DEATHS

Norma L. Robbins, 85

YORKTOWN - Norma L Robbins, 85, Yorktown, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her husband and children on December 11, 2004 of a long ill-

She was born October 13, 1919 in Muncie,

daughter of Mabel & August Haas. She married Walter C Robbins Sr. at Walnut St Baptist Church, Muncie on May 29, 1943.

Norma graduated from Muncie Central in 1938 and attended Indiana Business College. During WWII, she worked in the Navy War Department. She retired from Zayre Dept Store Fabric Dept in 1982 after 14 years of service. She was a member of Shawnee Heights Baptist Church.

Norma enjoyed all kinds of needlework, sewing & crafts. She volunteered at Elmcroft Assisted Living. She was a very caring and giving lady who loved to do for others without wanting anything in return.

Norma bowled with the Seniors at Munsee Lanes and on various other leagues.

Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Walter C Robbins, Sr; one son, Walter "Clif" Robbins Jr., (wife-Tina), Middletown; one daughter, Janet Robbins, Muncie; granddaughter, Kelly Mathews, (husband-Tim), Daleville; four grandsons, Jeff Robbins, (wife-Lesli), Yorktown; David Robbins, (wife-Tracy), Temple, Texas; Kevin Robbins, (wife-Laura), Ft Myers, Florida; Scott Robbins, (wife-Crissy), Muncie; six great grandchildren; two step great grandsons; one sister, Wilma Lucas, (husband-John), Jonesboro; her daughter-in-law, Sue Gibson, Anderson and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a son, Phillip E Robbins, 1977; 3 sisters, Barbara Mock, Marjorie Van Couwenberghe and Olive Hanson; and her daughter-in-law, Shirley Rob-

Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday in the chapel of The Meeks Mortuary and Crematory with Dr. Dennis Hammons officiating. Burial will follow in the Gardens of Memory Cemetery, north of Muncie.

Friends may call at The Meeks Mortuary and Crematory from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday or one hour prior to the services on Wednesday.

Memorials may be made to the Ball Memorial Hospital Outpatient Dialysis Unit, the National Kidney Foundation, the American Diabetes Association or the Hospice Program c/o Ball Memorial Hos-

Online condolences to the family may be directed to www.meeksmortuary.com.

Evelyn L. Pursley, 82

WINCHESTER - Evelyn L. Pursley, 82, passed away at 5:40 a.m. on Sunday, December 12, 2004 at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital in Winchester.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Walker Funeral Home, Winchester.

Pauline Marks, 88

MUNCIE - Pauline Marks, 88, Muncie, died Sunday at her residence after an extended illness.

Arrangements are pending at Parson Mortuary.

John H. Hedrick, 90

WINCHESTER - John H. Hedrick, 90, died Saturday, December 11, 2004. He was born December 10, 1914 to the late Maudie & Hiram Hedrick. He was married to Nelda (Harlan) Hedrick, who passed away in August of

Also available:

• Vases • Candles

• Cremation Urns

• Bronze Plaques He is survived by daughters, Jean (Keith) Elson, Kay Theurer; sisters, Mary Norris, Ellen Hedrick.

He was also preceded in death by daughter, Sue Hedrick, brothers, Earl and James Hedrick.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Walker Funeral Home, Winchester.

Calling 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials to Clear Creek Congregational Church, Winchester, IN 47394.

Janice K. Dowling, 49

DALEVILLE - Janice K. Dowling, 49, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, December 11, 2004.

Services are pending at Ballard & Sons Funeral Home in Daleville.

SERVICES

ALEXANDER, John T., 1 p.m., Keplinger Funeral Home, Hartford City. ALEXANDER, Marthann, 11 a.m., Fountain Park Cemetery, Winchester. HALL, Delight Elizabeth, 11 a.m., Portland Chapel of the Williamson & Spencer Funeral Home. HARDWICK, Richard, 7 p.m., Portland

Chapel of the Williamson & Spencer Funeral Home. HAVILAND, Donald C., 10 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, Geneva. NEAL, Barry E., 1 p.m., Hinsey-Brown Funeral Service, New Castle. QUALKENBUSH, Lindy L., 6 p.m., Meeks Mortuary and Crematory Chapel. SHERWOOD, Belinda J., 11 a.m., Chapel of Gardens of Memory.

VOILES, Mark A., 2 p.m., Hawk Cemetery, YOUNG, James Paul, 11 a.m., Parson Mor-

TUESDAY

ADKINS, Verna V., 1 p.m., Jones & Smith Funeral Home, Oneida, TN. FREEMAN, Betty Jane, 11:30 a.m., Meeks Mortuary and Crematory Chapel. LOWE, Judith E. (Judy), 10 a.m., Meeks Mortuary and Crematory Chapel. THOMPSON, Essie M., 11 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Lansing,

B OBITUARY POLICY

The Star Press does not charge for standard obituaries, notices of pending funerals, or notices of services.

An extended obituary is available for a charge. The Star Press reserves the right to republish all obituaries.

ON THE SCANNER

AMBULANCE RUNS

2:32 p.m. - 1007 W. McGalliard Road, personal injury accident. 2:41 p.m. - 2804 W. Yorkshire Drive, abdominal pain.

2:47 p.m. - 701 W. Jackson St., med-2:54 p.m. - 610 W. Main St., chest

3:07 p.m. -1001 W. Powers St., #2, unresponsive. 3:37 p.m. - 1801 W. McGalliard

Road, chest pain. 4:27 p.m. - 11542 S. U.S. 35, breathing problem. 5:15 p.m. - 511 E. Jackson St., chest

5:29 p.m. - 1601 E. McGalliard Road, breathing problem. 6:41 p.m. - 18 Elmwood Drive, chest

8:26 p.m. - 1023 W. Memorial Drive, fight in progress.

8:58 p.m. - 2533 N. Elgin St., #7, ab-9:49 p.m. - Ind. 3 and Walnut Street, rollover.

10:54 p.m. - 1804 E. 26th St., traffic accident. 11:33 p.m. - 2938 E. Tanner Drive,

Sunday 12:38 a.m. - 8105 W. Colony Drive, Yorktown, illness. 1:13 a.m. - 2128 S. Mulberry St.,

2:45 a.m. - 119 N. Cherry St., illness. 3:27 a.m. - 2637 N. Elgin St., bleed-

6:22 a.m. - 3201 S. Elm St., fall. 7:48 a.m. - 4301 N. Walnut St., fall. 7:57 a.m. - 103 W. Indiana Ave., Eaton, unknown problem.

8:14 a.m. - 701 W. Jackson St., #108, medical alarm. 8:15 a.m. - 4400 W. Peach Tree Lane, fall.

10:44 a.m. - 1403 S. Andrews Road, Yorktown, unresponsive. 10:53 a.m. - 4301 N. Walnut St., chest pain. 11:35 a.m. - 2637 N. Elgin St., bleed-

FIRE ALARMS

Saturday

3:25 p.m. - 601 E. Church St., Eaton, residential fire. 11:18 p.m. - 8301 S. Reserve St., Daleville, vehicle fire. Sunday

8:11 a.m. - 820 E. Charles St., business alarm. 10:22 a.m. - 3700 W. Bethel Ave., business alarm. 11:56 a.m. - 305 E. Fuson Road, ser-

12:17 p.m. - 2203 S. Pershing Ave., inside investigation.

Call the newsroom

The Star Press newsroom can be reached at (765) 747-5754. It can also be reached toll-free at (800) 783-7827. Hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Editorial

Evan Miller, executive editor, 213-5750

Larry Shores, editorial page editor, 213-5854

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GOP seeks change in school funding

Indiana Republicans want "the money to follow the child."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Republicans are eyeing major changes to how Indiana divides billions of dollars among schools, including scrapping a longtime practice of ensuring that all districts — even those losing students — get more money.

But efforts to overhaul the state's school funding formula could fall victim to a lack of money and to resistance from Democrats, influential school and teacher lobbying groups and school corporations with declining enrollments.

"We're very worried about it," said Pat Pritchett, superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools, the state's largest school corporation. "We know the formula's going to change, we just don't know how."

of Noblesville, who will play a key role in developing the next formula, has pledged to pursue a system he says would tie funding more closely to the number and needs of individual students in each district.

Daniels has expressed interest in sis between schools. So much guarantee. the plan because it would make money is needed to ensure that school funding simpler. New House Ways and Means Chairman Jeff Espich also is open to the idea.

"I haven't bought into every- tricts. thing, but I certainly believe that child," said Espich, R-Uniondale.

that often have richer property tax bases. The urban schools are primarily in Democratic districts, the suburban ones in Republican districts.

For years, largely at the insis-

Republican Sen. Luke Kenley tence of Democrats, the funding formula has included a "minimum guarantee" that ensures all districts get an increase in base funding.

Kenley and some other Republicans say the minimum guarantee slows efforts to close the He said Gov.-elect Mitch funding gap on a per-student baeven schools with stagnant or declining enrollments get increases, there is not enough left to adequately fund growing dis-

Kenley's plan, which he is still the money has to follow the fine-tuning, would assign a base dollar amount for every student he said. Democrats and Republicans in a district. It would then allohave long clashed over funding cate extra money for students differences between poor, urban who fall into one or more of five districts that are losing students at-risk categories: poverty, a sinand growing, suburban districts gle-parent household, parents who did not graduate high school, students deficient in speaking English, and those participating in free lunch programs. The amount could vary based on the risk category.

Kenley said Democrats who controlled the House in 2003 agreed to put some elements of his "complexity index" into the formula, but a 1 percent minimum guaranteed increase negated them in most districts. About 80 percent of the state's 293 districts simply got the minimum

Kenley said he is "tinkering" with the idea of phasing out the minimum guarantee over five years. If that were to happen, some school corporations with declining enrollments might see their overall funding go down but their per-pupil amount go up,

"The goal is to get to a situation where the funding follows more closely to the child," he

Espich said he shared that goal. "This business of a minimum guarantee that has been practiced has to go," he said. "We have to fund the children that are there, not the children that were there."

Saddam still awaiting trial Chocola on anniversary of capture

Hussein is now expected to face trial in early 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In the year since he was captured and hustled away to a secret location, Saddam Hussein has taken up gardening, undergone a hernia operation and written poetry that one visitor describes as "rubbishy."

What he has not done is meet with any of the 20 lawyers claiming to represent him. And with the country in the grips of an insurgency, predicting when Iraq's most famous prisoner will be tried is no easier now than it was on the day he was pulled from his hiding spot in a spider hole near his hometown of

When Saddam first appeared before an Iraqi court in July, some officials predicted a swift trial. Ever since, they have said October, November or December. Now, they expect it no earlier than the beginning of 2006, Iraq's National Security Adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie told The

Associated Press. "This is going to be probably the trial of the century and we have to get it right," al-Rubaie said. "We can't suddenly try him and sentence him to either life in prison or whatever, execute him 100 times as some people want to do."

Officials say the work of gathering evidence - documents, mass grave sites, testimony from victims — continues away from the public eye and beyond the reach of the insurgents. They insist it is being done meticulously and legitimately.

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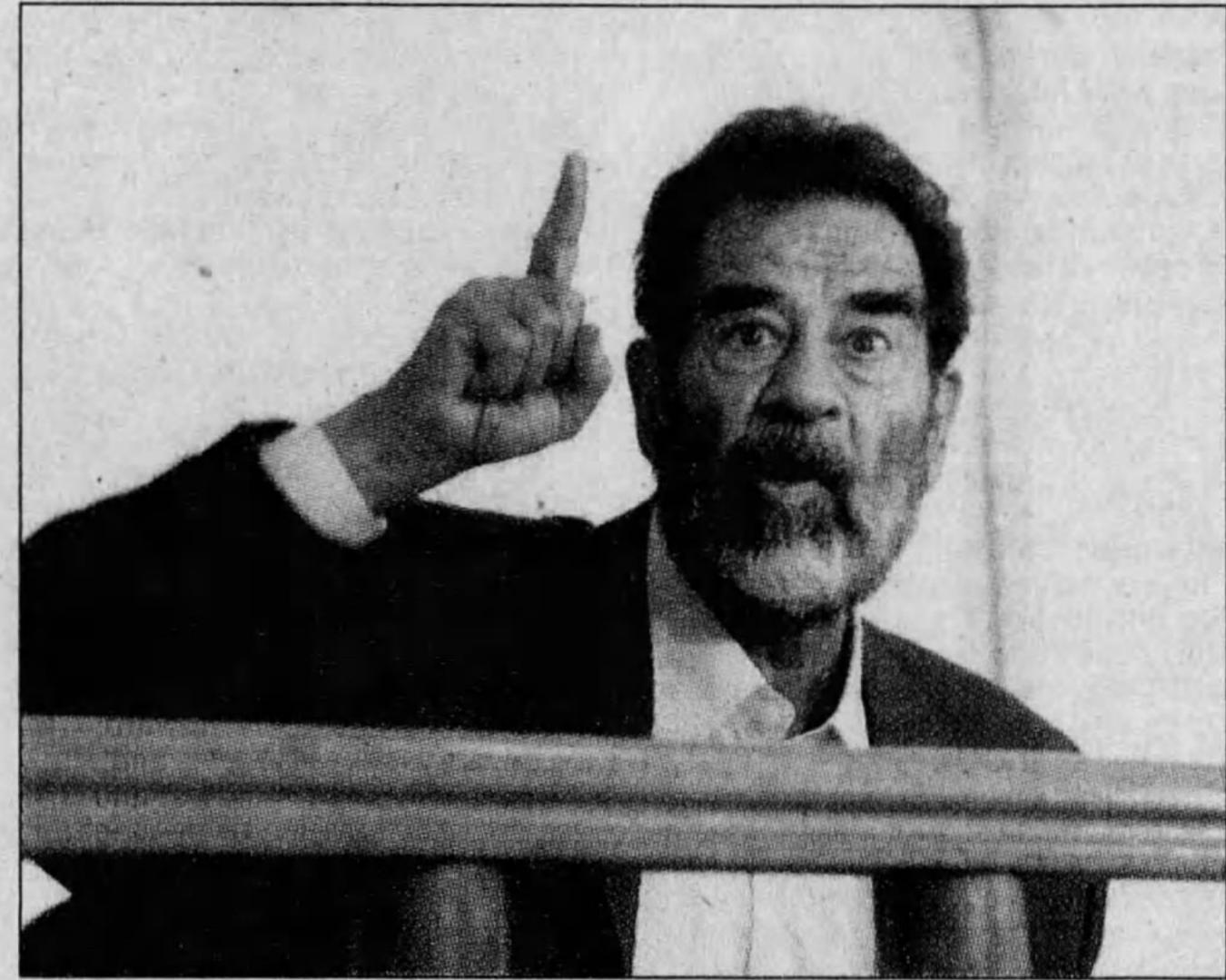
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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SADDAM HUSSEIN appears in a courtroom at Camp Victory, at a former Saddam palace on the outskirts of Baghdad, on July 1. Officials say the work of gathering evidence, documents, mass grave sites, and testimony from victims continues away from the public eye. prosecutors fear challenging American officials with the

Department of Justice's Regime Crimes Liaison Office are advising the Iraqi Special Tribunal on the process of bringing Saddam to trial. The Americans paid the tribunal's budget of \$75 million for 2004-2005.

But with elections approaching Jan. 30, the Iraqi government is in flux and likely to stay that way for another year until a new constitution is drafted and another round of elections is held in December 2005.

Trainers also face a dearth of qualified Iraqi prosecutors, defense lawyers and judges. If proper attorneys are found, they assume a new kind of risk threats from the guerrillas, believed to be mostly Sunni Muslims like Saddam, or others trying to stymie the trial.

Few Iraqi lawyers are willing to represent Saddam, while

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him. The same goes for the judges overseeing the case, slowing its work.

"At various points in time they have had a number of judges who have since withdrawn," said Hania Mufti, a spokeswoman for New Yorkbased Human Rights Watch who has followed the case. "So that's been a practical problem on the ground."

That fact has been sobering for the Americans, who predicted Saddam's capture would cripple the insurgency. They portrayed violence immediately after his capture as the last gasp of desperate loyalists.

"Saddam's era is over," the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Richard Myers, said days after Saddam was captured. "But it takes time for people to accept the changes."

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switch offices

Indiana congressman will keep Richard Nixon's former office.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola has decided to bypass the traditional congressional office lottery in favor of staying put in the House office Richard Nixon occupied years before he was elected president.

Because Chocola, R-Ind., was elected to a second term in northern Indiana's 2nd District last month, he has more seniority and a chance to move to one of the more desirable House offices being vacated by departing mem-

But Chocola said the benefits of "gaining a few inches of extra office space" did not warrant a move, so he decided not to participate in this year's office lot-

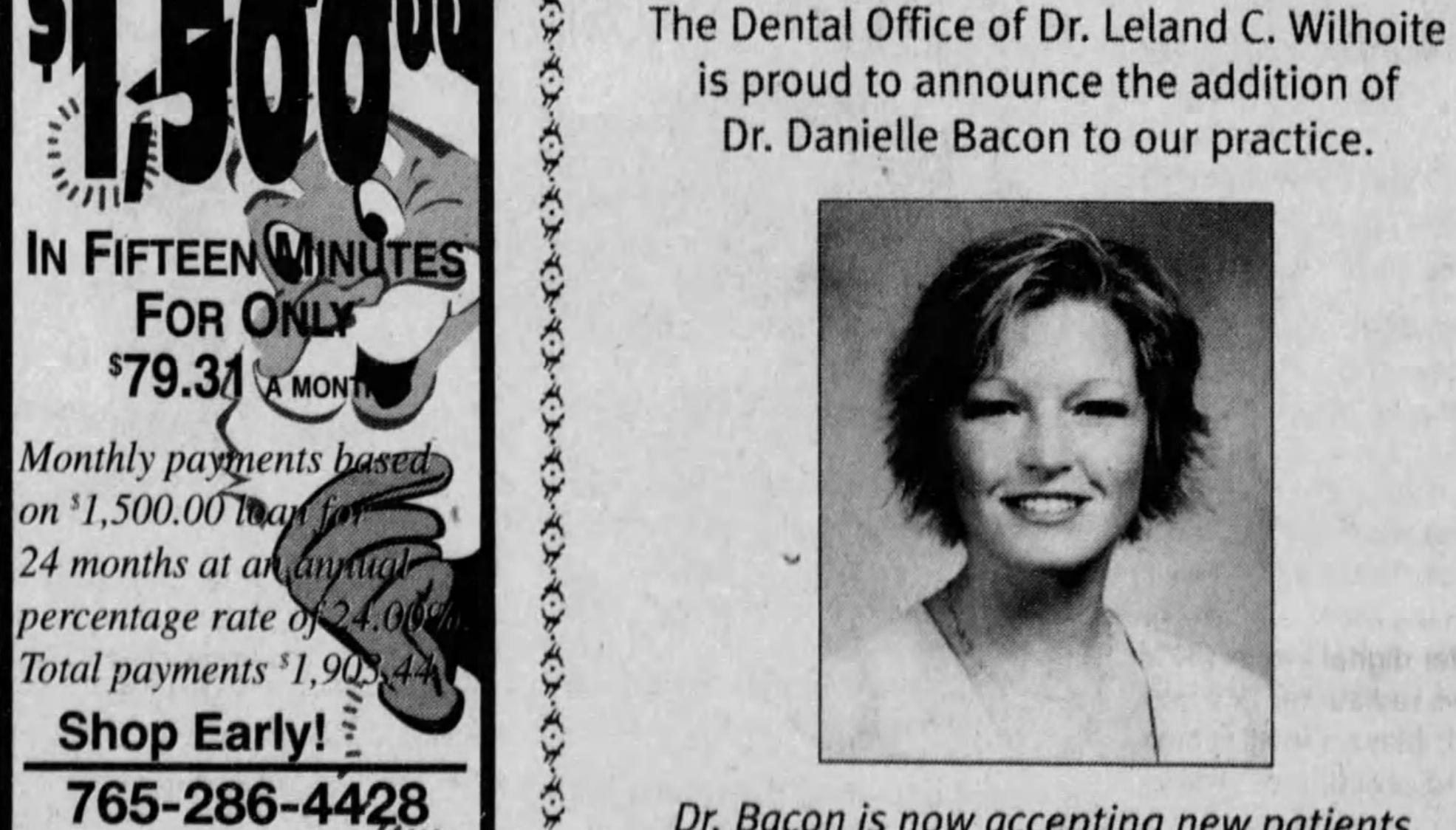
"I am very pleased with our current location and plan to be here for the next two years. Besides, if I had my chief of staff draw again, I might have ended up on the roof," he said.

Two years ago, Chocola went to Washington, D.C. for the first time and took part in the lottery for freshman members, who essentially are able to choose from what is leftover after veterans have made their choices.

Chief of staff Brooks Kochvar, given the responsibility for picking Chocola's number, drew the 44th selection out of 53 in the draw. The result: Chocola ended up in 510 Cannon, on the top floor of the oldest of the three House office buildings.

The office has a bit of history attached to it - from 1947 to 1950 it was occupied by Richard Nixon when he served as a member of Congress from California.

The office is a bit inconvenient because not all of Cannon's elevators go to the top floor, but Chocola said he has grown to like it.



Dr. Bacon is now accepting new patients. Muncie

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