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# Sentinel-Tribune

Saturday, May 3, 2008

Wood County's Daily Newspaper

50 Cents

## Card line goes to the dogs

**Dog owner puts canine on greeting cards**

By **DEBBIE ROGERS**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

MAUMEE — Denali the dog drops his snout onto the wooden cedar chest. He's reluctantly modeling for a couple of strangers who have invaded the studio of his owner, Madalyn Ruggiero, for an hour. Denali tries to ignore the distractions and focus on Ruggiero, who's simultaneously pulling a royal blue shirt over his mammoth paws, using a pointed index finger to focus his attention and cooing

### SATURDAY FEATURE

"D" and "sit pretty" — the ever-present beef strip stuck to her slobber-covered palm.

Red wig askew, and purple, sparkly sunglasses falling down his snout, Denali looks mildly amused. He plays along for the *Sentinel* reporter and photographer, showing some of his many looks.

"I think he has more clothes than I do," remarks Ruggiero, her black twinset covered in blond hairs. Flashbulbs pop in front of Denali's eyes and he doesn't flinch.

Denali is no ordinary 90-pound Golden Retriever who thinks he's a lap dog.

He's the star of the "Denali the dog" greeting card line, created by Ruggiero, a 1998 Bowling Green State University graduate who lives in Maumee.

(See **DENALI** on 5)



Denali the dog poses for a photograph with his owner, Madalyn Ruggiero

Aaron Carpenter/Sentinel-Tribune



## Ice arena's \$8 million renovation approved

By **HAROLD BROWN**  
Sentinel-Tribune City Editor

Up to \$8 million in renovation and enhancements to the Ice Arena were authorized Friday afternoon by Bowling Green State University's Board of Trustees.

Half of the money will be used to repair the basic structure, replace the ice making equipment (compressors and related items) and upgrade public spaces such as restrooms. Depending on the bids for the basic work, the project may include conversion of the studio ice sheet area into locker rooms and improvements to the parking lot.

The basic \$4 million would eventually be rolled into a large bond issue BGSU is planning for mid to late 2009.

Dr. Sherri Stoll, the university's chief financial officer, said additional renovations and enhancements will depend upon the ability of the BGSU Athletic Department to raise \$4 million. That money would be used to renovate the press box, upgrade scoreboards, the sound system and seating.

Stoll indicated the work could be started at the end of the 2008-09 hockey season and finished by Nov. 2009, at the earliest.

The arena was opened in 1967. "There are a lot of issues with that building. Roof leaks have damaged the walls, there are problems with the gutters, insulation and humidity. We're on the verge of having a large mud puddle as opposed to a sheet of ice" Stoll said during Friday morning's meeting of the Financial Affairs and Facilities Committee meeting.

(See **ARENA** on 5)

## Holocaust victim lost childhood to Nazis

By **WILL MALONE**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

PERRYSBURG — Philip Master, born Pinchas Kapelmajster, spent his childhood on the run from Nazi forces during World War II.

As a result, he now carries an adult's perspective on a child's memories of one of the darkest chapters in human history. Names of places, people, dates ... There are questions he never knew to ask his parents at the time that would have fully fleshed out his story. But he has since filled in many of the

gaps by speaking with family members and other survivors who are willing to talk about that era.

The Toledo area native told his story to nearly 30 community members at Schaller Memorial Building on Monday, rounding out the last of American Legion Post 28's lecture series that began in January. Master offered the crowd a personal perspective of a Jewish life during the war as well as the conclusions he derived from watching the narrative unfold — not from behind a textbook — but from the memory of his own family's

struggle to survive.

### Escape Plan

Master was only 4 when German and Soviet soldiers invaded his hometown of Bendzin, Poland, in 1939. His father, a successful tailor and reserve Polish soldier, was forced to surrender with his unit and became a prisoner of war. His father would survive an escape attempt, conceived after German guards began to taunt the prisoners about plans to exterminate Jews in Poland.

More than half of the approximately

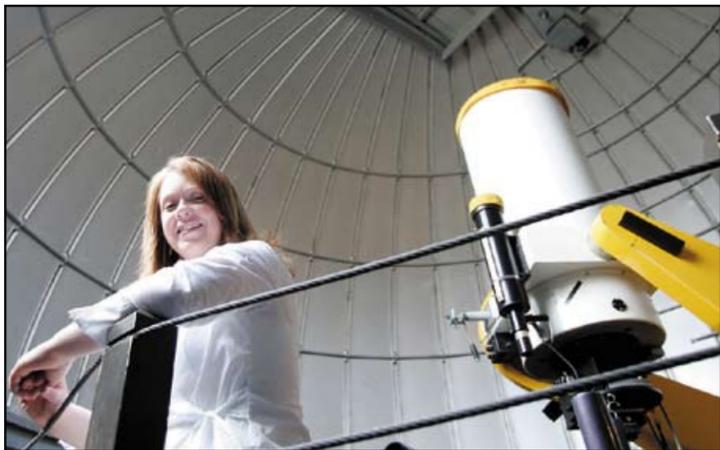
100 prisoners died in the attempt. But Master's father fled home with the disturbing news and ordered his large family to travel east toward the Soviet Union. Master's grandfather, however, could not believe that an educated and intelligent people could follow through with the guards' threats. Most of the family stayed, as a result, and about 45 of Master's relatives would die in the Holocaust.

"My father strapped me on his back — I was 4 years old — and told me to never say a word, not to cry, not to sneeze," Master said. "Crossing the

border, they might shoot us."

Although obedient, Master said, Nazi soldiers caught his family at the border and again interred his father in a camp while Master and his mother lived in a tent outside the facility. Undeniably resourceful, his father once more escaped and the family kept moving. "And this was our life until the Germans attacked the Soviet Union."

The family boarded a train soon after. Master said the details, regard- (See **HOLOCAUST** on 5)



Melissa Foster to teach and help with portable planetarium in Alaska

J.D. Pooley/Sentinel-Tribune

## BGSU grad warms up to teaching in Alaska

By **JENISE FOUTS**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

An adventure awaits Michelle Foster in a few short months, an adventure spelled A-l-a-s-k-a.

The 22-year-old graduates Saturday from Bowling Green State University with a bachelor degree in education and heads to Alaska in early August to teach on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Strait.

Her students will be Siberian Yu-pik children who hunt and fish. She's expected to bring her own food

staples with her, but plans to embrace whale meat and blubber in her diet. Foster's already been told that with temperatures reaching 40 degrees below zero, she'll need a hat lined with wolverine fur and a toasty parka with musk ox hair. Her new teacher initiation includes the "arduous" task of fishing for 30-lbs. salmon.

The Bering Strait School District covers several islands, including St. Lawrence. Foster's new home is so far north one can see the Siberian mountains from it. The island is (See **ALASKA** on 2)

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## **DENALI (CONT.) from page 5 of the Sentinel Tribune – Saturday, May 3, 2008**

Denali came into her life as a puppy in October 2001 when she was working as a newspaper photographer in Pennsylvania. He's named after Mount McKinley in Alaska, also known as Denali, which means "great one."

Ruggiero and her then-boyfriend collaborated on holiday cards that Denali quickly became the star of. "I took photos for my Christmas cards and he wrote the words. It was a tradition," Ruggiero said.

Over the last year, Ruggiero's been working on Denali cards in earnest, creating the poses in her studio, shooting them with her camera, printing the cards, then shopping them around to stores. The line can be found in 18 stores in three states; stores include the Bowling Green State University Bookstore, the Olde Gilead County Store in Grand Rapids and the Flower Shop of Perrysburg.

Pat Mochon, owner of the Flower Shop of Perrysburg on Louisiana Avenue, said she's selective about the items she carries for sale in the store and is hit up a lot by vendors to sell their creations.

But when she saw Ruggiero's work and met Denali, she knew the cards would be a good fit for the flower shop, which also carries chocolates and other gifts.

"She had her dog with her and we're dog people," said Mochon. "The cards were very unique and unusual. ... I really think they'll do very well."

Ruggiero develops the Denali cards when she's in between freelancing assignments, mainly for the Detroit newspapers. She's also done work for the Chicago Tribune, O, People, Us Weekly and Redbook.

She graduated from BGSU with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, specializing in sculpture. But Ruggiero's heart was always in photography — she said she just couldn't afford the supplies needed to pursue the specialization.

Over 100 Denali packages have been personally delivered by Ruggiero, who's had doors slammed in her face and cards thrown back at her in her quest to get her cards sold in stores. She said she feels some strange pull to continue getting the Denali cards in stores.

"I don't give up. Everytime they tell me no, you want it more," said Ruggiero, who is 33. "There's something in my head that says don't give up on this."

Denali is featured on over a dozen cards. One example: The dog clad in a clown wig, blue bow tie with white polka-dots and candy-cane striped socks on his paws. The inside verse reads: Kisses are free. Circus tricks will cost you.

On the Net:

[www.denalithedog.com](http://www.denalithedog.com)