

The Culver Citizen

Thursday, December 24, 2009 Vol. No. 115 Issue No. 42 50¢
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In Brief

VFW New Year's Eve party

Culver's VFW Post #6919 will hold a New Year's Party Thursday, December 31, starting at 7 p.m. at the Post, 108 E. Washington St. in Culver. Free local transportation will be provided. All are welcome and attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass. DJ Rockin' Randy will be on hand for karaoke, and champagne, party favors, and breakfast will be provided. There is no cover charge for the party.

End-of-month meal at St. Mary's Dec. 30

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church's end-of-month community meal will take place Wednesday, December 30. On the 30th day of each month, a community meal will be provided for anyone interested in attending, with food and drinks supplied by parishioners. St. Mary of the Lake is located at 124 College Avenue in Culver. Questions may be directed to 574-842-2522.

Culcom encourages food donations

Culver Communications is encouraging its customers to make a difference by offering to take \$1 off tanning sessions, video rental, or Internet service for donations of non-perishable food or unused and unopened person hygiene items for the Culver food pantry during the months of December and January. Donations must be brought to Culver Communications at 514 West Jefferson Street. There is a limit of \$1 credit per invoice.

Culver resident encourages personal protection whistles

One Culver resident wants to help others stay safe if attacked by way of the "three Ps...Practice Personal Protection." Pat Watkins is hoping people - especially women - will consider purchase of personal protection whistles, which she says are visible and easy to reach and can't be used against their owners as pepper spray or mace can. The whistle, adds Watkins, will startle an attacker and alert others, giving a potential victim a chance to escape from personal attacks. The whistles are available alone or on a variety of necklaces, bracelets, and other formats. See Briefs page 3

Faces of giving

Students of all ages at Culver Elementary School have been experiencing the joy of giving to those in need this holiday season (SEE STORY BELOW).

ABOVE, LEFT: Some of CES' kindergarten students gather 'round the tree with gifts they brought in for animals at the Marshall County Humane Society. Front row, seated, left to right: Samuel Luttrell, Lizzie Pugh, Skyler Pike, Kaydin Sayavongsing, Mackenzie Banks, Kierra Parker, Mary Kate Kelley, Cole Rieckhoff, Austin Dilts, and Zachary Hine. Middle row, standing: Alyson Martin, Anna Gregorash, Natalie Stevens, Marquez Anderson, Spring Ye. Back row, standing: Matthew Schaller, Cheyenne Lindsley, Cody Winkler, Cameron Minix, Dayne Garbacik, and Lane Coby.

CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

TOP PHOTO: Fifth grade students in Raeanne Stevens' reading class helped out newborn babies in Marshall County by bringing in books and helping bag them for the county Reading Council's "Books for Babies" program. From left to right: Brennin Betts, Patrick Kline, Brandon Havron, Erin Bendy, and Trista Vela.

BOTTOM RIGHT: CES fourth graders visited Park N' Shop in Culver with money they earned at home and sought the best food bargains they could find in order to help fill the shelves of Culver's food pantry this holiday season. The adult helper at left is CES custodian John Berdine; Students are, from left to right, Daniel Aguilar, Tracey Lindvall, Lucas Berdine, R.T. Roberts, and Brooklyn Noble.

Culver students play Santa

CES students give gifts to others in season of greater need

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

The old adage that it's better to give than receive may seem to some an overused cliché, but at Culver Elementary School, students are finding out firsthand the phrase's truth. And while many former CES students will remember classroom gift exchanges, in which names were drawn and assigned to give classmates an inexpensive gift, gift-giving at the school nowadays has a more community-minded slant. It turns out those student-to-student exchanges - for a few years now - are a thing of the past, which may not be such a bad thing. As is evidenced this year by the efforts of students and teachers across the board at CES, they've been replaced by service projects aimed at aiding the neediest in the area while raising student awareness that, to coin another oft-used catch-phrase, "it's not just about me."

Teachers at CES, in fact, also opted not to do a gift exchange, says third grade teacher Valerie Cultice. Money earmarked in the past for CES faulty mem-

bers' long-held "secret Santa" gift exchange is now channeled into one or two kids' programs at the school, she explains.

"There is definitely a need with the kids you can see this year," says Cultice, whose Voyagers students helped spearhead a grade-wide food collection effort to re-stock the shelves of Culver's food pantry. "Families are hurting. (Some) kids can't get milk because they can't afford it; and that's just one example. We see kids with no coats. Some pack their lunch every day because they can't afford to get the school lunch and don't qualify for free and reduced lunches. Parents are not ordering as much from Scholastic book orders (for their children) as they have in the past. Little things like that. Kids don't have the things they used to."

CES third graders undertook the food collecting project after reading about depleted shelves at the pantry in the *Culver Citizen*, says Cultice. They eventually collected over 1,000 food items, prompting assistant principal Craig Hopple to fulfill a pledge to

have his hair dyed over the school's televised morning announcements. Students in Jill DeSalle's math class helped calculate the weight of the food, which Cultice notes didn't even include the many toiletry items brought in.

Third grader Sam Schaller describes the effort as being about "citizenship and giving. It was fun because you get to go around and take the boxes and count how much you got. It felt good knowing someone else will have a better Christmas because we're doing this." Classmate Allie Jones agrees, explaining such projects make sense this time of year "because Christmas is about caring and giving, and we're giving to people who don't have enough money to buy food."

Another class member, Nora Kline, said she definitely felt some of the "it's better to give than receive" sentiment everyone talks about, in aiding with the project. Like most classmates, she'd like to do it again.

And she'll likely get a chance. For the past sev-

eral years, it's been a tradition in the fourth grade here that parents are asked to "hire" their child to earn money around the house and assist them in earning it where they can elsewhere. That money is then used towards a shopping trip at Culver's Park N' Shop grocery store, where teachers and adult helpers comb the aisles for the best food bargains available, factoring in cost-per-unit and best food purchases for the buck. Students, then, are not only learning to serve others -- since their food purchases will be donated to the food pantry -- but picking up skills in mathematics and life skills in stretching dollars and nutrition at the same time.

Fourth grader Jake Rodgers says the project felt good "because we worked hard for the money. We worked for it and then we gave it back...it felt good doing something for someone else for a change."

Classmate Pierce Ellert agrees doing nice things for others "just feels good during Christmas."

Fifth graders at the school took part in another annual project this holiday

season, donating and bagging new board books for newborn babies in Marshall County, part of the county Reading Council's "Books for Babies" program, says fifth grader Patrick Kline, who recalls his older sister Maeve participating in the program three years ago. Brennin Betts says students brought in books to add to those already donated, and the resultant gift bag "goes home with the babies, like a Christmas present."

Trista Vela says it feels good "to be giving something to a little baby" this Christmas.

As reported in recent weeks in the *Citizen*, Culver second graders' contribution to their community this year included "Hearts Warming Hands," which second grader William Baldwin says collected mittens "for people who don't have any."

Carter Stevens, who along with Belle Ahlenius helped with much of the initial legwork to get the program started, connects the effort with Christmas not only because it's cold outside this time of year,

See Students page 7



PHOTO/GARY MILLS, CULVER ACADEMIES COMMUNICATIONS

A holy night

As has been the case for more than 80 years, students and faculty at Culver Academies joined citizens from across the community and beyond in reflecting on the meaning of the upcoming holidays at the school's annual Christmas Vespers service, held in the Memorial Chapel on campus. Student bands and choirs interspersed carols and hymns with student-read Bible readings of the foretelling and birth of Christ and a brief reflection by Chaplain Johanna Wagner.

At left, students sing 'Silent Night' by candlelight.

And, as many Citizen readers will find this edition in their hands on Christmas Eve, the editor and all those involved wish our readers the merriest of Christmases and good tidings for the New Year.

Name: FULL-BANNER; Width: 52p1.167; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00082797; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Collins & Co (Plymouth); Size: 10 in

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PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY -- *DON FRIESE

A Christmas gift for county service agencies

Culver's Ralph Winters is known locally for frequently "helping" Santa Claus come to life around Culver, but in recent weeks he's been making the rounds in a different sort of giving situation. Winters collected donations from Culver area service clubs and other entities towards construction of a new facility to be built on the site of the former Farm Bureau Co-Op property on West Adams Street in Plymouth. The building will house the social service agencies currently scattered throughout Plymouth, often in substandard facilities in out-of-the-way locations, said Winters.

PHOTO ABOVE, LEFT: Winters accepts a \$500 contribution from the Culver Kiwanis Club, represented by treasurer Jim Weirick. ABOVE, RIGHT: Culver Lions Club President Dan Adams presents a check for \$3,000 to Winters. "This generous contribution represents a lot of pancakes and sausage breakfasts," Winters told the Lions, "and a lot of 50-cent flea market sales. Thank you." Other major contributors to the project have been the Marshall County Community Foundation, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Marshall County, City of Plymouth and many individuals. The primary source of funding is a 40-year USDA Rural Development Loan. Additional contributions toward this project may be sent to the Community Resource Center, Inc, PO Box 1085, Plymouth, IN 46563. The Community Resource Center of Marshall County is a 501c3 organization, and no property tax monies will be used in the operation of this facility.

Library book-film club Jan. 6

CULVER — The Culver Union-Township Public Library's Book/Film Club "A Novel Approach" will meet Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 12 p.m. in the library's large meeting room located in the lower level by the computer lab. Participants may bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. The event will be hosted by Barb Maves of the

Adult Services department. The featured selection will be "A Home at the End of the World" by Michael Cunningham. Participants are asked to first read the book (copies are available to check out) and then view its film version at the library with discussion to follow.

Following programs will be scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month. Call the Culver Library at 574-842-2941 for more information or e-mail staff@culver.lib.in.us. All programs are open and free to the public.

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Name: GREETING; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00084004; Ad

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Name: FULL-DEC. CLASS SPECIAL; Width: 41p6.333; Depth: 9 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00082892; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 36 in

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Name: METRO; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00082538; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: City Tavern; Size: 8 in

Culver Girl Scouts earn awards



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Culver Girl Scouts and Brownies at a Dec. 16 awards banquet include (front row, left to right): Alyssa Stockberger, Rebecca Christlieb, Nicole Dekoker, Jordan Jennings, Macee Stryker. Second row: Alexis Grove, Trista Fritter, Emily Bendy, Maggie Gormaly, Lillian Proskey, Aubry Highberger, Olivia Jennings, Brooke Dekoker. Third row: Trista Vela, Sydney Pritz, Grace Fluery, Brooke Ditmire, Erin Bendy, Catherine Szymusiak, Lindsey Proskey, Marcella Cooper, Victoria Jennings (volunteer assistant), Brigid Kelley.

Culver Brownies and Girl Scouts were recognized December 16 for their achievements at an awards banquet held at the City Tavern in Culver.

Sixteen Junior Girl Scouts in Troop #30472, made up of fourth and fifth graders, earned a combined 90 total badges at the banquet for work they completed, says Troop leader Mary Szymusiak. For each one of these badges, the girls had to complete six out of 10 activities, she explains. In addition to the 90 badges, some of these girls earned four Sign of the Rainbow patches and five Junior Aide Awards (for which the girls worked with younger scouts).

Six girls earned the highest achievement in scouting for Junior Girl Scouts, "The Bronze Award." Each girl had to complete 15 project hours, earn two badges related to their project, earn one of four signs, and a few more requirements. Most worked on their Bronze Awards for several months. Special guest Joyce Liggett, Girl Scouts' Northern Indiana-Michigan Community Development Manager, presented the award Sydney Pritz, Catherine Szymusiak, Erin Bendy, Olivia Jennings, Macee Stryker, and Trista Vela.

Culver's 14 Brownies (Troop #30474) made up of first, second, and third graders, earned a total of 72 Try-It patches in a variety of categories, also awarded at the banquet.

Both Juniors and Brownies also won fun patches for their recent Culver tree planting activity as well as for jewelry making.

Presenting awards in addition to Szymusiak were Troop leaders Beth Hill and Wendi Bendy. The Troop also honored guest volunteers from the community at the banquet — some of whom also presented awards to the Scouts --- including Audra Hull, Judith and Victoria Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kearns, Jeff Kenney, Lydia Osborn, and Mary Reinholt.

Death notice

Oliver

**Myra E. Oliver
Dec. 19, 2009**

FORT WAYNE — Myra E. Oliver, 94, of Fort Wayne, formerly of Culver, died at 4:40 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009 at Woodview Health Center, Fort Wayne.

She is survived by her sons, Bruce (Karen) Oliver of Fort Wayne, Russell (Susie) Oliver II of Raleigh, N.C.; sister, Elizabeth MacCauley of Clinton Township, Mich.; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation took place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, at Odom Funeral Home, Culver.

Funeral services took place at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Culver Education Foundation, 1300 Academy Road, Culver, IN, 46511 in memory of Russell D. and Myra E. Oliver.

REAL Services menu

Those interested in sharing a meal at REAL Meals are asked to call Ruth Walker at the nutrition site (the Culver beach lodge) before 11 a.m. on the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. A donation is suggested for each meal.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Closed for the holiday.

Friday, Dec. 25: Closed for the holiday.

Monday, Dec. 28: BBQ pork, bun, sweet potato patty, mixed vegetable, dessert, and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 29: Beef stew with corn, carrots, and potatoes, cauliflower and broccoli salad, biscuit, peaches, and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 30:

Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, bread and margarine, cinnamon applesauce, and milk.

Thursday, Dec. 31: Sweet and sour chicken, rice, black eyed peas, roll and margarine, blueberry crisp, salad, and milk.

Friday, Jan. 1: Closed for the holiday..

Community Calendar

Thurs., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Culver Public Library, other entities closed for holiday

Fri., Dec. 25 - Christmas day

Sat., Dec. 26
Quilting group, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library

Sun., Dec. 27
Open gym for adults, 1 to 3 p.m. (Sundays through

March 7), Culver Middle School gymnasium

Mon., Dec. 28
Knitting Class, 5 p.m., Culver Public Library

DivorceCare, 7 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ
Culver Community School board mtg., 7 p.m., administration building

Tues., Dec. 29
Master gardening, 5:30 p.m., Culver Public Library

Weds., Dec. 30

Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library
Community meal, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church

Thurs., Dec. 31 - New Years' Eve

Culver Public Library, other entities closed for holiday
VFW New Year's Party, 7:30 p.m., Post 6919 headquarters (see Brief page 1)

Briefs from page 1

Those interested in obtaining a whistle or with questions may call Watkins at 574-842-4876.

Adult winter gym at Culver Middle School

Sunday afternoon basketball at the Culver Middle School, for adults 18 and over only, takes place Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. and will continue until March 7.

Cost will be \$2 per Sunday, or \$15 for the entire season, and must be "paid

before you play" to cover insurance. Please call Ken VanDePutte at 574 274 9942 with questions.

Culver pantry in need

Culver's food pantry, located in the basement of Grace United Church of Christ, 397 N. Plymouth Street in Culver, is in desperate need of donations to fill its rapidly-emptying shelves. Needed are non-perishable foods as well as unused, unopened personal hygiene items. Those with items to donate are encour-

aged to bring them to the church or contact Hutchins at 574-842-2598.

Citizen contact info

Drop-off boxes for community news are located at the Culver-Union Township Public Library and the Culver Coffee Company on Lake Shore Dr. These boxes will be accessible during the locations' normal business hours. Citizen editor Jeff Kenney may be reached at 574-216-0075. News can be sent by e-mail to: citizen@culcom.net.

Name: GREETING; Width: 9p9.833; Depth: 4 in; Color:

Name: GREETING; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00083758; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Quality Comfort Heating & AC; Size: 8 in

Name: SUPER SANTA BAG; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00081608; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Kings Jewelry; Size: 15 in

Name: CULVER SBSCRIPTION; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00082447; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

A Christmas story

I'm told that this story has its beginnings in Germany. As most legends go, through the many years since its beginning, there have been changes in the way it was told, but the essence of it has never changed. Here is the story as I heard it.

It was Christmas Eve, some years ago. The air was crisp and the freshly fallen snow was being swirled around by an occasional gust of wind. Inside, the country ranch house was filled with the aroma of fresh pine and the warm glow of the crackling fireplace. All was peaceful. Joe was soaking up the warmth of the fireplace as he relaxed in his favorite chair and read the paper. But he couldn't concentrate. His mind kept wandering from the world events reported in the paper to the events of his own life just a few moments earlier. He closed his eyes as he remembered the argument with his family when they tried to persuade him to go with them to the Christmas Eve service in town.

"Why should I go?" he asked them. I've got all the Christmas I need right here," he said as he looked at the decorations in the house and the freshly cut pine tree, trimmed and decorated with tinsel, garland strings of popcorn and flickering lights.

"Besides," Joe continued, "I'm not going to be like all the other hypocrites. I've never understood why anyone would want to come into this world, let alone God, so I'm not going to pretend that it happened. If He's supposed to

be so righteous and holy and loving, why does He allow all the suffering in this world? If He's supposed to be so powerful and mighty and if He wanted to save us from ... I don't know what ... why couldn't He do it from His throne in heaven. And besides all that, if there's any saving to be done, I'm going to do it myself."

Joe squirmed in his chair trying to get comfortable. He got up, placed another log on the fire, picked the paper up again, and began to settle into his chair when he heard a loud 'thud' off to his side. He went to the bay window and looking out, saw a small bird lying motionless on the ground in a soft pile of fresh snow. Wondering what had caused the bird to fly into the window, he turned to return to his chair when another bird flew into the window. This one, too, fell to the ground, fluttered for a moment and then lay quietly in the snow.

Joe realized that the birds were trying to get into the house where it was warm. They could see the fire in the fireplace and wanted to get close enough to warm their small, fragile bodies.

Quickly Joe put on his coat and boots ran outside, opened the barn door and turned on the light. The barn would provide shelter from the cold. Then he ran to the birds, hoping to chase them into the barn where they would find warmth; but it was no use. Every time he would get near, they would fly off in another direction.

Then as he watched, a third descended into his bay window with the same result as the previous two. "What can I do?" he thought in desperation. "If only I could make them understand that I only want to help. If only I could

speaking their language, I would tell them of the safety in the barn. If only I could become like one of them, I would ... I would."

At that very moment he heard the opening Christmas hymn from the church in town as it drifted across the open fields. For the first time Joe understood what it meant for God to be made man. He understood why God would want to enter this world. He understood the great love God must have had to become like one of us and he fell to his knees in worship.

The congregation was already singing the sermon hymn when the newcomer entered the church. One member was quick to notice him and nudging her mother, made room in the pew for him to join them. Together, Joe and his family sang with joyful voices,

"Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share my misery; What thanks shall I return to Thee?"

The air outside was crisp and the freshly fallen snow was being swirled around by an occasional gust of wind. But inside, the family in that church pew was being warmed by the glow of God's love like no log fire ever would.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John: 1-5, 14 NKJV)

I pray that you will have a very Blessed Christmas!



Pastor's Corner

By Pastor KC Dehning
Trinity Lutheran Church

Plan ahead for your resolutions

This has been one of the best year's I have ever had in all the years of my life! I attribute all of the best moments based on the resolutions I started to make two years ago. Like many of us, New Year's resolutions are our initial rites of passage into each new year, but this list of resolutions was very different – these resolutions were life-changing and life-enhancing. I would like to share with you what made this particular new year's resolution list more meaningful, in hopes to encourage you to make your resolutions have most impact for you as we approach 2010 together.

First of all, I encourage you to give yourself permission and take the time to dream. Track your dreams in a journal so that you can watch your lifelong list dreams come true and add more dreams throughout the years. Call it a dream journal, a bucket list, your resolutions. Regardless of what you call it, your dreams are the reflections of your values and your purpose. And your values and purpose are as critical to your day to day living as they are to your legacy that you pass along to the next generations.

There are no real rules to your dream list. Have you watched Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson in the movie, "Bucket List?" It's about two men who have been diagnosed with cancer. Told they have only a few weeks left to live, they write down a list of all they want to do before they die. The list is not practical given their circumstances and as their destinies cross, they

are given the opportunity to live out and experience their list of dreams.

This film helped me to formulate my list just last year. Another motivator for me was realizing those who have passed by throughout my life and who have missed out on their chance to live their dreams.

I am reminded of my own mother who died at age 62 and my father who was forced to retire earlier than planned from his thriving physical therapy practice and is now sitting in a wheel chair unable to travel, golf and care for his new garden. Realizing your parent's mortality is difficult but it also forces us to realize our own purpose and need for self care and life planning. Living life to the fullest and reaching your dreams means that you can't just put your hopes and dreams floating out there in the future somewhere next to "someday." You have to take the steps to actually check off the items on your dream list today.

One of the dreams I have always had deep within my heart was running a 5K. And, it clearly illustrates the next step of the process from realizing your dream to living it. Since grade school, I have struggled with my weight and running a 5K seemed like such a far-fetched goal to me. I made a lot of excuses allowing me to push this 5K dream in between "Somewhere, Sometime" and *Neverland*. A friend of mine encouraged me by helping me realize that the best way to be a runner was to just start running. "What? You mean, I didn't need to lose 20 pounds first? (shrug) It was worth a try," I said to myself. So I put one foot in front of the other and just went for it!

The first time I went out to run, I couldn't run for longer than ten sec-

onds. So, I ran for eight seconds, then walked for eight minutes. Then I ran for eight seconds again. This was a technique that my friend recommended to me. It was called, "From Couch to 5K in 6 Weeks." Although, it actually took me about 18 months to get from the couch to my first 5K, I am not discouraged by the lapse of time. I don't focus on the struggle, the delays, the setbacks. I see only success as I check off one of the items from my bucket list!

The process of getting off the couch to a 5K is a great example of dreaming! You have to realize your dream, write it down. Then, you need determination. Getting some support from friends and family doesn't hurt either. (Thanks Karen and husband Phil!) Along with that determination, it helps to plan and set realistic goals too. In fact, transforming your dreams into manageable goals is another important step towards success.

Why is it that some of us are afraid to dream and succeed? Is it that we feel we don't deserve a good life filled with joy and good health? Or, perhaps we believe that our true dreams are unreachable. We are calloused from disappointment; discouraged by our circumstances, and consumed with our struggles, delays and setbacks. This is such a dark corner to back yourself in, yet it is so easy to get stuck in that place.

The holidays in fact can magnify these insecurities within our souls. As I approach the holidays this year, I am refocusing my

eye pieces so that I see my dreams not with nearsightedness nor farsightedness. I place my sight on both sides of my dream list, those that I have accomplished and those I have yet to experience. And I remember words from my mother, "The best is yet to come."

Look beyond that list of all you need to do for everyone else today and start preparing your dream list. It is the first step in seeing your own dreams come true.

Andrea Cook is a contributing columnist to the "Culver Citizen". Writer, illustrator, fitness instructor, wife to Phil Cook and mother of two diva daughters, she recently has relaunched her marketing and design agency, The Midas Center located in downtown Plymouth. She welcomes your feedback and comments and encourages you to visit her blog, "One Column At a Time" online at <http://andreacook.wordpress.com>.



ONE COLUMN AT A TIME

BY ANDREA G. COOK

Name that Culver "citizen"

Last week's Mystery Citizen was correctly spotted by Lynn Overmyer, Betty Voreis, Judi Burns, and Jean Kindred, who may want to enjoy their free parking in front of



Above: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Gail Ruhnow, then and now. Below: this week's mystery citizen.



Gail's on Main Street. That's also where they'll find our Mystery Citizen, Gail Ruhnow, owner and operator of the store for several years now.

This week's Mystery Citizen also grew up in Culver and is well known to Culverites of a variety of ages.

Guesses may be emailed to citizen@culcom.net, dropped off in one of our drop boxes (located at the Culver Public Library and Culver Coffee Company), or call the editor at 574-216-0075.

Name: 2010 BRIDAL ; Width: 20p4.667;
Depth: 7 in; Color: Black; File Name:
00083954; Ad Number: -; Customer Name:
Treat's Squire Shop; Size: 14 in

Name: WEEKLY
AD; Width:

Name: SANTA'S HELPER-DEC; Width:
20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File
Name: 00081422; Ad Number: -; Customer
Name: Quality Optical; Size: 10 in



Sports



Sports briefs

Boys basketball

Culver cruises past Warriors

Zoe Bauer scored 22 points and Larry Clingler chipped in 12, and Culver Community claimed a 53-36 home win over Winamac Tuesday.

The Cavs jumped out to an early 20-9 lead and held the visitors to five points in the third quarter en route to the comfortable win.

• CULVER 53, WINAMAC 36
At Culver
Score by quarters
Culver: 20 34 44 53
Winamac: 9 21 26 36
Winamac (36): Brandon Ball 1 0-0 2, Quentin Blount 1 0-0 2, Will Kocher 0 2-2 2, Andrew Malott 1 2-2 4, Bryan McKinney 1 2-2 4, Brennan Morning 0 0-0 0, Jordan Morning 0 0-1 0, Justin Rugg 2 0-0 4, Zach Shidler 2 1-4 6, Steven Wagner 5 0-0 13. Totals: 13 5-9 36.
Culver (53): A.J. Neace 2 0-0 6, Nick Peterson 1 0-0 2, Brock Elliott 0 1-3 1, Collin Stevens 0 0-0 0, Zoe Bauer 7 5-5 22, Patrick Mulvihill 0 0-1 6, Micah Budzinski 1 2-2 4, Larry Clingler 6 0-0 12. Totals: 17 8-11 53.
3-point goals: Culver 5 (Bauer 3, Neace 2), Winamac 5 (Wagner 3, Malott, Shidler); Rebounds: Culver 22, Winamac 20, Turnovers: Culver 12, Winamac 19; Steals: Culver 7, Winamac 5; Assists: Culver 16, Winamac 10; Fouls (fouled out): Culver 15 (none), Winamac 16 (none); Records: Culver 2-3, Winamac 1-5.
JV score: Winamac 37, Culver 24.

Jimmys pull away from Cavs

Jimtown used a big fourth quarter to pull away from Culver Community, 38-30, in a Northern State Conference boys basketball game Friday.

Zoe Bauer scored 12 points to lead the Cavs, who trimmed a nine-point halftime deficit to three points heading into the fourth quarter.

• JIMTOWN 38, CULVER COMMUNITY 30
At Elkhart
Score by quarters
Culver: 2 8 20 30
Jimtown: 7 17 23 38
CULVER (30): AJ Neace 1 1-2 3, Nick Peterson 1 2-2 4, Brock Elliott 0 0-0 0, Collin Stevens 0 0-0 0, Zoe Bauer 5 1-1 12, Patrick Mulvihill 0 0-0 0, Kyle Pugh 1 0-0 3, Micah Budzinski 2 0-0 4, Larry Clingler 2 0-0 4. TOTALS: 12 4-5 30.
JIMTOWN (38): Brandon Abel 0 0-0 0, Nick Anglemeyer 0 3-4 3, Brae Beadles 6 1-2 14, Justin Brown 0 2-4 2, Shane Cook 4 3-4 12, Richard Geraghty 0 0-0 0, Bret Giddings 0 0-0 0, Kasey Henker 0 0-0 0, Brian Hosinski 1 0-1 2, Max Pollock 0 0-0 0, DJ Washington 2 0-0 5, Deccio Tate 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 13 9-15 38.
3-point goals: Culver 2 (Bauer, Pugh), Jimtown 3 (Beadles, Cook, Washington); Turnovers: Culver 10, Jimtown 18; Rebounds: Culver 13, Jimtown 27; Assists: Culver 10, Jimtown 8; Steals: Culver 11, Jimtown 3; Fouls (fouled out): Culver 16 (Neace, Pugh), Jimtown 9 (none); Records: Culver 2-4, Jimtown 4-2.

Girls basketball

CGA beats Argos

Culver Girls Academy jumped off to a 14-5 lead at the quarter break and never looked back in a 55-43 home win over Argos Tuesday.

Freshman Andrijana Cvitkovic led the Eagles with 14 points, while Erica Sims and Alexis Christlieb each chipped in 10.

Argos was led by nine points from Alexandra Zechiel, while Kyla VanDerWeele tallied eight in the loss.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 55, ARGOS 43
At Culver
Score by quarters
Argos: 5 13 25 43
CGA: 14 34 47 55
ARGOS (43): Samantha Stults 3 1-2 7, Alexandra Zechiel 1 7-7 9, Kassi Hensley 0 0-0 0, Karlee VanDerWeele 0 1-2 1, Kyla VanDerWeele 3 2-2 8, Hannah Alcorn 2 1-2 5, Amanda Walker 1 0-0 2, Latisha Shepherd 0 0-2 2, Brooke Thayer 1 0-0 2, Kayla Prochno 3 1-3 7. Totals: 14 5-22 43.
CGA (55): Alexis Christlieb 4 2-2 10, Kenzie Ungar 1 0-0 2, Katie Gawor 0 1-2 1, Andrea Lin 1 1-5 3, Kylee Shipley 2 3-5 7, Moira Kelley 0 0-0 0, Brenna Newell 4 0-0 8, Annie Morsches 0 0-1 0, Erica Sims 5 0-0 10, Monique Novoa 0 0-0 0, Monica Weaser 0 0-0 0, Andrijana Cvitkovic 7 1-2 14. Totals: 24 8-17 55.
3-point goals: CGA 1 (Cvitkovic), Argos 0; Fouls (fouled out): Argos 20 (none), CGA 18 (none); Records: CGA 7-3, Argos 1-7.
JV score: CMA 24, Argos 11.

Jimmys drop Culver

Sarah DeShone knocked down a game-best 26 points to lead Class 2A No. 7 Jimtown to a 57-38 Northern State Conference girls basketball victory over Culver Community at John R. Nelson Gymnasium Saturday.

Junior center Gwen Zehner led the Cavs with 11 points, followed by nine from Whitney Sanders.

• JIMTOWN 57, CULVER 38
At Culver
Score by quarters
Jimtown: 15 36 44 57
Culver: 12 22 33 38
JIMTOWN (57): Emma Stahl 5 0-0 10, Nicki Ward 1 3-5 5, Sarah DeShone 10 2-2 26, Samantha LeSure 3 0-0 6, Traci Adams 2 0-0 4, Katie Goward 3 0-0 6, Alexis Cook 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 27 12-22 70.
CULVER (38): Nicole Carnegie 2 0-0 4, Susannah Baker 3 0-0 7, Whitney Sanders 3 1-2 9, Alison Zehner 1 2-2 5, Gwen Zehner 4 3-5 11, Cindy Miller 1 0-0 2. TOTALS: 14 6-9 38.
3-point goals: Jimtown 4 (DeShone), Culver 4 (Sanders 2, Baker, A. Zehner); Fouls (fouled out): Jimtown 10 (none), Culver 11 (Carnegie); Records: Jimtown 9-1 (3-0 NSC), Culver 5-5 (3-0 NSC).

Cvitkovic leads CGA

Culver Girls Academy freshman Andrijana Cvitkovic personally outscored Bowman Academy, erupting for a game-best 31 points in the Eagles' 70-25 basketball win Saturday at Fleet Gymnasium.

Kylee Shipley added 23 points and seven assists for CGA.

• CGA 70, BOWMAN ACADEMY 25
At Culver
Score by Quarters
BOWMAN: 10 10 22 25
CGA: 16 33 52 70
BOWMAN (25): Alexis Artis 1 0-2 2, Anthonisia Humphrey 0 1-2 1, Breyonna Vorice 1 0-0 2, Cayill Henderson 1 0-0 2, Princess German 2 0-0 4, Colleen DeLong 0 0-0 0, T'Rai Pleasant 3 1-2 8. TOTALS: 11 2-6 25.
CGA (70): Alexis Christlieb 0 0-0 0, Kenzie Ungar 1 2-6 4, Katie Gawor 0 0-0 0, Andrea Lin 0 0-0 0, Kylee Shipley 7 6-10 23, Moira Kelley 1 1-2 3, Brenna Newell 2 0-0 4, Annie Morsches 0 0-0 0, Erica Sims 2 0-0 5, Monica Weaser 0 0-0 0, Andrijana Cvitkovic 14 3-4 31. TOTALS: 27 12-22 70.
3-point goals: Bowman 1 (Pleasant), CGA 4 (Shipley 3, Sims); Fouls (fouled out): Bowman 19 (Pleasant), CGA 9 (none). Turnovers: Bowman 19, CGA 16. Assists: Bowman 0, CGA 17 (Shipley 7). JV score: CGA 51 (Casey Hall 20), Bowman 7 (Ebony Collins 4).

Girls swimming

CGA beats New Prairie

Led by triple winners Michelle Tanke-Juska and Lauryn Robinson, the Lady Eagles locked up a 104-82 win over visiting New Prairie. Culver Girls Academy got off to a strong start with a one-two finish in the 200 medley relay and won a total of six races at the dual meet.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 104, NEW PRAIRIE 82
At Culver
200 medley relay: 1. CGA (Jamie Powell, Michelle Tanke-Juska, Lauryn Robinson, Betsy Whitfield) 2:08.05. 2. CGA (Anna Zaccaria, Olivia

Lady Eagles put up fight, fall to OD

By Dee Grenert
Correspondent

HAMLET — Oregon-Davis landed four players in double figures, forced 23 turnovers, drained 47 percent of its 3-point attempts and never trailed against CGA Thursday.

Not too shabby, right? Well, maybe not.

Despite the Lady Cats' 75-61 victory at The Den, sparked by an 18-4 game-opening spree and senior point guard Gabi Minix's 14 assists, OD girls basketball head coach Terry Minix expected better from his Class A No. 5 squad.

"We did what we wanted to do the way we wanted to do it in the first half," the OD skipper said. "The second half was more C G A 's style. It was a tale of two halves, and fortunately we were able to hold on.

"There were, I think, at least two or three times that we had (CGA) down 18," he continued. "If you get it to 22, 23, heads go down. We let them get back to 10 to 12 points and gave them reason to think they're still in the game. We have got to do a better job finishing as a whole team."

The Marquette-bound Gabi Minix led a trio of Cats with 13 points, and also pulled in a team-high eight rebounds, before fouling out with 1:53 left in the game. The four-year starter controlled OD's offense, finding open team-

mates on the perimeter in transition, penetrating and hitting moving teammates on backdoor cuts, and even lofting backdoor lobbs over CGA's 5-foot-11 freshman Andrijana Cvitkovic.

"We had people step up in the lane and help on (Gabi Minix) when they weren't supposed to do that," CGA head coach Gary Christlieb said. "Minix did a solid job with the ball."

Gabi Minix also drilled her only trey of the night to

route to 13 points, and Samantha Sims added 12 points, highlighted by consecutive 3-pointers that put OD, which went 9 of 19 from 3-point land, up 18-4 with 2:14 to play in the opening quarter. Alivia Sims just missed double digits with nine points.

"That part's good," Terry Minix said of his team's offensive balance. "But we missed a lot of easy shots. We had three girls with 13 and another with 12. Each could have easily had 20. Gabi had 14 assists, but she could have had a lot more."

Defensively, the Cats' full-court pressure and half-court zone forced 15 first-half turnovers.

"That's the ball game; you can't fall behind 18-4 against that caliber of team," Christlieb said. "We gave them too many open looks, and they shot the ball well from the 3-point line.

"We're on break now," he added. "Everyone was up at 6 this morning. We had to move out of our dorms. There's a lot of factors there that some folks don't have to deal with. Maybe that had an effect and got us out of

sync."

Even with OD's two big first-half spurts, the Eagles hung around most of the evening. Junior Alexis Christlieb wore out the baseline, sinking jumper after jumper on her way to a game-high 20 points. Her fourth baseline jumper pulled the Eagles to within five points, 21-16, at the 7:10 mark of the second quarter.

"We did have some positives," the CGA boss said. "Alexis played very well. I

thought Moira Kelley did a great job defensively.

"Once we got settled down we did go on a nice run," he said. "We got ourselves in the position of getting back in it against a good team. The biggest thing was we didn't get off the bus. We just have to learn from this."

CGA junior Kylee Shipley posted huge numbers herself with 17 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Meanwhile, the Cats held Cvitkovic to seven points — eight points below her average — and kept her from even attempting a shot from the field until the 2:11 mark of the second frame. Cvitkovic did grab 11 rebounds, but fouled out with 4:40 left in the game.

"We pushed (Cvitkovic) away from the basket in the first half," Terry Minix said. "In the second half, they put her inside. We've only got one post player and that's Gabi and she was in foul trouble, so we were limited and they knew it. They did a good job of changing the whole second half."

OD hosts Rochester Tuesday, while CGA takes a long hiatus, resuming its schedule Jan. 16 at Lakeland Christian.

• OREGON-DAVIS 75, CGA 61
At Hamlet
Score by quarters
CGA: 12 28 45 61
OD: 21 43 57 75
CGA (61): Alexis Christlieb 10 0-0 20, Kenzie Ungar 1 0-3 2, Andrea Lin 1 0-0 2, Kylee Shipley 4 8-8 17, Moira Kelley 2 0-0 4, Brenna Newell 4 0-0 9, Erica Sims 0 0-0 0, Andrijana Cvitkovic 2 3-6 7. TOTALS: 24 11-17 61.
OD (75): Katie Schwenk 4 0-0 8, Samantha Sims 3 4-8 12, Gabi Minix 4 4-6 13, Alivia Sims 3 3-4 9, Kelsey Minix 3 4-10 13, Justyne Kraneburg 5 0-1 13, LeeAnn Meyer 2 1-1 5, Lincy Jones 0 2-2 2. TOTALS: 24 18-32 75.
3-point goals: CGA 2 (Shipley, Newell), OD 9 (K. Minix 3, Kraneburg 3, S. Sims 2, G. Minix); Turnovers: CGA 23, OD 18; Rebounds: CGA 39 (Shipley 12), OD 35 (G. Minix 8); Assists: CGA 17 (Shipley 9), OD 19 (G. Minix 14); Steals: CGA 10 (Shipley 3), OD 13 (K. Minix 8); Fouls (fouled out): CGA 20 (Cvitkovic), OD 16 (G. Minix); Records: CGA 7-4, OD 7-1.



CGA's Andrijana Cvitkovic attempts to block Lincy Jones of OD.

CITIZEN PHOTO/DEE GRENER

put the Cats up 52-41 with 3:05 left in the third stanza, just moments after CGA's Brenna Newell connected from downtown to trim the margin to eight points.

OD senior guard Kelsey Minix, who wreaked defensive havoc with eight steals, scored 12 of her 13 points in the first half, including her third and final trey that capped off a 15-2 run and put the Cats up 36-18 with 3:47 to go before halftime.

Justyne Kraneburg also gunned in three triples en-

Gillingham, India Irving) 2:12.76. 200 freestyle: 1. Sophia Grazian (CGA) 2:16.58, 2. Caitlin Lovan (NP) 2:17.32. 200 IM: 1. Betsy Whitfield (CGA) 2:33.03, 2. Carson Canonie (CGA) 2:41.06. 50 freestyle: 1. Michele Tanke-Juska (CGA) 26.95, 2. Sarah Thompson (NP) 27.83. Diving: 1. Kymra Keigley (NP) 226.20, 2. Emma Pettinga (CGA) 162.30. 100 butterfly: 1. Lauryn Robinson (CGA) 1:03.76, 2. Jessica McFarland (CGA) 1:08.17. 100 freestyle: 1. Sarah Thompson (NP) 1:01.26, 2. Erin Suttor (NP) 1:02.13. 500 freestyle: 1. Michele Tanke-Juska (CGA) 5:47.89, 2. Sophia Grazian (CGA) 6:06.77. 200 freestyle relay: 1. NP (Sarah Thompson, Lindsay Lowman, Caitlin Lovan, Erin Suttor) 1:52.87, 2. CGA (Betsy Whitfield, Hanna Klondaris, Carson Canonie, Lauryn Robinson) 1:55.05. 100 backstroke: 1. Jessica McFarland (NP) 1:10.28, 2. Natalie Bittles (CGA) 1:11.77. 100 breaststroke: 1. Anna Zaccaria (CGA) 1:22.19, 2. Sami Vogeler (NP) 1:22.68. 400 freestyle relay: 1. NP (Sarah Thompson, Lindsay Lowman, Erin Suttor, Caitlin Lovan) 4:09.72. 2. CGA (Carson Canonie, Maddie Gillingham, Sophia Grazian, Michele Tanke-Juska) 4:16.81.

Boys swimming

CMA outpaces Cougars

Culver Military won six events, including two of three relays, and David DeVries claimed three first-place finishes as the Eagles topped visiting New Prairie 102-84. Wyatt McCloskey and Renee Del Castillo were dual winners for the Eagles.

• CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 102, NEW PRAIRIE 84
At Culver
200 medley relay: 1. NP (Joshua Wyller, Mason Monhaut, Aaron Breidert, Keith Fischer) 1:50.92, 2. CMA (Rene Del Castillo, Matt Adams, Wyatt McCloskey, Zach Grant) 1:51.14. 200 freestyle: 1. David DeVries (CMA) 1:55.46, 2. Casey Jones (NP) 2:09.72. 200 IM: 1. Joshua Wyller (NP) 2:17.65; 2. Rene Del Castillo (CMA) 2:17.75. 50 freestyle: 1. Keith Fischer (NP) 23.46; 2. Mason Monhaut (CMA) 23.91. Diving: 1. Jay Hutson (NP) 169.05; 2. Daniel Tuerff (CMA) 164.40. 100 butterfly: 1. Wyatt McCloskey (CMA) 1:02.98, 2. Aaron Breidert (NP) 1:11.68. 100 freestyle: 1. Keith Fischer (NP) 51.74; 2. Zach Grant (CMA) 55.14. 500 freestyle: 1. Rene Del Castillo (CMA) 5:39.09; 2. Jorge de la Vega (CMA) 6:11.18. 200 freestyle relay: 1. CMA (David DeVries, Matt Adams, Jorge de la Vega, Jose Herrera) 1:40.72; 2. NP (Allen Ament, Aaron Breidert, Casey Jones, Drake Wiser) 1:46.94. 100 backstroke: 1. David DeVries (CMA) 1:01.94; 2. Joshua Willer (NP) 1:03.11. 100 breaststroke: 1. Mason Monhaut (NP) 1:08.92; 2. Matt Adams (CMA) 1:12.76. 400 freestyle relay: 1. CMA (Rene Del Castillo, Zach Grant, Wyatt McCloskey, David DeVries) 3:39.71; 2. NP (Casy Jones, Mason Monhaut, Joshua Wyller, Keith Fischer) 3:42.42.

Wrestling

Eagles go 1-4 at Logan Super Dual

Culver Military finished 1-4 with a win over Benton Central at the Logansport Super Dual Wrestling Tournament over the weekend. Although they notched just one

team win, the Eagles were competitive at the tourney, finishing within four points of host Logansport and losing an even narrower 42-39 decision to Peru.

Josh Brown and Jack Crawford went undefeated at 4-0 in the 125 and heavyweight divisions, respectively, for CMA, while Carlos Salinas, Daulton Vass, Luther Jacobs, Zach Hewitt and Cameron Crowell all recorded 3-1 finishes for the Eagles.

• LOGANSPORT SUPER DUAL TOURNAMENT
At Logansport
Culver Military team results: CMA 42, Benton Central 30; Delphi 50, CMA 20; Logansport 39, CMA 35; Peru 42, CMA 39
CMA individual results: Josh Brown 125 4-0; Jack Crawford 285 4-0; Carlos Salinas 3-1; Daulton Vass 3-1; Luther Jacobs 3-1; Zach Hewitt 3-1; Cameron Crowell 3-1; Alex Canacci 2-1; Caleb Brooks 1-3; Cory Gleitz 1-3; Tim Newton 0-4; Abel Cai 0-4; Craig Denker 0-4

CMA trumps Culver

Culver Community surrendered forfeits at six weight classes, and Culver Military Academy claimed a 54-28 wrestling win over their neighbors at CMA.

Josh Brown, Alex Canacci and Cameron Crowell all earned pinfall victories for the Eagles, while Dalton Overmeyer and Mark Hurford both recorded pins for the Cavs. Allen Betts also earned a major decision for Culver, while Jeremiah Harvey won his heavyweight bout on an injury default.

• CULVER MILITARY 54, CULVER 28
At CMA
103: Caleb Brooks (CMA) won by forfeit; 112: Allen Betts (C) maj. dec. Tim Newton, 16-5; 119: Dalton Overmeyer (C) pin Carlos Salinas, 3-48; 125: Dalton Vass (CMA) won by forfeit; 130: Josh Brown (CMA) pin Keith Back, 1-04; 135: Pierce Freeman (CMA) won by forfeit; 140: Luther Jacobs (CMA) won by forfeit; 145: Zach Hewitt (CMA) won by forfeit; 152: Alex Canacci (CMA) pin Kyle Peterson, 0-43; 160: Cameron Crowell (CMA) pin Mark Hurford, 1-02; 171: Craig Denker (CMA) won by forfeit; 189: Mark Hurford (C) pin Blake Hunnewell, 5-41; 215: Tommy James (C) won by forfeit; Hwt.: Jeremiah Harvey (C) won by injury default over Jack Crawford.

Boys hockey

CMA falls

Blake Box scored in the third overtime period to lift the visiting Dallas Ice Jets to a 4-3, triple-overtime win over Culver

Students from page 1



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

TOP PHOTO: Second grade students (left to right) Dakota Clark, Carter Stevens, William Baldwin, and Belle Ahlenius with some of the gloves, mittens, and hats their grade collected for "Hearts Warming Hands."

BOTTOM PHOTO: Third grade students in Valerie Cultice's Voyagers class collected food for Culver's food pantry. Front row, left to right: Skylar Dare, Tihana Stefanic, Ally Jones, Sarah Luttrell, Taylor Noah, Nik Vela. Middle row: Kate Heim, Gabby Kegley, Maranda Otteman, Sunny Clingler, Haley Pennington, Kate Renneker, Hailey Shipley, Devin Kobold. Back row: Nora Kline, Jenna Moise, Sam Schaller, Becca Christlieb, Mackinna Burleson.

lected a number of mittens, gloves, and hats for distribution to families in need within the Culver school district. Another tradition for several years at the school is a collection taken up by CES kindergarteners to help stray animals at the Marshall County Humane Society. Kindergartener Cole Rieckhoff says bringing in cat and dog food and supplies to help the animals is a fun thing to do that's also letting the animals live and helping them to have homes. Anna Gregorash says the project hits home for her since her cat Ginger ran away (though she's confident Ginger will be back). "If they're stray," she says, "at least they'll have something to eat (because of the students' donations)...it's helping the earth and you get a little bit of Christmas too!"

Anna and her classmates enjoy seeing their donations placed under the Christmas tree in teacher Amy Bonine's classroom, "just like in the book" their teachers read them. Sixth grade teacher Missy Trent initially involved her students in a Humane Society donation project before realizing the kindergarteners were already doing so. Trent, who has something of a reputation for her enthusiasm for student service projects, then decided on another project after hearing on the news that bitterly cold temperatures in the area a few weeks ago had led to one South Bend homeless shelter opening its doors to anyone wanting a hot meal, clean clothes, and a hot shower. The problem, said the report, was a lack of towels for the showers. Trent asked students to bring in towels for the shelter and the result was six large trash bags full of clean towels.

Sixth grader Aaron Becker explains that, though Trent's incentive of a no-homework pass or the removal of a checkmark (given a student for bad behavior) was nice, the service component of the project leaves him hoping to do more such projects in the future.

Fellow sixth grader Margaret McKinnis says, "As you grow older you understand Christmas is more about giving than receiving, and it's nice to give back. We receive a good feeling (in doing so)."

And, she adds, while adults can ask students to bring in items to donate, "I think it's really your own learning to get the experience (of bringing items in) yourself."

For her part, Trent was instrumental over the past year in fund raisers to aid former Culver High School Liz West, who lost both parents unexpectedly last December, as well as organizing Culver's first-ever "Soup for the Soul" event, in which students made bowls and cups to sell at a public event which raised funds for Plymouth's Heminger House shelter by serving and selling bowls of soup and other edibles, all served up by the students themselves. The event was a great success and Trent says a follow-up is planned for this spring. In fact, she's calling on area businesses and individuals to consider donating soup and other food to the effort, for which this year's sixth graders have already been making bowls as well as hand-made bracelets and beanbags. Trent hopes to add "celebrity" bowl-makers this time around,

such as U93 radio DJs Rob and AJ, with the goal in mind of donating to not just one but four area charities by way of "Soup for the Soul." She encourages interested parties to contact her by way of the school.

Further, her reading class has already been alerted to an assignment slated for after the holiday break: they'll each come up with their own service project to help the community and will be required to write about it and follow through with the project themselves.

"I'm always reading to them about kids their age collecting thousands of dollars (for charity)," Trent smiles. She adds she's "very happy all the classes here (at CES) are trying to do something (to serve others). It's important that students learn how to help, and starting them in kindergarten will really help."

"I feel like service is one of the most important things we can teach our children," she adds. "It helps kids not be selfish and it helps them feel good when they know they've helped in some way. (They think), 'If I can do this in second or third grade, I could really do something when I become an adult.'"

Aaron Becker wasn't present to hear Trent's words, but he says almost exactly that. "I think as I get older, I'll have more opportunities to do service projects like this one," he says. "It does give me an interest in doing service things as I get older."

"I like the fact that Mrs. Trent gives us the opportunity to do this," concurs Margaret McKinnis. "Sometimes as a kid it's a bit harder to start something on your own, but when you have a good adult like her it's easier."

And whether all or most students realize it or not, their efforts hit close to home. One reason school-sanctioned, student-to-student gift exchanges were phased out over recent years, says Valerie Cultice, is that while some students loved the idea and could bring in ample gifts, other families simply couldn't afford it. Even before the nationwide economic slump of the past year hit the area, Culver's school district included a great many families in one sort of need or another. At present, says Cultice, 51 percent of the families with students going to CES qualify for free or reduced lunches due to low income. The fact is, she says, "a lot of the kids here will benefit from their own (donated item) collections."

She adds that rumors have surfaced of concerns that CES service projects serve the Culver community alone rather than including areas such as Leiters Ford and Monterey, from which many CES students hail. However, Culver's food pantry (located in the basement of Grace United Church of Christ on Plymouth Street in Culver) and Gift of Warmth programs, she points out, serve any and all in the Culver school district, including large portions of Fulton, Pulaski, and Starke Counties as well as Marshall County. And she says she does see such programs impacting the families of CES students for the good.

Fourth grader Raymie Shoop shares with many other CES students that hope, and the hope the food she and her classmates helped earn "is like a Christmas meal for the people at the food pantry."

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'Big Read' winners lauded at library event

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver-Union Twp. Public Library wrapped up its "The Big Read" community literary event in style last month at an awards ceremony and celebration which culminated more than two months' worth of programs.

"The Big Read" is a national program underwritten by the National Endowment for the Arts and aimed at increasing literary and cultural awareness in communities by awarding grants to libraries willing to work with various community entities in focusing on a literary work. Chosen for this fall's local effort were two works by playwright Thornton Wilder, "Our Town" and "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." The library worked in conjunction with, among other entities, the Culver Public Schools and Culver Academies in

bringing students to the library, sponsoring speakers of renown on the subject of Wilder, supporting an on-stage performance of "Our Town" at the Culver Community High School, and holding photography and essay contests as well as a number of related activities.

On hand at the final awards ceremony November 20 was the CCHS student cast of "Our Town" (which premiered earlier the same day) as well as rock band Jan and the Left-Hand Band, who performed for the enjoyment of the attendees. Members of the library staff and the public joined award winners and presenters at the evening program, held at the library.

The Friends of the CUT-PL provided refreshments for participants, and Town Manager Michael Doss and Town Council member Lynne Overmyer presented

the awards.

The photography contest, organized by Judy Campbell and Jon Gas-kill, was judged by Susan Moore, assistant professor Indiana University South Bend and Craig Sheaks, Professor of Photography at Ivy Tech State College in South Bend. Winners included:

- First place best overall: Grant Munroe, "Along a Country Road"
- Second place best overall: Stephanie Hall, "City Meets Lake"
- First place "Our Town": Shelly Schrimsher, "Determination"
- First place nature: Paul Pare, "January Thaw/Lake at Rest"
- Second place nature: Ross Zimmerman, "Autumn Depot"
- First place people:

Ginny Bess Munroe, "Butterfly Hunting"

Also awarded were winners in the "Locating Yourself in the Universe Writing Contest," judged by Dr. Charles Bayless. The winners were:

- First place: Cameron Turney
- Honorable mention: Cory Flora

Educator awards were presented to Professor Emeritus Dr. Charles Bayless; Dr. Christopher Wheatley of The Catholic University of America; Dr. Lincoln Konkle of The College of New Jersey; Vickie Benner; Sue Allen Luke Biernacki and Diane Derrow of Culver Community High School; and Rev. Roy Boys and Robas Krebs of Ancilla College. The awards honored the teachers for their special participation in The Big Read, according to CUTPL Director Colleen McCarty.



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Shop 'til you drop

Culver Elementary School kindergartener Dayne Garbacik is lent a hand by one of the Parent-Teacher Organization volunteers at the school's Santa Shop. In this case, the volunteer happens to also be Dayne's mom, Laura Garbacik, one of several parents on hand to assist students in choosing inexpensive gifts for parents and loved ones, according to Santa Shop coordinator Stephanie Schaller.

Gifts are purchased at cost by the PTO and trucked in by Bailey's Discount Center in North Judson and arranged by members of the PTO, which sponsors Santa's Shop. Gift prices range from 50 cents to \$4, with the intent that students can afford to secretly buy gifts for loved ones. Students are brought by grade to the shop to make their purchases. The PTO, says Schaller, makes no profit on the items, but instead offers the Shop as a service to students.

Along a Country Road

Grant Munroe's photo, "Along a Country Road," (see here) won 'Best Overall' in the Culver Public Library's "The Big Read" photo contest.

The *Citizen* hopes to run each of the winning photos per week along with recollections from the photographer of the circumstances and methods surrounding their photo.

Says Munroe, "I took this picture when my wife Ginny and I were out shooting in the country. We came across this gal riding her bike along the country road and watched her as she'd stop to gather some flowers and then move along on her bike and stop again. We thought there was something beautiful about what she was doing, so we stopped to ask

if we could take her picture as she road off. She was happy to oblige. I took this shot from the middle of the road at the top of a hill. I wanted to show the corn fields and the property that were at the bottom of the hill with her in the foreground because I thought it depicted what is beautiful about life that surrounds Culver. It was nice that she happened to be in that location, as the background provided just the look I wanted to capture. One thing we discovered that day while shooting outside of town is how beautiful the country is around us, and that woman seemed to be appreciating that beauty around her. When we got home and looked at our pictures, Ginny told me it was her favorite shot, as it illustrated what a great day we had shooting pictures around Culver and what we found to be special about the country scenes we photographed that day, so it's the one I chose to enter into the country category of the contest.



Name: GREETING; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00083705; Ad

Name: GREETING; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00083707; Ad

Name: Greetings-Culver; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name:

Name: WEEK 2-CC/SH; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00083604; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: RUMORS NIGHT CLUB; Size: 8 in

Name: greeting; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00083765; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Odom Funeral Home; Size: 8 in

Name: RESERVATIONS/GIFTS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00082445; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culver Reservations; Size: 8 in

Name: CHRI; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00082571; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pratt's Floor Covering; Size: 10 in

Name: MERRY XMAS-SUPERCALI...; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00081616; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Ancilla College (ROP); Size: 10 in

Name: GREETING CULVER; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00083566; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: State Farm Insurance; Size: 10 in

Grief support available in January

The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. will be offering the following grief support services in January to educate and support those who have experienced the loss of a loved one through death. The groups are offered at no charge and are open to the public. In some cases, pre-registration is required by contacting 935-4511, 800-413-9083 or centerforhospice.org. Unless otherwise listed, all groups will be held at the Plymouth office located at 112 S. Center Street, Suite C.

Good Grief Guys: monthly breakfast for men dealing with the death of a spouse, Thursday, January 14, 8:30-10 a.m., Christos Family Restaurant, 2227 N Michigan St, Plymouth.

Grieving Parents Support Group: monthly support group for parents dealing with the death of a child of any age, Thursday, January 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Living With Loss Group: a once per week, time-limited group providing education and emotional support to children dealing with the death of a loved one, Tuesdays, January 19 - February 23, 2 - 4 p.m.

The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. is a not-for-profit, community-based agency serving Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall, St. Joseph and Starke Counties to improve the quality of living through hospice, home health, grief counseling, and community education.

Sports from page 6

Military at the Culver U16 Hockey Invitational.

Ryan Fay made 34 saves to cement the win for Dallas, which was outshot 37-17 by the host Eagles.

Austin Spencer scored two goals and Austin Surowiec scored another for CMA. Tyler Ledford recorded three assists for CMA in the loss.

DALLAS ICE JETS 4, CULVER MILITARY 3, OT
At Culver U16 Invitational
First Period
D - Robbie Christensen (Hunter Herd) 12:36.
Second Period
CMA - Austin Spencer (Tyler Ledford, Adam Bignell) 17:27.
CMA - Austin Surowiec (Ledford, Austin Carroll) 7:08.
D - Austin Azurdi (Kellen Wassell) 5:09.
Third Period

CMA - Spencer (Oliver Janzen, Ledford) 17:16.
D - Duggie Lagrone (unassisted) 4:32.
OT
D - Blake Box (Christensen) 1:28.
Shots on goal: Dallas 17, CMA 37.
Saves: Dallas (Ryan Fay) 34, CMA (Eric Vierkant) 13.

CMA blanks Huskies

Culver Military Academy scored three times in the third period en route to a 4-0 win over the Chicago Huskies at the Culver U16 Invitational Saturday.

Oliver Janzen scored a goal and assisted on another for the Eagles.

Ryan Stec, Kyle Bartleman and Tyler Ledford also scored goals for the Eagles.

CULVER MILITARY 4, CHICAGO HUSKIES 0

At Culver U16 Invitational
First Period
CMA - Ryan Sete (Donnie Nagle, Kyle Plageman) 12:29.
CMA - Kyle Bartleman (Brandon Ramsay) 9:42.
CMA - Oliver Janzen (Adam Bignell) 4:59.
Second Period
CMA - Tyler Ledford (Janzen, Austin Surowiec) 2:49.
Shots on goal: Chicago 11, CMA 37.
Saves: Dan Gaynor (CMA) 37, Chicago (Dancu) 33.

Youth baseball

Youth camp coming

PLYMOUTH — That-A-Kid Battering Cages will hold a winter baseball camp for students in grades 3 through 8 in January and February.

Camp dates are Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13,

20, 27 and the cost is \$100 for all eight Saturday sessions. Grades 3-5 meet 8:30-10 a.m., while grades 6-8 meet at 10:30-12 p.m.

For details, call Bob Caban at 574-780-4313.

Bowling

Free bowling for students

PLYMOUTH — Campus Life, in conjunction with Quick's Lanes of Plymouth, is offering free bowling Wednesday, Dec. 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to high school students from Marshall County.

For more information, contact Bob Beck at 574-936-2325.

Culver clinic first in county to offer new technology

Family Vision Clinic in Culver is the first eyecare provider in Marshall County to offer patients the Optomap retinal exam, offered by Optos, Inc. The exam is a scanning laser ophthalmoscope that captures an image of virtually the entire retina.

"I am extremely pleased to offer this new technology to my patients," said Dr. Mark Coutts of Family Vision Clinic. "Most patients feel they should only be examined when they need a change in prescription. In reality, the most important part of the examination is determining the health of the retina. The Optomap provides us a permanent digital image which I can manipulate and magnify to have the most comprehensive view of the back of the eye in order to better and more effectively discover abnormalities that may be present."

The Optomap retinal exam non-invasively captures an instantaneous, ultra-widefield digital scan of the retina, revealing important information for the comprehensive evaluation of systemic and ocular health. The 200 degree internal scan captured in a quarter of a second enhances clinical care, patient satisfaction and practice efficiency. It is performed quickly and easily enabling practitioners to spend more time analyzing, diagnosing and educating rather than gathering information. Optomap scans are performed as an initial step in a comprehensive eye exam, giving practitioners a tool to help discover retinal disease. This offers an assisted opportunity to diagnose eye conditions - as well as other health conditions - early. Importantly, it enables the practitioner to effectively determine the next course of action.

Early detection of any retinal abnormality may lead to earlier and safer treatments and in many cases prevents vision loss. The exam should be performed annually regardless of symptoms, thereby allowing doctors to observe subtle changes occurring as patients age.

Family Vision Clinic is a one-doctor practice located in Culver. Dr. Coutts has been in private practice for 24 years providing general optometric services, developmental vision exams, and vision therapy.

Name: HAPPY HOLIDAYS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00084007; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culver Academies; Size: 8 in

Name: DEC ADS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00082341; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Family Vision Clinic; Size: 8 in

Name: WK3-SHARPEN DRILLS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00082351; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Lakeside Auto Supply; Size: 8 in

Name: FULL- GREETING; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00083497; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

Name: BLUE THEY'RE HERE; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00083721; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in