





February, from page 1



John Shaffer

at Culver Academy – is keeping his grandfather’s memory alive and simultaneously raising money to combat the disease that took John Strycker’s life.

“When they (at the Academy) told us that we could make a (Relay for Life) team, my mind went directly to him,” says Shaffer. “I remembered my grandpa had died of cancer...and I didn’t want anybody else to go through that.”

March:

CAVS WIN SECTIONAL

For the first time since 1985, the Culver Cavaliers celebrated a sectional victory. Culver’s 54-46 Class 2A Sectional 34 final-round win — the Cavs’ first since 1985 — over Boone Grove Saturday was in doubt until the final few ticks of the clock.

The game was especially poignant for CHS principal Albert Hanselman, who afterwards embraced son Lucas, whose efforts were critical to the team’s win and yielded 14 of Culver’s points. The Cavs defeated Boone Grove 54 to 46 at Culver.

CAVS WIN FIRST REGIONAL SEMI IN 62 YEARS AGAINST GARRETT

By James Costello  
Sports Writer

NORTH JUDSON — Culver Community hadn’t won a sectional title in 23 years, and it had been 62 long years since the team had won a regional basketball game.

Down by eight in the penultimate frame Saturday with a sizable Culver crowd chanting “We believe”, the Cavaliers never lost faith.

“Going into sectionals, we were on a three-game losing streak, and not knowing where we were going to go,” said Culver Community basketball head coach Brett Berndt. “Somehow they found a way in sectionals just to jell together, play every game, just roll with it and they did a fantastic job in sectionals, and we did a great job versus Garrett in the first game... I can’t be any prouder of these boys. They brought pride back to Culver — the first time a Culver Community team has gotten to the regional finals, and we’re just extremely proud of them.”

April:

RELAY KICKS OFF AT CULVER HIGH SCHOOL

Culver high school last week held a kick-off assembly on March 5 to introduce Culver’s Relay for Life event to students. The assembly included three cancer survivors telling their stories, two of whom are CHS faculty members, Mike Schwartz and Deb Scott. Katie Barnes, former Culver Middle School student and presently a student at Culver Girls Academy, provided information about the April 18 event, for which students were given an opportunity to sign up through clubs they are involved with at the school. Relay for Life raises money for the American Cancer Society.

CULVERITES REFLECT ON FORMER PRES. CLINTON VISIT

When former US presi-dent Bill Clinton stopped on March 24 in nearby Rochester to stump for his wife, Demo-ocratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, there were several Culver faces amongst the many in the crowd, including Bob and Kathleen Kline, Norma Lorenc, and David Baker.

CHS BPA SENDS UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER TO STATE COMPETITION

Culver Community High School’s Business Profes-tionals of America (or BPA), sent an precedent-ed number of students to the state-level competition this year, according to CHS’ BPA head Mike Schwartz. Now the school will be sending an un-precedented number of students – having gone from five last year to nine this year – to the national com-petition in Reno/Lake Tahoe this May.

CHS TOP TEN HONORED

The 16th annual Top Ten dinner for Culver High School students, sponsored by Culver’s Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club, honored students Jade Hutchinson, Kelly Ahlenius, Kylie Gunder, Racheal Looney, and Mitch Page, and their chosen teachers, Brenda

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Sheldon, Peggy Arquette, Vickie Dearth, Mike Buschman, Chris Stevens, Vickie Benner, Bob Konzelman, CHS principal Albert Hanselman, Monterey Elementary teacher Todd Shaffer, and CHS teacher Kyle Elliott.

MONTEREY SHOCKED BY MURDER-SUICIDE

Thirty-five-year-old Denise Solano was shot to death in the driveway of her Monterey home April 6 by her husband Tomas Solano, who then shot himself.

CULVER RELAY IS TRIUM-

Quite possibly the story of the year was Culver’s first ever Relay for Life, held all night April 18. The initiative of several Culver Academies students, participation in the massive event, held at the Academies’ football field, crossed community boundaries in the Culver area and yielded over \$100,000 – quite a step up from the \$35,000 predicted by



Bill Snyder, left, and Mick Henley, both of Culver, greet one another at Culver’s first-ever Relay for Life, April 18 at Culver Academies. Both men’s lives have been touched by cancer and both walked in the Relay, which drew over 60 teams and raised more than \$100,000 to fight cancer.

May:

LIONS HONOR CHS SENIORS

Culver’s Lions Club honored some of the outstanding seniors of Culver Comm. High School at its annual awards night dinner, held April 23 at the high school. The awards, which honor outstanding seniors for their involvement in the school and community, began with a meal prepared by the Lions for students, parents, and teachers. Award winners were: Kelly Ahlenius, Kasi Browning, Anjelica Bush, Jasmin Crockett, Tori-Lyn Daugharty, Lyndsey Fisher, Lucas Hanselman, Jade Hutchinson, Ashley Jones, Racheal Looney, Linley Master, Nicole McGraw, Mitch Page, Alex Stevens, Matthew Stewart, Stuart Thomas, Haley VanMeter, and Stanley Budd (Budd won the Lions’ scholarship).

CCHS TRACK GIRLS MAKE HISTORY

Culver High School’s girls’ track team made history April 18 as they competed in the North Miami Relays. The team, coached by Peggy Arquette, took first place honors for the first time in the school’s history.

KIWANIS BANQUET HONORS CULVER STUDENTS

Culver’s Kiwanis Club held its annual awards ban-quet May 12 and honored several students and area contributors to education. At the event, held at the City Tavern in Culver, the Barbara Winters Award for Excellence scholarship was awarded to CHS senior Lyndsey Fisher. The annual Kiwanis Scholarship went to CHS seniors Rachael Looney and Sarah Mikesell. The 2008 Distinguished Alumni awards went to: Harry Hoover, Leiters Ford class of 1950; Marilyn Johnson Fox, Monterey class of 1951; Pat McGaffey Birk, Culver High School class of 1954. Winters noted that the recipient of the Culver Community Schools award was unable to attend, but introduced Pamela Taiclet Rarick, a 1975 graduate.



CHS senior Raheel Looney

CCHS BPA DOES SCHOOL PROUD AT NATIONALS

An exhausted but happy group of Culver High School’s Business Professionals of America students returned home from Reno, Nev. May 11 with little fanfare but much to be proud of. Nine students flew with BPA sponsor and CHS teacher Mike Schwartz and wife Donna to the BPA national competition from May 6 through 11. Ben Haut competed in Reno and came in fourth in the nation. Senior Brianna Wilson came in third in Basic Office Systems and Procedures.

June:

CGA'S BANFICH SETS STATE RECORD

It’s official: Culver Girls Academy’s Alex Banfich is the greatest distance runner in Indiana high school history. Or at least she owns the most distance hardware.

Banfich broke tape in both the mile and 2-mile races at Friday’s Indiana High School Athletic Association girls state track meet in Bloomington. In the process she overtook Kankakee Valley’s Celeste Susnis’ seven track and cross country state championships with eight total titles throughout her own high school career. “It’s such an honor, especially to know that Indiana is a no-class state — everyone runs everyone,” Banfich said. “It’s definitely a huge honor to have accomplished that in such a competitive state.”

TEEN LOST IN CRASH WAS FAMILIAR FACE

Former Culver High School student Brandon Keller, 18, of Rochester was mourned after his death June 2 at Parkview hospital in Ft. Wayne, the result of serious head injuries from a tragic car accident.

TOWN MANAGER MCDERMOTT RESIGNS

For the third time since the position was created several years ago, Culver is without a town manager.

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The resignation of Sean McDermott, who began his tenure as the town’s third manager in October, 2007, was announced at the June 10 town council meeting, bringing an end to curiosity and rumors as to McDermott’s whereabouts in the community. Council members said that McDermott gave no reason for the move.



Sean McDermott

MISS MAXINKUCKEE CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of the Miss Maxinkuckee includ-ed: Kayla Wentz, Miss

See June page 3

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## Death notice - Kerns

**Ruth Lillian Kerns  
Dec. 20, 2008**

NORTH JUDSON — Ruth Lillian Kerns, 80, of North Judson, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008.

She is survived by daughters: Karen (Ray) Bachert of South Bend, Jo Anne (Frank) Vitallo of San Pierre, Kristeen (Randy) Kafantaris of Walkerton and Kathleen (Bob) Lynch of Plymouth; sons: Damon Kerns of North Judson and Anthony E. (“Rusty” Kim) Kerns of North Judson; sisters: Mary Ellen Nielson of North Judson and Lillian (Kenneth) Cervenka of North Judson; a brother, Edmund (Karen) Valiquet of Culver, 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Monday, Dec. 22 at Braman and Bailey Funeral Home, 6020 S. Oakwood Ave., North Judson from 5 to 8 p.m. with a rosary service at 8 p.m.

Funeral services were at St. Cyril Methodius Catholic Church, Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. with Rev. Terry Bennis officiating

Burial will follow at Sr. Jacob’s Cemetery, North Judson.

## Convenient contact info for *Culver Citizen*

The Culver Citizen is offering new ways to contact the newspaper.

Drop-off boxes for your community news are located at: the Culver-Union Township Public Library, 107 N. Main St.; and the Culver Coffee Company, 634 E. Lake Shore Dr.. These drop-off boxes will be accessible during the locations' normal business hours.

News drop-off no longer will be accepted at The Culver Citizen's former storefront location on North Main Street.

News can be sent by e-mail to: [citizen@culcom.net](mailto:citizen@culcom.net)

News can be mailed to: The Culver Citzen, c/o The Pilot News, P.O. Box 220, Plymouth, IN 46563.

News can be faxed to: 574-936-3844. News telephone contact: 574-216-0075.

Advertising contact: 574-936-3101 or 800-933-0356.

Newspaper Delivery and Subscription contact: 574-936-3101 or 800-933-0356.

We want your community news and photos! Please contact us!

## A deeper look at Culver, 2008

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

The Culver Citizen brought readers headlines showcasing current events throughout 2008, of course, but also took an opportunity to showcase some individuals and institutions whose contributions or place in the community has been felt either in the past, the present, or both.

Among them:

100-year olds Ferris Zechiel (Jan. 24) and Katie Cummins (Feb. 14)

Dale Mangun, retired from Culver Academy’s boat house after 50 years.

Thelma Lilly Hodges Moorhead, a descendent of Culver’s groundbreaking African American community of the past, and Culver’s one-time African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rollins Chapel (Feb. 21)

Ginny Bess Munroe, owner of Culver-based Deadline-Driven Publishing (Feb. 28)

The great blizzard of 1978 and the harrowing tale of Tim Warrick and Pete Salvatore, who nearly died while trapped in a car during the storm (Jan. 31 issue).

Gary Shaffer’s Culver and area dairy bottle collecting (Feb. 7 issue).

The courageous struggle waged by Karen Easterday and her family against Karen’s cancer – leading to her being one of the principle local organizers of Culver’s first-ever Relay for Life against cancer – was profiled in the April 3 issue

May 22 saw the debut of the new layout style on Citizen’s cover, incorporating a more eye-catching visual appearance.

Maxinkuckee Playhouse co-founder and 1948 CMA grad Martin Tahse, producer of famous New York and nationwide theater performances and the iconic ABC TV “After School Special” series (May 29 issue).

Culver Academies’ basketball camp and the basketball heroes of Culver’s past, Academy and community schools.

CHS grad and designer Hilary Sopata (June 5 issue).

The Culver Summer Camps’ traditions (Jeff Kenney) and history (Bob Hartman) were examined in some depth in June 19 and other issues.

Returning Culver High School and Culver Academy classes of 1958 were remembered in retrospective highlights.

JMC engineers’ Mike and Connie Overmyer and Jim Balmer (July 3 issue).

Culver’s Marge ‘Termite’ Baker’s brush with June Allyson, Hollywood star and CMA cadet sister (July 3 issue).

Dusty Henricks, behind-the-scenes community volunteer helping unite town, lake, and Academy (July 10 issue).

Larry and Joan Bess of Culver Academies, on the occasion of their retirement after more than a quarter-century of service (July 24 issue).

Richard Davies, 40 year instructor of humanities at Culver Academies, who retired in June (Aug. 14 issue).

Culver’s “walking ladies” and their contributions to the community (Aug. 21 issue).

Larry Brockey and Brockey Insurance (Aug. 28 issue).

Poplar Grove United Methodist Church, its pioneer-era beginnings, and its campaign to raise funds to replace its historic stained glass windows (Sept. 18 issue).

Culver Academies’ new website and the “online” presence of Culver in general (Sept. 18 issue).

Culver Coffee Company and founder and owner Dawn Minas (Sept. 11 issue).

Lance Overmyer, longtime Culver fireman and former chief, honored by the community at a birthday banquet (Sept. 25 issue).

Larry Miller, retiring from First Farmer’s Bank & Trust in Culver with 40 years under his belt and the distinction of being the last connection to the ‘golden age’ of Culver’s legendary (and highly successful) State Exchange Bank (Oct. 9 issue).

George Franz, who died Sept. 20, a 50-year plus resident who helped built portions of the town and was partially responsible for the arrival of the town’s first major industry (Oct. 16 issue).

Harvey Jackson Jr., who died Oct. 1, a well-known entrepreneur and concerned citizen who had overcome more odds than many may realize (Nov. 13 issue)

Culver Cub Scout Pack 290, which has been reinvigorated in recent years (Dec. 4 issue).

Amy Hutchins and Culver’s food pantry (Dec. 18 issue).

Restaurant owner and community contributor Larry Surrisi (Dec. 25 issue).

## Briefs from page 1

Antiquarian & Historical Society memorial bricks become a permanent part of beautiful Heritage Park at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets in downtown Culver. These individual pavers are a thoughtful and lasting way to create a wonderful remembrance of families, relatives or friends.

4”x 8” bricks with 1 or 2 lines for \$50 and 8”x 8”bricks with up to 4 lines for \$100 are available. These donations to the Society for the bricks are tax deductible.

Charlotte Hahn is taking orders for the bricks and she can be contacted at 842-3267. She will also assist you in selecting a location in the park for your brick(s). Order forms are also available in the Museum room at the library.

## June, from page 2

Maxinkuckee; Reagan Sheets, Princess Maxinkuckee; Machayla Allen, Little Miss Maxinkuckee; Chelsea Sals-er, Junior Miss Max.

## July:

### LAKEFEST CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

By Rusty Nixon,  
Correspondent

The world has changed since the early 1980s and so has the festival, as the theme, “Down Memory Lane” depicts — although organizers are still adding new attractions and events for the whole family. This year will be the addition of L’Max, a bicycle tour that will include distances for everyone on July 20. In spite of a damp start (and parade) Saturday, the 25th anniversary festival saw flocks of people, especially for its spectacular fireworks show Saturday night. Also on hand was Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, who chatted with members of Culver’s town council and paused to watch part of the Culver fire department’s water ball tourney.



Culver Lakefest’s 25th anniversary parade was also one of its wettest.

### MASTODONS UNEARTHED IN RURAL CULVER



John Benedict holds part of the skull of a 12,000 year old mastodon.

Culver area resident John Benedict was excavating a pond earlier this spring on his 18B Road land when excavator Gary McGhee of Argos found “the big shoulder bone (of a mastodon) probably three feet long and 12 to 14 inches around at the ends. Then we stopped digging right away; we both had enough sense to find out what we have,” said Benedict, whose discovery would yield part or all of three of the prehistoric beasts, and who

opened up the dig to curious area residents of all ages.

### CHILDREN’S LIBRARIAN THORNE TO RETIRE

The pending retirement of the Culver Public Library’s children’s librarian was discussed at the July 15 library board meeting. Library director Carol Jackson said she received a letter from Linda Thorne, head of the library’s

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children’s department. In the letter, which Jackson read out loud at the meeting, Thorne said she would retire as of Aug. 15 and added that she has “worked very hard to build an outreach program” to daycares, preschools, and other youth-oriented groups in the community, besides her work building children’s programs within the library itself.

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR JACKSON TO RESIGN

Culver-Union Twp. Public Library director Carol Jackson has announced her resignation. Jackson made the announcement at a special meeting called by the board July 22 to discuss library finances with H.J. Umbaugh & Associates CPA Paige Gregory, according to library board president Ron Cole. Jackson told the board only that she had another job. As detailed in another article this issue, Jackson has accepted a position as media specialist with the Culver Elementary school, as announced at the Culver school board meeting of July 21. Jackson listed her official date of resignation as Sept. 5.

### CES GYM TO BE RENOVATED

By Bobbie Washburn Ruhnow  
Correspondent

The Culver Elementary gymnasium renovation project got the green light Monday night as the board of trustees voted unanimously to select the firm of Stair & Associates, Martin Truesdell, architect, for the renovation.

### NORTHSIDE SIREN TO BE SILENCED AT NIGHT

A self-imposed 60-day deadline to replace the siren atop Culver’s town hall with a town-wide unit -- eliminating blasts from a new siren on Culver’s north side – has passed by, thanks to the dilapidated condition of the town hall siren’s moorings. The aged fire siren will have to stay put a while longer, leaving residents of the north-side neighborhood adjacent to the new siren expressing concern about its volume at Culver’s July 22 town council meeting.

The council had agreed on May 13 to a 60 day span in order to purchase a louder siren for the town hall, which would facilitate reducing the new, north-side siren and the existing south-side siren to use for tornado warnings only, in order to relieve the concerns of some north-side residents, who felt blowing it for fires as well as tornados would create a noise problem in their area.

## August:

### CULVER COUNCIL RING TO BE RENOVATED

Culver Summer Camps alums Richard D. Waterfield and his sons, Richard R. Waterfield and J. Randall Waterfield, have made a very significant gift to the Culver Educational Foundation which will allow Culver to renovate and restore the council rock, repair and replace the council ring, and generally upgrade the grounds and the behind the scenes equipment for the historic Council Fire Programs at Woodcraft Camp.

Additionally, the Waterfield Foundation has gifted an endowment to Culver for future support of the Indian Dance Program.

### KARST OUTLINES CULVER MUSEUM PLANS

Fred Karst, vice-president of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver and chairman of the organization’s museum committee, paid a visit to Culver’s Kiwanis club July 24 in hopes of sharing the AHS’ vision of the importance of Culver’s history and a proposed museum intended to preserve that history.

The AHS, said Karst, “needs your support with the most daunting project it has ever undertaken: the establishment

See August page 8

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Epiphany

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We’ve had a difficult Advent/Christmas season with all the ice, snow and cold. But time waits for no person, therefore I am looking optimistically towards the New Year. January 6th is the day liturgically known as Epiphany. While the Epiphany season can last up to 9 weeks, this year’s season lasts only through February 25th. The season’s duration depends upon Easter’s date, which is always the first Sunday following the full moon after March 21st. Lent is always 6 weeks prior to Easter, so the Epiphany season’s length always fluctuates.

Epiphany is the second - Easter being the oldest. baptism, events which his adult ministry. Later in the life of the liturgical winter solstice, signify- of the lengthening days. to December 25th.

Epiphany means ap- vine being or an ordinar- translates into Christ’s the darkness of ignorance covery of the infant Jesus signifies God’s revelation goes beyond the Jewish community and out into the entire world.

This emphasis of light into the world lifts up for us the significance of the Church’s mission. We are called not just to follow the light, but to also let Christ’s light shine through us. Christ illumines through us our neighborhoods and communities; our homes, jobs, and schools; and our nation and all the other nations. Mission is outreach beyond ourselves – it allows Christ’s light to shine through us. So as a community may we continue to remember the needs of those less fortunate through the Culver Food Pantry. Contributions are always welcome. May Christ’s light continue to shine through our generosity.



Pastor’s Corner

By Robin Keating  
Grace United  
Church of Christ

oldest ancient liturgical celebration of the church. Originally the day remembered Jesus’ birth and spanned from his infancy to the beginning of the two events became two separate occasions church. The date corresponded with the ancient ing the rising of the sun god and the beginning. Early in the 4th Century the solstice was moved

pearance or manifestation, especially of a di- ily invisible power. Hence, for the Church this revelation as the light for the world, dispelling and sin. The story of the magi’s search and dis-

Community Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 1  
New Year’s Day

Sunday, Jan. 4  
Open gym, 1 p.m., Culver Middle School gymnasium

Monday, Jan. 6  
Knitting Class, 10 a.m., Culver Public Library  
Al-Anon Mtg., 5:30 p.m., Culver Public Library  
Overeaters Anonymous Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Culver Public Library  
Culver Chamber of Commerce mtg., 6:30 p.m.  
DivorceCare, 7 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ

Tuesday, Jan. 7  
Fitness class, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library  
Town council mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall

Wednesday, Jan. 8  
Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library

Thursday, Jan. 9  
Fitness Class, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library  
Lisa Moise, Culver Elementary School, Kiwanis Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library  
Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Culver Public Library  
Parks and recreation board mtg., 7 p.m, town hall.

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A new year and a new view from Main Street

One thing can be said, at least, for 2008, in Culver and across the nation: it hasn’t been boring. With, among other factors, the economic situation in America and abroad, we’ve braced ourselves collectively for change. So hopefully we’ll take in stride the news that many have evidently heard by rumor and “on the street” by now, which is that the *Culver Citizen* will no longer be functioning from its North Main Street office.

I think the news should be taken in stride. The really positive news is that we still have a local paper, in a town as small as ours, in a world that seems to be so dominated by “big” things and which is also reeling from tough economic times. Further, I’m happy to continue as your editor, and privileged to be working per in the town in which I that means a lot to me.

Further, the *Citizen* “home base,” as it were, whatsoever. I’m not even record of all the places been based, but it’s been its 100-plus year history. have been various spots and I admit it was peer- window of the *Citizen* office that inspired the title of this column, at least in part. It was also, of course, a sort of homage to “Main Street” in a more generic sense, and that hasn’t changed. I’m on Main Street as much as I’m on many of Culver’s streets, and on those streets I am (as are most of you as well, of course!).

In fact, the new situation really won’t facilitate a drastic change in how I handle the business of the paper, much of which was conducted via a laptop or desktop computer in all sorts of locations around town already. It’s really no secret that I spend a portion of my time engaged in other activity besides the paper, and that’s not counting time spent with my wife and four children, which is important to me, too. So as much as I wish I could have been sitting downtown, awaiting folks dropping by the newspaper office, it never really worked out that way. If nothing else, a portion of my time was spent actually gathering the news: covering events, taking photos, interviewing people. The list goes on. I always, frankly, wished I could spend more time in the office downtown, but it really wasn’t feasible.

I think that speaks to the way a number of things have changed over the years, driven largely by technology (and I say this as an avid user -- not hater -- of technology): personal vehicles made travel more affordable and accessible, so people stopped shopping in small towns, locally. The economic base in a community like Culver shifted in such a way that a paper like the *Citizen* couldn’t be easily sustained entirely “in house,” as it were. Rather than losing our paper, instead it was made part of a larger newspaper group that was able to manage it, economically and otherwise. No longer, though, was a fully staffed downtown office possible (and that, of course, goes back several years now). Nor, for that matter, was it necessary. Technology allows me to do on a computer what once took large tables and other equipment, lots of paper, layout sheets, scissors, paste, and possibly several people. I might joke about being the reporter, photographer, staff writer, editor, and layout man all in one, but the truth is, technology really makes all of that quite feasible.

The bottom line is this: the *Citizen* is still *your* newspaper, I’m still your editor, and if anything, you’ll see *more* of me around town. I’ll likely be utilizing the wireless connections of several of our local entities offering that service to customers (and hey, doing my part to help stimulate the local economy at the same time!). I think I’ve already run into more people in the last week or two, over coffee while working on the paper outside the office, than I would have running around and stopping at the office at random times.

By the time you read this, we should have drop boxes placed at two locations for your convenience: the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library and the Culver Coffee Company. These are for stories, photos, letters, notes, etc., that you intend for the paper. Our postal mail address will be c/o The Pilot News, P.O. Box 220, Plymouth, IN 46563. So...if you want to get something directly into my hands right away, and you’re in Culver, the drop boxes may be your best bet.

You can read all the details in our blurb on page 3. Possibly the most important change for readers to note is the phone number: I’ll have a new cell phone at 574-216-0075 and I hope you’ll use it. If I don’t answer at the moment, don’t hesitate to leave a message. My email address, citizen@culcom.net, isn’t going to change, which is also good news for all of us. Please use that as well -- I check it frequently throughout the day!

In many ways I’m looking forward to having an excuse to be more of an “editor about town” than I might have been before. Which means I’m more likely to run into some of you, all in all is a good thing, don’t you think?



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney  
Editor

feel blessed and on the local grew up...a town

changing its is nothing new sure we have a the paper has quite a few in The last several on Main Street, ing out the big

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LIBRARY ACCOUNTS TO BE REVIEWED

After lengthy discussion, the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library board formally agreed to bring accounting firm Umbaugh & Associates into the library to delve into its finances, the topic of heated discussion for several months, according to board president Ron Cole.

Following a lengthy executive session, in a special public meeting held Aug. 6 the dozen or so audience members in attendance actually applauded the board’s resolution, said Cole. He added that the board was split three to two on the decision, with board members Melanie Robertson, Carol Saft, and Alfred Nyby voting in favor of Umbaugh’s financial review and members Peg Schuldt and Rita Lawson voting against it.

BEAM LAUNCHES IN CULVER, PLANS TO SHINE LIGHT IN COUNTY

The young people of BEAM (Bettering Every Aspect of Marshall County) somewhat represent the buzz occurring nationally that many young people want to change their country from the community on up, and want to do it positively and through service.

“The future of Marshall County changing the future of Marshall County,” says the slogan of BEAM, a youth philanthropic organization started this year as an offshoot of the Marshall County Community Foundation.

While Culver’s Anna Rich says the county-wide group’s initial goal is to assess the needs of the county as a whole, that hasn’t stopped the Culver-based BEAM members from contemplating specific needs in Culver. Pinder says he’s hoping to involve BEAM members and others in helping with the Sept 27-28 Vandalia Village community-built playground effort. He adds that local members plan to be available to aid any local people with specific service needs, such as help shoveling sidewalks.

NEW EAST SHORE PUD PASSES FIRST HURDLE

A preliminary proposal for Maxinkuckee Village, a planned unit development, was approved by the Culver Plan Commission at their regular meeting. The preliminary presentation gives a developer the opportunity to explore whether the commission will allow a formal presentation and public hearing.

Gary Aker, Aker Properties, LLC, Al Collins, Construction Management, and Fred Jones, attorney presented a plan for 31 single family villas, 16 townhouses, plus tennis court, swimming pool, and club house on the 55.77 acres that presently comprise the Culver Marina area. The residential areas would be erected behind the present commercial areas existing with a 6.5 acre green space between the circular residential buildings proposed. All residential buildings would meet the height and square foot requirements of the ordinance.

September:

FIRST ANNUAL LMAX FILM FEST DEBUTS



The first annual Lake Maxinkuckee Film Festival brought to Culver’s town park a 25-foot screen, on which was shown the musical, “Chicago,” Sat. night, capping off a day of films a the Uptown Cinema across the street and food, live music, and fun all evening at the park. The festival, themed “the gift of warmth” raised money and

took in donations towards keeping youth in the Culver Comm. School systems warm this winter.

JORDAN NAMED COMMANDANT

Retired Army Lt. Col. Kelly C. Jordan has been named commandant of Culver Military Academy. Jordan is the 19th full-time commandant in the school’s 114-year history.

Having cultivated a lifelong fascination with military schools and military education, Jordan said his assignment as commandant “is a perfect fit.”

October:

REED VISITS MONTEREY ELEMENTARY

Dr. Suellen K. Reed, Indiana’s highest public school official, paid a rare visit to the Culver district Sept. 23 when she stopped by Monterey Elementary School and dropped by several classrooms for brief observations. Reed says she visits at least one school in each county monthly, this being her first visit to Monterey but fourth to the Culver district.

PASTURE RENAMED FOR ‘SARGE’ HUDSON

Family and admirers of the late Command Sgt. Major John W. Hudson gathered to unveil a sign proclaiming the well-known Culver Academies horse pasture – at the corner of State Roads 10 and 17 – “CSM John W. ‘Sarge’ Hudson Black Horse Troop Pasture.”

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The sign and christening of the pasture, a beloved spot for Hudson, is due to the admiration afforded him by the Russ Bundy family, whose sons Gilbert, William D. and Robert A. were 1977, 1993 and 1999 (respectively) Academies graduates and members of the Troop under Hudson.

COMMUNITY MOURNS UNTIMELY PASSING OF WILLHITE



Jeff Willhite

The Culver community as a whole is mourning the unexpected death of a lifelong fixture in Culver whose impact on the lives of many has come to the fore in the wake of his Oct. 7 death. Jeff Willhite, a 1990 graduate of Culver Community High School, was rushed to the hospital Oct. 5, the victim of a bacterial infection that eventually took his life.

Through his work as a campus security officer at Culver Academies, as an active member of Culver’s volunteers EMS, in assisting his brother Lee in the day-to-day operation of Gladie’s Deli on Main St., and simply as an outgoing and highly visible member of Culver’s community, Willhite was known by many in the area.

‘VANDALIA VILLAGE’ PLAYGROUND BECOMES REALITY

Thanks to volunteer efforts and community financial support over recent years, Culver area children will have a new and exciting place to play. Over 120 people from all walks of life, including individuals as well as representatives of Culver’s volunteer fire department, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, and service clubs from both the Culver Community High School and Culver Academies, gathered Oct. 18 to bring three years of planning into fruition and “Vandalia Village” into existence. The all-day community effort resulted in the installation of two major playground structures.

CULVER IS SETTING OF ADAMS’ NEW HISTORICAL NOVEL

Marcia Adams’ new novel, “Adventures of Alexia, a Lake Maxinkuckee Girl: 1885” has been published by Hawthorne Publishing of Carmel (www.hawthornepub.com), a company operated in part by another novelist inspired by the area, Nancy Baxter, whose series of historical novels about pioneer times often features the Culver-Lake Maxinkuckee area.

CARPENTER IS NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Culver-Union Twp. Public library board ended Colleen Carpenter’s tenure as interim director and hired her officially as director. Board president Ron Cole recommended Carpenter – who was hired in early 2008 as head of the library’s local history and genealogy department – as director. “You’ve done a fine job,” Cole told Carpenter after the board unanimously voted her into the position.

November:

CULVERITES REACT TO HISTORIC ELECTION

Culver area residents -- including Glenda Kent, Julie Bess, and Marlo Anderson, reacted to an election with record numbers of voters turning out, and one which resulted in the nation’s first African-American president.

CGA CLAIMS FIRST SEMISTATE CROWN

The lady Eagles soccer team won its first semistate soccer championship, earning rave reviews and a glowing article on ESPN.com praising the Culver community as a whole.

CES STUDENTS SEE CULVER IN STONE AND STEEL

David Jackson, a 1998 Culver High School graduate, discussed his fountain-based sculpture with Culver Elementary School fifth graders Oct. 29, part of a day’s field trip to examine sculpture in the area. Jackson has created a number of massive works like this one on his property south of Culver, all from 99 percent recycled material. Culver Academies art instructor Robert Nowalk also led the students on a tour of some of the sculptures of the Academies campus.

CULVER’S MEDALLION LAYS OFF 37

The nation’s economic woes hit home in Culver last week when Medallion Cabinetry announced its decision to cut 37 employees from its Mill St. plant, one of several of the company’s locations across the US forced to reduce its workforce.

CES STUDENTS“SOUP FOR THE SOUL”IS SMASHING SUCCESS

By any estimation, it’s safe to say the Culver Elementary School sixth graders’ “Soup for the Soul” event was a smashing success. That’s certainly true financially, says sixth grade teacher Missy Trent, who with CES art teacher Joyce Lyman conceived the event as a service project for her students earlier this fall. Her ideal fundraising goal for the Nov. 20 soup supper, held at the CES cafeteria, was \$1,000. At final count, the project raised \$1,500 for the Plymouth-based women’s shelter Heminger House.

FIRARI AMONG HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Former Culver Academies English instructor and theater head -- and Culver Citizen columnist -- Harvey Firari was one of fifteen new members inducted into the school’s Arts & Letters Hall

December:

SEVERAL HONORED AT ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS

At the Culver Chamber of Commerce annual community awards banquet Dec. 2, Leroy Bean was named “Volunteer of the Year,” Esther and Ward K. Miller, “Business person of the year,” and Margaret Dehne of the Finney Shilling VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 6919 in Culver accepted the Lifetime Achievement award on behalf of the Auxiliary.



Leroy Bean

BLACK HORSE TROOP WILL RIDE IN INAUGURAL PARADE

Culver Academies' Black Horse Troop and Equestriennes have received and accepted an invitation to participate in the Obama-Biden Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. on January 20, 2009. This will mark the 15th time that Culver Academies has participated in the Inaugural Parade.

BATTEN GIVES HISTORIC GIFT TO ACADEMIES

Landmark Communications founder Frank Batten and his wife, Jane have given his Culver Academies alma mater a two-part gift that could reach \$70 million. It is believed to be one of the largest challenge grant programs for any secondary school, the largest employer in Marshall County.

FIRST STEP TAKEN TOWARDS WATER RATE HIKE

After some debate Culver’s town council took the first steps towards raising town water rates 25.7 percent as a preliminary move, pending advertisement and a public hearing.

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