Safieh said. He said for the last 60 years, it has been uncomfortable to be an Arab, Muslim or Palestinian American.

"Non-alignment, even-handedness should be what characterizes American policy," he said. "I happen to represent people, the Palestinians, who became the victims of the victims of European history and because of that fact we have been deprived of our understanding."

Safieh said the situation in the Middle East is "extremely unhealthy and unwelcome."

He said the "650 military" checkpoints between Israel and Palestine cost work hours as well as causing fear and humiliation.

"And the horrible wall, the wall of shame," Safieh said of the wall Israel is building between itself and Palestinian territory. "Even President Bush

said it was snaking into Palestinian territory. The International Court of Justice called for its dismantlement."

He said the situation in Gaza was volatile, but that there is still hope of change.

In a question and answer period, Safieh said the situation is "dynamic and not static" and that many in the Jewish community in Israel and the United States have been supportive of Palestine. He said the powerful American Israel Political Action Committee is no longer in a "golden era" and change is on the way.

After the speech, Safieh said the United States has a chance

to change its negative image brought on by its special relationship with Israel and the war in Iraq.

"As a superpower, America has a choice between a foreign policy that makes you loved and respected or hated and feared," he said. "Given such a choice, I would rather be a superpower that was loved and respected."

Khoury said Safieh's visit has

been well-received.

"He represents us in the best way I can imagine," Khoury said. "He is a man of peace, peace with justice. If one side gives up completely, you have oppression. We want peace with justice."

He said he is a firm believer that the Arab-Israeli conflict can be settled in a peaceful way under international law and UN resolutions.

The Rev. George Shaloub, pastor of St. Mary, said he was happy to host the meeting with clergy.

"I feel that if clergy represent anything in the world, it would represent justice and peace," he said.

He was impressed by Safieh's eloquence.

"He was very pointed, very balanced. He didn't speak out of hate, he spoke out of indignation."

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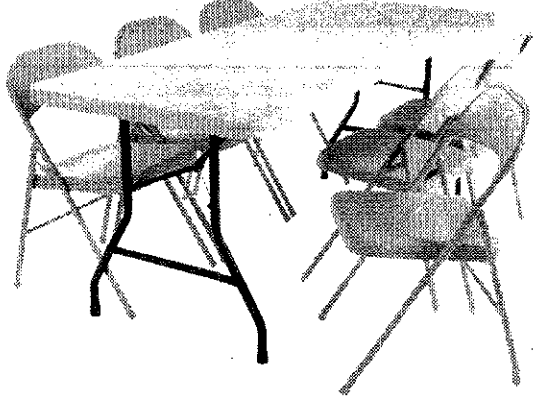


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Families of our veterans deserve to be honored, too

In the wake of the election commotion last week it seems as if Veterans Day was nearly overlooked.

It was Saturday, and ceremonies were held in various towns. These days, there should be more emphasis than ever on Veterans Day. We are embroiled in a war in Iraq that is producing ever-increasing casualties as the months go by. More and more of our service people are in harm's way and making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and liberty.

It's been that way since this nation was founded. We were born out of a war and have fought more than our share over the past two centuries.

In the past few weeks I have been doing research on World War II for a new book. My emphasis is not on the soldiers — many more people are far more knowledgeable than I am on that topic — but rather on the battle on the home front.

I recently came across several hundred photos that were taken during the World War II years. While they related to one specific town, I think they show scenes that were typical all over the country.

What was most striking to me was how pervasive the war effort was in nearly everything. Factories stopped producing cars and refrigerators and turned to making tanks. Although the country was still reeling from the Great Depression at the end of the 1930s and beginning of the 1940s, suddenly basic commodities, like gas and certain foods, were in limited supply. I came across a ration book filled with stamps that allocated how much a family could get of restricted items each month.

Newspapers, fliers distributed around town, signs posted on and in buildings urged everyone to save all manner of items and donate them to the government.

Don't throw out that chewing gum wrapper, people were urged. It was made up of metal foil that was needed for the war effort. I have photos of mounds of old tires and scrap metal that were gathered in lots and buildings to be sent to the war effort.

Even an old ceremonial cannon left over from World War I ("The Great War," until the second world war) was hauled

off and melted down to be recycled into a new cannon or shells.

It may seem hard to believe now, but there were genuine fears that Japan was going to bomb this area. And, in fact, the Japanese did launch bomb-carrying balloons that drifted as far as here, but did no damage.

In light of the threat of attack, civil defense organizations were formed. Wearing white metal hats and armbands emblazoned with the letters "CD," the civil defense officers patrolled the streets making sure lights were off when blackouts were called.

Civil defense trucks rolled down the streets, and towns applied for special federal aid to beef up their fire departments to be ready for any incendiary bomb attacks. No one really knew how serious the threat from the Axis powers was, but everyone prepared for the worst.

Great also was the impact the war had on families. Men were being drafted or joining the military by the millions. Virtually every family had someone overseas. World maps suddenly became extremely popular and important as people searched for such obscure places as Tarawa, Saipan, St. Lo and many others.

Postcards and letters from faraway places started to arrive. Occasionally a family would receive a scratchy vinyl record with the barely audible voice of a soldier recorded at special places that could supply records to be sent home.

Then, of course, delivery of the telegrams started. And Gold Stars were placed in windows at homes that the soldiers would never return to.

A life-and-death drama was played out daily as the war raged on the other side of the world.

But even though the people here, at home, didn't see the flash of bomb blasts or feel the shock of explosions, they were in a battle too. And there were many casualties.

They didn't die in battle but they lost someone they loved. Children lost their fathers, fathers lost their children, wives lost husbands, brothers lost brothers, and on and on.

Truly, those who waited also served. Remember them too as we honor the veterans.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.



Greg Kowalski

LETTERS

Many wrongs at park

Our subdivision is next door to a Brownfield, namely the Cooper Site which has set behind an eight-foot high fence for the past 15 years. Imagine my surprise to learn from a published report the MDEQ had declared Central City Park in Westland a Brownfield site. The Thomas H. Brown Central City Park was closed by the City on Saturday, Nov. 4, due to environmental testing.

In my opinion, there are several things wrong about this picture.

1. It is wrong that Wayne County, MDEQ and city officials have known that there was contamination in some parts of the park and no action was taken to close the park before Saturday. It is county-owned land and the county is responsible for closing and cleanup. However, the mayor is responsible for the safety and well-being of Westland residents. It is a safety concern for all of those who have used the beautiful 100-acre park, and what about the city maintenance crew who maintain the park?

2. It is wrong that use of Central City Park continued after knowing that some areas had high levels of lead. The extent of contamination is unknown at this time until further testing by the MDEQ has been completed. There were other sites available for ballgames, soccer games (Corrado Park and Curtis Woods Park), and playground equipment can be found at other parks and school yards. And how ironic that the annual Relay For Life event to benefit cancer was held in the park.

3. It is wrong that Westland City Council members and residents were not notified about it in a timely manner. Hearing about it at the Nov. 6 Westland City Council meeting when some government officials have known about it for several years is not timely.

4. It is wrong that in January 2007, a new mayor will be beginning a one-year term and will be passed a full plate, with not only the task of budget work but contamination on it.

Was our Brownfield Redevelopment Advisory Board aware of this matter? If not, it needs to be added to their list along with the Cooper Site. In the past 10 days there have been two excellent published articles. The first one that alerted the public was the *Detroit Free Press* on Nov. 7. The second one was written by Darrell Clem and published in the *Westland Observer* on Nov. 9. These are two must-read newspaper articles.

The public is outraged by the irresponsibility of our governments. For the safety of all the county needs to let the state determine the scope of the contamination at the park and then proceed with cleanup of the site so that Central City Park can once again be used by the public.

Ruth Dale
Westland

Sore losers

Despite saying that he will work with the new leaders of the Congress, I see no improvement in the demeanor of President Bush. He came across as his typically cocky self in the press conference Wednesday when he announced the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld.

Bush also opined several times that, while the total number of seats made a large shift toward the Democrats, if you looked at each of the individual

paces, they were decided by very slim margins. How interesting that when the numbers came in for the presidential election in 2004, indicating a decision by a similarly narrow margin, he described the results as a "mandate."

Bush has no choice but to accept the outcome of the mid-term election. He needs to put his arrogance in check, stop being a sore loser and bow to the will of those he serves.

Thomas McFarland
Madison Heights

Third parties ignored

As a public high school civics teacher, I am again extremely disappointed in the television and print media's coverage of Michigan's "third party" candidates this election year.

With a slew of lackluster Republicans and Democrats again running for office this fall, little if any exposure was afforded candidates of the Green, Libertarian and U.S. Taxpayer parties. Never mind that these parties have graced the Michigan ballot for several years and had to collect thousands of voter signatures in order to do so.

During the three Michigan governor's debates, for instance, the "third-party" candidates were not invited because their voter recognition numbers didn't poll high enough. How could these candidates gain voter recognition — let alone win elections — when they were repeatedly locked out of candidate debates and forums?

It is interesting that we live in a country that extols the virtues and benefits of competition when it comes to such things as business and athletics. But when it comes to elections, we seemingly accept the monopolization of our electoral system.

When the two "major" parties are repeatedly permitted to duck and dodge "third" party competition, constituents ultimately lose.

Peter Ponzetti III
Rochester Hills

Anderson says thank you

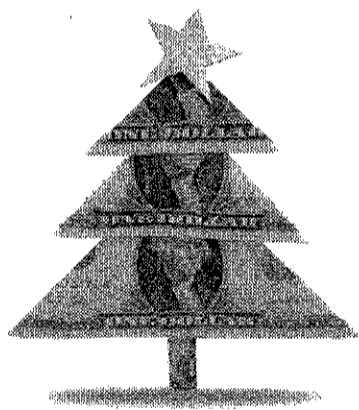
I'd like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the voters of the 6th Senate District for their support for my campaign on Nov. 7. While it was a long and sometimes grueling campaign, it was rewarding to be so well-received by residents at their door as we walked the neighborhoods of Livonia, Westland, Redford and Garden City.

I look forward to the challenges at hand and understand the urgent need for action that our citizens expressed to me. I commit to focus on getting our state's economy back on track and making our educational system second to none.

In closing, I again want to say thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve you in the Michigan Senate. I pledge to fulfill my responsibility to be there to vote on your behalf and live up to the confidence you've placed in me.

Sincerely,

Glenn S. Anderson
18th District State Representative
6th District State Senator-elect



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Weir Manuel does dressy affair for dogs

Talented - or at least good-looking - pooches paraded at Weir Manuel Realtors recently as the firm hosted a costumed dog show to benefit animal welfare.

Agents from its four offices in Birmingham, Rochester, West Bloomfield and Plymouth brought their costumed dogs and prizes were given in a number of categories, such as "Miss/Mister Congeniality," "Most Outrageous Costume," "Tiniest/Biggest Dog," "Most Comical Outfit" and "Most Adorable Dog."

Weir Manuel, at the corner of Brown and Old Woodward, is a Birmingham landmark and provided a perfect venue for a community event.

"We thought this would be a great fall event for families and children," said Kelly Sweeney, broker/owner of Weir Manuel Realtors. "And it was a way to draw attention to the number of pets that are in distress and need to be rescued. We hope we helped to educate the public and the community we serve about animal welfare. It's a worthy cause, and we wanted to find wonderful homes for some deserving dogs."

As a representative from the Michigan Humane Society said, "Weir Manuel is in the business of finding great homes for families, and we're in the business of finding great companion pets for them to complete their families."

Weir Manuel Realtors is a leading real estate company in southeast Michigan, with more than 150 employees in four Michigan offices in Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Rochester and Plymouth.



Caitlyn Melamed of Farmington Hills holds, Pumpkin, who was named 'Most Adorable Dog.'

Cranbrook takes an artistic look at space

The theme of space exploration - its infinite potential, as well as its historical successes and failures - is the focus of the exhibition *Space Is the Place* exhibit at the Cranbrook Art Museum.

It will featuring installations, paintings, works on paper and sound and video works made during the past 10 years by an international group of contemporary artists. Cranbrook Art Museum is the first stop on the national tour of this exhibition that explores how global attitudes toward the subject of space have changed radically between the time the Soviets launched their Sputnik satellite nearly 50 years ago and the explosion of American space shuttles in 1986 and 2003.

Despite some setbacks, travel to outer space remains a powerful catalyst for contemporary artists, inspiring nostalgia, fantasy, and, at a time of great terrestrial conflict, consideration

of serious earthly concerns. *Space Is the Place* opens at Cranbrook Art Museum on Nov. 18, and runs through Jan. 14, 2007. The exhibition is organized and circulated by Independent Curators International, New York.

While these works are united by the primary theme of outer space, the open-ended parameters of the subject also invite consideration of issues relating to the technological, environmental, and sociopolitical forces affecting life on earth.

For example, Polish-born artist Aleksandra Mir's video, "First Woman on the Moon," which was performed on a beach in the Netherlands 30 years after the first moonwalk, uses the fantastical context of space exploration to comment on the continuing problem of gender inequality.

A related, gently satiric spirit permeates the work of Mexican artist Damián Ortega, whose *Aterrizable* en

la luna (*Voyage to the Moon*), named after a French Tin Tin comic, is a galvanized metal shelter that appears to be part imaginary space capsule and part dwelling for the homeless, highlighting both the inequalities that divide and the dreams that unite affluent and developing nations.

The title of the exhibition derives from a 1974 movie about an influential jazz fusion band, whose leader, Sun Ra, spoke of making music sublime enough to elevate humanity beyond Earth, transcending reality. Much like the cosmic themes of Sun Ra, *Space Is the Place* reaches out to realms beyond our planet.

Space Is the Place is curated by Alex Baker, curator of contemporary art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, and Toby Kamps, senior curator at the Contemporary Arts Center Cincinnati. It is accompanied by an illustrated publication.



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HOLIDAY Recipes

Cookies...Pie...Stuffing....

We all have holiday recipes that are Family Favorites, recipes that are loved and cherished and passed down from generation to generation. This year The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers wants to put those recipes in print! Starting on Thursday, November 30th and running each Sunday through December 10th, we will print a page featuring these special recipes.

Send yours in today!

Send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to: classified@hometownlife.com and maybe yours will be picked to print!

It's time to share your Family Favorite Recipe with your Observer & Eccentric Family!

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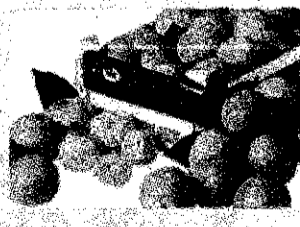
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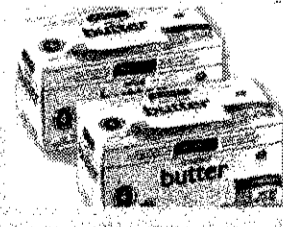
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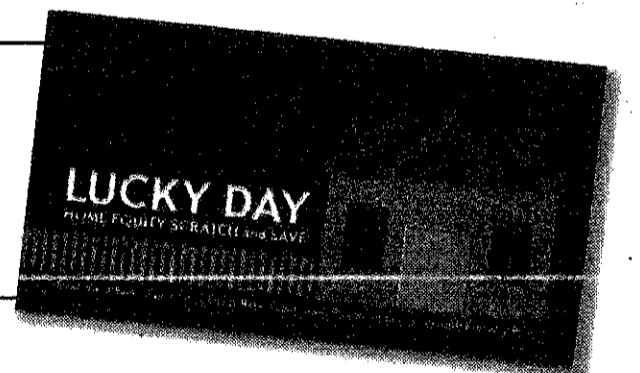
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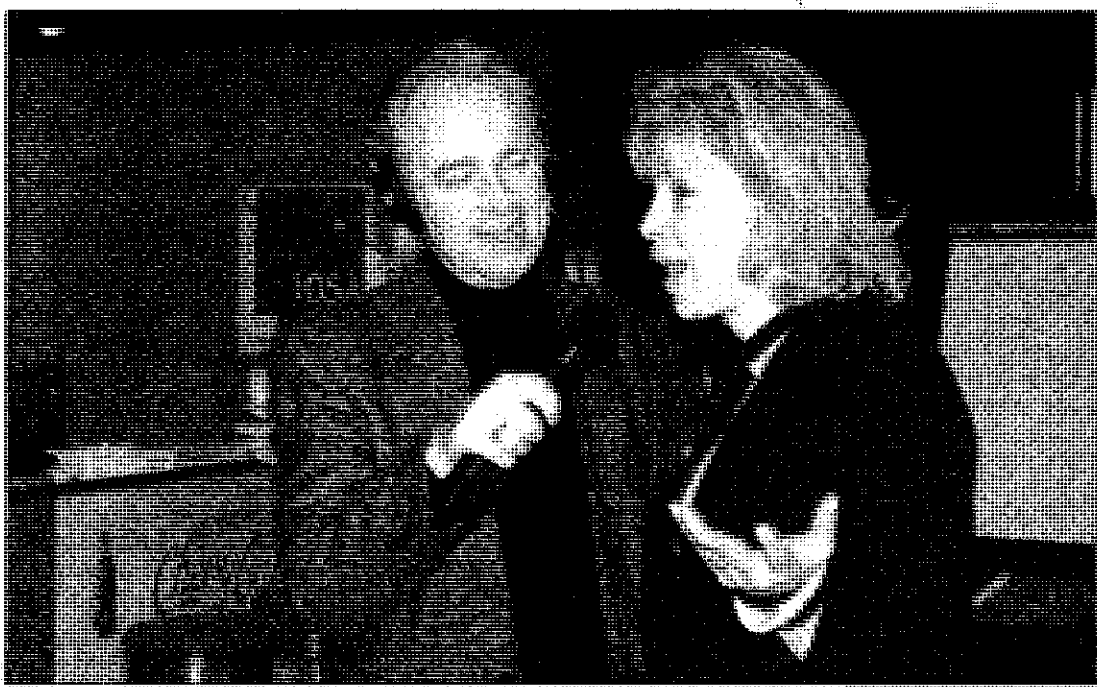


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Jim Harper interviews Gordon Chevrolet General Manager Susan Ianni during the Radiothon for the Capuchin Kitchen.

Radiothon raises \$94,000 for Capuchin Kitchen

Magic 105.1 (WMGC-FM) announced the station raised \$94,000 and filled four trucks with clothing during their Capuchin Soup Kitchen Radiothon, which took place on Friday, Nov. 3, at Gordon Chevrolet in Garden City.

used to feed hungry families, provide school supplies and clothing for children. It will also help keep the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's library and computer center open! This center is staffed by volunteers who train children how to use computers.

Magic Family Favorite Recipe Book and an auction. Auction items included: front row Pistons tickets, a two-night stay at the Great Wolf Lodge for four people and four Tigers tickets for the 2007 season!

Trial avoided in mom-teen sex case

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

With a "no contest" plea comes some relief for the family of a local teen. The plea entered Tuesday in Oakland County Circuit Court by Jami Lee Knox, the Farmington Hills mother accused of having sex with a 15-year-old friend of her son's, means both families will be spared the grueling details that would become public in a trial. The victim would have had to take the stand.

expected to be sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Rae Lee Chabot on Jan. 2. The probation department will recommend a sentence after reviewing her file. She has no prior criminal record. A "no contest" plea is considered a guilty plea and means she does not challenge the contents of the police report, said Assistant Prosecutor Robert Giles. Had Knox entered a "not guilty" plea, she would have faced a jury trial at the end of the month.

He said forgiveness will come, eventually. "More for our sake than hers," he said. "You can't carry all of this anger and vindictiveness around with you and heal." Knox has remained free on \$50,000 personal recognizance bond and wears a tether. She was joined in court by her husband and had supporters at her side at one of the two pretrial hearings in recent weeks that were postponed due to Judge Chabot being ill.

Bishop stands ready to lead

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
STAFF WRITER

Rochester Republican Mike Bishop knows he has a tough job ahead of him in his new position as Senate majority leader. In his final term as a state senator, Bishop, 39, will have to find a way to work with a Democratic governor with whom he admits he doesn't have much of a relationship, as well as a new Democratic majority in the House.

things." Bishop, who is currently assistant majority leader, was selected by the incoming Republican caucus Tuesday morning to lead it for the next four years. He succeeds term-limited Sen. Ken Sikkema of Wyoming, who has served as Senate majority leader since 2002.

Bishop shouldn't try to be popular but rather emulate Engler, who had "all the things you need if you are a minority party in a three-way faceoff." "The question is, is Mike Bishop the new John Engler. I think people have their doubts."

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Mall Claims to Know What You Want, Even if You Don't

By Drew Reed
Taubman Today

North Pole — "It's better to give than to receive," the old saying goes. Now with Holiday Gift Guides found at Twelve Oaks Mall, giving is easier than ever. Everyone has a list this time of year. Large or small, there's no shame in admitting that you might not know exactly what the people on your list need or want this holiday season. With the Holiday Gift Guides, you can get gift suggestions for everyone on your list.

Gifts Under \$25, which is perfect for finding the always-necessary teacher gift, or perhaps the small gift for your dog walker.

Gift Guides at a Glance

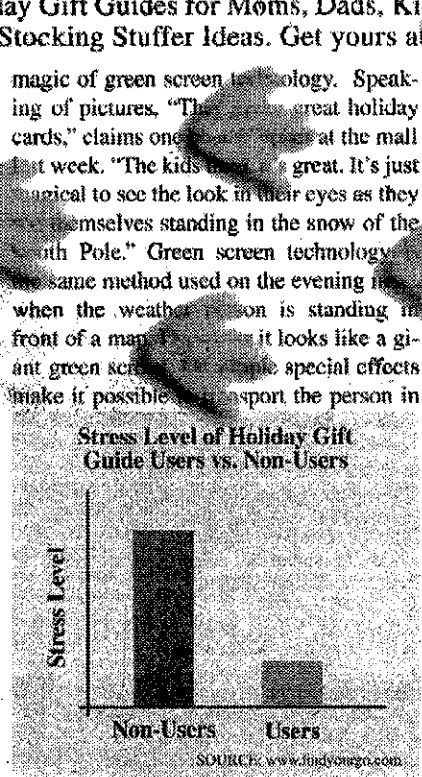
- Gift Ideas for Moms, Dads, Kids and Teens, Stocking Stuffers, Gifts Under \$25, and Once-in-a-Lifetime Gift Ideas
- FREE to all mall shoppers
- Conveniently located at multiple locations throughout Twelve Oaks Mall

Here's a look at the Gift Guide. "It comes down to convenience," says Mike Fetrow, General Manager at Taubman Malls' agency. "We supported the Holiday Gift Guides as a relative from the get-go. It just makes sense." And that it does. The mall has seen a huge lift in customer

Local mall presents exclusive Holiday Gift Guides for Moms, Dads, Kids, and Teens as well as Stocking Stuffers and Once-in-a-Lifetime Gifts and Stocking Stuffer Ideas. Get yours at www.findyourgift.com.

happiness and satisfaction, which can be a hard thing to achieve around the holidays. Even with this year's long shopping season, anything to make the customer happy is always welcomed.

That happiness might also have something to do with the giant snow globe exhibit in "Celebrate the Holidays" this year, the holiday exhibit is more than ever. Four giant snow globes surround Santa and his reindeer, the holiday to-do lists and party scheduling, it's a nice break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. One of the most festive holiday experiences you can have is as a mall shopper as she left the mall on Friday afternoon. "My kids love seeing their neighbor's kids loved it. I even saw my husband crack a smile. Amazing." Families who visit Twelve Oaks Mall this holiday season can actually step inside the huge 20-foot snow globe where it's always snowing. After exiting the giant snow globe, kids can visit with Santa and then the whole family can have a photo taken in a scene from Antarctica with the



magic of green screen technology. Speaking of pictures, "The great holiday cards," claims one shopper at the mall last week. "The kids love it. It's just magical to see the look in their eyes as they see themselves standing in the snow of the North Pole." Green screen technology is the same method used on the evening news when the weather person is standing in front of a map. It looks like a giant green screen with special effects that make it possible to transport the person in the picture to one of two scenes from Antarctica. One family last week was seen leaving with multiple pictures. The mom was so impressed with the picture that she hoped to make it a keepsake for the entire family. "This one's going on the fridge for good," said Jody Rowland, mall shopper. "Holiday photos are priceless and this one really tops off my holiday experience." She also used a few of the Holiday Gift Guides to polish off her naughty/nice list this year.

In closing, it is important to note that as an alternative to the traditional gift, the mall is also offering Gift Cards. "Not everyone wants to give a traditional wrapped gift in a box," says one shopper, "not to mention I have no idea what to get my brother this holiday season, so I figured, what the heck, I'll just get him a Twelve Oaks Mall Gift Card, that way he can get whatever he wants." It's definitely an easy way to holiday shop, and between the Gift Guides and Holiday Gift Cards, never again should anyone on your list go giftless.

ACLU will honor Dykema, One United Michigan

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan will honor the Dykema law firm and the Steering Committee of One United Michigan for their "unwavering commitment to justice" at its Annual Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18. Caroline Fredrickson, ACLU's National Legislative Director, will give the keynote address.

Over the past 10 years, the Dykema firm has devoted more time to ACLU of Michigan cases and programs than any other large firm in the state. In addition to providing top-notch cooperating attorneys for numerous high impact, high profile cases, Dykema attorneys have served on the ACLU Lawyers Committee and on the ACLU Advisory Board.

In past ACLU cases, the law firm has defended the right of women to become full and equal members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the right of students to voice their opinions, and the right of domestic violence victims to not be subject to eviction from public housing because of violence perpetuated by abusive

partners. Most recently, Dykema is working with the ACLU of Michigan to improve the criminal defense system for low-income people throughout Michigan.

The ACLU will also honor the Steering Committee of One United Michigan for their work against Proposal 2 or the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which was approved in last week's election.

The steering committee is comprised of 30 key Michigan leaders from a wide range of organizations, including Detroit Renaissance, the Michigan Federation of Teachers, NAACP, Detroit Chamber of Commerce, UAW, and many others. Although hundreds of men and women have worked tirelessly to defend affirmative action programs that provide opportunities for women and minorities, the Steering Committee members are receiving special acknowledgment because of their leadership. Through the direction of the steering committee, One United Michigan has grown to more than 200 organizations throughout the state and thousands of volunteers.

The main program will also feature a speech by Fredrickson who oversees all federal lobbying efforts for the ACLU. Fredrickson will discuss the challenges and opportunities for the ACLU in today's political climate and give an insider's view into beltway politics.

Other highlights of this year's dinner include an expanded silent auction and a steaming-hot performance by a New Orleans jazz band with the Bill Meyer Group, featuring Marcus Belgrave and Charlie Gabriel.

The silent auction, which will include unique items such as packages devoted to Bob Dylan, including an autographed guitar; and exclusive photos of Janis Joplin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The auction will also showcase original artwork depicting the Statue of Liberty from nearly 60 local and national artists who donated their work to the ACLU of Michigan's inaugural Lady Liberty Project, entitled Lady Liberty: Unmasked, Uncensored, Unleashed, Undaunted.

Madonna lab gets new Sony technology

The Sign Language Studies lab at Madonna University has gone digital thanks to a \$50,000 Sony Virtuoso Education Grant.

Installation of the Sony Virtuoso and Soloist American Sign Language (ASL) equipment was completed at the end of August and Madonna Sign Language Studies (SLS) faculty received training.

"This technology takes teaching to a new level," said Ken Rust, chair of the SLS department.

The new all-digital, multimedia, software-based lab works within Madonna's computer network. It enhances sign language instruction using video cameras at the teacher station and at each student workstation.

Rust said that students could

use the lab to create a digitized portfolio.

"They could save their best work - sign language skills, resumes, and term papers - on a DVD that they can distribute to prospective employers and graduate schools," said Rust.

With the Soloist authoring tools the SLS teaching staff is creating a number of authentic multi-media ASL course materials stored on local servers for easy access and sharing.

SANS Inc. is the developer and exclusive licensor of the Sony Language Learning Technology.

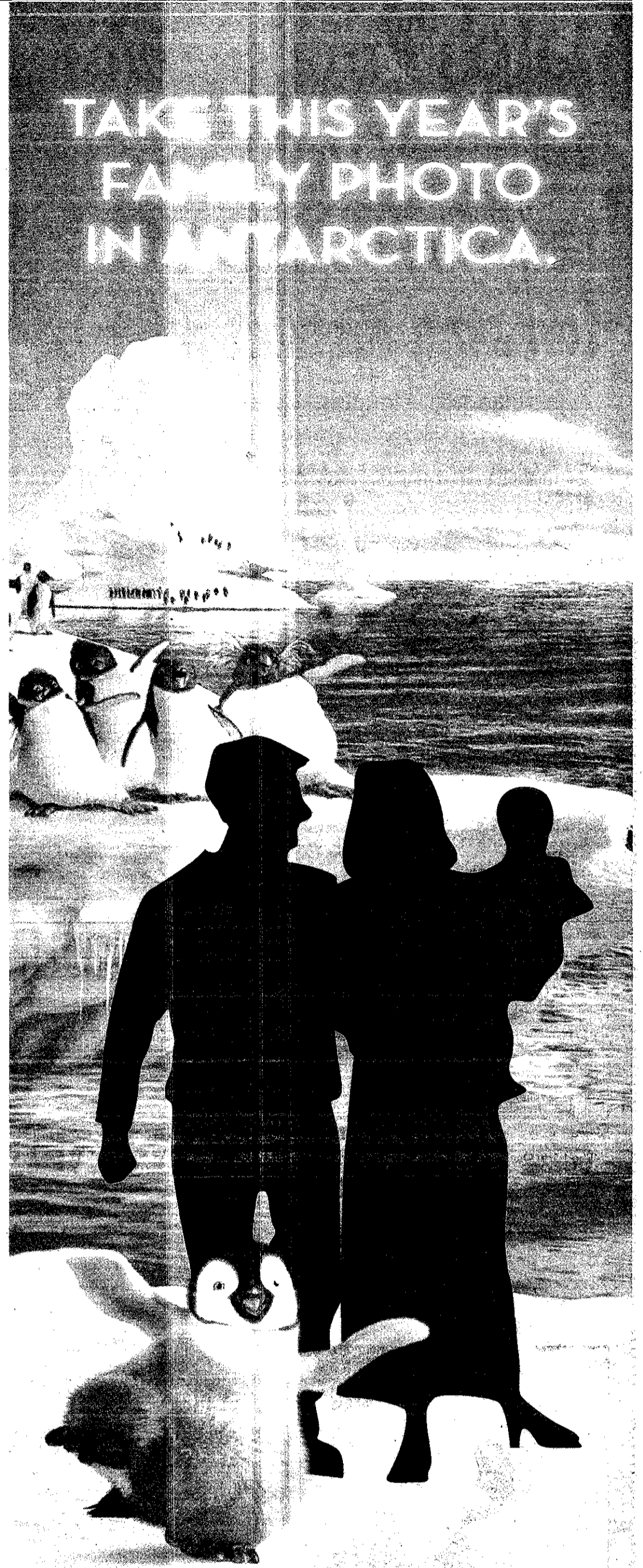
Ron Remschel, SANS Inc. president, said, "We're pleased to bring the benefits of the Sony technology to Madonna faculty and students."

Madonna University's SLS department has taught sign lan-

guage and interpreting courses since 1975. Sign language majors choose to major or minor in sign language to pursue careers in sign language interpreting and deafness-related professions. Both Deaf and hearing students are enrolled in Madonna SLS courses.

Students in the SLS program at Madonna include those with no incoming experience or knowledge, those having Deaf parents or Deaf children, as well as those majoring in other programs, i.e., social sciences, gerontology, nursing and education.

Although intended primarily for use in the SLS program, the Sony digital language lab also will be used in the foreign language and the English as a second language programs. "It's all a matter of scheduling," said Rust.



TAKE THIS YEAR'S FAMILY PHOTO IN ANTARCTICA.

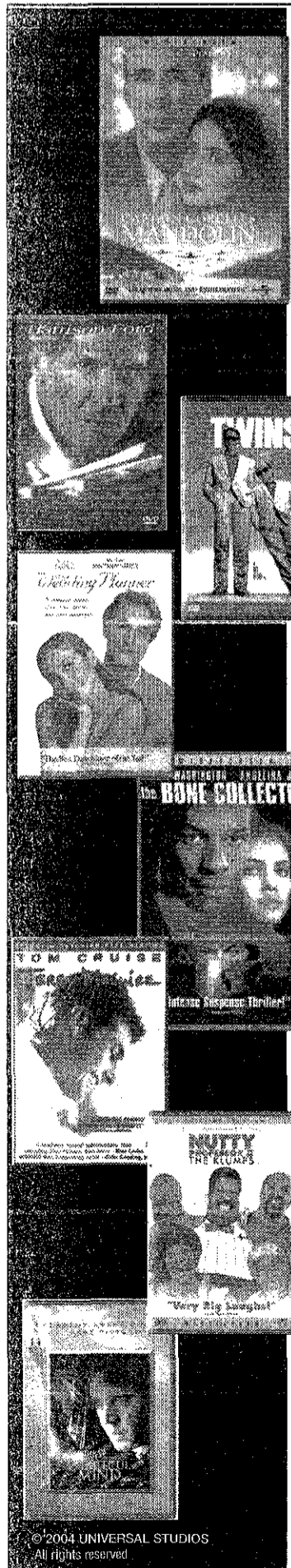


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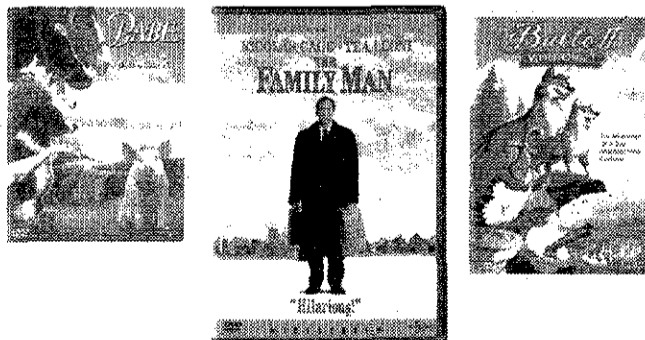
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