

## In Brief

### Lake Max Triathlon Saturday

The Lake Max Triathlon will take place Sat., Aug. 11, starting at 8 a.m. and will include a quarter-mile swim in Lake Maxinkuckee, 12-mile bike ride around the lake, and three mile run near the lake. A variety of individual, team, and age-based categories are offered. For more information, or to register, visit lakemaxtriathlon.blogspot.com

### Fire Dept. golf scramble Saturday

The Culver-Union Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept.'s Bill Snyder Memorial four-man golf scramble will take place Sat., Aug. 11, with tee-off at 2 p.m., at Mystic Hills golf course. The event will have a "Beer, Bands, and Brats" theme, with Marshall County-based band Greenfire starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door, which includes food and live music. Beer is \$2 per cup and mixed drinks are available at course cost. Contact 574-952-2809 or any firefighter for more information.

### 'Cross and the Switchblade' at CBC

The movie "The Cross and the Switchblade" will be shown at Culver Bible Church Sunday, Aug. 12 at 10:30 a.m. This 105-minute classic depicts how one man, Dave Wilkerson (played by Pat Boone), ministers in the drug infested, gang dominated streets of New York, to tell these troubled youth that there is a way out, through Christ Jesus. Culver Bible Church is located at 718 S. Main St. For more information, contact Pastor Dan Huhn at 574-842-3056.

### Community meal at Grace Aug. 15

Grace United Church of Christ will hold its monthly community meal on Wednesday, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. All are invited to this free, ecumenical event whose purpose is to share a friendly meal in a welcoming, community atmosphere. The meals are held on the 15th day of each month in the basement of the church.

### Water conservation requested by town

Due to the lack of significant rainfall, residents are encouraged by the town of Culver to take steps to conserve water outside as

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PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY AND \*BILL BIRK LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

## Up, up and away...over Maxinkuckee waters

Visitors to Culver over Lake Fest and Woodcraft centennial weekend were greeted with the colorful sight of two hot air balloons in the air over Lake Maxinkuckee. The balloons, pictured AT LEFT\* were launched simultaneously from the open space at the Culver Masonic Cemetery, where a small crowd gathered to watch both being inflated and taking off, in synch. AT RIGHT, Culver's Jim Harper (right), who lives nearby, was joined by son Jay (left) and daughter Jeanine (center) to watch the liftoff. The balloon at right is owned by part-time Culver resident Jack Semler or Indy Hot Air. At left is a balloon piloted by Brian Kunze, of Plymouth-based Michiana Hot Air Balloons.

## Marina Boardwalk cruises revive a Maxinkuckee tradition



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Passengers set sail from the Culver Marina on the Boardwalk Bar and Grille's Dinner Cruise tour boat.

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

It's been more than a quarter-century since the public could take advantage of regular boat cruises around Lake Maxinkuckee, but as of this summer Culverites and visitors can do so -- with a twist.

The Culver Marina debuted its lunch and dinner tours of the lake by pontoon this summer, some-

thing Marina owner Gary Aker says was a response to an ongoing query from customers.

"There was the question of how do you get out on the lake (short of owning a boat)," he notes. "You can rent a pontoon or you can just go out this way."

The Marina's Boardwalk Grille, added in recent years, has produced a steady stream of visi-

tors and locals, many of whom had just that curiosity. Marina staff began working out the details last winter after drawing it up "on a napkin," Aker says. "We had a boat we used for dock work, and we just rebuilt it. It was kind of our little project."

The result was seating for 20 for the regular cruises (11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays) and 16 for evening dinner cruises, which must be scheduled by appointment.

Dinner cruises may be scheduled any day of the week; so can regular tours,

See Cruise page 2

## Serious drought: how it affects Lake Maxinkuckee and its watershed

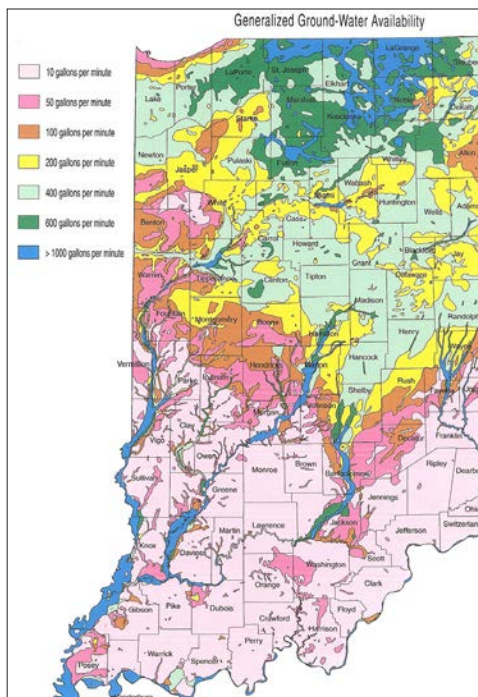
By Kathy Clark,  
Executive Director,  
Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council

This article has been sitting on my desk in draft stage for about a month, but with the recent inquiries coming into my office concerning Lake Maxinkuckee, it seemed important to complete the research and get it out to the public. The current drought has been compared to those that occurred in 1988 (1988 Palmer Index Map) and the Great Dustbowl of the early nineteen thirties (1934 Palmer Index Map). State meteorologists actually feel this drought is as bad as the drought of the thirties. The June 2012 Palmer Index map also shown here demonstrates the most recent data released by the National Climatic Data Center, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration News of incoming

July data seem to show it is worsening. Let's take a look at what is involved in this area.

To begin, you should understand that in our region, the general area of Lake Maxinkuckee, there lies beneath us one of the best producing aquifer systems in Indiana. I have provided a Generalized Ground-Water map to show you what I am talking about. Starting about 70 to 80 feet down in the earth, is a "body of water" that can produce 600 gallons of water per minute when pumped through municipal wells. Most of north central Indiana has ground-water resources that are classified as being good to excellent, unlike those in much of the rest of the state, even just to the west in Starke County. Major areas of ground-water availability extend from this region, to further north, in the productive Silurian-Devonian bedrock aquifer

system. This system contains deposits of glacial material up to 500 feet in thickness with highly productive inter-till sand and gravel aquifers. Lake Maxinkuckee, a glacial "kettle" lake with 88 feet depths in one spot, is fed by 21 underground springs stemming from this aquifer. This is a very good thing; it is what sustains our lake level map shows the remarkable strength of the at a higher level than other lakes around the state. I ask that you remember this fact while reading the rest of this article.



This 'Generalized Ground-Water Availability' map shows the remarkable strength of the Culver area's aquifer, or water source.

The current drought appears to be part of the quirky weather patterns we have been experienc-

## Dedication celebrates legacy of beloved teacher Lawson

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

It may have been fitting that, amidst the fast-paced hub-bub of the July 20 weekend -- marked by the Lake Fest and celebration of Culver's Woodcraft Camp's centennial -- a beloved local teacher whose own manner was quiet and subdued, but markedly impactful, was honored at the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library.

Specifically, the Rita Lawson Science Fiction and Fantasy Collection was dedicated July 21 at the library, bearing the namesake of the late longtime Culver Community School teacher and library board member, who passed away in December, 2010.

Introducing the dedication ceremony was library director Colleen McCarty, who noted Lawson had "ready every book in her hometown library" as a youth, and explained the library board had sought a fitting memorial for her and decided "a stand-alone science fiction collection would be just that."

She added Lawson's daughter, Abby, helped design the space for the collection.

McCarty said the Culver library has "quite a good (science fiction) collection" for a library its size, noting that collection was augmented by volumes donated in Lawson's name. She said the dragon figurines currently displayed in the upstairs lobby of the library came from the Lawson family as well.

McCarty quoted a Facebook comment in response to notice of the dedication, from June McDonald of Culver, "This is an awesome tribute to an amazing teacher."

Lawson's husband, fellow longtime Culver Community Schools teacher Latham Lawson, who McCarty introduced as having been on the library board at the time of the

See Lawson page 5

ing lately. For example the lack of water in the wetlands over the past couple years, the lack of snow last winter, the lack of rain this spring, the early spring heat wave, along with fairly low humidity numbers. The Marshall County Soil Report notes that Plymouth usually has about 37 inches of total participation each year. Most of which, 22 inches, or 60 percent, falls in April through September. Thunderstorms occur on about 43 days each year, most in summer. Reports just released by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, show that Plymouth received only 6.75 inches of rain between April 1st and July 22nd of this year. That puts them in a "rain deficit" of 8.12 inches as of this date. Rochester has

See Drought page 8

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY



## Kiwanis raffle monies distributed

This summer's Culver Kiwanis Club car raffle netted funds for several local non-profits as well as awarding a cash prize to one lucky local winner. Checks were distributed at last Thursday's weekly Kiwanis meeting, held at the Culver Public Library.

According to Dick Swennumson of the Club, a total of 1,260 raffle tickets were sold over the course of the summer, netting \$21,690.

Of that money, \$192.25 went to the Culver Chamber of Commerce, \$559.27 to the Culver Lake Fest, \$1634.11 to the Culver Boys & Girls Club, and raffle winner Misty Sellers received a cash payout of \$8,156 (while the raffle was originally for a vehicle from Oliver Ford in Plymouth, ticket sales fell short of the minimum required to make the vehicle available, so a cash split took place instead). The total payout to all entities was around \$10500.

The Kiwanis Club itself received \$11,000 towards local scholarships, said Swennumson.

According to Ginny Munroe, president of the CBGC board, she and Culver town marshal Wayne Bean held a contest to see who could sell more tickets, with Munroe promising to cook a meal for a police department party if he sold more than she.

"Wayne rocked it," Munroe told club members. "He's so dedicated to the kids in our community." She said the two of them sold 187 tickets collectively.

Pictured above are, from left, Swennumson, Bean, Sellers, Sam Bramfeld (representing the Lake Fest committee), Chamber president Dawn Brockey, and Kiwanis president Russ Mason.

## Cruise from page 1

which can be scheduled most any time throughout the day if made by appointment. Reservations may be made at 574-842-3375.

The cruise fee, according to Aker, is \$20 per adult or \$15 per child, with each cruise lasting one hour and 15 minutes (dinner cruises are slightly longer). Cost of food ordered from the Boardwalk Grille is additional. The Ma-

rina may not provide alcohol for the cruises, but guests may bring their own, "which is better (for them), in a way," Aker adds.

Cruises leave the Marina dock and head along the south shore, wrapping around the lake from there.

Many Culverites have fond memories of the area's longest-running cruise boat, The Maxinkuckee, and the tales spun by its pilot, Capt.

Frank Amond. Gary Aker explains Marina cruises tend to allow guests to enjoy "a nice, quiet cruise around the lake," Aker explains, though the staff is happy to answer any questions people ask, as best they can.

In addition to the cruises, the Marina, which offers more information online at [www.culvermarina.com](http://www.culvermarina.com), also rents out pontoons, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards.

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## Golf carts now allowed on some county roads

By Kathy Bottorff, WTCA  
Golf cart owners in Marshall County will now have the ability to drive on some county roadways.

Monday morning at the close of the commissioner's meeting, president Kevin Overmyer ask if the other commissioners wanted to discuss the golf cart ordinance. He said the original ordinance was passed in early June but a revised ordinance could not get a vote.

Commissioner Greg Compton said, "I believe they (golf carts) should

only be on roads where the speed limit is 35 mph and below."

Overmyer said he liked the original ordinance but thought carts should only be allowed from dawn to dusk.

Commissioner Jack Roose asked about raising the speed limit to 45 mph but the County Attorney said there are only three roads in the county at that speed.

The Commissioners voted 2 to 1 to amend the original ordinance and passed it on second and third

reading. The approved ordinance will allow golf carts on roadways where the speed limit is 35 mph or less and only during the daylight.

Commissioner Jack Roose voted against the ordinance saying, "I strongly feel we are limiting it to people who have moved in to our lake communities and the lifelong residents are excluded from riding down the road to visit their relatives."

The move will directly impact one local conundrum: those attempting to drive between Culver Academies' campus and the town of Culver can now legally traverse the short distance occupied by county roadways between the two.

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PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

## Carrying on a Woodcraft tradition

As the 100th year of Culver's Woodcraft Camp came to a close last Friday, campers observed the long-standing custom of the popular Drum & Bugle Corps launching into playing and marching at the unusually early hour of approximately 6:49 a.m. As in years past,

Woodcrafters spilled out of their cabins and ran to catch up to, and run alongside, the Corps. Two weeks of Culver's Family Camp as the Woodcraft and Upper campers parted ways with Culver Friday.

## Letter to the editor

Dear editor,  
Will you once again inform the Culver citizenry, that the Culver Lions Club is now collecting, to insure, no youngster in the Culver School System will start school without the necessary supplies. The Culver Homemakers, then the Lions have been able to make this happen the past several years. With your help it will continue. You may contact any Lion, or Jim Harper, at 574-842-2962. Thanks to all in advance.

**Jim Harper**  
Culver Lions Club backpack coordinator.

## Death notice

Drang

**John T. Drang**  
Aug. 3, 2012

CULVER — John T. Drang, 71, of Culver died Aug. 3, 2012 at 11:30 p.m.

He is survived by his wife, Rochelle "Shelly" Drang of Culver; son, Joel Drang of Culver; daughters, Sherry (Tim) Davis of Bloomington, Sarah Drang of Culver; brother, Richard (Marilyn) Drang of Ora; sister, Mildred Gaines of Crystal River, Fla.; three grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, Linda Drang of Pisgah, Ala., Mary Drang of Kouts.

Visitation was Wednesday, Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Odom Funeral Home, Culver. Service followed at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial is in Burr Oak Cemetery.

Letters of condolence may be sent via the obituary page at [www.odomfuneralhome.com](http://www.odomfuneralhome.com).

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

## REAL Meals 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., Aug. 9:** Pork loin, broccoli, black eyed peas, cornbread and margarine, cherry ambrosia, milk.

**Fri., Aug. 10:** Sub sandwich: turkey and ham, lettuce, tomato, cheese, mayo; carrot coin salad, cobbler, milk.

**Mon., Aug. 13:** Beef and peppers, rice seasoned beets, peaches, peas and carrots, bread, milk.

**Tues., Aug. 14:** Chef salad, lettuce diced turkey ham cheese, tomato, egg cottage cheese, fruit cup salad dressing crackers, milk.

**Weds., Aug. 15:** Stuffed baked potato, taco meat, shredded cheese, onion broccoli pears cookie, milk.

**Thurs., Aug. 16:** Pork fritter, bun and mayo, diced red potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit, milk.

**Fri., Aug. 17:** Lasagna, tossed salad, western dressing, bread stick, green beans, fruit cup, milk.

## Obituary

### Albert Arthur Joseph Paré

Aug. 10, 1925-July 27, 2012

CULVER — Albert Arthur Joseph Paré (1925-2012) was born in Lawrence, Mass. Aug. 10, 1925 to Antonio and Laura Paré. He graduated from Lawrence High School in 1943, and he enlisted in the United States Navy in November of the same year. He served honorably as a medic in the U.S. Navy and Marines in World War II.

Albert, or Arthur as he was known to his close family in New England, attended Suffolk University on the G.I. bill, graduating in 1952. He received a master's degree in romance languages from Harvard University in 1954. Al moved to Culver in the summer of 1955, and his first job at the Academy was as a counselor in the Woodcraft Camp. He later served as director of the Summer Naval School.

Al taught French and Spanish in the language department at the Culver Academies from 1955-1990, eventually serving as chair of the department. Though known as a "strict" or "tough" instructor, he was considered one of the true Culver teaching "giants." During his 35 years at Culver, he coached and taught hockey, boxing, football, sailing and many other sports. An avid swimmer and fitness fanatic, he was known to frequent the Academy gym and pool, and he swam across Lake Maxinkuckee several times.

Al Paré played the violin and loved classical music. He served as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for many years after his retirement from Culver. Al had to wait 79 years, but in 2004 he finally saw his beloved Red Sox win their first World Series in his lifetime.

Al was pre-deceased by his sister Jeanette Tremblay, and his longtime companion Ruby Gunter. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law Adam and Sarah Paré, his niece and caregiver Stephanie "Neflet" Rochford, his guardian angel Judy Rochford, his sons Paul Paré and Matt Paré, his daughters Anne Chastain and Nicole Goeglein, and six grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Culver Academies' Language Department in Al Paré's memory.



PHOTO/CULVER FIRE DEPT.

Culver firemen Don Mikesell is pictured at right during a 1941 fire which claimed the garage and servants' quarters at the Marmon property on the east shore of Lake Maxinkuckee.

"Culver in Flames," a visual history of fires and fire-fighters of Culver's past, will take place Saturday, Aug. 25, starting at 10 a.m., at the Culver-Union Twp. fire station, 508 E. Lake Shore Drive.

The program is part of the August meeting of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver, which at the event will also recognize the fire department -- which first incorporated here in 1903 -- for its more than 100 years of life-saving service to the community.

Jeff Kenney of the AHS will detail major conflagrations in the town of Culver, on the Culver Academies campus, on the shores of Lake Maxinkuckee, and in the immediately surrounding area, dating back to the 19th century, as well as outline the history of the fire department, via extensive photos in a Power Point platform.

In addition, attendees will have a chance to view the recently-renovated interior of the fire station. Fire trucks will be available for those desiring to sit inside.

The event will be free and open to the public. The AHS' website is [www.culverahs.com](http://www.culverahs.com), via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AhsCulver](http://www.facebook.com/AhsCulver), and the organization may be reached at [historyofculver@gmail.com](mailto:historyofculver@gmail.com).

### Quilt raffle

Photo provided

The Marshall County Museum is holding a raffle

for an Underground Railroad quilt. Tickets are

\$1 each, six for \$5, or 12 for \$10 and can be

purchased at the museum. The quilt and infor-

mation about each quilt block is currently on

display at the museum. The raffle will take place

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## Culver History Corner

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# If these walls could talk: 203 - 313 N. Main

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

It's hard to believe, but we're nearing the end of the line when it comes to Culver's downtown buildings in our ongoing series of "virtual" tours of historic buildings in Culver -- at least the ones on Main Street proper. That's not to say we're necessarily leaving the downtown area itself, or of course the town as a whole. There are other structures familiar to us all in the general area of downtown, of course, so we'll be taking some detours down a side street or two in coming weeks, and the itinerary for our imaginary tour of historic Culver will likely shift "uptown" (if one counts the town park area of Lake Shore Drive as "uptown" -- I recently heard tell that that area is "mid-town," and the business district on the northernmost side of town, including Park N' Shop and others, is "uptown." It's hard to get these things straight in the sprawling metropolis that is Culver, Indiana!).

**203 N. Main St.**

We're not done with Main Street downtown yet, however. In our previous installment, we time warped to the days when Culver's Methodist Church occupied the land at the southwest corner of Main and Washington Streets. This week we'll stroll across the street to the north, which



ABOVE: The then-new Standard station on Main and Washington Streets in 1958.

for 60 years plus would have meant paying a visit to the home of the pastor of said church. That is, the Methodist parsonage sat at what is today 203 N. Main Street, the site of Culver Express gas station.

While the first iteration of the church itself began in 1868 (with the brick exterior added and the building considerably enhanced in 1898), the date of 1906 was given as the first for the Methodist parsonage, or at least the one which occupied 203 N. Main those 50 years. Edwin Corwin's "One Township's Yesterdays," however, references John and Betsy Matthew, extremely active members of the church who "settled in Marmont around 1886." The family's first residence, says Corwin, was "in the old Methodist parsonage." Whether this refers to an entirely different building in a different locale, a different building ("old" instead of then-current) at 203 N. Main, or the same building torn down in 1958, isn't certain.

At any rate, the house was there by 1906 and torn down in 1958, according to an article in the Sept. 17 Culver Citizen of that year, which noted that the "new Standard Oil Company (Indiana) Service Station will be built at the corner of Main and Washington Streets, where the old Methodist parsonage was torn down last week."

Thus was born the building which would occupy the

space for the remainder of the 20th century, and continues to occupy it now.

Of course, Standard Oil was not new to Culver. Into the 1920s, Standard had operated a bulk plant at the lake (east) end of Mill Street (into the early 1980s), and a service station in downtown Culver a block south. But 1958 saw the most recent manifestation of the company as a service station.

In 1959, Bernie Bauer was listed as Station manager along with Bill and Kenny Martin. Melvin Shilder ran the station starting in November, 1960, and Charles "Chuck" Baker starting in August, 1966.

According to Wikipedia, Amoco began phasing in the Amoco name in the old Indiana Standard sales territory in 1975, so Culverites would have seen the Aomoco name replacing the familiar red, white, and blue, oval-shaped "Standard" logo atop their station (Standard Oil Company in Indiana was officially renamed Amoco Corporation in 1985).

Don Weirick managed the station in the 1980s, but by then it had become part of the Good Oil Company's holdings. Good Oil, a remarkable small-town business success story, was launched in 1941 by Don Good Sr. in Monterey. His sons, Don and Dean, assumed ownership in 1980 and moved the home office to Winamac, and according to [goodoilcompany.com](http://goodoilcompany.com), they "now own or operate 20 retail locations and supply 76 dealer locations. These sites are under the BP, Citgo, Marathon and Phillips 66 brands."

One of these, of course, is the Culver Express at 203 N. Main, which today bears the BP (British Petroleum) moniker.

**217 N. Main**

A quick stop just north at 217 N. Main seems in order, only because the house, once home to Ken Tasch and today to Arthur and Elaine Giudice, was home for a few years in the 1980s, to a local business.

The building spent most of its life as what it was originally designed to be, a private residence, listed as such on Sanborn Fire Maps from 1906 to 1937. Lois Curtis owned the house in the early 1980s, using it occasionally for furniture work and the like, she says. In June, 1984, Carol Saft opened The Country Harvester there. The Culver Citizen of the time listed it as "the Indiana distrinbutor for the Mountain Man But and Fruit Company of Colorado."

The Country Harvester (which joined a Notre Dame-based shop Saft also ran at the time) closed its doors in 1988, after which it again became a private residence, as it has remained.

**303 N. Main**

Moving north across Cass Street, we arrive at 303 N. Main, today the home of Culver's longest-running dentist, Greg Easterday. The location is listed as a "dwelling" in the 1906 Sanborn Fire Map, though at the moment there's no indication when it was first built. The Culver Citizen of April

See Walls page

## Name that Culver‘citizen’

A number of readers recognized last week’s Mystery Citizen, Jack Johnston, whose new children’s book, “The Ice Cream Hotel,” we previewed earlier this summer. Among the lucky winners of free parking in downtown Culver are Chris Prosser Crecelius, Jill Neidlinger, Anna Neher,



Vilma Van Horn, and Julie Bess. Catching up on some older business, Bill McLane

correctly guessed John Zeglis as our previous Mystery Citizen. Your editor was negligent in reporting the previous week that Marilyn Kelly recognized former neighbor and our past Mystery Citizen, Dick Zimmerman.

This week’s Mystery Citizen has played a ‘behind-the-scenes’ role at one scholastic institution in the Culver area for at least two decades, and has assisted in the summertime there as well.

Guesses may be emailed to [culvercitizen@gmail.com](mailto:culvercitizen@gmail.com) or call the editor at 574-216-0075.



## 2012 MARSHALL COUNTY BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

### Carnival Mega Pass & Pay One Price Wristband Sales

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Walls from page 4

6, 1967, however, in observing the 50th wedding anniversary of Col. Judd and Mrs. Stinchcomb, notes that the couple lived at the house starting in 1921. Col. Stinchcomb died in 1969. The house was listed under the name of William F. Mills, long a principal and then superintendent at Culver Comm. Schools, in the late 1970s. At that time, Dr. Easterday was still operating out of the Culver Dental Clinic at 1001 Lake Shore Drive, though he had moved his practice to 303 N. Main -- where it remains today -- by 1982.

**307 N. Main**  
Next door north, 307 N. Main, has been the home of The Painter and Poet Gallery of Esther and Ward Miller since the late 1990s, but the structure was a private residence as near as can be told, its whole life prior. Esther recalled Marcia and Fred Adams living in the home in the early 1950s (Esther, then Powers', own children played with the Adams' at the house). John and Anna Hayes occupied it in the 1960s, and in 1974 Esther recalled Tom Zoss -- who lived with his wife Bernadette -- laying out the paper in the basement during his tenure as editor of the Culver Citizen newspaper that year. Marianne Ransdall was listed there in the late 1970s.

Lawson from page 1



LEFT: Kelly Berger shares memories of her mother, the late Rita Lawson, at the dedication of Culver Public Library's science fiction collection in Rita's honor last month. At her right is Friends of the Library president Charlotte Hahn, and at her left library director Colleen McCarty and Rita's husband Latham.

RIGHT: Friends of the Library president Hahn, left, donates a book for the new Lawson collection to library director McCarty, right. Latham Lawson is visible, seated at right.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

building's expansion and renovation in the early 2000s, said Rita "read a book a day" and sometimes more, growing up. He said he first met her while in college at Indiana State, where he said, "If I wanted to find her, all I had to do was find an open book!"

Latham also described Rita's increasing love of the science fiction and fantasy genres, recalling the early days of her tenure on the Culver library board, when she "came home stunned...that the library has almost no science fiction books," a situation she quickly set out to remedy.

"She saw the need for young minds to find young ways to get into young thoughts," concluded Latham.

The Lawsons' daughter, Kelly Berger, shared memories of her mother's passion for reading and being -- along with sister Abby -- part of a "captive audience" as young recipients of Rita's literary enthusiasm.

"She always seemed to know just the book for you," added Berger, recalling some of the childhood favorites her mother introduced her to.

Rita herself was a particular fan of the works of Madeleine L'Engle and Susan Cooper, though Lloyd Alexander's "Black Cauldron" series was her favorite, said Berger.

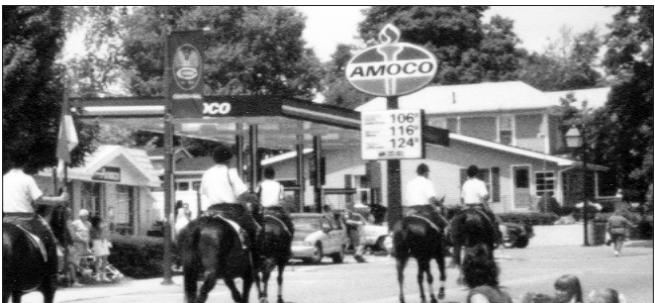
"She loved to read, herself, and loved to help other people love to read," she added.

Library board president Jim Hahn thanked the Lawson family for donating much of Rita's personal science fiction collection, which he said "should be the envy of Indiana libraries."

Barbara Winters, a close friend of Rita Lawson (whom she called "a passionate, passionate teacher"), recalled meeting her through a friendship she developed with

The Millers had operated their gallery circa 1997 at 106 S. Main, later moving to 114 S. Main before purchasing the house. They moved to Winona Lake to retire in 2011.

**313 N. Main**  
Rounding out North Main Street is 313 N. Main, which was listed on fire maps as a dwelling in 1906 (the dwelling is listed as constructed in 1900, on the Marshall County GIS site). In the 1930s, it was owned by Lena Medbourn, who first leased the space (in April, 1938) to Ruth Bodey.



ABOVE: The Amoco gas station, precursor to today's BP, during the Lake Fest parade of July, 1994. Notice the \$1.06 gas prices.

The move launched one of the longest continuous businesses (in one form or another) in the downtown area. Ruth (Mrs. Clifton) Bodey, a Culver High School grad, had studied at the Tobias Beauty School in South Bend and began working at Cleta Easterday's beauty shop on the second floor of the State Exchange Bank building downtown. In 1940, the Bodeys bought the house from Medbourn, moving in to occupy the space as a house in addition to the Silhouette Beauty Shop, as it was known even in 1938. The Bodeys were also parents to Mrs. Jack Rich of Peru, noted the Culver Citizen in a 1963 article observing Bodey's 25th year in business. Rich is a retired state police officer and Miami County sheriff known to many Culverites, as are his son Bob and family, who still reside here today.

By the 1970s, Linda Rich was listed as owning the business. In the mid-1980s, Lou Townsend and Marcia Beck were associated, and circa 1987 Lou and Marilyn Reinhold. Jack E. and Linda Rich sold the property to Richard and Diane Hansen in 2005, according also to GIS.

The structure has for some time had two upstairs and one downstairs apartment.

# Cowell selected for advisory board

Culver Girls Academy's Amber Cowell (Culver) is one of the nine incoming juniors selected to serve a two-year term on the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Committee. Amber applied for the position after attending the IHSAA Student Leadership Conference in early June.

Cowell is a three-sport athlete, playing soccer, hockey, and track.

She will be one of just 18 Indiana high school student-athletes to serve as a member of the 2012-13 IHSAA Student Advisory Committee. The SAC represents the entire IHSAA membership of 408 schools, and its structure mirrors that of the IHSAA Board of Directors in terms of classification and districts as well as female, urban schools and minority representation.

Each year, the IHSAA receives nominations from school principals on behalf of student-athletes who attend the IH-



Amber Cowell

SAA Student Leadership Conference in June. Five Culver students, including Cowell, represented the Academies. From that group of nominations, 20 are selected for interviews by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee, Executive Staff and the nine returning seniors of the SAC. From those 20 interviews, nine are invited to join the new group.

The IHSAA began sponsoring the Student Advisory Committee in 2001-02 to give the group of student-athletes hands-on experience and a voice to the IHSAA staff. The SAC meets four times annually – twice each semester – and is responsible for hosting meetings with student peers at the upcoming Fall Area Principals Meetings; assisting with the awards ceremonies at IHSAA state championship events throughout the school year and; planning and administering the annual IHSAA Student Leadership Conference in June.

Other SAC functions include the development of an IHSAA Captain's Handbook which will be distributed to member schools this fall as well as assisting in the creation of multiple public service announcements addressing good sporting behavior which will be utilized during 2011-12 state championships events.



## Culver catches

ABOVE, RIGHT Margaret Bowersox of Culver had this bluegill, bottom, hooked, and before she got it in she caught this approximately 27-inch long bass with it.

ing him a 9-inch bluegill to trade for something smaller that he can eat. But he is backing out with a big mouth full. Shaffer had 20+ in his live well, so he did not miss this one.

"He rides with me often," Shaffer noted. "He gets a lot of small ones." This picture was taken on Lake Huckleberry, Sebring Fla.



PHOTO PROVIDED/PAUL PARÉ

## Flying high on the ground

Culver campers had a chance to experience an arial refueling and airlift flight deck display recently, on loan from Grissom Air Force Base and brought in by an Air Force reserve unit thanks to the efforts of Tech Sgt. Carl Schneckloth, brother-in-law of Culver staff member and resident Amy Ditmire. The plane, designed to haul cargo and refuel planes in mid-air -- plus other duties -- was brought to educate aviation students, though others were invited, including Division I Woodcrafters. Students were allowed to sit and manipulate some of the controls and learn about what goes on in the command deck.



PHOTO/TRENT BENNETT

## Schoeff talks Culver to Kiwanians

Culver town manager Dave Schoeff spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Culver at their regular Thursday luncheon meeting recently. Schoeff's knowledge of the town and its varied inhabitants didn't suggest he'd only been on the job for a few weeks.

He shared some of the current and future initiatives the town is pursuing, noting he sees his role as a liaison between the town council, various boards and commissions, and residents. His goal, said Schoeff, is to help the town move forward and "wrangle everyone down the same path."



PHOTO PROVIDED

## Supreme goat

Supreme Dairy Goat was awarded to Rebekah Johnson, Union Twp., at the Marshall County 4H fair in Argos last month. Standing proudly with her are Renee, sister; and Scott, father.

## SPORTS WRITERS

The Pilot News Group is looking for part time stringers to cover local sports in Marshall County. If your a sports enthusiast & would like to cover sports in our area contact Neil at [sports@thepilotnews.com](mailto:sports@thepilotnews.com)

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## New Lions inducted

Culver Lions Club president Don Freese, left, inducts new members into the Club at its July 25 meeting. From left to right: Freese, Al Tettenborn, new member and his sponsor Toni Tettenborn; Warren Foesch, sponsor for new member Debbie Foesch; and new member Donald Langenberg whose sponsor is Freese.

## Malware is focus of Thurs. Tech Time Aug. 16

The Culver-Union Twp. Public Library's Thursday Tech Time for August will focus on how malicious software works its way into a computer. Various methods of malware removal will be discussed. Step-by-step removal processes with in-depth explanations. The event takes place Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. at the library.

Thursday Tech Time is an open discussion group for anyone interested in computers and technology. Come and talk, share, listen and ask questions!

For more information, call the Culver Library at 574-842-2941, visit our website at [www.culver.lib.in.us](http://www.culver.lib.in.us) or e-mail [abaker@culver.lib.in.us](mailto:abaker@culver.lib.in.us). The library's street address is 107 N. Main St.

## Orff-Schulwek Ensemble classes for kids start in Sept.

Beginning in September, Culver Orff-Schulwerk Ensemble music classes for children ages 4 and up will take place Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings, in the St. Mary of the Lake Church basement.

Classes will be taught by Beth Paré, who possesses a degree in music education and is certified Level I in Orff-Schulwerk, plus eight years' experience in classroom music education.

Participation, says Paré, will improve childrens' singing ability, enhanced their athletic coordination and beat/rhythm awareness, give them a solid foundation for instrument playing, and encourage healthy interaction of mind and body.

For more information contact Paré at 574-274-7097 or [parefamily@att.net](mailto:parefamily@att.net).



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

## Making the library your 'third place'

Culver Kiwanis president Russ Mason, right, presents a check to Culver-Union Twp. Public Library director Colleen McCarty, in support of the library's children's summer reading program.

McCarty, addressing the club, said recent nationwide trends away from mobility and from spending money on "keeping up with the Joneses" have increased the "social capital" libraries offer, offerings she described as "trans-literacy," in which printed books are joined by oral literacy, technological literacy, and other forms of communication. She also emphasized the library aims to serve the various communities within the Culver community with the ultimate mission of educating the public.

McCarty also said the library's in-print book circulation is increasing and DVD circulation decreasing. She described book discussion groups at the library such as "A Novel Approach," which screens a movie based on a book and discusses both movie and book. The Overdrive service, she noted, allows library patrons to download e-books and audio books via the library's website. Art displays in the library showcase a number of local folk artists.

In response to a recent survey, McCarty said new computer classes have been developed around topics of video editing and home finance, and she said spinning classes, in association with The People's University, are also taking place.

The national 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is being initiated to encourage parents to read that number of books to their preschool-aged children by kindergarten, she added. McCarty praised Culver's Friends of the Library organization for its "wonderful book sales," the contribution of display panels in the upper level of the building, and other endeavors. In response to an audience query, she said the library currently has around 37,000 books, approximately 40 percent of which are fiction. The library staff, she said, hopes to make the library "your third place."

"Your first place is your home, your second is work, and your third place can be your public library."

Don't forget to submit news and photos to [culvercitizen@gmail.com](mailto:culvercitizen@gmail.com)., and look for them at [culvercitizen.com](http://culvercitizen.com) and [facebook.com/culvercitizen](https://facebook.com/culvercitizen)!

Drought from page 1

had only 7.20 inches so far this year which gives them a rain deficit of 7.11 inches for the same time period. According to many sources, it appears that this drought may last a few more months at the very least.

Almost all corn fields have been impacted by the heat, those who irrigate have been able to reduce the impact of the dry weather (corn yields state wide may fall below 70 bushels per acre this year). The water to irrigate can come from ditches that run through farms, which are also used to water their livestock, or from a farmer’s wells. The 183,000 irrigated acres in northwest Indiana make up almost 60% of the State’s irrigation capacity. The current average investment exceeds \$1000 per acre. Some farmers are, or have been, contemplating chopping drought stressed corn for silage to supplement a shortened livestock feed supply. This is part of our food system folks – reports are already in that food prices will rise by about 4% next year. Droughts, as you can see, can have long term ramifications.

These farmers have another problem, their livestock pastures. Many are experiencing grass shortages due to the drought conditions and now need to keep their animals from eating toxic weeds. These poisonous species may exist regularly in pastures, but are typically avoided by livestock due to their lack of palatability. With these drought conditions resulting in a shortage of favorable grass and forage, livestock may be forced to graze these toxic plants. Please refer to the ANOMOLOUS Percent of Pasture &Range Land in “Poor” and “Very Poor” Condition map to understand the farmers’ plight. The “plus” numbers represent the number in distress ABOVE the norm of last records or compared to the norm of past records. For the record, the USDA shows that thirty years of increasing irrigation to farm fields have not impacted municipal water well depths, which is where the strength of our aquifers is measured.

Those who live in town or on the local lakes, also face some stresses produced by the drought, though not as serious as those of the farmers. Many of our lawns are dying. Trees planted less than five years ago are under severe stress, gardens drying up, flowers withering. Even the recreational things we do during summer are being greatly affected. The Culver Academies had to pull their sailing ship, the Ledbetter, out of the lake last week. Some people have boats that are now stranded on their boat lifts, propellers have been broken by rocks never seen at “normal” lake levels.

Fish in the lake are hiding deeper and deeper in the coolness of the lake as temperatures soar and oxygen levels in the water are depleted by the heat and lack of flowing water. Deer, wild turkeys, and other animals are facing food and water shortages in the areas where they normally travel and live.

Neighboring Lost Lake and others, even Lake Maxinkuckee, may have some concerns with blue-green algae blooms which produce microcystintoxin. These blooms occur when no water is flowing through a lake for a sustained time period. These toxic algae blooms occur when water flow, lake depth, wind and heat are combined issues. Blooms can look like scum on the surface of the water in bays and inlets and can be either blue-green or even brown. Members of the Marshall County Lakes & Waters Council will participate in a Marshall County Health Department initiative to pull water samples from every lake in the county, and have them sent to a lab for toxicity tests. We here at Lake Maxinkuckee, as well as the people at Lost Lake,are of course joining this effort, even though LMEC tests regularly for algae for an Indiana University program. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is so short staffed that they can only test state run lakes. You can visit [www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov) to get facts about the signs of poisoning as well as a list of lakes with current algae warnings.

Someone at a recent town council meeting requested that the town consider drilling a well to pump directly into Lake Maxinkuckee to replenish the lake level. We at the LMEC believe droughts to be natural events and would not support any actions being taken now that might cause an unknown impact later. We also know that such an action has failed to help Bass Lake retain its water levels during this drought, even though Bass Lake is much shallower than Lake Maxinkuckee. Remember, our lake is fed by underground streams.

It would be good if anyone pulling water out of the lake to water their lawn would try to reduce their watering, possibly by focusing their watering efforts only on their plants, flowers, and young trees. One tree will take up ¾ of an inch of ground water on a ninety degree day when a 30 mile per hour wind is blowing. If you must water, one inch of water a week should keep things from drying up completely. Culver’s town manager recently requested that everyone using town water adhere to these same conservation measures. LMEC feels anyone using their own personal wells should do the same.

Reports across Indiana show that some reservoirs around Indianapolis are down as much as twelve feet and it was reported by their water department that 40% of water usage is from watering lawns. This can be a serious issue when you are also taking your drinking water from the same reservoir system. Other lakes in our area are down four to eight feet because their aquifers are less productive than the one below us. Lake Maxinkuckee was down only eighteen inches about two weeks ago and I expect it might have passed two feet by now. Remember, the amount of shore now bare, does not equate to the water level.

The small rain showers we have had the past week or

so may have “greened up” your lawn a little, but one inch of rain does little to replenish the lake level. The recharge rate for the aquifer is about eight inches out of the normal 35 – 37 inches of rain we usually receive from April through September. You could relate one inch of rain to the lake surface by using the following equation. If it takes 50 gallons of water to put down one inch of rain on 100 square feet of area, and Lake Maxinkuckee has 80,760,240 square feet of surface area or 807,602 one hundred square foot ‘sections’. It would take 40,380,120 gallons of water to put one inch of water on the lake’s surface. Pumping twelve to twenty inches of water into the lake from our aquifer would be an enormous undertaking.

The rate evaporation plays on the lake is harder to measure because wind, temperature, and humidity cause evaporation and LMEC has no way of measuring those things at this point. You can read about evaporation at the NOAA web site however, it explains how they collect this type of data.

Some say that droughts are often nature’s way of leveling the playing field. Indiana Department of Natural Resources biologists have been fielding reports that low, stagnant water and algae blooms are causing fish kills, primarily with cool-water species such as the predatory Asian carp – which isn’t a bad thing, though other fish species are being affected. Deer and wild turkey populations may drop as a result of this sustained drought, but they will certainly survive. The drought impacts Ash trees by allowing insects such as the emerald ash borer easier access. Culver only has about thirteen ash trees in town, but we know that the emerald ash borer is already in Rochester so we may lose these few trees.

As I reported earlier in this article, we have already been told that food prices will likely be higher by as much as 4% next year, and that without a seriously wet winter, the lake will probably not be back to its normal level for a year or two at least. Unfortunately no one knows what the final outcome of the drought of 2012 will be because it is still going on. One thing we do know is that if we conserve water together, we should all come out of this okay.

**Sources** for this article were provided by NOAA, USGS, USDA, IDEM, IDNR, Fulton County Extension Office, the Town of Culver, Marshall County Health Department, LMEC, as well as many individuals. I want to thank them all for their valuable assistance.

*1988 Palmer Drought Severity Map - NOAA*  
*1934 Palmer Drought Severity Map - NOAA*  
*June 2012 Palmer Drought Severity Map - NOAA*  
*Generalized Ground-Water Availability Map - IDNR*  
*ANOMOLOUS Percent of Pasture & Range Land in “Poor” and “Very Poor” Condition - USDA*

Briefs from page 1

well as inside their homes. Details, including suggestions on specific methods of conserving may be found online at [townofculver.org](http://townofculver.org). Those with questions or concerns please contact town hall at 574-842-3140.

New computer classes at CUTPL

Culver Public Library hosts computer classes Monday evenings at 6 p.m. and Friday mornings at 10 a.m., with new sessions for August including Home Finances with Excel (Aug. 10), Home Networking (Aug. 13 and 17), Upgrading PCs (Aug. 20 and 24). Computer classes last two hours and are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Culver Library at 574-842-2941, visit our website at [www.culver.lib.in.us](http://www.culver.lib.in.us) or e-mail [abaker@culver.lib.in.us](mailto:abaker@culver.lib.in.us). The library’s street address is 107 N. Main St.

Town mgr to speak at REAL Meals

Culver town manager David Schoeff will speak at the REAL Meals nutrition site Wed., August 22 at 12:30 p.m. Seniors and other residents are encouraged to attend and hear him discuss Culver’s future. Those wishing to share a meal are asked to call the site at 574-842-8878 to make reservations.

4H potluck Aug. 26

Union Township’s 4-H will hold a potluck meal Sunday, August 26, starting at 5 p.m. Meat and drink will be provided. The event will take place at Len Clifton’s, 16860 16 C Road, in Culver.

Cub Scout roundup Aug. 28

Cub Scout Pack 290 will hold a Round up and registration for all returning Cub Scouts and for all boys, grades 1 through 5 who are interested in joining Cub Scouts, on

August 28 at 6 p.m. at Saint Mary of the Lake Church on College Avenue in Culver. No previous Scouting experience is necessary. For more information, contact Cubmaster Michelle Coiner at (574) 542-2676 or [coiner@embarq-mail.com](mailto:coiner@embarq-mail.com).

Wesley Preschool senior class openings

The Wesley Preschool senior class, age 4 by Aug. 1, has openings for this fall. Classes meet Monday, Wed and Fri beginning after Labor Day. For more information, please call Jennifer Luttrell at 574-250-3852.

Tutors needed

Tutors are needed for A Better Chance 2 Learn, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, weekly beginning Aug. 27, at the Culver Public Library. Training will take place in Mentone Wednes days and Thursdays.

Adult must be able to pass a short screening test, background check, and able to tutor. Call Tina Bailey for more information, at 574-505-1028.

Wednesday night play group

Parents with young children are invited to join the fun Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. for fun and games at St. Mary of the Lake Church’s weekly play group. No registration is required. Families will meet in the church basement and will likely head to the park following.

STRINGERS WANTED

The Pilot News Group is looking for writers.

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# Culver hockey tradition carried on by family of players



From left, Connor, Corbin, and Luke Kucera.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Culver’s incredible hockey legacy is sometimes overlooked or even taken for granted, so frequent are state championship titles won (21 so far) and so many are the Culver Academies graduates who made their way to the NHL.

But one whole Culver family has had remarkable success on the ice: that of Academies advancement officer Kevin Kucera, two of whose sons have garnered attention at the collegiate level for their hockey success, and whose youngest son is already poised to follow in their footsteps.

The Plymouth-based Kuceras (who actually reside between Culver and Plymouth, on Myers Lake) graduated 6 foot 2 defenseman Connor Kucera from CMA in 2010, after which he enjoyed a successful freshmen season at Bowling Green State University, which plays in the CCHA which includes Michigan, Michigan State, Miami, Ohio State, Notre Dame, and the like. Connor overcame injuries to be the statistic team leader on defense at +2, and he was also second in points among the defensemen. The solid and steady performer had the key transition plays in Bowling Green’s big wins over number eight ranked Notre Dame in South Bend in March, and the key defensive transition play in the home victory over number three Michigan back in February.

Coverage of the latter game by the local ABC affiliate called Kucera’s tie-retaining move late in the game a “perfect diving play.” The South Bend Tribune dedicated a feature story in its March 12,

2012 edition to Kucera’s exploits on the ice, in which he credited Culver Academies for helping him develop both leadership and time management skills in which to balance hockey and his studies.

Bowling Green went deep in the CCHA playoffs, beating Northern Michigan and Ferris State in the away series, only to lose to Michigan in a triple overtime game in the CCHA Final Four Series in Detroit. They subsequently received national rating votes at the end of the season. There are high expectations for BGSU -- where Connor Kucera made the Business School’s Dean’s List for academic excellence -- next season.

2011 CMA grad Luke Kucera, a 6 foot 1 inch defenseman, played Junior A Hockey last season for the Springfield Pics in Springfield, Mass., and will play NCAA Division I Hockey next season for the Lake Forest College Foresters in Lake Forest, Ill. He will attend Lake Forest College on a Presidential Scholarship, and plans to study physics. He’s been a hockey instructor at the Culver Summer Schools and Camps this summer.

Fourteen year old Corbin Kucera, also a defenseman, plays hockey for the bantam Irish Rovers AA out of South Bend. He’ll attend Plymouth High School next year and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. He plans to attend Culver Academies the following year, where he might just carry the Kucera hockey legacy onwards and upwards.



PHOTO PROVIDED

## Leiters barn blazes

Firemen in Leiters Ford battle flames from a barn explosion which sent smoke billows into the air visible as far away as Plymouth.

Carl Overmyer, operator at a farm owned by Jerry and Kathy Burton, was transferred to Fort Wayne for treatment of second degree burns after an explosion of unknown origin set off several other items in the barn, which was home to fuel tanks, a semi truck, and other flammables.

The state fire marshal was called in by Leiters Ford firemen to investigate the fire, which Overmyer reportedly theorized was started by a gas leak. The barn had been in the Burton family for a number of years.

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\*Prices include \$500 each alternative to return guarantee. \*\*Must trade in 1000 or newer for Silverado trade bonus.

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