



## In Brief

### Nativity pageant tomorrow

The annual children's Nativity Pageant will take place Friday, December 17, at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, starting at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome to the traditional pageant, which will be performed by the children of the parish.

### VFW dinner tomorrow

Culver's VFW Post 6919 Men's Auxiliary will hold its Friday dinner this Friday, December 17 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., at the Post, 108 E. Washington Street in Culver. Included will be Italian beef sandwiches for \$8, half slab of ribs for \$9, or full slab for \$17. Doors are open to the public. Come on down and join us for a great meal.

### Community meal at St. Mary's Dec. 30

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

### Culver postage-Air Mail connection exhibited

Culver's connection to the creation of US Air Mail is one topic to be explored at a new exhibit just opened at the Culver Academies Museum & Gift Shop, located at 102 South Main Street in downtown Culver. Also displayed will be choice selections from Culver Academies' extensive collection of rare and notable postage stamps. The

See Briefs page 7

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COUNTDOWN  
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9p9.833; Depth: 4

## Honoring Culver leaders

ABOVE: Culver's Chamber of Commerce warmed hearts in defiance of last week's chills with its annual awards banquet, held at Cafe Max. Pictured at TOP are Cheryl and Bill Rhodes, co-owners of Park N Shop grocery in Culver, presented the award for Business Persons of the Year by Chamber President Greg Fassett (right); at LOWER LEFT are Mike and Connie Overmyer, lauded as Volunteers of the Year; and at LOWER RIGHT is longtime *Culver Citizen* correspondent Bobetta Washburn Ruhnow, shown here accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award from Fassett.

CITIZEN PHOTOS AND LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

# Chamber celebrates businesses, individuals

## Ruhnow, Overmyers, and Park N' Shop awarded at annual fete

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

Culver's Chamber of Commerce continued a several years' old tradition last Tuesday evening as plummeting temperatures outside contrasted with the warmth and good cheer inside Cafe Max, site of the Chamber's annual community awards dinner.

Outgoing Chamber President Greg Fassett, Administrator of Miller's Merry Manor in Culver, opened the evening's program by introducing Bobetta ("Bobbie") Washburn Ruhnow, whose literal lifetime of continuing service to Culver appropriately earned her the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Born and raised in Culver, Ruhnow described a childhood "on and in Lake Maxinkuckee," in her written autobiography, read by Fassett. Ironically, her grandfather Milton Ewald was one of the first presidents of Culver's Chamber, which began in 1925. He owned Ewald Grocery for many years, said Ruhnow, downtown next to today's Gladie's Deli. Ewald also served on the Culver town council, and Ruhnow said her father was a volunteer fireman as were her uncles.

"I believe this background gave me the desire to participate in the community," she added. "My work ethic probably came from my mother (the late Caty Cummins) who retired at the age of 90 after many years of working at the McKinnis and Mr. T's Pharmacy."

Ruhnow was born and raised in Culver, and has lived here most of her life. She has two children, four step-children, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren; she married Bud Ruhnow in 1994.

Ruhnow served on the Culver Plan Commission and the Culver Board of Zoning Appeals since 1986, is a lifetime member of Finney-Shilling VFW Auxiliary and past secretary and president. After 12 years as Clerk Treasurer of the Town of Culver, she became a correspondent for the Culver Citizen and Plymouth Pilot newspapers (see sidebar on this page). In 1997, she became the secretary for the Chamber of Commerce in Culver and continues to serve in these capacities today, as well as serving as secretary for the Second Century Steering Committee at its inception. She's presently a member of the Union Township Advisory Board, an elected position she's held since 1998.

Receiving the award, Ruhnow told the audience she's worked "in a lot of different places in my years. Of all the places I worked and people I've worked with, I've never met a nicer group than our (Chamber)...board of directors and members. Thank you for the honor; it means a great deal to me."

Fassett introduced Bill and Cheryl Rhodes (noting co-owner and Bill's brother Dennis couldn't attend the event), owners of Park N' Shop supermarket in Culver, discussing the debut last year of the greatly remodeled store.

Rhodes and his brother Dennis, said Fassett, took the store over from their late father, Charles some years ago, after the elder Rhodes opened the first Park N' Shop building at 115 East Jefferson Street, the building most recently home to the Culver Cabana restaurant, starting in 1959.

In May, 1963, having purchased and razed the M.R. Cline Builders store just east of the first Park N' Shop (on the site of today's Culver Cove), Rhodes opened the

See Chamber page 2

### Ruhnow's Culver Citizen connection runs deep

Longtime *Culver Citizen* correspondent Bobetta Washburn Ruhnow's name is one surely known to almost every Culver resident, and her choice as recipient of the Culver Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award winner was an obvious one. Those not familiar with her through the many endeavors of which she's been a part (as described in the accompanying article here) will also recognize her name as a fixture in the pages of this newspaper. As "Bobbie" Ruhnow describes below, her relationship with Culver's longest-running newspaper began many years ago.

"When I was a junior in

See Ruhnow page 2

## Diva expansion reflects unique Culver economy

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

In case anyone passing through downtown Culver hasn't noticed, there's one less empty storefront here, one more piece of evidence that the current 'great recession' isn't keeping the community down, and an addition to the existing, attractive window views already offered by local merchants.

The Diva gift shop, at 109 South Main Street, officially opened its northward expansion (into the storefront whose last long-term tenant was Coldwell real estate) over Labor Day weekend, though it's been catching eyes in recent weeks with a holiday-winter themed display. There's also a new website to go along

with the expansion (divainculver.com), and the store has a Facebook page with an ever-expanding cadre of friends (Diva may be reached by phone at 574-842-9970).

The store expansion, according to Diva owner Sue McInturff and her sister, store manager Ursula Braden, was a response to a need to expand the original shop and reduce what they perceived as a sometimes "cluttered" feeling there.

The origins of Diva boutique owner Sue McInturff (right), adds finishing touches to the Diva boutique store's Christmas tree alongside manager (and McInturff's sister) Ursula Braden, in the recently-expanded, "new" section of the store.



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

idea for the sisters, both of whom grew up in the area but returned just five years ago when their mother passed away.

"I left this area at age 18 and didn't come back," says McInturff. "I swore I never would. I lived in Fort Wayne for 42 years."

When Culver's Susie Mahler sold their mother's Rochester home, conversation turned towards the closing of Shoreline Specialties gift shop, then at the same location. The next morning, as McInturff and Braden parking in front of Shoreline, McInturff says, "Something just took over. I said to my sister, 'We should open a store there.' My sister said, 'Are you crazy?'"

See Diva page 2

Name: FULL-FRT Banner-WINTER; Width: 52p1.167; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00109023; Ad Number: -;

Customer Name: Collins & Co (Plymouth); Size: 10 in

## New MCCF grant round launched

The Marshall County Community Foundation announces it will accept applications for the first grant cycle of 2011. Organizations desiring to apply for a grant should visit the website at [www.marshallcountycf.org](http://www.marshallcountycf.org) for an application. Please note: the application from the website must be used and signatures are required. Grant applications are due by 4:30 p.m., February 1, 2011. Applications will be reviewed by the Grants Committee of the Community Foundation and will be acted upon by the Board of Directors during their April Meeting. Applicants must be organizations with 501(c)(3) IRS status or organizations with 501(c) IRS status whose request is charitable in nature for start-up costs for new programs or the expansion of needed programs, or one-time projects or needs. The Marshall County Community Foundation focuses on humanitarian, cultural, educational, recreational and environmental requests. Marshall County Community Foundation also accepts grant proposals once a year each February for the Ralph C. Vonnegut, Jr. Fund. The purpose of the endowment fund is to provide funding for environmental, educational, or recreational projects directly related to Lake Maxinkuckee. For further information contact Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO, Marshall County Community Foundation at 574-935-5159.

## Ruhnow from page 1

high school,” she says, “Frank McLane, English teacher, asked me to be co-editor of the Culver Schoolbell page. Published by the Culver Citizen, this was a page telling not only school activities, but who was dating who, who had the funniest nicknames, who got detentions for talking in class and in general, just school stuff interesting only to Culver High School students and their parents. “Since I was an editor of the Schoolbell, M. R. Robinson, owner and editor of the Culver Citizen, asked me to work for him when they published the Culver Alumnus magazine for the Culver Academies. At that time, the Citizen was located where VFW Post 6919 is today. I continued to help on a part time basis with Dale Davis, and Mr. Robinson, when they moved into the new building that is now the Culver Town Hall. I collated the magazine, and Dale did the final assembly.

“Time moved on and after my terms of office as Culver clerk treasurer, I applied for a part-time job with the Culver Citizen in 1997. Fred and Judy Karst were editors and publishers. I thought my part time job would be office work, but Fred gave me the assignment to cover school board meetings. Fred and Judy were great to work with and had enough faith in me to allow me some leeway in stories of interest to report. One of the larger assignments was covering the inception of Culver’s Second Century and the meetings that preceded the formation of SCC and its Steering Committee. I also was in charge of the weekly Nostalgia column, probably my favorite assignment. “When the Karsts sold the paper, and it eventually became part of the Pilot News Group, as it is today, I continued to work out of the local office with great editors, Maggie Nixon, Dee Grenert, and Gloria Reed. Now that

the office is closed, I continue to work as a part-time correspondent under the watchful eye of my editor, Jeff Kenney. The Culver Citizen and Plymouth Pilot staff have been the greatest to work with and have been a great asset in showcasing the Culver community.” Present editor Jeff Kenney isn’t sure how watchful his eye is, but he’s extremely grateful for the combination of Ruhnow’s writing skills with her background and knowledge of the community, and her professionalism. Without her aid in covering local meetings and other events -- and her ability to do it so well -- the task of keeping tabs on Culver’s goings-on would be impossible, and the paper would suffer greatly. The Citizen -- and the Pilot News Group overall -- congratulates Bobbie Ruhnow on a well-deserved award, and is proud to have her as a part of the team.

## Chamber from page 1

new, steel Park N’ Shop building he’d had constructed there. In April, 1981, Park N’ Shop opened its doors at its present location, having taken it over from the Alford’s IGA supermarket for which the building was originally built in 1976 (thus ending a brief price war between the two stores). The Rhodes also continue to operate five Sav-A-Lot and other grocery and convenience stores in Knox, Rochester, South Bend, and LaPorte. “The work they did on the expansion (of Park N’ Shop) was outstanding,” added Fassett. “They offer a great service to our community; they went over the top with the remodel.” Bill Rhodes, noting the family has “been in this town a long time,” said he remembers working in the Cabana building in the grocery’s early years as well as the “steel store.” “We’re pushing 50 years in this community,” he added.

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“It’s been a good time. We really do appreciate you guys honoring us. Thank all of you for that.” Lauded as Volunteers of the Year were Mike and Connie Overmyer, President and CEO (respectively) of JMC Engineers. Describing their Culver journey by way of information supplied by the Overmyers, Fassett noted the couple returned to Mike’s childhood home in Culver following a stint in the Air Force. Here, he became active with Culver’s Jaycees and -- after that organization disbanded -- the local Lions Club. Connie held offices and was active in the Junior Women’s Club until it disbanded, and later Culver’s Tri Kappa chapter. Both were charter members of the Culver Rough and Hilly Farmers, Mike serving as Area 2 Director for the Indiana Young Farmers Association. The couple also became active supporters of their growing children’s (Sean, JB, Heather, and Garth) sports endeavors, both taking coaching positions at various points (they continue their support, though now for their granddaughters, “sometimes going to two different games in two different towns in one night!”). Both Overmyers were involved with the local 4H in leadership positions, and Mike served on the Marshall County 4-H Fair Board for a number of

years. In 1987, Mike began his involvement with the Maxinkuckee Players and the Maxinkuckee Singers, followed four years later by Connie (both have held positions on the board). About six years ago, they were approached to take up the reins of Culver’s Lake Fest, which might end without a new committee to steer it; since, they have worked as leaders of that committee ever since (Mike was on the committee that formed the Lake Fest over 28 years ago). Mike also served on the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council. Both have been active members of the Wesley United Methodist Church in Culver since 1971 in a number of leadership positions. They have also helped with Junior Achievement in the Culver Elementary School, and have served on the Gift of Warmth committee behind the Lake Maxinkuckee Film Festival. Since July, 2006, their business, JMC Engineers, have supported a host of local charities financially as well. “I’m a lifelong member of this community and (the award) means a lot to me,” Mike told the Chamber audience, adding at his 45th class reunion recently, those in attendance “all felt so lucky to have grown up here. There are a lot of new faces, and they all have added something to this community.” During concluding remarks, Fassett praised the many volunteers in the community, including members of the Chamber. He also acknowledged incoming Chamber President Dawn Brockey for her assistance in the organization, including as program manager for the past four or five years. He added thanks to past President Mike Stallings for his work, as well as Chamber member and past treasurer Rick Tompos. Appreciation was also given to the staff of Miller’s Merry Manor for supporting him in his work with the Chamber. Fassett, who was applauded by the audience for his work as President, called Culver “a great town,” noting he’s been President of three Chambers of Commerce in Indiana, and “by far this is the best. (It’s) very active, involved, and a great place to be. It’s easy to promote a town like this.”

Name: DEC AD; Width: 9p9.833;

Name: FULL CLASSIFIED; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 8 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00108752; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 24 in

Name: admate; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 3 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109979; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Maxinkuckee Bistro;

Name: FULL NI AUTO; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00106566; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 15 in

Obituary

Rita J. Lawson  
Sept. 5, 1937 – Dec. 12, 2010

CULVER — Rita Jane Lawson, 73, of 629 Forest Place, Culver, entered the Church Triumphant early Sunday morning, Dec. 12, 2010.

Rita was born in Sullivan, Ind. to Wm. Marshall and Rowena Alice (MacDonald) Foster of Jasonville, Ind. Sept. 5, 1937. She lived in Jasonville and graduated from the Shakamak High School in 1955 as the senior class valedictorian. Rita then graduated from Indiana State Teacher’s College with a B.A. and from Indiana State University with an M.A. in Education. She was married Sept. 7, 1958 to Latham Lane Lawson.

Rita taught in the Culver Public School System her entire teaching career. She taught fifth grade and was the founder and Director of the Gifted and Talented Program. She was a member of the Indiana State Teachers Association and served a term as president in the local chapter, Culver Community Teachers Association.

Rita believed in community service and was involved as a member of the Culver Library Board, Tri Kappa, the Culver City Club, and the Jr. Federated Women’s Club, of which she served as its state director. She was a Founding Member of Culver Women’s Affinity Group, a new Fund created through the Marshall County Community Foundation.

She was a 50-year member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Culver and served in a number of capacities including as its treasurer. She was a member of the United Methodist Women’s organization and involved with the Wesley Church Thrift Shop.

Rita is survived by her husband of 52 years; two daughters, Kelly Berger of Lafayette, and Abby Lawson of Austin, Texas; a brother, Shelby (Sandy) Foster of Troy, Mich.; two sons-in-law, Rev. Dan Berger of Lafayette and Jim Freeman of Austin, Texas; three granddaughters: Rebecca Lane Freeman and Kirstyn Freeman of Austin, and Jessica Berger of South Bend; and a grandson, Brandon Berger of Tacoma, Wash.

She is also survived by a number of brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Lucille Carney, Margie Lawson, Ivan (Evelyn) Lawson, Doris (Sam) Pedigo, and Ida (Curt) Ray.

She was preceded in death by two brothers-in-law, Larry Lawson and Lowell Carney.

A time of visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church Fireside Room, 511 School St., Culver.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. at Wesley Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Wesley United Methodist Church of Culver or to the Culver Public Library.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the obituary page at [www.odomfuneral-home.com](http://www.odomfuneral-home.com).

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Odom Funeral Home, Culver.

Community calendar

<b>Thurs., Dec. 16</b> Biography book club, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library Culver history program (Jeff Kenney), Kiwanis Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library Thursday Tech Time, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library Board of Zoning Appeals mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall Culver Public Library board mtg., 7 p.m., Culver Public Library	Quilting group, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library Culver Academies winter vacation begins <b>Mon., Dec. 20</b> Culver Community Schools Christmas vacation begins (through Jan. 2, 2011) Computer class, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library	Public Library
<b>Fri., Dec. 17</b> Nativity pageant, 5:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church	<b>Tues., Dec. 21</b> Story time, 10 a.m., Culver Public Library OA, AA meeting (open), 6:30 p.m., Culver Public Library Plan Commission mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall Culver Public Library board mtg., 7 p.m., Culver	<b>Weds., Dec. 22</b> Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library TOPS mtg., 5:30 p.m., Grace church Road Lit Book Club, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library Lions Club mtg., 6:30 p.m., train station-depot
<b>Sat., Dec. 18</b>		<b>Thurs., Dec. 23</b> Biography book club, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library Kiwanis Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library

Name: HOLIDAY DEADLINE; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 9 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109763; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 27 in

Death notices

Wright

Elizabeth Ann Wright  
Dec. 1, 2010

PLYMOUTH — Elizabeth Ann Wright, 58, of Plymouth, died at 1:55 p.m. Dec. 1, 2010 at her residence.

She is survived by her sons, Rickey Allan (Tiffany) Burns of Argos and Michael Burns (Elizabeth) Oyler of Plymouth; daughters, Brandi Wright of Monterey and Samantha (John) Grossman of Goshen; three grandchildren; mother, Audrie Wright of Plymouth; and nine siblings: Harold (Joyce) Wright of Argos, Helen Epley of Kentucky, Sandy (Ken) Schori of Argos, Wanda (Fred) Lloyd of Culver, Rita (David) Pennington of Argos, John Wright, Jack (Sarah) Wright of Culver, Joe Wright of Florida, and Janice Wright of Kentucky.

Visitation took place from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Church of Jesus Christ, 15676 Michigan Road, Argos.

Funeral services took place at noon Saturday at the church.

Earl-Grossman Funeral Home, Argos, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be made to the family via the funeral home's e-mail at [memorials@earl-grossmanfuneral.com](mailto:memorials@earl-grossmanfuneral.com).

Orangias

Charles A. 'Chuck' Orangias  
Dec. 10, 2010

CULVER — Charles A. "Chuck" Orangias, 59, Culver, died at 6:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 10, 2010 at his residence.

He is survived by his wife Kay; son, Michael Brandon Orangias of Louisville, Ky.; daughter, Sarah Jean-Marie Orangias of Culver; brother, Anthony Orangias of Culver; and sisters: Gloria Hainsworth of Carol Stream, Ill., Carol Ziert of Virginia, Linda Pettie of New Chaney, Texas, and Gail (Trevor Skarbeck) Orangias of Rochester.

There will be no visitation or services.

Burial will be private.

Odom Funeral Home, Culver, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be made to the family via the funeral home's website at [www.odom-funeralhome.com](http://www.odom-funeralhome.com).

McVicker

Russell J. McVicker  
Dec. 20, 2010

> INDIANAPOLIS — Russel J. McVicker, 49, of Indianapolis, formerly of Culver, died Friday, Dec. 10, 2010 at 12:37 a.m. of a sudden illness.

> He is survived by his wife, Leslie Stevens of Indianapolis, his mother Pauline, of Culver; his son, Christopher (RaeLynn) McVicker, Indianapolis; two daughters, Vanessa (Rodney) Clapp, of Greenfield, and Heather (James) Root; his brothers Andrew Tarquino, Nashport, Ohio, and Clifford (Sandy) McVicker, Culver; his sisters Janet Miller, Culver, Nora Nugent, Indianapolis, and Cindy (Joe) Noah, Culver; eight grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

> Visitation was Monday, Dec. 13 from 4 to 7 p.m., with services at 7 p.m. at the Shirley Brothers Funeral Home, 9606 E. Washington St. in Indianapolis. Cremation will follow.

REAL Services menu

To share a meal at REAL Meals, call Ruth Walker at the nutrition site (the Culver beach lodge) before 11 a.m. the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. A donation is suggested for each meal.	carrots, dinner roll and margarine, pears, and milk.	ti, tossed salad and dressing, green beans, pineapple garlic bread, and milk.
<b>Fri., Dec. 17:</b> Mac and cheese with ham, peas, cauliflower, bread and margarine, fruit, and milk.	<b>Fri., Dec. 17:</b> Mac and cheese with ham, peas, cauliflower, bread and margarine, fruit, and milk.	<b>Weds., Dec. 22:</b> Cheeseburger, pickle and onion, Corn , green beans, bun, apricots, and milk.
<b>Mon., Dec. 20:</b> Turkey Manhattan, Mashed Potatoes , beets, bread and margarine, dessert, and milk.	<b>Mon., Dec. 20:</b> Turkey Manhattan, Mashed Potatoes , beets, bread and margarine, dessert, and milk.	<b>Thurs., Dec. 23:</b> Closed for the holiday.
<b>Thurs., Dec. 16:</b> Meatballs and noodles with gravy, mashed potatoes, baby	<b>Tues., Dec. 21:</b> Spaghet-	<b>Fri., Dec. 24:</b> Closed for the holiday.

Name: BEST LOSER; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00110335; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

# In remembrance of Rita Lawson

Name: COLUMN SPONSOR; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 20 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109177; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Marshall County Solid Waste; Size: 40 in

Its (thankfully) rare that I find myself writing memories or tributes to recently-deceased Culver folks whose passing -- for one reason or another -- I feel compelled to write about, but the unexpected death of retired longtime Culver Elementary School teacher (among her many other roles) Rita Lawson Sunday morning leaves me in just that position. This is certainly not a tribute I -- or anyone else, I believe -- expected to be writing now.

Her obituary demonstrates her many accomplishments in this community, among other details of her life; she served in a number of capacities on local governing boards and committees, and was an active member of the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library board of trustees at the time of her death. Throughout her life, she continued to be extremely active in her church, the Wesley United Methodist Church, here in Culver, especially with the United Methodist Women and its local thrift store.

This morning, during just a quick and cursory browse through Facebook, what is most arguably her most lasting and impacting legacy became more and more evident, as former students -- now adults -- learned of her passing and began posting about it, replying to one another's posts, and expressing their sorrow, shock, and especially their regard for her as a teacher.

She was my fifth grade reading teacher, and in fact just last year I unearthed a "choose your own adventure" book to which she made the entire class contribute "chapters" (alternate endings) before photocopying the entire book and giving it to each of us to take home and keep. Reading through it brought back a flood of memories from her class: she was alternately strict but fair, and as I think back, one overriding theme comes through: she was passionate about reading, teaching, and sharing her love of learning, and distractions from students' ability to access those elements were halted gently but firmly. This wasn't because she was a stickler for rules for their own sake, so much as because she had worlds to introduce her students to, and wasting of everyone's time only interrupted the journey.

Students may recall "Mrs. Lawson" as an avid reader and proponent of fantasy and science fiction, though she introduced us to a variety of genres in her class. And just as important, she introduced us to "out-of-the-box" means of digesting those books and using our own creativity to come up with our own projects, whether written or "multi-media" (she was involved, among other school endeavors, in Media Fair, which encouraged such efforts as well).

My sister Alethea, three years older than me, talked about Mrs. Lawson, so between that and my mother's acquaintance with her, she was really a bit of a household name in our home, as I expect she

See Lawson page 12

## Correction

Reader Art Banks emailed the editor last week and pointed out something I knew once but obviously forgot, perhaps illustrating it's best not to write such things in a hurry just before wrapping up and sending out the paper for the week!

In last week's (December 2) Citizen, in the article, "Thanksgiving in Culver - 100 years ago" on this page, a reference to the Union Thanksgiving service held in the Evangelical Church in 1910 incorrectly identified the church -- which is today's Emmanuel United Methodist Church on South Main Street -- as the Emmanuel United Brethren church. As Art correctly pointed out, the church "remained an Evangelical Church until 1946 when the denomination merged with the United Brethren denomination. It wasn't until that year that the Emmanuel Evangelical Church became an EUB Church."

Art, one of whose ancestors attended the church in those days, also added that the church was built 11 years earlier in 1899. He also adds an interesting side-note, confirmed in histories of the church: "Prior to 1899, the Evangelical congregation met at Albright Evangelical Church built in 1872 and located about two miles south of town just west of the former gravel pit"...

Thanks to Art for the correction...the many readers who, like me, recall the church being referred to as the "EUB" church are simply remembering a time 36 years after the events in the article took place!

PHOTO SUBMITTED



## Where in the world is the *Culver Citizen*?

Your local newspaper has again forayed out into the wide world (yes, there are those rare occasions when Culver doesn't fulfill quite every wish and need), and a thoughtful reader snapped and sent a photo of the *Citizen's* visit to a famous or exotic locale.

Readers properly identifying the site in this photo are entitled to an unlimited copies of the paper at one of the many fine establishments at which is sold, for the mere price of 50 cents (an obvious bargain).

Guesses -- or similar photos from other readers -- may be sent to the editor at citizen@culcom.net, or dropped off in our drop-box (located alternately in the upper level of the Culver Public Library), or call 574-216-0075 for other arrangements.

## Name that Culver 'citizen'

Last week's Mystery Citizen, Kevin Berger, is probably best-known for his ownership of long-running Culver business Easterday Construction, besides involvement in several civic organizations and governing bodies over the years. Recognizing him from his Culver Community High School photo were Lynn Overmyer, Glennia Cooper, Scott Croy, and Phyllis Lindvall.



Catching up on some older business, the Rick and Sheryl Tompos and Joe and Cheryl Smith families recognized our previous week's Mytery Citizen, Terry Wakefield, and the previous week's Citizen, Marizetta Kenney, was cor-



rectly identified by Russ Leonard.

This week's Mystery Citizen is very closely identified with a longstanding local entity in Culver. Free parking up-town, downtown, and beyond (in Culver) goes to correct guessers.

Name: Legals; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 6 in; Color: Black; File Name: -; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Legals; Size: 12 in

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: SANTAS LIL HELPER; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00107067; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pratt's Floor Covering; Size: 10 in



# Sports



## Cavaliers rally past Knox, 57-46

By Dee Grenert  
Staff Writer

CULVER — Culver Community’s boys basketball team just needed a little room to operate Saturday.

With the floor spread in the second half, the Cavs created driving lines, open shots, and offensive rebounding opportunities resulting in a game-changing 17-2 spurt and 57-46 win over Northern State Conference rival Knox at John R. Nelson Gymnasium.

“That was a very enjoyable second half, to say the least,” Culver head coach Kyle Elliott said. “We were very stagnant in the offense in the first half; we were too quick to shoot, too congested. We decided to spread the floor, get some basket cuts and backdoor cuts, and some opportunities for offensive boards.

“We had some good leadership,” he added. “We spread the floor, created space, and the kids shared the basketball very well.”

Senior standout Zoe Bauer led the way for Culver with a game-high 21 points and 11 rebounds. Senior forward Larry Clingler added 12 points — 10 on putbacks — and hauled

in 11 boards himself for the Cavs.

Clingler and senior reserve Scotty Brown accelerated the Cavs’ big run with back-to-back rebound buckets as Culver converted



PHOTO/DEANNA L. GREINERT  
Culver's Collin Stevens looks to pass around a Knox defender during a boys basketball game Saturday at Culver.

ed a 32-24 deficit with 5:52 left in the third into a 41-34 lead at the end of three frames.

“Scotty Brown did a

great job on the boards, and Larry Clingler really battled down inside,” Elliott said. “Patrick McBee did a good job, and having Micah Budzinski back (from an injury), although he played sparingly, is a much-needed addition to our team down low. Those four guys at the post played extremely well.”

For the game, Culver amassed a 39-27 advantage on the glass.

“The number one key on the scouting report was rebounding,” Knox head coach Todd Boldry said. “We said whoever wins the rebounding battle is going to be in the driver’s seat. (Culver) killed us.”

Also for the Cavs, sophomore point guard Collin Stevens added 11 points — his fourth straight game in double figures, and the fourth consecutive Culver victory.

“We’re very pleased that Collin is looking to be more offensive-minded; that’s a great thing for Collin,” Elliott said. “In the first game against Rochester he was hesitant to pull, as we like to say. We talked to him about being a scorer. He had a phenomenal summer shooting the basketball, and we’re starting to see some of that now.”

Stevens kicked off the Culver run with a triple from the left corner, gave the Cavs a 33-32 lead on a runner with 3:40 left in the third quarter, and polished off the 17-2 streak with a 3-pointer from the top of the key off of a dish from Bauer.

“(Stevens) makes them a lot tougher,” Boldry said. “To Bauer’s credit he’s transformed himself from a guy who shoots, to a guy who plays the entire game, and Stevens is the benefi-

ciary.”

Josh Risner scored 14 of his team-high 20 points in the first half for Knox, which led much of the first 16 minutes, and also pulled in 10 caroms.

After screening and cutting their way to a 57 percent mark from the field in the first half, though, the Redskins went just 4 of 24 in the second.

Elliott attributed his team’s second-half defensive performance to a half-time tweaking.

“We were getting caught on ball cuts and screen and roll in the first half,” Elliott said. “We went to our switching man in the second half; that helped us get through screens. I think our switching man made a difference.”

Also for the Redskins, Ambrose chipped in 13 points, and Dylan Short added eight points and eight boards.

Culver travels to Winamac Tuesday. Knox is at Bremen Friday.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 57, KNOX 46  
At Culver  
Score by quarters  
Knox: 15 30 34 46  
Culver: 14 24 41 57  
KNOX (46): Quinn Biddle 0 0-0 0, Connor Carlson 0 0-0 0, Dylan Short 4 0-0 8, Patrick Ambrose 4 3-4 13, Steven Graman 0 0-0 0, Elliott Coad 2 0-0 5, Josh Risner 6 5-9 20, Thomas Clem 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 16 8-13 46.  
CULVER (57): AJ Neace 0 2-2 2, Scotty Brown 2 0-3 4, Collin Stevens 4 1-4 11, Zoe Bauer 6 8-11 21, Patrick McBee 0 0-0 0, Larry Clingler 6 0-4 12, Micah Budzinski 3 0-0 6, Jordan Sanders 0 1-2 1. TOTALS: 21 12-26 57.  
3-point goals: Knox 6 (Risner 3, Ambrose 2, Coad), Culver 3 (Stevens 2, Bauer); Turnovers: Knox 8, Culver 12; Rebounds: Knox 27 (Risner 10), Culver 39 (Bauer, Clingler 11); Assists: Knox 12 (Ambrose, Risner 3), Culver 8 (Stevens 3); Steals: Knox 4, Culver 3 (Neace 2); Fouls (fouled out): Knox 16 (Graman, Risner), Culver 13 (none); Records: Knox 1-3 (0-1 NSC), Culver 4-1 (1-0 NSC). JV score: Culver 42, Knox 32.

## Sanders heats up as Lady Cavs beat Knox

By Dee Grenert  
Staff Writer

CULVER — Clinging to a tenuous 47-43 lead late, Culver Community girls basketball head coach Tony Scheub heard the magic words “man-to-man.”

The Cavs adjusted — and executed — accordingly. Culver senior Whitney Sanders fed 6-foot-1 senior Gwen Zehner from the right wing to the right block for three buckets in a 51-second span to open a 10-point spread with 3:46 left in the final frame, and the Cavs hung on for a 61-53 Northern State Conference win over Knox at John R. Nelson Gymnasium Saturday.

“I heard (Knox’s) coach say, ‘man-to-man,’” Scheub said. “We went to our secondary offense which is to isolate (Zehner) in the post. At that point I’m begging them to get it to the post, and they got it there. The girls executed our offense very well.”

Zehner, who picked up her fourth foul just moments before the three-basket outburst, scored 19 of her game-high 27 points in the second half, secured a staggering 21 rebounds, and avoided a fifth foul.

“We stopped going at (Zehner),” Knox head coach Dan Huizenga said. “We had two or three touches in a row where we tried to get to her. One time Brittany (Tetzloff) pulled up for a jumper, instead of going all the way to the basket. I don’t care if it’s a charge, make (the officials) make a call. Culver’s a good team; they’re 8-1 for a reason.”

In addition to her game-best five assists and three steals, Sanders registered 18 points — including a trio of first-half treys, the first of which gave the Cavs the edge for good less than a minute into the game — and led Culver to a 32-23 halftime advantage.

“(Sanders) was on fire,” Scheub said. “Normally we want to get one post touch before we shoot. I called Whitney over during a free throw and asked, ‘Are you feeling it?’ I told her to shoot it when you want; you feed the hot hand. She’s not a bad shooter, just sometimes she gets nonchalant. When she elevates she has a nice shot. It looked like everything she shot was going in tonight.”

And Sanders’ dead-eye accuracy put the Redskins’ defense in a bind. With Knox, led by Janyl Zachary, applying a box-and-one and continuous double-team pressure on Zehner inside, Sanders continued to get — and knock down — perimeter looks.

“Whitney was unconscious,” Huizenga said. “Culver hit the shots we were going to make them hit. Then we’re in a bind. Do you make the adjustment and get after her and leave Gwen one-on-one, or do we keep doing what we’re doing? We took the chance that Whitney was on a hot streak.”

Culver found itself in a bind as well. Senior forward Patrick McBee exited with a left ankle injury in the first quarter

See Sanders page 7

Name: DEC AD; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109162; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Family Vision Clinic; Size: 8 in

Name: OPEN HOUSE; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00110334; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 8 in

Name: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00110314; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culver Academies; Size: 8 in

Name: VISIT VIEW PURCHASE; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 8 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109026; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 16 in

Name: GIFT - SUPER; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00108906; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Ancilla College (ROP); Size: 10 in

Name: SANTAS LIL HELPER; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00108170; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Bennett’s Contracting LLC; Size: 10 in

Sanders from page 1



PHOTO/DEANNA L. GRENERT

Culver's Nicole Carnegie, left, brings the ball up the floor during a girls basketball game versus Knox Saturday.

us minutes until we could get Alison back in the game. I'm really proud of them.

"We practiced hard for two days after the loss Wednesday," he added. "We came out with intensity tonight. We rebounded nicely from a loss. They showed they have a little character, which I like."

Also for Culver, point guard Nicole Carnegie finished with eight points, and earned high marks from the Knox bench.

"Gwen had 27, but Whitney and Nicole won the game for them," Huizenga said. "We were going to make those two make shots, and they did. They did what senior guards are supposed to do."

Tetzloff scored 16 of her 21 points in the second half to power the Redskins' comeback bid. Elisabeth Caudill chipped in 10 points, including a triple from the left wing that gave Knox its only lead, 3-2 in the first minute of the game, and Kaitlin Zachary ripped down 10 rebounds.

Culver heads to Jintown Saturday. Knox travels to Bremen Friday.

CULVER COMMUNITY 61, KNOX 53  
At Culver  
Score by quarters  
Knox: 13 23 36 53  
Culver: 16 32 45 61  
KNOX (53): Shelby Gilbert 2 0-0 4, Janyl Zachary 3 2-4 8, Hope Wagner 1 2-2 5, Kaitlin Zachary 1 1-2 3, Kierstynn Combs 1 0-0 2, Chelsea Combs 0 0-0 0, Elisabeth Caudill 3 1-2 10, Brittany Tetzloff 8 4-8 21. TOTALS: 19 10-18 53.  
CULVER (61): Nicole Carnegie 4 0-3 8, Ali Overmyer 0 0-0 0, Suzie Guard 0 0-0 0, Patrice McBee 2 0-0 4, Whitney Sanders 6 4-6 19, Alison Zehner 0 2-2 2, Chelsey Jones 0 0-0 0, Kayla Shaffer 0 1-2 1, Shakkira Harris 0 0-0 0, Gwen Zehner 10 7-15 27. TOTALS: 22 14-28 61.  
3-point goals: Knox 5 (Caudill 3, Wagner, Tetzloff), Culver 3 (Sanders 3); Turnovers: Knox 15, Culver 16; Rebounds: Knox 40 (K. Zachary 10), Culver 46 (G. Zehner 21); Assists: Knox 5 (K. Combs 3), Culver 10 (Sanders 5); Steals: Knox 3, Culver 8 (Sanders 3); Fouls (fouled out): Knox 22 (none), Culver 20 (none); Records: Knox 2-6 (1-1 NSC), Culver 8-1 (2-0 NSC).  
JV score: Knox 36, Culver 15.

Briefs from page 1

exhibit may be viewed during the museum's regular weekend hours of operation, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Special tours and visits are available by appointment. These and any questions may be directed to 574-842-8842. The museum may be found online at [www.culver.org/museum](http://www.culver.org/museum).

Donations sought for 'Coaches vs. Cancer'

Local Culver Girls Academy senior Alexis Christlieb is seeking donations towards "Coaches vs. Cancer," a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society as part of the CGA basketball game on January 15, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. Local sponsors and donors are sought to purchase a Wall of Hope Donation card, or make a donation of their choice, by contacting Christlieb via 574-842-7032 or at Alexis Christlieb, 1300 Academy Road, Culver, IN 46511.

Culver Make-A-Wish donations accepted

Donations are welcome for two Culver area children fighting serious illnesses and hoping their wishes will come true for trips to Disney World in early 2010. Donors are encouraged to give up through January, 2011 by contacting Make-A-Wish volunteer Tina Stacy through the Culver Community High School, at 574-842-3391.

Free bowling for students

PLYMOUTH — Campus Life and Quick's Lanes of Plymouth, are partnering for a free bowl for all Marshall County high school students Tuesday, Dec. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Students are invited to challenge their teacher, youth pastor, or friends to a bowling competition. For more information contact Bob Beck at 574-936-2325.

Name: SHARPEN DRILLS; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109173; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Lakeside Auto Supply; Size: 8 in

Name: SUPER 5; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00108297; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Kings Jewelry; Size: 15 in

Eagles slow down Zehner, hand Cavs 1st defeat

By Dee Grenert  
Staff Writer  
CULVER — Culver Girls Academy finally unearthed the key to containing Culver Community senior star Gwen Zehner — don't even let her touch the basketball.

Using a swarming 1-3-1 zone, the Eagles limited Zehner to 12 points on just eight shot attempts, forced 26 turnovers, and held the previously-unbeaten Cavs to a 23 percent mark from the field in a 62-40 win at John R. Nelson Gymnasium Wednesday.

The Academy's Andriana Cvitkovic, a 6-foot-2 sophomore, and 6-3 senior reserve Casey Hall gave the Eagles the height and muscle to handle both the 6-1 Zehner and her teammate, 6-3 Patrice McBee.

"Twelve points is the best we've done against Zehner in her four years," CGA head coach Gary Christlieb said. "I think she scored 27 last year, and the year before I think she scored 30; we've struggled to contain her. Tonight we wanted to pressure her, and one of the ways we wanted to do that was to pressure the passing lanes to her.

"We got out on the perimeter and pressured their ballhandlers," he added. "We did a pretty good job clogging the middle. We were cognizant of what we had to do. Casey Hall did a great job neutralizing Zehner. She gave us a great game; she scored a little, rebounded, and did a really nice job playing 'D.'"

Trapping the perimeter out of its 1-3-1 zone, CGA badgered Culver into 11 first-quarter turnovers and rattled off 18 unanswered points to take a 22-4 lead with 6:52 left in the first half.

"(CGA's) players were a lot quicker than I anticipated," Culver head coach Tony Scheub said. "They did a good job trying to trap

us, and we didn't execute. Their trap and our not executing spelled disaster.

"We've played teams with one big, but not two," he said. "Credit them, they had two bigs that were able to match us. Their two bigs did a good job in the paint on us."

And while the Cavs trimmed their deficit to seven points on four separate occasions in the first half, the last on Nicole Carnegie's pair of free throws with 3 seconds left in the second quarter, they pulled no closer in the second half.

Cvitkovic's bucket off an inbound pass from point guard Kylee Shipley put the Eagles up 38-27 with 6:34 left in the third quarter. CGA led by double figures the rest of the way.

"In the second quarter Culver came back, but we stemmed the tide," Christlieb said. "We made some adjustments at halftime and executed in the third quarter and got the lead up to about 20 and it stabilized there."

Cvitkovic overcame foul trouble to post 19 points and 13 rebounds, both game highs. Brenna Newell added 12 points, and Shipley scored seven of her 10 points during the Eagles' 18-0 run, to go along with seven assists and five rebounds.

"Andi, 19 and 13, that's a good night for anybody," Christlieb said. "Tonight

she really played understanding how to play with foul trouble, and that's a credit to her.

"Shipley does a great job," he added. "We had 17 assists as a team; that's outstanding for us. Brenna Newell hurt herself over the weekend, and we didn't know what to expect from her, but she came in and gave us a big lift."

Meanwhile, the Cavs hunted — unsuccessfully — for an answer on either end of the floor. Culver tried man-to-man, and 3-2 and 2-3 zone defenses, but the Eagles slashed, passed and shot their way to the big lead.

Offensively, Culver ran through a number of looks, even trying a dribble-drive offense in the fourth frame.

"We didn't do a very good job on transition defense," Scheub said. "They did a good job against our zone. They skipped that pass and really shot the ball well.

"We were stagnant offensively so we went with an offense that we normally don't use against a zone," he added. "We decided to try to penetrate, and we did penetrate and get the ball in the lane, but we couldn't get the ball in the basket."

Zehner, who came in averaging more than 19 points a game, scored nine of her team-high 12 points

See Eagles page 12

Name: DEC MEDICAL AD; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2.5 in; Color: Black; File

Name: BET GIFT; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109025; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

Eagles from page 1

in the second stanza, but attempted just two shots from the field after the intermission. Alison Zehner added nine rebounds and four assists for Culver, and Whitney Sanders nabbed three steals.

Both teams play at home Saturday. CGA hosts Gary Wallace, while Culver entertains Knox.

CGA 62, CULVER COMMUNITY 40

At Culver  
Score by quarters  
CGA: 19 32 44 62  
Culver: 4 25 30 40  
CGA (62): Alexis Christlieb 1 0-0 2, Kenzie Ungar 3 0-2 6, Kylee Shipley 3 2-2 10, Brenna Newell 5 2-2 12, Andrijana Cvitkovic 4 10-13 19, Andrea Lin 0 0-0 0, Victoria Christlieb 1 0-0 2, Annie Morsches 2 0-0 5, Casey Hall 2 2-2 6, Lindsay Haller 0 0-0 0, Katie Gawor 0 0-0 0, Monique Novoa 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 21 16-21 62.  
CULVER (40): Nicole Carnegie 3 3-4 9, Patrice McBee 2 4-4 8, Whitney Sanders 0 1-2 1, Alison Zehner 1 4-4 6, Gwen Zehner 5 2-5 12, Kayla

Shaffer 2 0-0 4, Suzie Guard 0 0-0 0, Abby James 0 0-0 0, Shakkira Harris 0 0-0 0, Ali Overmyer 0 0-0 0, Chelsey Jones 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 13 14-19 40.  
3-point goals: CGA 4 (Shipley 2, Cvitkovic, Morsches), Culver none; Turnovers: CGA 28, Culver 26; Rebounds: CGA 36 (Cvitkovic 13), Culver 34 (A. Zehner 9); Assists: CGA 17 (Shipley 7), Culver 7 (A. Zehner 4); Steals: CGA 7 (Shipley, Morsches 2), Culver 6 (Sanders 3); Fouls (fouled out): CGA 17 (none), Culver 16 (none); Records: CGA 5-3, Culver 7-1.  
JV score: CGA 30, Culver 22.

Wrestling - Lancers beat Culver

LaVille’s wrestling team defeated Culver Community 48-36 in a Northern State Conference match Wednesday. Tristan Weaver, Colton Tucker, Davon Johnson, Preston Pittman, and Sonny Windhorst all won by pin for the Lancers. Ian Randolph, John Ahle-

nius, Matt Hurford, and Jeremiah Harvey all had pins for the Cavs. LaVILLE 48, CULVER COMMUNITY 36  
At Lakeville  
103 — Josh Walters (C) won by forfeit; 112 — Jacob VanBlaricom (LV) won by forfeit; 119 — Allen Betts (C) won by forfeit; 125 — Tristan Weaver (LV) pinned Logan McCarthy; 130 — Michael Wireman (LV) won by forfeit; 135 — Ian Randolph (C) pinned Sean Webb;

140 — Colton Tucker (LV) pinned Lodge Burgess; 145 — Davon Johnson (LV) pinned Stephen Lehman; 152 — John Ahlenius (C) pinned Daniel Perkins; 160 — Preston Pittman (LV) pinned AJ McHugh; 171— Sonny Windhorst (LV) pinned Mark Hurford; 189 — Matt Hurford (C) pinned Brad Laidig; 215 — Garrett Leed (LV) won by forfeit; Hwt — Jeremiah Harvey (C) pinned Chris Stump.

Diva from page 1

“I always wanted my own business,” she adds. “I was at the tail end of a career with Verizon. I contacted (building owner) Fred Karst about the space.”

McInturff credits Pam Fisher of nearby Fisher and Company Clothiers for assistance in getting started in creating an inventory of merchandise to offer, and the sisters purchased a number of the store’s fixtures from Mary’s Shoppe, which was closing its doors at the time.

The Diva opened March 31, 2007, McInturff utilizing some of her marketing background to move the project forward, and Braden making use of her years of experience working for the Hallmark store in Rochester.

The ladies’ vision, they say, differed a bit from the offerings of Shoreline, and instead tended toward “what we loved.”

“Our mother would say, ‘I don’t know where you got that expensive taste!’” says McInturff. “Our buying is more about what we wanted in our homes or to wear. We didn’t set out to say, ‘Let’s do this kind of a shop.’ Instead, let’s just buy things we love and hope people love them too. We’ve made some mistakes, but for the most part it’s been a good philosophy for us.”

McInturff adds the Diva aims to offer items not available in typical chain stores: jewelry, hand bags, scarves, a small baby line including clothes and gifts, greeting cards, and especially home decor.

It may go without saying the store intends to fill a niche unique to the unusual flavor of Culver.

Says Braden, “I think there was a need in this town for a place like us because of so many people who come in on vacation or to their summer homes, or to see their children at the Academy, and would like to have some place to do some shopping. When you’re on vacation you don’t want to travel 50 miles to do something.”

“Culver is becoming more of a destination town for specifically the lake,” agrees McInturff. “The good restau-

rants and the shopping goes on top of that. People make a day or weekend or whole week out of it. They like to come in and walk around. (Along with the other specialty shops in downtown Culver), we give those people a place to stop in. When I go to Lake Michigan and spend the weekend, I like to go to the shops; I think that’s a common thread for people to look for when they come to small towns for the lakes. You want a place where they can look for something different they can’t find in a large store in their hometown.”

Even though they recognize the changes in Culver, McInturff and Braden know the ‘old’ Culver as well. They grew up on a farm seven miles south of town and attended Aubbeenaubee High School (McInturff was part of the last graduating class there preceding the late 1960s school consolidation).

“Culver was my hangout,” she recalls. “When I was 14 or 15 years old, I would drive to Culver and cruise to the root beer stand, and hang out at the bowling alley.”

And response to the Diva has been positive, they say, from customers across the board.

“We had an excellent reception,” McInturff says of their debut three years ago. “Our first year was our best year.”

Not surprisingly in light of the economy, she notes the past two years have been “flat” for the shop, with neither great loss nor gain. Notably however, this year looks to be their best yet.

In addition to traffic from the lake, Academy, and out-of-town customer base -- McInturff and Braden point out their “black Friday” has been, as is true of many Culver businesses, the summer season. The ladies say many local shoppers are discovering Diva is “not really some high-priced, over-the-top store,” and their Christmastime sales have been increasing. And word of mouth has helped to spread their customer base to surrounding communities such as Plymouth, Rochester, Knox, Argos, and even Warsaw.

Before the expansion, some of those customers, says Braden, would miss out on noticing some of their offerings, one of the reasons for this year’s expansion. “There was a lot to see in



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

A look at the expanded Diva on Main Street from the outside.

that small space,” she explains, “a lot for them to take in.”

The decision to expand came about a year ago in November, particularly as holiday-themed items crowded the shelves of the Diva. Add the fact that the storefront just north has been empty for a year, and McInturff says she began exploring the notion of growing the store. That meant permission from Karst and cutting into the wall to create an opening, all while McInturff herself went through the chaos of buying a house in Culver and moving here full-time from Fort Wayne.

The response to the growth of the store has been overwhelmingly positive, say Braden and McInturff.

“People say, ‘We’re so glad you expanded. You’re keeping your presence and making it even better.’ They’re very, very positive. I’m very grateful for them. If it wasn’t for people coming in and buying, we wouldn’t be here.”

The added floor space has been dedicated primarily to home decor and seasonal items, but also allows more room for behind-the-scenes needs such as inventory and office space. McInturff credits Braden and the store’s other team member, Karen Beaver, with creation of window displays in the expansion, besides their many other duties at the store.

Braden and McInturff attribute the Diva’s success in the face of a less-than-successful economy to the uniqueness of Culver.

“We talk to other people in Fort Wayne and other communities,” McInturff says. “So many small shops have closed over the last two years. I think Culver is a different market; it was an untapped market.”

Name: VALUE ADDED; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109343; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Weaver Furniture Barn; Size: 12 in

Name: WEB; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109030; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 15 in

Name: SPECIAL; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00110375; Ad

Name: CULVER SUBSCRIPTIONS/NIE; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00109027; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

Lawson from page 4

was in many homes with students at Culver Elementary School. And, as I think back on both Rita and her husband Latham -- to whom, along with all her family and friends, my condolences go out -- I think of a couple who were committed to their church and community broadly, and to public education specifically. Rita Lawson, in my memories of her, in many ways symbolized the great strengths

of our public education system: a teacher passionate about her subject matter, and passionate to translate its value on to her students utilizing every means the school and its varied resources put at her disposal. She was solid and steadfast in that pursuit, and along the way touched the lives of generations, many of whom have gone on to great successes of their own.

Name: FULL CULVER ISDH; Width: 41p6.333; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00109547; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Miller’s Health Systems; Size: 20 in

I’ve no doubt that many of Rita’s diverse activities have and will continue to yield fruit. Her impact as “teacher” is too large to measure.



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Here comes Santa Claus

O'ceanna Beindorf, age 3, shares her Christmas wishes with Santa (who is assisted here by Culver fireman Tyler Master) during the children's Christmas party last Saturday. The party included a free children's movie ("Despicable Me") at the Uptown Cinema

followed by a visit with Santa, as well as free treat bags, at the Culver-Union Township Volunteer Fire station across the street (a shot of Santa's departure on a Culver fire truck will appear in next week's *Citizen*).

Name: FULL CHURCH SERVICE; Width: 62p8; Depth: 14 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00109566; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 84 in