



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY - LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

In Brief

S.R. 17 closed

State Road 17 has been closed this week for repairs to the crossing at Burr Oak. Work is slated to be complete by Friday afternoon, Oct 14, weather permitting. Please adjust driving routes to compensate.

Scarecrow contest

Look for sign-up sheets around the community for the Culver Chamber of Commerce's annual scarecrow contest, in which citizens and organizations are encouraged to create a scarecrow for display on the streets of Culver. A top scarecrow will be chosen and awarded from among the street "parade" of scarecrows.

Lions Halloween party Oct. 25

The annual Lions Club children's Halloween party will be held in the Culver Elementary School gym Tuesday, October 25. Costume judging will begin at 6 p.m. Games, costume parade, and fun, as always, will be part of the event.

Hydrant flush next week

The Town of Culver will be flushing fire hydrants during the week of October 17 to 21. During this process your water may have a "rusty" color; however it is still safe to drink. The hydrant flushing is done twice a year and is necessary to remove rust from the town's water distribution system.

Town manager applicants sought

The town of Culver is seeking applicants for the position of town manager, a position responsible for leadership work as the administrative head of the town, under the direction of the town council and working with the town clerk. Performance must be in accordance with Indiana statutes and the town council's initiatives. Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university program in public administration, business management, engineering, or other relevant field is desirable. Previous experience as a town manager or assistant manager or at least five years of equivalent experience and training is a plus.

To apply, submit a letter of interest and resume to: Clerk Treasurer's Office, Ginny Munroe, Town

'Planting' a Heroes Tree

A remarkable exhibit of U.S. military memorabilia and vehicles accompanied the Culver-Union Township Public Library's Heroes' Tree kickoff Saturday morning, as longtime Culver veterans Bob Cultice (LEFT), who drove Army jeeps for some of America's top military brass in Korea (including future president Eisenhower) and Pearl Harbor survivor Jim DeWitt looked on. Speaking is Capt. Dianne Johnson, who recently retired to Culver after decades with the U.S. Navy. At RIGHT are Josh Galloway, with children (from left) Tammer, Kyler, and Chloe Caldwell, and Jen Mosier. The family made cards, with the assistance of Culver's Marge Keltner, to honor Galloway's grandfather, Harry Coy, a prisoner of war during World War II. The tree, on which people are encouraged to hang cards honoring family members in the military, living or deceased, will be on the upper floor of the library through Nov. 11. Members of Culver's VFW Post -- including Tom and Jon Schmidt -- provided many of the historical artifacts and vehicles, one of which was also provided by Joe McCormick of Plymouth.

Care for Culver keeps Porter busy keeping town running



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Bob Porter (second from right) with street department crew members (from left) Chester Singleton, Curtis Minix, and John Marks

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

A quiz: who in Culver may actually know Culver -- inside and outside, the visible and the invisible, the bird's eye and worm's eye views alike -- better than most anyone else, but his work is largely unfamiliar to many who live here?

For the past 16 years, Bob Porter has been working, "up close and personal," on Culver's streets, water, sewer, and just about anything and everything else keeping the town's infrastructure running, as an employee of the town.

Since August, 2002, he's been Culver's street supervisor, and at a recent meeting of Culver's town council, he was named utilities manager, a new position which reflects both the need for increased cohesion between town departments during the midst of several busy projects here, as well as the increased duties and responsibilities he's taken on in the wake of the departure of Culver's last town manager, Michael Doss, in April (the search continues for Doss' replacement).



Porter grew up here, graduating from Culver Community High School in 1989.

See Porter page

PHOTOS/PAUL PARE

Fall Bonanza fun



LEFT: Culver Comm. High School students recently built school spirit at the annual Fall Bonanza, as pictured below. Students Steven Franklin (TOP) and John Ahlenius (BOTTOM) took to the field for some autumn fun.

Street dept. duties many, diverse

As new town council members have come and gone through the years, utilities manager (then street supervisor) Bob Porter was often asked about his, and his department's, duties, which eventually led him to create a six-page list, part of which is excerpted below.

Street department

- Leaf (in autumn and spring) and branch, sticks, and yard debris pick-up (two to three times per month).
- Street sweeping, several weeks in a row in spring and several times per month.
- Pot hole repair and animal carcass pickup.
- Snow plowing and winter spreading of salt and sand.
- Sidewalk program (measure of potential sidewalk projects, inspection of concrete forms prior to pouring, then measuring final project).
- Tree commission -- unload tree orders at the street garage, take each tree to the plant site,

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CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Old depot, new top

BELOW: Taking advantage of the beautifully warm fall weather, roofers were hard at work last week on Culver's historic, 1925 train station-depot, in the west end of the town park, operated by the Culver Lions Club. The improvement is one of many recent and forthcoming enhancements, including addition of a mounted digital projector and built-in sound system, and the planned replacement of the community sign located on the hill nearby, with a digital sign, thanks to a grant from the Marshall County Community Foundation. Details will follow in the *Citizen* in the near future.



Organist returns to Culver 40 years later to play at 'jewel' of a local church

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

It's been some 40 years since Ron McMahon's was a regular face in the Culver area, but he says one the hidden "jewel" that is one local church brought him here again -- and he seems to be enjoying every minute of it.



In 1968, McMahon began working with the Culver Academies Summer Schools band, staying on that fall and on through to the end of summer, 1971, his wife working part-time in the library. While living in Culver, his family attended Wesley United Methodist Church on School Street, while the couple's two children attended Culver's public schools. Tragically, McMahon's wife and daughter were killed in a car accident in 1972, so

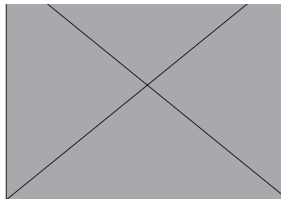
he and his 10-year-old son were on their own. McMahon, now retired, spent the following decades working in the area of music in public schools, besides giving lessons on the side. Earlier this year, he heard about an opening for an organist at Wesley, a position opened when Culver's Beth Pare' returned to her role as choir director at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, a few blocks east, this summer.

"I knew a bit about the history of the church (Wesley)," McMahon notes. "We enjoyed this church when we were here, and hasn't changed that much. It's still traditional. The choir director is doing more modern choir anthems, but when you come into the build-

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Duties from page 1

get mulch from Argos, taking of mulch to each plant site).

- All minor maintenance on all equipment, including oil changes, fuel and air filters, brakes, cleaning, and so on.
- Alley maintenance.
- Nuisance lots cleaned up.
- Mowing of all town grass, including town hall, fire station, water tower lot, farmer’s market lot, street garage, water plant, Culver signs, five lift stations, and sewer plant.
- Maintaining all parking lines, crosswalks, stop bars, and painting of curbs
- Installation of all street signs, stop signs, street names, and informational signs.
- Town building maintenance: cleaning gutters, painting, etc.

- Cleaning of storm drains and storm damage cleanup (trees, debris, etc).
- Repair of all damaged manholes, storm or sewer.
- Organize and run town wide clean up day.
- Answer all citizen complaints
- Traffic control and banner install, assisting with large funerals, accidents, etc.

Water dept.

- Running daily operations of the water plant, including testing, fluoride, iron levels, ph, reading the pump, back-washing filters, refill chemical barrels, adjust chemical feed rates (as needed).
- Monthly report of operation into computer, monthly state report.
- Pump maintenance. The chemical feed pumps often

need rebuilt.

- Track unaccounted for water. We keep a record of water pumped vs. billed gal.
- Meter reading.
- Re-reads, disconnect notices, and shut offs.
- Install new, replace old, trouble shoot and repair water meters.
- Water leaks in town system.
- Flushing of approx. 100 hydrants in town.

Sewer dept.

- Responsible for all sewer lines: cleaning, homeowner calls, fixing.
- Lift station maintenance.

Porter from page 1

His Culver roots go at least as far back as his grandfather -- also named Bob -- who worked for Culver Military Academy. Many in the area may remember his grandmother, who married Charlie Wolf, known for years as Culver's resident Santa Claus.

Today’s Culver utilities manager actually started, back in August of 1995, as a seasonal worker collecting autumn leaves, joining the full-time staff in May, 1996 in general labor.

In his office at the town street garage just off West Mill Street, Porter says the position he's held for the past nine years, street supervisor, is a deceptively named one. Among the many duties of the position, he's also responsible for Culver's water, storm water, and wastewater.

"There are two guys at the sewer plant," he explains, "and all they do is inside the plant. Distribution of water

has always been this department: water leaks, meter repairs, quality complaints -- that's always been this department. That's a huge part of the job."

The street department, he says, includes two other full-time employees besides Porter himself, and one permanent part-timer working three days a week. Porter himself possesses water operator certification, water distribution certification, and a sewer plant license.

A "typical day," he says, can include any number of a vast list of duties the position may include (see accompanying article this page). That's particularly the case at the moment, when Culver has what may be an unprecedented number of major projects -- over \$2 million worth -- in the works.

These include a downtown revitalization grant, which is in the process of being engineered now, and a Safe Routes to School grant which will begin construction next June. A \$1.3 million project to upgrade Culver's sewer plant started a month ago.

"We're replacing the headworks, which will remove the dirt and grit, and putting an equalization tank in -- that's to eliminate the spikes of high and low going into it. We got rid of the reed sludge bed. As far as I know, we're one of two municipalities in the state that still had these reeds. They're plants similar to cattails, designed to dry up the sludge so we can remove it. And they're not effective at all! We're going to a bag system, which is much more efficient."

A project to replace the culvert at Lake Maxinkuckee's west shore outlet is, as of this writing, hinging on NIP-SCO's arrival to engineer a gas line at the site.

"Michael (Doss) left in April," notes Porter. "Me and (town clerk) Casey Howard share the work. I don't want all the credit for that."

Taking up some of the slack left when Doss departed has "been a big increase in time commitment," Porter says. "I went from more labor -- like running the street sweeper -- to more administrative duties."

The new utility manager position recognizes this fact, adding the sewer plant to Porter's responsibilities, though he notes Joe Sheppard is still the plant operator. The new position is "pulling together all the projects," he adds.

Porter, who lives just outside Culver with wife Michelle and their four children (and a fifth on the way), was plenty busy before April.

Long before sunrise while most Culverites ignore the scrape of snow plow on street to turn over in bed for a few more hours' rest, Porter and the street crew are behind the wheel of those plows.

"If it just snowed and quit," he says, "We could have the whole town open in eight to nine hours, but when it snows and snows, that's when we get tired."

When winter snows fly, the street crew's day begins at 3 a.m. They start by plowing Culver's emergency snow routes, and follow with the rest of the town. The day after, they're back at 3 to haul all that snow out, he says.

"We put the initial plowing in parking spots and then come gather all that up the next morning," he notes. "During multiple days of heavy snow, we're tired! It's not just that your natural clock is messed up, but it's a lot of hours behind that windshield."

On the 17th of this month, the crew begins leaf pickup, which Porter admits can be "a huge headache."

"We start at one end of town and go to the other. We can't make special trips or else we'd be chasing our own tails. We keep sucking leaves up until the snow falls, and sometimes after that. We always do a two-week pickup in spring, too."

One of the more gratifying aspects of his work, says Porter, is "being a part of (Culver's) progress."

"There have been some pretty sizeable upgrades to the water system, and we have a new water tower. There's a sewer line added down state road 10. It's things you can't see, but I'm seeing things improve. The equipment has drastically improved since I started."

The town council's faith in Porter is evidenced by his new title.

But town council president Ginny Munroe adds, "Bob is literally at the center of all activity we have planned, and he has proven that he is more than capable of managing our projects, scheduling our resources, communicating to council and town hall, and overseeing the work of our vendors."

She explains he has "an amazing talent for keeping his cool when things don't go as perfectly as we plan. I've seen him receive a dozen work-related calls over the course of one lunch. When town hall receives a complaint about services, Bob is the one who gets the call. When one of our vendors has a question, Bob is called. If something breaks, Bob gets the call."

"Bob cares about Culver," she adds. "I've been in his office -- (which is) the truck! -- when he has taken me out to projects, and I've heard him say, 'We've got to find the funding to do this, Ginny. This isn't how this should look. We've got to get this on the priority list.'"

"When the rest of Culver is sleeping...I've seen him and his crew stay up half the night, missing out on their own sleep or time with family, because they care about our safety and our commute to work the next day. I've seen Bob sit through council meetings at which citizens are critiquing his team's work or every detail of a project, and Bob always maintains his professionalism and caring attitude."

Porter admits his work -- and the Culver community -- are important to him.

"If it weren't," he adds, "I wouldn't be here, doing what I do."

Halloween Story Contest

The Pilot News is looking for the scariest original ghost stories to publish the week before Halloween

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 writers in each category

Category #1 - Ages 13-17

Category #2 - Ages 18 & up

Please send your stories to:

Ghost Stories
c/o Pilot News
214 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

—OR—

drop off at our office.

Deadlines: October 17
Winners will be notified October 21
Judges decisions are final.

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Death notices

Dale

**Dona R. Dale
Oct. 3, 2011**

DONALDSON -- Dona R. Dale, 85, of Catherine Kasper Life Center, Donaldson, formerly of Culver, died Oct. 3, 2011 at 4:30 a.m.

She is survived by daughters, Cynthia Falica (Craig Hall) of Lynwood, Ill., Amy Seversen-Smallcombe (Brian Smallcombe) of Wauwatosa, Wis.; daughter-in-law, Rande Dale of California; and seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Thursday, Oct. 6 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Odom Funeral Home, Culver.

Service was Friday, Oct. 7 at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Letters of condolence for the family may be sent via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

The Odom Funeral Home, Culver is in charge of arrangements

Moore

**Lewis Kingsley Moore IV
July 30, 2011**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Lewis Kingsley Moore IV, 87, of Fayetteville, Ark., formerly of Culver, died July 30, 2011 in Springdale, Ark.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Brock of Fayetteville, Ark.; daughters, Barbara (Brian) Linhart of Culver, Bonnie (Stephen) Chandler of Rutland, Vt.; and four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

There will be no visitation.

Service was Saturday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Culver Academy Chapel.

The Finney-Shilling VFW Post #6919 of Culver also conducted military rites.

Memorials may be made to the Culver Educational Foundation.

Letters of condolence for the family may be sent via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

The Odom Funeral Home, Culver is in charge of arrangements.

Birth - Ulch



Troy and Mallory Ulch of Culver announce the birth of a son born Aug. 9, 2011 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth.

Matthew Winferd Ulch weighed 8 pounds and 13 ounces and was 22 1/4 inches long.

He was welcomed home by a sibling, Sadie Sark.

Maternal grandparents are Matt and Cindy Master of Culver.

Paternal grandparents are Roy Ulch and Peggy Lowry.

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Obituary

Dona R. Dale

Oct. 9, 1925-Oct. 3, 2011



her mother's middle name was Rose which has been passed down to following generations of girls in the family. Dona was a true Culverite.

A time to gather with the family and share memories was held Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011 from 4 to 8 p.m. EDT at The Odom Funeral Home in Culver. Funeral services followed Friday, Oct. 7, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial is at The Culver Masonic Cemetery.

Dona is survived by daughters: Cynthia Falica (Craig Hall) of Lynwood, Ill.; Amy Seversen-Smallcombe (Brian Smallcombe) of Wauwatosa, Wis.; daughter-in-law: Rande Dale of California; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren, and one due any day.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, son: David Dale; brother: David Koss.

Letters of condolence for the family may be sent via the obituary page at odomfuneralhome.com. The Odom Funeral Home of Culver is in charge of arrangements.

PHOTO/DOUG HABERLAND, CULVER ACADEMIES COMMUNICATIONS

Crisp arts building dedicated

Culver Academies art instructor Audrey Blessman talks about her drawing classroom to members of the Culver Educational Foundation board of trustees and other visitors who toured the Crisp Visual Arts Center Friday following its dedication.

During the dedication ceremony, Head of Schools John Buxton commented on the historic relationship between Culver -- even during its days as solely a military academy -- and the arts, and paid tribute to the memory of the late Rosemary Berkel Crisp, in whose name -- along with Husband Harry, who also spoke at the event -- the building was dedicated.

Also speaking were Fine Arts department Chair Cathy Duke (a 1970 graduate of the school), and the Crisps' daughter, Cyndi Crisp Dickens, who recalled the life and legacy of her mother, who she described as a "living example of faith, hope, and love." CEF board chairman Miles White discussed the history of the building, which was originally built as a science building, part of the Eppley academic quadrangle.



Culver experience impacts Coffey's medical career

Her work at Culver has had a significant impact on Deidre Coffey, who recently started at Bremen Family Medicine as a nurse practitioner. Of course, being the daughter of Culver Community Schools' longtime (now retired) school nurse, Sharon Coffey, probably didn't hurt either.

Deidre Coffey's first job was at the Swirley Top ice cream parlor on Lake Shore Drive until the fire which closed its doors, but her first introduction to working in the world of medicine was at age 15, when she started part-time at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Culver.

She says her time there left an impression on her that she carries with her today as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) since this past spring at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's Bremen Family Medicine.

"As I went through school, I found that I always wanted to be in a family practice like this with a focus on Geriatrics," Coffey said. "Sometimes the elderly can be a big challenge because of the many medications they are prescribed. But that makes it al very interesting and they seem very comfortable with me."

A Nurse Practitioner is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) who has completed graduate-level training. All NPs are Registered Nurses who have completed extensive additional education and training and have a dramatically expanded scope of practice.

They treat both physical and mental conditions through comprehensive history taking, physical exams, ordering, and interpreting diagnostic tests. NPs can diagnose the disease and provide appropriate treatment for the patients, including prescribing medications. NPs can also serve as a patient's primary health care provider and see patients of all ages.

"We had a week just like that last week where one patient was a three-year-old and the next one was nearly 100," Coffey said. "It keeps you on your toes because what is bothering a 70-year-old and how you interact is much different than with a 10-year-old. It's the whole experience that I really enjoy."

The experience is working well with Coffey's co-workers since she has joined the staff at Bremen Family Medicine.

"Having a Nurse Practitioner here is really the best of both worlds," said Robert Kolbe, MD, of Bremen Family Medicine. "You get the nursing perspective and the holistic, preventative look with some of the training doctors have. It's a nice overlap where we each bring our own perspective to the table -- two different minds finding what is best for the patient."



Deidre Coffey

PHOTO PROVIDED

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.

Thurs., Oct. 13: BBQ chicken breast, broccoli, corn, honey wheat bread and margarine, pudding, and milk.

Fri., Oct. 14: Chili with beans, crackers, cauliflower, baby bakers, applesauce, and milk.

Mon., Oct. 17: Turkey and brown rice Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, peaches, and milk.

Tues., Oct. 18: Lasagna, salad and dressing, peas, breadstick, dessert, and milk.

Weds., Oct. 19: Oven fried chicken, mashed sweet potatoes, green beans, applesauce, Texas toast, and milk.

Thurs., Oct. 20: Pork loin, broccoli, black eyed peas margarine, cherry ambrosia, and milk.

Fri., Oct. 21: Cream of broccoli soup, chicken pasta salad, crackers, fruit cup, dessert, and milk.

If these walls could talk: 111 S. Main Street

By Jeff Kenney, Citizen editor

Continuing our series of virtual "walks" through the past of Culver's downtown, we arrive this week at 111 South Main, the home today of Fisher and Company Clothiers, a business which continues a remarkable run of over 100 years for the locale as the home of fashionable, quality attire in Culver.

In January, 1906, the Culver Citizen announced John Mitchell and Otto Stabenow of Chicago would, in February, open up "one of the largest clothing and gents' furnishing stores in the county and will occupy one of Osborn's magnificent rooms, which will give them the greatest floor space that is occupied by any store in the county devoted exclusively to the sale of clothing."

The store was initially dubbed the Culver Clothing House, and though it would change names in the ensuing decades, Mitchell and Stabenow's occupied the spot for almost 50 years.

The Mitchell portion of the team was born in New York City, and in 1938 was noted by the Citizen for holding the "local record for continuous office holding by being treasurer of the Culver lodge of Masons since 1920."

He was also an original member of the Culver library board "when the library was located over the Goss Hardware store," and was president for several years. Mitchell served on the town school board and as township Red Cross Chairman, secretary and vice president of the Commercial Club, "now known as the Chamber of Commerce," and an officer in the Grace Reformed (today United Church of Christ) church "more years than he can remember, and now serves as elder and trustee of the church and treasurer on the Sunday School."

Stabenow, born in Germany, had been secretary of the pre-Chamber Commercial Club as well as town clerk-treasurer ("He can't remember the date of the term of the latter office," quipped the Citizen, "but does recall it was at the time Main Street was paved. The grief connected with that job is still fresh in his memory.").

The two dutifully operated the business day in, day out, week in, week out, for those many decades, living

on Ohio Street behind the store and trading shifts. In fact, today their names occupy the tile mosaic on the floor of the outer entryway of Fisher and Company, lest you'd ever wondered when entering the establishment.

As of 1910, the store was listed as Mitchell & Stabenow Dry Goods, though for most of its existence, the place was strictly a clothier.

The upstairs flat had been occupied by Stabenow for many years, but as alluded to in our last column, was the home of the H.L. Werner, jeweler and watchmaker shop for several decades. The telephone exchange is listed as



ABOVE: John Mitchell (left) and Otto Stabenow. RIGHT: Andy's in the early 1990s (left) and today's Fisher & Co. (at right; note Mitchell and Stabenow's names in the tile at the entryway).

having been located upstairs circa 1924 and into the 1920s.

In 1954, Mitchell and Stabenow sold the store to Fred Adams, who ran it for just three years prior to returning to the State Exchange Bank, where he would spend the rest of his career. In 1957, he sold it to Andy Venum, who had moved to Culver in '54 with his new wife to be with her mother.

Venum told me in an interview a few years ago, he and two business partners went in together in 1957, changing the name from Adams' Mens and Boys Wear to Culver Clothiers, almost on a whim at bank president W.O. Osborn's suggestion. As the years went by, Venum's part-

ners encouraged him to incorporate the oft-used informal name, "Andy's" into the official store name, and so it became Andy's Culver Clothiers.

For most of its life, the store continued to be a haberdashery -- that is, to cater to men and boys -- though Venum notes he began to "sneak" a few women's items into the stock around 1975, as the industry shifted and the need grew to cater to a wider clientele. More and more items were added until it became about half men's and half women's, as it primarily is today.

In 1977, when Mr. T's drugs, a few doors down, moved to Academy Road, Venum gambled that Culver could support its own shoe store, even though industry experts suggested 6,000 residents would be needed to keep such a venture afloat. Nonetheless, the Shoe Stable was born that year, which allowed Venum to expand his footwear offerings to Culver, to fill an empty storefront, and to add more clothing items at Andy's, where shoes had previously been. As it turned out, the Shoe Stable -- with its signature bright orange bags, which many in town will recall, "worked out pretty well" and stayed open 14 years, though it was never, Venum says, a financial blockbuster.

Eventually, too, Venum bought out his partners and actually bought the building itself (after Larry Berger of Easterday Construction convinced then-owner W.O. Osborn that the apartments upstairs -- which by then had been out of use and in growing disrepair for years -- would take a sizeable amount of renovating in order to be usable). Susie Mahler would buy the southern half of the building, and Pam Fisher the northern half, in the mid-1990s.

Andy Venum ran the clothiers for 37 years, but in 1994, his wife

See Walls page 8

Wesley from page 1

ing, you're not seeing a screen (projecting praise lyrics). The building is still a church building a little bit. A lot of places are throwing the cross and organ and choir out, and going completely with a praise band.

"There's nothing wrong with a praise band," he adds, beginning a deep, melodious chord on Wesley's organ, "but there are people's souls who need to hear this."

Bringing in McMahon, who grew up in Flint, Michigan and has a backlog of accomplishments in his field, was quite a coup for Wesley, especially since the organist lives in Granger.

"I'm up at 4 (a.m.)," smiles McMahon, describing the Sunday morning ritual which gets him to Culver each week. "And I leave at 5."

Ron McMahon started piano lessons in the second grade, majoring in Music Education at the University of Michigan before heading to the University of Louisville to earn his Master's degree.

Following his graduation from the U of M, he says, "If you look back, I've always had a church someplace I played."

In recent years, he's played with the Illinois Valley Community Orchestra and National Arts Orchestra, and "accompanied a lot of kids in solo and ensemble contests." And while he's played organ in his share of churches in the South Bend-Granger area, he says regular organ positions, despite all his accomplishments as a musician, are harder and harder to come by in this age of more entertainment-oriented "mega churches."

"The modern, contemporary churches are killing organists," he says. "And some of the churches (in the South Bend area) have such (fast-paced) worship schedules. Here, you come Sunday morning and you don't have to hurry through it -- people can stay and visit after the service. They don't have to leave for the next service in 15 minutes. This is so beautiful."

He also chooses to make the commute -- which occasionally involved mid-week trips here for meetings and the like -- because he loves Wesley's organ and the build-

ing which surrounds it.

"This (church) is virtually a little jewel here," he says. "I knew about this instrument (a Rodgers organ)...they're very nice instruments."

Wesley church reciprocates the feeling.

"Ron brings a wonderful combination of knowledge about the organ and its capabilities, technical skill and a terrific attitude and eagerness that everyone at Wesley has enjoyed," says Wesley pastor Larry Saunders. "We feel strongly that God has brought him back to our congregation in His perfect timing, and so most of all we are thankful to God."

Recognition of what McMahon brings to Wesley has also played into some big decisions about the organ itself. "This is the first church with something wrong with the instrument," McMahon notes, "where they're pursuing the repair of it. That's a spirit that should be in the church."

The organ in question is the church's pipe organ, which has lain dormant for at least a decade, according to Wesley pastor Larry Saunders. Listeners might be surprised to learn the primary instrument at the church is actually a digital organ, a fact obscured by the powerful sound of which the instrument is capable -- from soaring, rousing chords, to deep, resonant bass which vibrates the very building itself -- particularly at McMahon's experienced hands.

The pipe organ has recently been replaced and as of last week, was slated to be tuned and ready for use. McMahon says he plans to incorporate the pipes in with the main, digital organ.

Wesley church's decision to retain the elegance and musical rigor of its organ and often traditional choir is a conscious one its members feel reflects their congregation and the church itself.

"It's fun working with a choir," notes McMahon, who also notes he started a hand bell choir at Wesley during his past tenure here all those years ago (he hopes someday that choir can be revived).

He's also excited about a musician's workshop slated for Nov. 28 from 5 to 7 p.m., when two organs will be playing at the church and Rodney Barbour -- a Rodgers

company-selected concert organist from Ohio -- will be on hand. Members of the community who haven't had a chance to hear McMahon play can do so at a concert at the church from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. that day, with Barbour and McMahon, besides vocal accompaniment.

In the meantime, McMahon is clearly enjoying his service to Wesley church, even down to the first glimpse he catches as he comes into town.

"When you come up in the morning, if you just look at the building from the outside, it reminds me of the song, 'Come, Come to the Church in the Wildwood,'" he muses. "It's not necessarily gothic (style), but its colonial (style architecture). It has its own elegance."

Now it has elegant organ accompaniment from a master to go hand in hand

Name that Culver 'citizen'

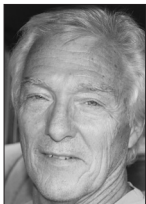


Last week's Mystery Citizen stumped many a reader, though some great guesses poured in (and though many in the community know him). He was Carey Flora, who has worked in the community in various capacities (and whose wife Susan also occupied many volunteer positions as well). Since retiring from years of service with AT&T, Carey has been most visible in his hobby as a wood-carver, working with a Plymouth-based club.

Phyllis Lindvall, Cathy Keller, Jeanette Geiselman, Sandra Middleton, and Shelli Overmyer Arriaga recognized him.

This week's Mystery Citizen is also visible in the community, particularly with one local club, though she spent years best known for her role at a major institution in Culver.

Guesses may be emailed to citizen@culcom.net, or call the editor at 574-216-0075.



BELOW: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Carey Flora, then (left) and now. ABOVE LEFT: This week's Mystery Citizen.



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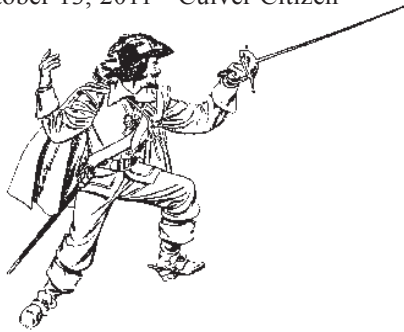
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Sports



Culver drops NSC contest to Glenn

By Dee Grenert
Staff Writer

CULVER — John Glenn’s football team savored its 28-13 Northern State Conference win at Culver Community for about a nanosecond Friday night.

With news of Bremen’s 27-13 win over Jimtown — the Jimmies’ first NSC loss of the season — the Falcons quickly looked ahead to next week’s regular-season finale with the Lions. A win at unbeaten Bremen would give the Falcons a share of the league crown.

“Early in the game it seemed like they were one step ahead of us,” Culver head coach Andy Thomas said. “Then our kids adjusted and handled themselves well and hung in there. We needed to make a play early, but we just couldn’t get off the field. Glenn is an outstanding team, and I’m very proud of the way our kids played.”

Three of those early plays included two first-half near sacks that Glenn quarterback Tom Knape somehow evaded and connected with tight end Charlie Dreessen

for positive yardage, as well as a Culver encroachment on a fourth-and-4 from the Culver 8.

Also for the Falcons, Trevor Duff tacked on 113 rushing yards in 14 tries, including a 32-yard scoring run to put the Falcons up 28-7 with 7:43 left in the third quarter.

For Culver, senior running back Kevin Hogan churned out 165 yards on 24 totes, and linebacker John Ahlenius, powered by a number of successful blitzes, finished with 10 tackles

Meanwhile, senior Cole Flora scored on a 20-yard op-

tion pitch — from quarterback Collin Stevens — down the left sideline for the Cavs to knot the score at 7-7 with 3:47 left in the opening quarter.

“Against a team like that you are worried that after they score to start the game that it will snowball,” Thomas said. “For our kids to score right away was huge. It gave them some confidence.



PHOTO/ALAN HALL

Culver Community's Micah Budzinski returns a kick-off during a Northern State Conference football game against John Glenn Friday.

no excuse for a fumble. Nobody feels worse than the kid who put it on the ground. He’d just made several, tough, tough runs. He’s a great football player.”

• JOHN GLENN 28,
CULVER COMMUNITY 13

CGA bows out at Plymouth Sectional

By James Costello
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — Culver Girls Academy got off to a slow start as NorthWood rode a 3-0 first half to a 4-1 victory at the Class 2A Plymouth Girls Soccer Sectional Thursday at Kindt Soccerplex.

“If we would have had the performance that we had in the second half in the first half I think it would have been a different game,” said CGA Head Coach Nathaniel King. “It showed because we played the second half 1-1 and we lost the first half 3-0.

“My question to the team was ‘How do you want to go out?’ And they showed in that second half. They went for it, and their best wasn’t good enough in the end.”

The Panthers put just five shots on goal at the game but finished four of them as they salted the game away in the first half.

CGA closes out the year at a disappointing 4-10-2 after three straight Argos Sectional championships. The Eagles lose six seniors in Hannah Bouline, Lindsay Haller, Kate-lyn Cutshall, Kimberly Grover, Cassidy Thonrton, Allison Baker and Maddie Slykas.

“It’s tough when you kind of get into that sectional run where we’ve won three years in a row, but at the end of the day I’m OK with losing if we’ve given it everything, and I think we did that second half,” said King. “We just hope we get some personnel who can fill in.”

CMA Eagles take regional tennis championship, fall at semistate

By James Costello
Sports Editor

There’s always a bigger dog. Or Eagle.

Four days after winning its 15th straight Bremen Sectional title, Plymouth ran into regional rival Culver Military Academy. For the sixth straight year, the Eagles eliminated the Pilgrims from the state tourney with a 4-1 defeat for a repeat regional championship in their first year hosting the tournament stage at the Gable Tennis Complex Wednesday.

If CMA’s lineup seemed relaxed from the outset, it’s because they’d been there before. Five of the team’s top seven were on last season’s Clay Regional championship squad, including senior tri-captains Wilson Wu, Will Stackhouse and Jack Mitzell, who earned respective straight-set victories at 1 and 2 singles and 2 doubles Wednesday.

“We had the pieces in place, and I think there was an advantage given our school situation, that our three captains not only are outstanding leaders, but also Hoosiers,” said CMA head coach Alan Loehr. “So they understand about sectionals, regionals, semistate and could relay that to the other kids who are not familiar with the Indiana format. I think that was as important as any of the match play, that mind-set in knowing what the format was and relaying that to the kids so that we could put gravitas on the matches.”

While the match remained close for the first 20 min-

utes, Culver No. 2 Eric Maudhuit and 2 doubles tandem Mitzell and Aaron Arvizu began pulling away from their Plymouth counterparts to give the rest of the Eagles lineup some breathing room en route to eventual straight-set victories and the team win.

“I thought the match was going to hinge on how well we did at 2 singles and how well we did at 2 doubles, and the first 15 or 20 minutes, both of those matches were closer than I would’ve like,” said Loehr. “But those kids played well today, and I think the scores going away are indicative of the way they played. They pulled away, and I think that took pressure off Wilson (Wu) because Gabe (Vervynckt) was playing tooth and nail, and a couple shots here or there, he could’ve been in that match.”

Plymouth’s lone win came at 1 doubles, where Jordan Scheetz and Connor Flynn handed Quinlan Smith and Jorge Segura a 7-5, 6-2 defeat to advance alone in the individual state tennis tournament. The duo will play Northern Lakes Conference-rival Warsaw’s A.J. Herendeen and Sam Rice — who beat Maconaquah’s Adam Harts and Chris Ayers in straight sets at CMA Tuesday — for the third time this season today at the Gable Complex at 4:30 p.m.

“We’re obviously pleased to be in a position to win a regional championship in our first year hosting by virtue of having a competitive team,” said Loehr. “We’ve got a little bit of the luck of the draw that we’ve put together

a team that can run through and represent us not only by winning the regional but also when we host the semistate, it’s nice to be on your home court. So that’s a feeling we have never had. It’s a feeling that I think some of the bigger programs get more often than we do, so let’s see if we can make it advantageous.”

• CULVER ACADEMY 4,
PLYMOUTH 1
At Culver Academies Tennis Regional Championship

Eagles fall at semistate

Culver Military Academy fell 4-1 to Penn at the CMA Boys Tennis Semistate at the Gable Tennis Complex Saturday.

Penn advances to the state finals for a quarterfinal Friday with the winner of a match-up between Fort Wayne Canterbury and Indianapolis North Central today.

In the other bracket at CMA, meanwhile, top-ranked Carmel beat Munster 5-0 to move on to host the state quarterfinals in a match-up with Marion.

The Eagles’ lone win came Saturday came at 2 singles, where Eric Maudhuit beat Michael Wang 6-1, 7-5.

CMA closes its season at 16-6 after capturing a second straight regional championship and an eight-straight sectional title.

• CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY TENNIS SEMISTATE
At Culver
PENN 4, CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 1

Cavs trumped by Lions at soccer sectional

By James Costello
Sports Editor

CULVER — After Kyle Vlach’s solo goal in the 45th minute cut Bremen’s lead to 2-1, the Lions went to work. Bremen won 4-1 in a semifinal win at the Culver Community Boys Soccer Sectional Wednesday.

Depth helped make a difference, too, as the 30-man Bremen roster wore down Culver’s 16-man lineup late.

“Bremen is a lot deeper than we were,” said Culver coach Jeff Becker. “This is the third time we’ve played them this year. They pounded on us pretty good the first two games. We came out and we played hard tonight, and up to the last 20 minutes of the game it was a 2-1 game. I think we played them even up pretty much until the end there.”

Vlach scored Culver’s lone goal early in the second half to give the host Cavaliers — who were outshot 14-4 at the game — new life.

“Lot of speed. We’ve snuck him back to the backfield some because of his quickness to help us out,” said Becker of Vlach. “That’s where



PHOTO BY JAMES COSTELLO
Culver Community's Colin Deon, left, races to the ball with Bremen's Christopher Gingerich during the Boys Soccer Sectional last week.

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Sports briefs

BOYS SOCCER: Culver Military Academy handed Plymouth a season-ending 2-0 loss in the opener at the Class 2A Warsaw Boys Soccer Sectional Monday. CMA took the early lead in the 18th minute when a through ball by Luther Jacobs on a free kick caromed off a Plymouth defender and over the end line to give the Eagles a corner kick, and Jacobs fired a perfect pass into the box to Tanner Grant, who headed the ball just over Rockies goalkeeper Erik Aguilar as he scrambled to return to the goalmouth to give CMA a 1-0 lead. CMA added another goal early in the second half as Luther drove a close shot at the near post on a Fernando Perez cross into the box in the 45th minute, leaving the Rockies chasing from two goals down.

Culver Military Academy fell 5-0 to ISCA Class 2A No. 5 host Warsaw in a pair of semifinal shutouts at the Warsaw Boys Soccer Sectional Wednesday. The championship is slated for 7 p.m. Saturday. Ryan Sete and Austin Sheldon each recorded a pair of saves in goal for CMA, which was outshot 9-1 in the season-ending loss.

Soccer from page 6

he was in the first part of the game, and that’s how we pull these faster teams down on us. He’s a junior and next year hopefully we can get him up front. He’s got a lot of speed and a lot of tact. Got a heck of a foot on him, too, so I think he’s going to be a good team leader next year.”

Culver closes out the season at 1-10-3, meanwhile as seniors Ian Randolph, Zach Duplay, Luke Dunfee and Trent Becker all move on.

“I’m proud of the kids. They played hard tonight. They’ve been playing hard all season,” said Becker. “We played as hard the last two minutes of this season as we played the first two minutes. We’re a young team; we’re growing. We’re going to lose some key players, but I think our program is coming on real well.

“There’s nothing good I can say about our record, but there’s nothing bad I can say about our kids.”

BREMEN 4, CULVER 1
At Culver Boys Soccer Sectional

FOOTBALL: CMA sophomore quarterback Hayes Barnes ran for two touchdowns and passed for two touchdowns to lead the Eagles to a 42-21 win over Class A No. 8 Sheridan at Oliver Field Friday. Barnes had 65 yards rushing and 153 yards passing, highlighted by a 42-yard touchdown pass to Ralph Laux and a 13-yarder to Beau Ecksten. Pierre Byrne, who ran for a 39-yard score, was the leading rusher for CMA with 107 yards. Kevin Van Horn added a 6-yard scoring run for the Eagles.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY: Culver Military claimed the top five spots to beat visiting Lewis Cass 15-50 in a dual cross country meet Thursday. Finishing in order in the one through five spots for CMA were Harris Allen, Alejandro Velasco, Landrum Neet, Conner Hague and Mauricio Cohen Kalb.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY: Culver Girls Academy beat visiting Lewis Cass 23-32 in a dual meet at the Academies Thursday. Olivia Martinez paced the field in 21:07 for CGA, while Sarah Jameson was second and Hannah Buggeln was third for the home team. Sarah Stackhouse and Brianna Trappe finished in eighth and ninth, respectively, for the Lady Eagles.

VOLLEYBALL: Culver Girls Academy beat Ross-ville 25-10, 25-14 for the championship, while the host Lady Lancers finished in fourth place at the LaVille Volleyball Tournament Saturday. Katie Bjornson and Pita Navarro led the Lady Eagles attack with 17 and 16 kills,

Walls from page 4

terminally ill, he began seeking a buyer. It took more than a year, and talking several potential buyers out of the prospect, but eventually Pam Fisher expressed some interest.

"We knew she was very intelligent and had good taste," Vernum said of Fisher. "She was just a natural -- we knew right off the bat this could work. She just got excited about it, and she's done a fine job. I'm so tickled the store is alive

respectively, at the tilt, while Paige Baldacci served up 10 aces, Emily Gilland dished out 49 assists, Andrea Lin put 27 digs to target, and Torrie Christlieb recorded 11 blocks for CGA. The Eagles’ other victories came against Jimtown (25-15, 25-22) and Caston (25-17, 25-14) as the team improved to 23-5.

Knox handed visiting **Culver Girls Academy** a three-set defeat Wednesday, 25-21, 25-18, 26-24. Abby Jeffirs led the CGA attack with a match co-leading 10 kills, while Emily Gilland set 23 assists, Andrea Lin put 19 digs to target, and Emily Rich tallied four blocks in the loss, which drops the Lady Eagles to 20-5.

GIRLS SOCCER: Hebron took a heartbreaker from **Culver** 2-1 to set up the Argos Girls Soccer Sectional Championship game Saturday. In the opener, Kayla Shaffer’s goal in the 11th minute boosted the Cavaliers to an early 1-0 lead. Culver was the aggressor on the field and pressed Hebron for much of the opening half, amassing eight corner kicks. However, a Culver foul gave the Lady Hawks a free kick from 35 yards and Rachel McCullough’s hard and long shot sailed just over the keeper’s hands and under the bar to level the match.

In the second frame, the Hawks managed six shots on goal to none for the Cavaliers. Despite their pressure, the Cavs couldn’t put the ball on frame. With overtime looming, Brittany Largent fed Rachel Pauer with a ball down the right side. Pauer’s shot from a hard angle sailed just under the bar on the near post for the game-winner.

and well."

Thus, Fisher -- the store's fourth owner in a century -- is approaching two decades holding court at 111 South Main, where that distinctive, clean look and smell of new fabric and leather still greets the customer, as it no doubt did when Mitchell and Stabenow first opened Culver's longest-running clothiers.

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