



PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY AND *PAUL PARÉ

In Brief

Baked potato supper Friday

Trinity Lutheran Church of Culver will hold a baked potato supper Friday, April 12, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with proceeds going to support the Culver food pantry. The event will take place at the train station-depot at 615 Lake Shore Drive in Culver. Cost is \$7 for adults, 12 and under are \$4. Included is a baked potato with all the fixins, pies, cakes, coffee, and lemonade; carry outs are available.

Italian beef dinner Friday

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Culver VFW Post will serve Italian beef subs with choice of potato, salad, and dessert for \$8 Friday, April 12, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Culver in the 1913 flood program Saturday

The story of Culver Military Academy cadets' rescue efforts in the great flood of 1913 will be told by way of a Power Point presentation by museum curator Jeff Kenney, Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m. at the Culver Academies Museum & Gift Shop, 102 S. Main Street in downtown Culver. There is also a special exhibit on Culver's role in the flood, at the museum. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 574-842-8842, email museum@culver.org, or visit www.culver.org/museum.

Max Move Saturday

All interested individuals are invited to participate in the third annual Max Move, held Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The walk starts and finishes at the Naval Building on the Culver Academies campus, with SAG stops along the way. This event is free of cost, but please arrive around 8:45 to register. Parking is located at the hockey rink or around the oval near the flagpoles. To register or ask questions, please call Dana Neer at 765-252-7030 or email dana.neer@culver.org.

Gouwens organ recital Sunday

John Gouwens, organist and carillonneur of the Culver Academies, will present his annual faculty organ recital at the Me-

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Celebrating Cavaliers

ABOVE: Various Culver Community Schools students, teachers, and faculty were lauded last week, including at the annual Chamber of Commerce - Kiwanis Club Top Ten Dinner last Tuesday at Pretty Lake, where the top 10 CCHS seniors feted their choice of influential teacher. Pictured in the photo AT LEFT are (standing, from left) students Elizabeth Rainey (in front of chosen teacher Patrick Hahn), Michelle Elam (Theresa Hammond), Allen Betts (Mike Buschman), Erin Bau (Luke Biernacki), Clare Hartman (Todd Shafer). RIGHT PHOTO: Seated students include Angel Okray (teacher, Trevor Brown), John Ahlenius (Theresa Jacobson), Tucker Schultz (Don Darda), Collin Stevens (Vickie Benner), Micah Budzinski (John Browder). SEE STORY BELOW.

UPPER LEFT PHOTO: Surprised with special recognition during Friday night's CCHS Sports Spectacular (see page 5 for event photos) was Regina Anderson (right), who was nominated for the Northern State Conference Award as she prepares to retire this spring after 39 years of CCHS service. CCHS athletic director Andy Thomas (left), who takes phone calls and greets each guest at the school, also coordinates workers -- along with the A.D. -- for school athletic events. She's worked the football ticket gate for every game in the program's history (except the night of her daughter's wedding rehearsal dinner!), has handled the scoreboard for volleyball games, runs the clock for girls varsity basketball games, and runs field events for home track meets. "Mrs. Anderson has been an MVP for us for almost 40 years," said Thomas. "Her contribution to the students of the Northern State Conference is commendable, and we recommend her for this distinguished honor without reservation."

Top 10 CCHS students honor most influential teachers

By Jeff Kenney
 Citizen editor

It's easy to see why Culver Community High School principal Albert Hanselman each year calls the Culver Chamber and Kiwanis Club's Top Ten senior dinner "one of my favorite evenings." Once again, those students and their families gathered at the Pretty Lake Trinity Methodist Church's reception hall to enjoy a voluminous array of food before each student stood to honor the teacher who had most impacted his or her academic career.

Hanselman, who honored the students' parents prior to the start of the proceedings, also noted that longtime event organizer and high school teacher Donna Schwartz would be retiring after the end of this school year, thanking her for her role in the banquet's success.

Up first was student **Clare Hartman**, daughter of Richard and Lisa Hartman. A member of the Art and Spanish Clubs, Business Professionals of America (BPA), a class officer and cheerleader, and participant in the basketball, softball, and volleyball teams, Hartman plans to attend Ball State University in the fall to study either architecture or accounting. She chose current Culver Elementary School 6th grade teacher **Todd Shafer**, who previously taught the same grade at the Monterey Ele-

mentary School.

Noting three of the top ten students present that evening had attended Monterey Elementary, Hartman recalled fond memories of the Shakespeare play the class performed ("And yes, I still remember some of my lines," she said. "And I still have the script."), adding the play was performed on Friday the 13th.

Students "became detectives through the Westing Game party," she said, "sales men and women through the Monterey Mall; we became architects when we decided to build a haunted house, and became teachers when he picked a student to give answers to our spelling workbook pages -- (Mr. Shafer) would act like that student acts in class."

She added students "learned many lifelong skills we will continue to use."

Shafer recalled the day Hartman told him he'd been chosen as her influential teacher.

"I wasn't having great day. She made the day brighter."

He described Hartman as a trustworthy, responsible student who welcomed newcomers to the class.

"This may sound corny," he said, "but there's always stuff in the news about teaching and public schools, and how bad they can be. It's neat seeing the future we have in these kids up here. Clare's future is

very bright."

Senior **Michelle Elam**, daughter of Donald Judd and Katherine Elam, participated in National Honor Society, Academy Super Bowl, Art, Science, and Spanish Clubs, band, BPA, choir, the literary magazine, nursing assistant classes, was a class officer and member of the CAVS Service Club, and played basketball and soccer. She plans to attend Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne or Ball State to study nursing.

Elam described CCHS science teacher **Theresa Hammond** -- whom she chose to honor -- as someone who "keeps everything fair; there's no bias. The rules apply to you, though I'm not saying she's only one like that."

She also said students could "always count on Mrs. Hammond for a good laugh or good motivation. I will always be grateful to her."

Hammond said she and Elam "connected right away" from Elam's first day in her class. Afterwards, she said, the two regularly greeted one another in the hallways. When Elam began taking CNA classes, Hammond said she wasn't sure if Hammond's classes had an impact on that choice, "but I'd like to think I did."

Elam has been Hammond's Teacher's Assistant this year and has passed her CNA test, "which is not an

easy thing to do. She's been accepted to the nursing program in both those schools, which is not easy to do," she added.

Elizabeth Rainey, daughter of Jerry Rainey and Cindy Rainey, has been a member of Art Club, BPA, Spanish Club, and a class officer. She plans to attend Indiana University to major in computer tech and programming.

Rainey chose to honor CCHS Chemistry teacher **Patrick Hahn**, who recently joined the school's faculty. Explaining she's "not a great chemistry student," Rainey expressed gratitude for Hahn's making time to help her with AP Chemistry when she needed it. "He taught me I need to ask for help when I need it, which is something only I can do for myself, but it will help me in the future. I was always challenged and interested in his class, and it's been a great experience."

Hahn, a graduate of Penn High School (Mishawaka) and IU, said last year he was "lucky enough to join the Culver Community staff," thanking Hanselman and the rest of the school's administration, as well as Rainey. He also recognized the other students being recognized at the event, for challenging themselves.

He described Rainey as a "quiet, little young woman" who sought chemistry help during resource time and who he found to be "extremely hard working." He also learned Rainey practices Tae Kwan Do and has earned her level three black belt recommendation. Hahn advised her to manage her time wisely in college and become involved in student organizations, not fearing to ask questions of the professor.

He also smilingly urged her to "take the opportunity to watch the greatest college basketball team," a reference to his alma mater and her future destination.

Erin Bau, daughter of Rhonda Brust, was part of National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society, Art, Science, Spanish, and French Clubs, was a Girls State delegate,

was a member of the Cavs Service Club, the Culver Youth Community Organization, and played soccer and volleyball. She plans to attend Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

She said her chosen teacher, English and Speech teacher (and Bau's soccer coach) **Luke Biernacki**, "has been there for me" through high school. Noting she admires the teacher's honesty, Bau lauded him for his sense of humor and convincing her to speak publicly as a Speech coach, which led to her winning an award.

"There were a lot of hours and hard work, but it was so much fun," she said of her Speech experiences. "...Thanks for so many life lessons."

Biernacki described Bau as "an extremely confident person; whenever she sets her mind to a goal, she will achieve it. The way she carries herself leads the student body by example... her unending determination is one of the qualities I admire in her."

Hanselman added that, while many students shy away from friendliness to the school principal, "Erin always has that smile (and) she says 'hi' every day to me."

Up next was **John Ahlenius**, son of John and Jean Ahlenius, a participant in National Honor Society, the Academic Super Bowl, Art, Science, and Spanish Clubs, the Caval Crier staff, as well as being a Boys State delegate, camp counselor, CAVS Service Club and CYCO member, and athlete in the baseball, football, track, and wrestling programs. Ahlenius intends to study agri business at Purdue University this fall.

Though he pointed out that "so many of the people here tonight have influenced me in various ways," Ahlenius said he chose to honor CCHS teacher **Theresa Jacobson**, whom he said "finds a simple, fun way to teach each lesson in government and econ, and

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Death of Culver inmate under investigation

The Marshall County Coroner and the Indiana State Police are investigating the death of a Culver man while an inmate at the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Plymouth.

44-year-old Kerry A. Pinder of Culver died suddenly Sunday morning while awaiting release from the facility. Marshall County coroner Bill Cleavenger says neither violence nor foul play is suspected. An autopsy by Dr. Joseph

Prahlow, a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist, was expected to be conducted Monday in Mishawaka. Pinder had been an inmate at the facility since early Saturday morning.

The coroner's office was notified at 10:44 Sunday morning by the Marshall County Police Department as were detectives and crime scene technicians of the Indiana State Police.

Both agencies worked throughout the day on various

aspects of the incident with the cooperation of Marshall County Sheriff Tom Chamberlin, Captain Dan Butt and Detective Lt. Duane Culp.

Cleavenger said that hopefully more information will be obtained from the autopsy relating to the cause of death. In cases of the death of a person in custody, the Indiana State Police and the coroner are the lead investigators.

Hydrant flushing, town yard sales, clean-up this month

The Town of Culver will be flushing fire hydrants Monday, April 22 through Friday, May 3. 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.

The Town of Culver is sponsoring a Spring Town Wide Yard Sale Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. If you are interested in participating and would like to have your yard sale location included on a map distributed to the public, please contact Town Hall via e-mail at clerk@townofculver.org or at 842-3140 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. no later than Tuesday, April 23. Please provide your address and the date(s) of your sale. There is no cost for the event. Maps will be available beginning Thursday, April 25 at Town Hall, Culver Express and Osborn's Mini-Mart.

The Town of Culver is sponsoring a Town Wide Clean Up Day Saturday, May 11. You may drop off items that need to be disposed of at the dumpsters in the water town lot on Lake Shore Drive. Hazardous materials and tires will not be accepted. Citizens may call Bob Porter at 574-292-3943 to schedule a pick up.

VFW Men's Auxiliary dinners will benefit local youth programs

The Culver VFW Post 6919 Men's Auxiliary will host a Friday dinner April 19 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Post, 108 E. Washington in Culver. Available will be half-slab barbecue ribs for \$10, full slab for \$19, and ribeye steaks for \$13 each. All meals include salad bar, baked potato and green beans, and doors are open to the public. All profits from dinner specials served that night will be donated to the Culver Little League.

The Men's Auxiliary will also host a smoked half-chicken dinner with baked beans and chips included, for \$8 Saturday, May 11, from noon until sold out, at the Post. The public is welcome. Profits from this event will be used for the CCHS Scholarship Fund.

Culver Police arrest, cite during March 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over'

Officials from the Culver Police Department announced that arrests were made and more than 80 citations and warnings issued during the 2013 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, Blitz 74. Arrests were made for Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, Driving While Suspended, and Operating a Vehicle Without Ever Receiving a License. From March 8 through 24, the Culver Police Department joined more than 250 law enforcement agencies across the state to conduct high visibility impaired driving patrols encompassing a number of March sporting events and the St. Patrick's Holiday.

Public transport for seniors in Culver could increase

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

The Culver community could see a dramatic increase in public transportation in the foreseeable future, provided municipal funds can be made available to bring the notion to fruition.

At a Culver town council work session March 26, members of the council discussed the matter with Jackie Wright of the Marshall County Council on Aging, after town manager Dave Schoeff invited Wright to speak in response to a request and subsequent survey on the matter.

Schoeff said response to the survey was "pretty good," and overwhelmingly in favor of increased public transportation for seniors and others in Culver.

Currently, a Council on Aging vehicle visits Culver each Wednesday, and for a \$2 charge per locale, drives seniors and others in need of transport to shopping or other errands in the Culver community. Wright noted similar services are offered by the Council across the county. Those needing transport to medical appointments, including to other communities such as South Bend or Plymouth, may also make an appointment by calling the Council at 574-936-9904 (the Council is online at www.marshallcountycouncilonaging.org).

Wright explained that, about a year and a half ago, the Council on Aging began a "Community Cab" program utilizing a van which stays in Plymouth throughout the day.

"We made it look like a taxi cab and called it a cab, and we had a 56 percent increase in use," she said.

Wright described the Council's public transportation program as "underutilized in Culver."

"Can I put a van in Culver all day long, every day? No. I don't have enough money and I don't know if it's warranted."

Instead, she said, there's a possibility of leaving a vehicle in Culver throughout the day Wednesday and possibly additional days, with an emphasis on not steering residents to out-of-town businesses.

"It would be hard to walk from Garden Court (senior

apartments, on South Main Street) to the grocery. We could do that," she said. "We may be able to negotiate something with Park N Shop (grocery in Culver) that, if you go on the van on Wednesdays, they would give the senior discount (which is normally limited to Tuesdays)."

Wright also said that, although the Council on Aging receives funding from various sources, in order to facilitate an increased presence in Culver, it's hoped the town might aid in subsidizing the venture.

"The (Culver) population is aging. It could be a good way for Culver to ease into transportation for the area, but without jumping in with both feet like buying your own van -- it's very expensive."

Council member Bill Githens asked Wright for a ballpark dollar figure, and also noted Union Township funds could be sought to feed into costs.

Wright explained the City of Plymouth gives \$6,000 towards the cost of the van, though in that case the vehicle is there daily. Instead, she said, \$2,000 from Culver "would be great."

"It would take a little while for it to totally catch fire," she added, "but I was shocked at what happened in Plymouth. I would love to see it catch fire in Culver and to have a Culver cab."

She said the van could potentially be parked at sites such as the Forest Place senior apartments or Garden Court. Any age person may utilize the vehicles, she noted.

Council member Ginny Munroe suggested town clerk Karen Heim can investigate how to underwrite the cost, and the matter could possibly be put into next year's town budget.

"I think it's a good thing and it's not that costly," she said.

Wright added appreciation of the work undertaken by the town of Culver on the matter.

"No other city office has been so helpful," she said.

In other discussion, council members considered the need for local emergency services to more thoroughly advertise their meetings in light of open public meetings laws. Town attorney Jim Clevenger noted exceptions in-

clude executive sessions to discuss personnel or litigation. He also said boards -- such as EMS and fire -- can post the schedules for all their meetings one year out, rather than having to post each meeting as it's about to happen.

Githens pointed out newly appointed members of various local boards and committees should be educated as to their various responsibilities and legalities.

"It would be nice," he added, "if you have an issue on fire or EMS, if council knows about it, rather than finding out after the fact. It torqued my chain on the last three incidents when we didn't know."

Munroe responded that the incidents in question went from executive session to the town manager, and then to the council.

Also discussed were accounts controlled by some departments -- such as fire -- when donations are made to them.

"I don't think any of us know what's in it," she said. "Is that supposed to be public record? We have to be open about all our finances."

Clevenger said in his research the state statute on such matters is unclear.

"State statute honestly doesn't contemplate small towns and the volunteerism that goes on and that people want to donate some money with no strings on it. But if somebody makes a donation to EMS specifically for them to do something, that person should probably let us know so they know it's been done. I think it comes down to what kind of policy council wants to establish."

"I'm thinking of the park situation where people donated for pickets and people were angry coming at us and the park board about it," said Munroe. "It's not saying there's something to hide, but maybe that information should be public."

"As your town manager," added Schoeff, "I would love to see some thought put into some type of policy to better help us with your direction as to how to lead the town moving forward, and who's responsible for what, and who reports to whom."

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Obituaries

Dollie Mae Martindale

July 26, 1937-April 2, 2013



CULVER — Dollie Mae Martindale, 75, of Culver, passed away at 1:40 p.m. April 2, 2013 at Miller's Merry Manor in Culver.

She was born July 26, 1937 in Monterey to Carl Keller and Mildred (Stevens) Keller. She resided in Monterey until moving to Culver in 1979. On Oct. 19, 1979, Dollie married Roderick Martindale who preceded her in death Oct. 23, 2011.

Dollie retired from Culver Community School Corporation in 2002 after many years as a bus driver. She loved spending time with her family and friends. She also enjoyed the outdoors, which included activities such as gardening, bicycling, going for walks, and chatting with friends and neighbors. Dollie belonged to the Grace United Church of Christ in Culver where she sang in the choir and dearly loved her church family. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and always remembered for the kindness that she showed others.

Dollie is survived by her daughter; Rae (Jeff) Bonnell, Monticello; daughter: Cindy (Tom) Kasten, Winamac; son: Tim (Darci) Posthuma, Warsaw; stepson: Rick (Diana) Martindale, Walkerton; stepson: Bob (Becky) Martindale, South Bend; stepdaughter: Susan (Jim) Lovell, Manhattan, Mont. Her grandchildren: Brian Bonnell, Shawn Bonnell, Shay Kasten, Shanna Bonnell, Britni Posthuma-VandenBossche, Kelsi Posthuma, great-grandchildren: Peyton, Ty and Ally Bonnell, Raegan Kasten, Brody Bonnell. Three brothers: Jerry (Linda) Keller, Don Keller, and Steve (Brenda) Keller.

She was preceded in death by Carl Keller, father; Mildred Keller, mother; Rod Martindale, husband; Sally Keller Griffin, sister; and Jim Keller, brother.

A gathering of family and friends was held April 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at Odom Funeral Home in Culver. A celebration of Dollie's life followed at 12:15 p.m. at Grace United Church of Christ with Rev AnnMarie Kneebone officiating. Private burial took place in Culver Cemetery, Culver.

Memorial contributions may be given to Grace United Church of Christ - Culver, Plymouth Hospice Palliative Care or The Fight to End Pancreatic Cancer (www.pancreatic.org/www.pancreatic.org).

Charles Billy (Bill) Howard

Jan. 10, 1928 - March 28, 2013.



Charles Billy (Bill) Howard, born Jan. 10, 1928, went to be with the Lord on March 28, 2013.

Bill was born in Kokomo, Ind., earned his bachelor's degree from Butler University in 1950, and entered the insurance industry in Noblesville, Ind. He was a state representative in Indiana from 1960 through 1964. In 1968, he moved his family to Phoenix, Ariz., where he began a successful career in security sales. Shortly thereafter, he

became involved in commercial real estate and was one of the first people in Arizona to earn the distinguished CCIM designation. In 1980, he moved to Prescott, Ariz., and was a main partner in Lynx Mountain View Estates, which is now known as StoneRidge.

Bill was passionate about Christian education and was instrumental in founding Scottsdale Christian Academy in 1968. The school grew from a student body of 47 to well over 400 students today. He was just as passionate about Culver Summer Schools and loved to spend as much time as possible visiting the campus and talking with the students and staff. He fondly talked about his time as a midshipman and sailing instructor during his years there.

Bill was a husband, father, mentor and friend. He touched many people's lives with his warmth, compassion, concern and empathy. His huge laugh will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his wonderful and loving wife, Mary Ann, in 2011.

He is survived by his daughter Juli Howard; his son Matt Howard; daughter-in-law Lissa Howard; and two granddaughters, Amber and Caleigh Howard. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. We love you and will always remember your love for all of us and the tremendous impact you had on so many people's lives.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the following organizations in Bill's memory: food assistance for underprivileged children, Humboldt Bible Church or Scottsdale Christian Academy.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 2013, at Humboldt Bible Church, 2500 S. Old Black Canyon Highway in Humboldt, Ariz. Services were entrusted to Hampton Funeral Home. Please visit www.hamptonfuneralhome.com to visit and sign the guestbook.

6th annual Culver Relay for Life April 19

By Jan Garrison

Now entering its sixth year of operation, Culver's annual Relay for Life will kick off at 7 p.m., Friday, April 19 in the multipurpose building on the Culver Academies campus.

To date, Culver's Relay has raised nearly \$600,000 for the American Cancer Society. This year's student-run event has already attracted 53 teams and 305 participants. Registration for teams and individuals is available online. People can also sponsor individuals and/or teams online. The 2013 goal is \$110,000.

Relay annually draws over 500 registered participants, and 800 to 900 people, during the 12-hour event. A number of local/area food vendors will be on hand, with proceeds going to Relay For Life. For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org and search for Culver, Indiana.

The Academies-hosted Relay was the first in Indiana to be student-organized in 2008. Relay For Life of Culver is a community event with participation representing the Academies, the town, and Marshall County. Relay planning is carried out by a student committee made up of eight subcommittees with over 100 student volunteers.

An ice cream eating contest was part of Relay last year.

In the 2012 Relay blog linked from www.culver.org, Culver Vedette staffer Joshua Silver (class of 2012) wrote, "There is a greater feeling in this room than one of fun and excitement and to simply help support cancer research. An aura of togetherness permeates the air; togetherness for change. And that is really what it is all about. No matter where our journeys take us, as long as we are together, we will be alright."

Walking endless laps around the track represents the ongoing effort to eliminate the "drastic effects cancer can have on individuals, families, friends, and communities," Silver wrote "We walk to remember our journeys. We walk to empathize with others' journeys. We walk for our current journeys. We walk for our future journeys."

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.

Thursday, April 11: Pasta primavera, salad and dressing, garlic bread, green beans, fruited Jello.

Friday, April 12: Stuffed peppers, mashed potatoes, succotash, roll, fresh fruit.

Monday, April 15: BBQ pork chop, hot three-bean salad, macaroni and cheese, peaches, bread.

Tuesday, April 16: Taco salad with lettuce, tomato, onion, cheese, salsa and taco meat; corn and black beans; corn chips, fruit.

Wednesday, April 17: White chicken chili, corn bread, cold beets, fruit cobbler.

Thursday, April 18: Italian chicken breast, lima beans, tomato-gobbledygook, oranges, bread and margarine.

Friday, April 19: Tomato soup, tuna salad, bread slice, macaroni salad, fruit cup and cookie.

CCMS honor roll students

Culver Community Middle School has announced its honor roll for quarter 3.

Grade 7, A honor roll: Dylan Pitera, Cody Rieckhoff, Jake Rodgers.

A/B honor roll: Lance Beaver, Emily Bradley, Pierce Ellert, Rachael England, Jasmynne Fowler, Logan Kephart, Collin Knowlton, Dylan Lewandowski, Tracey Lindvall, Payton Lowry, Ben Myers, Lindsey Prosky, Reilly Reinhold, RT Roberts, Cody Russell, Dillon Salyer, Jordan Schrimsher, Raymie Shoop, Ethan Shuman, Mace Strycker, Haley Wilkinson.

Grade 8, A honor roll: Brennin Betts, Brandon Havron, Morgan Keen, Josh Krsek, Sierra Salerni, Courtney Salyer.

A/B honor roll: Erin Bendy, Daniel Blocker, Mikayla Felda, Drake Garbacik, Katie Garland, Alexandria Harris, Tanner Hoffman, Hailey Jones, Brianna Kinyanjui, Garrett Reinhold, Jack Rich, Josie Ross, Duncan Trau.

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Some Culver Schools clarifications and the demise of 'Soup for the Soul'

Before launching into the central gist of this column, a bit more follow up to last week's letter to the editor from Helen Drew ("Questions about Culver Community," April 4 edition), specifically concerning numbers. I pointed out, in response to her letter, a few clarifications regarding my interview with Culver superintendent Brad



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor

Schuldt. Last week I also heard from Mr. Schuldt himself, who included a chart with actual enrollments of area school corporations for the school years 2005-2006 and 2011-2012 (the the first and last enrollments available on the Indiana Department of Education website, which is the official count of all schools, as he points out).

Ms. Drew, in her letter, noted Culver Community had an 11 percent enrollment decline, which she compared to Winamac's school system.

Mr. Schuldt writes, "The data shows that seven schools have lost students over that time, one stayed exactly the same, and only one school has shown an increase in enrollment. The school specifically mentioned by Ms. Drew (*that is, Winamac -- editor*) shows a 9.2 percent decline in enrollment over the years mentioned above."

Thus, Winamac's enrollment decline was actually close to that of Culver's, at least during the years between 2005 and 2012. There can also be no question that the dramatic shifts in Culver's population over the past decade or so play a major role here, as discussed at length in our recent stories on the housing situation facing the community.

Debating the merits or drawbacks of Culver Community Schools is for another article, but demographics here are an extremely complicated matter.

Mr. Schuldt also pointed out some errors in the reporting of the board meeting in which the Culver Elementary HVAC project was discussed, in the same edition. He notes the date of the meeting was February 18 (not February 14, as in our article), and the estimated tax impact is estimated at 1.7 cents, not 17 cents, on the school tax rate.

We will continue to update readers on the complex issues of teacher cuts, enrollment decline, and related matters in local education, on an ongoing basis.

Speaking of the elementary school: I'm sorry to say that, for the first time since 2008, CES will *not* host its annual "Soup for the Soul" event, during which the entire 6th grade -- with plenty of assistance from faculty, administration, and community supporters -- served soup, bread, drinks, and desserts into bowls they hand-made out of clay and decorated, and which CES art teacher

Joyce Lyman baked and glazed for them. The students prepared for the event (local businesses and individuals donated the food and supplies), served it studiously to parents and other guests, and cleaned up the cafeteria afterward -- all to raise funds for area charities.

I realize this doesn't change the daily lives of many, if any, Culver

area residents. I know, too, that the resultant donation checks didn't make or break the budgets of any of the affected charities. But what most readers ought to be frustrated with is the reason for the demise of the event, which boils down to this: as state-mandated pressures and practices ramp up, many teachers find themselves increasingly overwhelmed, to the point that many "non-essential" (read: not core curriculum or standardized test based) activities, no matter their educational or character-based value, are going by the wayside.

CES 6th grader Missy Trent, who conceived of "Soup" along with Lyman, and has led it since, told me recently she's just too busy juggling the required workload to continue, though her students this year are extremely disappointed. I've seen evidence of similar phenomena in other situations, across grade levels: field trips I previously covered for the paper each year have had to be set aside, one after another, in order to make time for the "critical" work demanded of the all-powerful standardized test.

This is not, of course, merely a Culver issue, and certainly not the choice of local administrators. In fact, it's not exactly a new situation, though it has ramped up to a dizzying level in recent years. As far back as our first full year of marriage in 2003, my wife remarked fairly regularly on increasing teacher burnout in the Plymouth public school system where she worked, due to gradually increasing, state-mandated, out-of-class requirements. Even discounting workplace grumbling present in any profession, it was clearly a growing issue, and conversations with friends teaching in public schools in other states made it clear the same basic set of frustrations was on the rise nation-wide, even then.

At issue was and is the ever-increasing demand that teachers undergird their in-class teaching and out-of-class preparation with mountains of state-mandated paperwork and documentation, the standard fare of any increase in bureaucratic involvement. I think teachers have long spent portions of their evenings and weekends planning lessons or engaging in some other school-related endeavor, but it was obvious that the distaste for spending increasing amounts of time on what most of us would consider largely pointless exercises was taking its toll.

That was then, and I wish I could say the situation has improved.

There's a political cartoon making the rounds in social media Online, showing a group of students dazedly staring at their standardized tests, administered by a haggard-looking teacher. One boy has excitedly taken notice of what's going on outside the window, an obvious danger to the state-required program: for there is a full-color rainbow (in contrast to the black and white interior) with some of those subjects considered "non-essential" in the state curriculum, floating about in the wave of color: music, art, and the like.

Which gets us to what I think is the deeper problem at the heart of the matter: at issue isn't so much simply the proliferation of standardized testing, which is slowly reducing teachers to the role of mere proxies -- data-distributors administering to be efficient data-regurgitating youngster -- or the growth of mandated evaluation exercises in which administrators or outside observers must scrutinize teachers, ensuring they don't veer "off script."

Instead, central to the problem is a gradual but radical shift in the understanding of the goal of education itself, which invariably leads to a radical shift in its character.

Writer Dr. Anthony Esolen, in a 2012 essay, "Student

Assembly," points to the shift over the past several decades away from the long-held, more human-centered compass guiding education in the past, to a more mechanized vision. He writes:

"...Our view of mankind has been so impoverished by the bad philosophy of our time that, without thinking about it, we treat children as if there were no specifically human ends to be pursued by intellectual and practical virtue, and as if there were no natural goods to be sought as ends in themselves or as means towards those ends.

"If we remembered that human beings have ends, moral and intellectual, then we would wish to lead children, personally, gently, carefully, to the point where they could speak intelligently about the founding of our nation, or read 'Crime and Punishment,' or look with knowledge at a painting by Michelangelo, or puzzle out some line of Latin poetry. The disciplines would have to do with one another, and each would be coherently organized in itself, ordained towards some end. But instead, we treat the youths as if they were filing cabinets or computers or units of a mass electorate."

He goes on to note that even the architecture of modern schools reflects this shift from the human-centered, holistic vision of the aim of education, with our schools constructed "flat and sprawling, like factories" as opposed to earlier models of "building(s) for people who have souls."

He points to modern "sex ed," which involves "very little talk about love. No abiding love of one's country, no love of one's heritage of literature and art, and certainly no awakening love between boys and girls, to be fulfilled in marriage...(we speak) not a minute about what boys and girls are like, and how they can learn to love one another as married men and women. All hygiene, no virtue. But then, cleaning is what we do to machines to keep them running well."

Most teachers, even if they've not deconstructed the paradigms of modern education as Esolen has, recognize the radical shift we've undergone in recent decades, and most are frustrated. What's more, most administrators, parents and even casual observers are frustrated. What's strange about is that almost all of us seem to recognize there's a problem, but none of us seem to take action to change it.

One irony is that, as the architects of the current educational model continue to press for more standardization of education, more of the student and teacher as mere data processors, they miss the fact that these now peripheral activities -- such as, for example, "Soup for the Soul" -- are an important ingredient in helping students achieve academic goals.

Learning, when connected for a child with his/her relationship with others outside the school, when integrated with a vision of the value of self-sacrifice and service to others, might become something more than a rote chore to be tolerated. The self-discipline of service, or -- in the case of integrating the arts more fully into the curriculum -- notion that education can elevate the human soul, might be more seriously undertaken by students.

The demise of "Soup for the Soul" is a small loss, it's true, but it's ultimately a symptom of a kind of recognized madness we all seem to endure in frustration, but don't seem to know how to stop.

On a completely unrelated note, it's been a rough couple of weeks in terms of losing Culverites. Don Stubbs had a huge impact on Culver -- both figuratively as an active businessman and community member for decades -- and literally since his business helped build Culver. This week we sadly report the loss of two extremely kind and personable souls, Dollie Martindale (who I remember quite fondly even from my days as a newspaper boy, when she and Rod would regularly invite me into their home to chat, offering me refreshment on hot summer days), and Bill Howard, who knew neither a stranger nor an enemy. Our condolences also go out to the Pinder family on the tragic loss of husband and father Kerry over the weekend. Culver is a bit emptier without them all, among others.

Name that Culver 'citizen'

Among those recognizing last week's Mystery Citizen were Anne Duff, Lisa Allyn, Kristen Counts, Kay Tusing, Grant Munroe, Anna Neher, Joan Bess, Mike Milbury, Caitlin Schrimsher, and Julie Bess. She was Nancy (Nowalk) McKinnis, who's



been part of Culver Academies for more

than 30 years, and whose husband, Scot McKinnis, was actually our Mystery Citizen just a few weeks earlier.

Congrats to our winners, who may enjoy free swimming at the Culver beach through the month of April!

This week's Mystery Citizen is part of a longstanding Culver area family and has also been part of a well-known local institution for some time now.

Guesses may be emailed to culvercitizen@gmail.com or call the editor at 574-216-0075.



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Culver opens with loss vs Argos

By James Costello
Sports editor

CULVER — It wasn't always pretty, but the Lady Dragons got their first win Wednesday.

Argos jumped out to an 11-0 lead over the first four innings and held off a tenacious Culver Community squad to break into the win column, 20-6, on the road in Culver.

Up 11-0 headed into the bottom of the fifth, the Dragons had a chance to put the game away in five, but the Cavaliers rallied with six runs to extend the game to a full seven-inning outing.

After pitcher Megan Brady helped her own cause leading off the inning with a single into shallow center, Emily Shidler drew a walk from Argos pitcher Allison Flower, and Maddy Strycker grounded back to Flower, who flipped a fielder's choice ball over to third to get Brady. Janel VanDePutte grounded back to Flower on the next at-bat, but a catching error at third loaded the bases to set the table for Kayla Shaffer — a first-year player and former Culver track standout filling in at short for senior Ali Overmyer Wednesday — and Shaffer delivered a two-run line shot into right to put Culver on the scoreboard, down 11-2.

Sophomore reserve Haley Klimaszewski



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO
Culver Community's Angela Lewellen catches a pop-up at second base during the Lady Cavs' softball opener with Argos.

kept the rally going with an RBI single into shallow right to score VanDePutte, and Angela Lewellen drove in Shaffer on a groundout to short, cutting the Cavs' deficit to 11-4 and giving the home team new life.

Argos responded with a pair of runs on a two-strike, two-run liner into right by Missy Golden in the sophomore's first at-bat of the night in the top of the sixth, but the Culver bats stayed hot as they scratched out another two runs on a trio of Argos errors in the bottom of the inning to bring the score to 13-6.

"They put the bat on the ball, and once we started doing that, good things happened," said Culver head coach Gene Baker. "They make a couple mistakes, we get a couple good hits, and we can start moving around the bases. A lot of girls that don't give up."

It was too little, too late, however, and the Dragons saved their best for last with a seven-run seventh taking advantage of four Culver errors and four hits, including two by their reserves.

Jamie Ewing doubled in Courtney DeMont, Gabby Bennett singled in Jenny Fishburn with the bags packed after Ewing was walked home, Bennett scored on a passed ball in Charlie Horn's last at-bat, and Horn drove in Raelynn LaFrance with a loop into shallow center, bringing the margin to its final when Michelle Elam was left stranded after reaching for Culver on a throwing error in the bottom of

the seventh.

All total, the Dragons put up 13 hits in the win and got solid production from throughout the order, led by Horn's 3-of-6, four-RBI performance as well as LaFrance's 2-of-4 finish with four runs — the junior Argos catcher also drew a pair of walks to reach base in 5-of-6 at-bats Wednesday — and Flower's 2-of-6 finish with three runs scored.

Flower scored the visitors' first run of the night after reaching on an infield error in the top of the first to put the pressure on Culver early, and she earned the pitching win with six strikeouts while giving up three walks and four hits going the distance inside the circle. The senior right-hander had a no-hitter going through four innings, but Brady ended the bid with her lead-off single the second time through the Culver order in the fifth.

The Dragons also saw some good things from their reserves, who Thayer began subbing in early after her team's initial 11-0 start.

Culver opens at 0-1 with the loss.

It wasn't the result Baker and his players were looking for, but the rally late by the Cavs made it one to grow on.

"With the weather we've only been out maybe three or four times, and you can't do a lot inside," Baker said. "They started getting into it, they started making better plays, and a lot of our girls are playing positions for the first time."

"A lot of things to work on, but... these girls they definitely fight. Once they started getting the timing down and starting getting the bat on the ball, we had some positive things."

• ARGOS 20, CULVER 6
At Culver



PHOTOS/PAUL PARE

Spectacular fun

Friday night saw the return of the annual Culver Community Middle and High School Sports Spectacular, which included faculty-student volleyball and basketball competition as well as the usual array of inter-class (with some assistance from parents) games, leaving the junior class victorious by the end of the night.

AT LEFT, the 8th grade girls pull against their 7th grade opponents -- who they defeated -- during the tug-of-war.

Sports briefs

Girls track

Plymouth sets scoring record at CGA Relays

Plymouth's girls track and field team set a new meet scoring record with 140 points, and the Lady Pilgrims won the 16th Annual Culver Girls Academy Relays Saturday. Host CGA finished in third place just 0.3 of a point behind LaPorte, which took second with an 86.3 score.

Plymouth won six different events at the relay meet, which saw occasional gale force winds on the campus at the Culver Academies.

CGA was led by Leah Heckaman's dual first-place finishes in both the shot put and the discus with respective tosses of 40 feet and 125 feet. Olivia Sever was second in the triple jump, and the Lady Eagles placed second in the 4x100 relay,

the 4x1600 relay and the 800 sprint medley relay and third in the 4x800 and 4,000-meter distance medley relay.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY RELAYS
At Culver

Boys track

Eagles 2nd at CMA Relays

Culver Military put up 99 points behind LaPorte's winning score of 137, and Plymouth finished in third with 93 points at the 35th Annual Culver Military Academy Relays Saturday.

Eric Burns won the long jump and placed second in the high jump with marks of 19-7.25 and 6 feet, and Austin Sheldon placed third in the pole vault and second in the triple jump for host CMA. Leopoldo Burguete was tops in the 1500-meter

run in 4:30.1, Aramonti Phillips placed third in the 100 in 11.6 seconds, and CMA was second in the 4x1600 and in the 800-meter sprint medley and third in both the 4x100 and 4x800.

• CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY RELAYS
At Culver

Baseball

Cavs slug out 1st win

Nick Pritz went yard twice to finish with six RBI, and Everett Krueger also homered with four RBI as Culver Community earned its first win of the season, 17-3 in the second game of a doubleheader on the road at LaCrosse Saturday.

Collin Stevens, Nick Zehner and Krueger all doubled in the Cavaliers slugfest and Kyle Vlach earned the win

See Sports page 10



ABOVE, LEFT: CCHS assistant principal Brett Berndt drives down the floor, guarded by senior Micah Budzinski.



ABOVE, RIGHT: Student Angelina Bellecomo makes her way down the gym floor during the ping pong ball contest.

Briefs from page 1

morial Chapel on the Culver campus Sunday, April 14, at 4 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time). The recital is open to the general public free of charge. A reception will follow the performance (with treats prepared by the recitalist). The schedule is also set for carillon recitals on the 51-bell carillon for 2013. These will be presented on 4 p.m., Saturday afternoons, on the following dates: April 27; May 18; June 22 and 29; July 6, 13, 20, and 27; August 31; and September 28. These recitals also are open to the general public.

Community meal at Grace Monday

Grace United Church of Christ will hold its monthly community meal on Monday, April 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.

WNDU meteorologist Clawson Weds.

The Culver park will welcome WNDU meteorologist Cindi Clawson to discuss tornado and severe weather preparedness Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at the beach lodge.

BPA students seek support

Culver Community High School students will carry on a remarkable tradition of excellence when they head to Business Professionals of America Nationals in Orlando, Florida, later this spring. The total cost of the students' trip is \$4,720, and the BPA is seeking generous community members to assist in reducing students' out-of-pocket costs. Checks should be payable to "CCHS" with a notation of "BPA NLC trip." The BPA must start paying bills before the conference, so time is of the essence.

School make-up day April 19

Culver Community Schools' snow make-up day will take place Friday, April 19, to replace the school day missed March 6 due to inclement weather conditions.

LMEC Lax Max study presentation April 22

Kyle Jurasek of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Allen Chesser of the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council (LMEC) will give a presentation about the core sampling project sponsored by LMEC at the Lions Club depot at Culver town park, April 22 at 7 p.m. This program is open to the general public, so come and see what LMEC is doing with this exciting project. If the weather is either extremely windy or rainy, this presentation will be moved forward one week to April 29, same time, same place.

Natural health, fertility for women, couples April 23

An introduction to the ecologically sound, non-hormonal Creighton Model FertilityCare System will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at 7 p.m. at the Culver beach lodge, 819 E Lake Shore Drive in Culver. The public is welcome and refreshments will be provided for this free event. This all-natural and scientific system telegraphs abnormalities in a woman's health. Presenting will be Suzy Younger, FertilityCare Practitioner and Manager of Saint Joseph FertilityCare Center. For more information, please contact youngesu@sjrnc.com or 574- 335-6474.

Student Art Show April 27 wknd

Culver Tri Kappa is pleased to announce the 11th annual Student Art Show Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28 at the Culver Cove Marmont Room. The art show is

open to any student from the Culver Academies, Culver Community High School and Culver Community Middle School. Categories include drawing, painting, photography, print, and three-dimensional, best of show and people's choice.

Dancevision April 27-28

Culver Academies' Dancevision will offer its spring performances over Parents Weekend: Saturday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, at 2:30 p.m. Both are in Epley Auditorium and free to the public. Five honors candidates present their projects during these two performances.

Friends book sale April 25-27

The Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library will hold their first book sale of the year starting Thursday, April 25 with evening hours from 4 to 7 p.m., a new feature this year. On Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Later in the year, book sales will be held June, September and a bag sale in October. Anyone wishing to donate books can bring them to the circulation desk at the Culver Library during library hours.

Rent a sale space at the park

Spaces are available for rent at the Culver town park to sell items during the town wide garage sale, April 26 and 27. The price is \$10 per space, per day. Applications may be picked up at the Culver town hall between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Questions may be directed to Kelly at 574-842-3510.

Basic EMT class starts April 30

Culver-Union Township EMS will offer a Basic EMT class beginning Tuesday, April 30 through the end of July. Classes will meet every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 10 p.m. and every other weekend (days and times to be determined). Cost is \$700 and includes books. If you are interested, please contact Culver-Union Township EMS at 574.842.2773.

New Technology Assistance sessions

Culver-Union Township Public Library is ready to offer assistance with all things technology-related in April. Bring in your laptop, smartphone, tablet, digital camera – or any other electronic device! Six sessions will be scheduled on Monday evenings and Friday mornings. Sessions take place Mondays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m., and include April 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, and 26. These sessions are free and open to the public.

Gallery closed in April

The Crisp Gallery in Culver Academies' visual arts building will be closed through the month of April as the gallery is prepared for two exhibits starting April 24, when the Charles Duff, Faculty Emeritus Memorial Exhibition will open through June 4. More information on that and the second show is forthcoming.

Last PTO mtg May 14

The Culver Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) will hold its last meeting of the year Tuesday, May 14, at 6 p.m. in the Elementary school library, for those interested in attending.

Electronic charging stations at CUTPL

This April, Culver-Union Township Public Library introduces a new library feature, provided free-of-charge to patrons. Two stations for charging cell phones, tablets, and other devices will be installed, one in the computer

lab and another on the main floor in the adult study area. Each charging station provides: four standard electrical outlets, One charging port for Apple devices with 30-pin connector, one for Apple devices with the new Lightning connector and two Micro USB connections that are capable charging most other devices.

St. Mary's daycare apps for fall 2013

St. Mary of the Lake Childcare Ministry (daycare) is now accepting ap-

plications for fall, 2013. Call 574-842-3488 for more information or to register. New informational brochures are also available on the program.

Chairs sought for Chairs for Charity

Doing your spring cleaning? Want to get rid of that old chair in the basement? Culver Tri Kappa members are seeking chairs that can be decorated for their Chairs for Charity event that will be held this summer. Those with a chair to donate for this worthy cause, please contact Judy Sawhook at 574-842-2861.

Funds sought for after-school food program

More funds are needed to attain the \$1,000 goal of a Leadership Marshall County group's efforts to fund an after-school youth food provided for students at the Culver Public Library.

To donate, send checks made out to Culver Public Library (with "youth food program" in the memo line) to Culver Public Library, 107 N Main St., 46511, with attention to Ali Gaskill. Project originators are also available to answer questions about the program. Contact them at 217-493-5695 (Sam Bramfeld) or 574-216-6227 (Jerry Kisela).

Culver Comm. kindergarten round-up

Culver Community Schools' kindergarten round-up will be held Thursday, April 25 at 6 p.m. in the Culver Elementary School cafeteria. Children do not need to attend this informational meeting with parents, who will be informed about required health records, forms needed for registration, kindergarten screening, Indiana curriculum standards, and programs available for kindergartners. If a parent cannot come on April 25, they should contact Culver Elementary at 574-842-3389, or 574-542-4017.

Texas Hold `Em second Sundays

The Culver VFW Post, 108 East Washington Street, hosts a Texas Hold `Em tournament the second Sunday of each month, sponsored by the Men's Auxiliary. An average of 50 players takes part, and the Auxiliary provides chili or hot dogs and sloppy Joes. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the tournament starts at 1 p.m. Funds go to various community charities.

Endangered Heritage exhibit at museum

The Center for Culver History will host "Endangered Heritage," a traveling exhibit of the Indiana Historical Society which seeks to educate local communities and funders about the need for good collections stewardship and gives examples of the dangers to objects in collections and information about the collections care needs of Indiana's organizations. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 12 to 6, and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact the museum at culverhistory@gmail.com.

New Culver history notecards available

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver is offering a new series of eight historic note cards, available at the Center for Culver History, the AHS museum, and at various establishments around town. At the museum, members always receive a 10 percent discount on merchandise.

VFW bingo returns

Culver's VFW Post 6919 is happy to announce Saturday bingo has resumed Saturdays at 7 p.m. There is a \$500 jackpot, and cards are \$1 each or six for \$5. Hot Ball costs an additional \$1. The kitchen opens 5:30. Come enjoy our fresh made onion rings which are only available on Saturday nights.

Culver to host "Michiana's Rising Star" event

WNIT Public Television has announced the Culver Academies Epley auditorium will host one of the five regional competitions of "Michiana's Rising Star," a search for the brightest and best talent in the entire Michiana region, Saturday, June 15. The five top performers will compete at the WNIT studio each evening from July 28 through, August 2, to determine the grand prize winner and "Michiana's Rising Star." The grand prize winner will receive \$1,000 cash and the opportunity to appear on WNIT programs. Visit the contest web site at wnit.org or call the station at 574.675.9648 x 309.

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Marshall County Builders Association Spring 2013 HOME SHOW April 13 Saturday 10am-5pm April 14 Sunday 10am-4pm Free Admission with Advance Ticket or \$5 Donation in Fund Bank at Door @ LifePlex-Plymouth, Indiana Major Sponsors: CenturyLink, Wisenhour Home Improvements / Colorbilt Paint & Structure, The Pilot News Gold Sponsors: First Federal Savings Bank, Fitness Forum / LifePLEN, Lanzer Services, Tractor, Marshall County REMC, NTRCO, P&S Concrete Race Out To The Home Show!

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Top Ten from page 1

I enjoyed our interaction in her class, answering questions...I know all the knowledge I gained about good economic decisions will help me in my career in agri business.”

Thanking event sponsors for the “free meal,” Ahlenius quipped, “Though thanks to Mrs. Jacobson, we know there’s no such thing as a free meal!”

Jacobson said learning she’d been chosen as Ahlenius’ honored teacher “was the highlight of my day,” adding she wondered at first if his omnipresent smile was a sign of an ornery or mischievous temperament.

But, she added, “He is just a genuinely happy guy with a freakish amount of energy! He made me think of government and econ in a new way. His helpfulness, enthusiasm, and respectful attitude are greatly appreciated.”

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Schultz, **Tucker Schultz** participated in National Honor Society, was a Boys State delegate, a member of the Spanish and Science Clubs, CYCO, and the basketball, football, and track teams. He plans to attend IPFW to study pre-dentistry.

Schultz chose to honor his 4th grade teacher, **Don Darda**, who teaches in the Winamac school system, though he’s a former Culver Community student (and in fact brought along his old Culver Cavaliers letter sweater for the occasion).

“Sometimes the right person enters your life at the right time,” said Schultz. “Mr. Darda is one of those teachers you never forget. He is energetic, uplifting, and enthusiastic. He thinks outside the box and wants his students to do that, too...he made me feel self-confident and made learning fun.”

“Elementary age students come to school with wide-eyed anticipation,” said Darda. He recalled Schultz’s understanding “the deeper meaning of our projects -- he saw bigger pictures.”

One example cited was the 4th grader’s discovery of “loopholes in our classroom tax system,” according to Darda. “He kept most of his M&Ms!”

It makes my heart happy how he empowers others to do their best,” Darda added, “to be successful.”

Angel Okray, daughter of Cindy Gibson and Michael Okray, was also a National Honor Society participant, as well as a member of Art, Science, and Spanish Clubs, BPA, the Caval Crier staff, the book club, CAVS Service Club, Key Club, and was cross country manager. She plans to study biology at Indiana University or the University of Southern Indiana.

Honored by Okray was Rochester teacher **Trevor Brown**, who she said taught her in 7th grade Literature and again as a freshman in Global Perspectives. “He made a great impression on everybody,” she explained, adding that his efforts in her education while at Rochester “prepared me for Mrs. Benner’s (CCHS) term papers...he really prepares you for the next level.”

She also smilingly recounted his creation of his own “holiday, “Mr. Brown Appreciation Day,” though in lieu of presents, Okray and her friends opted to toilet paper his house, a practice they’ve continued annually ever since.

For his part, Brown chuckled at recollections of starting out teaching 7th grade girls as a new, 22 year old teacher who “suffered through a lot of eye rolls!”

He also said Okray came to class daily well-prepared and with a smile.

“She was willing to challenge herself to achieve the highest level she could,” he said, adding he takes the an-

nual toilet papering ritual as “a sign...of mutual respect and a fun-loving attitude. I think it’s important to have fun with the kids. If you’re not having fun (as a teacher), you should be doing something else.”

Senior **Collin Stevens**, son of Ryan and Tina Stevens, participated in both National Honor and National Junior Honor Societies, was a club member in the areas of Art, Science, and Spanish, joined the Academic Super Bowl, represented the school at an iPad conference, was a student leader in the freshmen IGNITION program, part of the CAVS Service Club, and played baseball, basketball, and football. He will head to Purdue this fall to study Computer Science.

Stevens explained he’d heard of how difficult his honored teacher, **Vickie Benner**’s classes were prior to having her as a teacher. Acknowledging Benner’s classes are challenging, Stevens pointed out the English and Humanities teacher also “did activities to advance students’ knowledge. She’s one of the smartest teachers and smartest individuals I know.

“She’s the most dedicated teacher I’ve had in school,” he added, noting Benner is at the school building at 6:45 a.m. and until 5 or 6 p.m., “working to better her students for the next level...she’ll respect you if you respect her. If you don’t, you’ll feel the wrath of Benner!”

After describing how honored she felt upon learning Stevens had chosen her, Benner said she began to wonder if he should have instead chosen to honor a coach, as successful as he was in his various athletic endeavors.

“Honestly, I am the antithesis of an athlete,” she smiled. “But it dawned on me that my responsibility was to let you all know about the other Collin. You all have seen him on the football field of basketball court, but not in room 306. He is the same superstar in the classroom as in the game.”

She went on to describe Stevens as a dedicated student academically and in areas of leadership, as well as an “all around nice guy.

“So, even though I can’t recite the number of points he’s scored in a basketball game, I know a good student and a person of quality when I see one, and Collin is both.”

To add to Stevens’ sports trophies, Benner also ceremoniously hung an academic-oriented medal around his neck before leaving the podium.

Next up, **Micah Budzinski**, son of Victor and Rebecca Budzinski, was described as a participant in National and National Junior Honor Societies, the Academic Super Bowl, Art, Science, and Spanish Clubs, a Boys State delegate, Caval Crier staff member, recipient of the President’s Education Award in 2009, a member of CYCO, and an athlete in the basketball, football, and track programs. He plans to study Engineering at Purdue University in the fall.

Budzinski said his chosen teacher, 7th grade math teacher **John Browder**, “showed me what school’s about (and) made things serious but fun. He taught he there are more things to learn than just numbers in math...he also prevented me from running with the wrong crowd. I was friends with some kids who didn’t really do the right things. He separated me from them as well as he could, and gave me the potential to be here today.”

He also described Browder as “hilarious” in class.

Browder displayed that trademark humor in noting Budzinski himself didn’t notify his honored teacher of the award. Instead, he learned via a group email from Hansel-

man.

“We seemed to have a bond,” Browder said, in a more serious tone. “I’m sure he’ll be a great contributor to society.”

The final student presenter, **Allen Betts**, is the son of Destiny Tillman and Scott Schrimsher, and a participant in National and National Junior Honor Societies, Academic Super Bowl, Band, Caval Crier, a club member in Art, Spanish, and Science Clubs, CYCO, CAVS Service Club, and the school’s baseball, football, track, and wrestling programs. He intends to study at IU to major in pre-med.

Expressing his appreciation to all the teachers, Betts said his honored teacher, Math instructor **Mike Buschman**, was an “easy choice.”

Starting with Buschman’s role as Betts’ 8th grade track coach, “eventually he would become one of my best friends,” said Betts, noting he learned as a freshman that the teacher had been one of his uncle’s best friends in their youth.

“We talked a lot during and after school,” he added, noting, “We can talk about everything.”

Betts noted Bushman taught him math most of his high school career, and also helped Betts become his best as an athlete.

“I owe much of my success in the classroom and in athletics to him. He has been there a lot for me through good times -- such as conference and sectional championships in wrestling -- and bad times.”

Buschman, after thanking Browder for sending student to the upper levels after “getting their butts kicked (which) pays huge dividends,” described Betts as “extremely intelligent and well spoken. He can throw with both hands, is great at math, writes articles for the newspaper, and is a heck of a guitar player...he has high standards and it’s important to him that he meets those.”

Buschman said Betts’ efforts to make it to the state wrestling tournament didn’t work out, but instead of “feeling sorry for himself,” Betts continued coming into the wrestling room to make sure younger wrestlers were getting better, an indication of Betts’ character, said Buschman.

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on the mound in five innings to move to 1-1 on the season.

That win came on the heels of a narrow 8-7 loss to the hosts earlier in the day, when Culver plated three runs in the top of the seventh, but couldn't quite overcome early deficits after a five-run first by the host Tigers.

Pritz doubled in the opener for Culver, which put up eight hits but committed four errors in the field. Stevens took the pitching loss.

• LaCROSSE 8-3, CULVER COMMUNITY 7-17
At LaCrosse

CMA wins opener

Culver Military plated a run in the bottom of the seventh to break a 2-2 tie, and the Eagles won their opener versus Maconaquah at home Friday night, 3-2.

Shane Comiskey got the win in five innings of work on the mound for CMA, which out-hit the Braves 10-2 in the win.

• CULVER MILITARY 3, MACONAQUAH 2
At Culver

Culver slips to 0-2

Caston dropped a six-spot in the third inning, and Culver Community slipped to an 0-2 start with a 12-7 loss on the road in Fulton Thursday.

Everett Krueger was credited with the loss on the mound for Culver, relieving Nick Pritz in the second and lasting into the fourth.

Pritz homered and Collin Stevens doubled for the Cavs.

• CASTON 12, CULVER COMMUNITY 7
At Fulton

Judson nips Culver

North Judson plated a run in the top of the seventh, and the Bluejays hung on for a narrow 2-1 victory in their season-opener at Culver Community Wednesday night.

The game was a pitchers' duel between Judson's staff of Tyler Tunis and David Jacim and Culver's Kyle Vlach as the trio combined to give up only four total hits in the opener.

The Cavs finished with just one hit at the game, a double from Nick Pritz, and the home team recorded three errors as they slipped to an 0-1 start.

Culver travels to Caston tonight with a 5:30 p.m. EST start time.

• NORTH JUDSON 2, CULVER 1
At Culver

Boys track

Cavs down LaVille

Culver Community's boys track team opened its season Wednesday with a 72-52 win over visiting LaVille.

The Cavaliers went one-two in both hurdles events and won all three relays en route to the team win.

Matt Hurford claimed top finishes in both hurdles races and in the shot put for Culver.

LaVille's best finishes were in distance events and short dashes — where the Lancers went one-two in the 1600 and won the 100 and 200 as well as the 800 — and in the discus, where the visitors swept the top three spots.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 72, LaVILLE 52
At Culver

Girls track

Culver tops Lady Lancers

Culver Community's girls track team recorded wins in nine events, and the Lady Cavaliers outscored visiting LaVille 79-42 in a dual track meet between Northern State Conference foes at Culver Wednesday.

Denisha Brown won the 100, 200 and 400 for the Lady Cavs, Tori Shank won both the 1600 and the 3200, and Donna Zehner won both the shot put and the discus as Culver went one-two in both throwing events.

Danielle Romano won both hurdles races and Kylie Jamrozny won the 800 as LaVille won just three events on the track. Katie Minarik won both the high jump and the long jump for the Lancers.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 79, LaVILLE 42
At Culver

Boys golf

CMA 13th at HOF Tourney

Columbus North won the Hall of Fame Golf Tournament at Rock Hollow Golf Club in Peru Saturday with 310 points, followed closely by Warsaw with a score of 312.

Triton finished 11th with a 342 score against the challenging field, while Culver Military was 13th with a 345 team score.

CMA was paced by Benn Sharff's 80 and John Connelly's 81, while Logan Joseph shot a 91, and Davis Payne shot 93 in a consistent effort by the Eagles.

• HALL OF FAME GOLF TOURNAMENT
At Rock Hollow Golf Club (par 72)

Culver finishes 10th at Triton Invite

Winamac won the Triton Invitational Saturday at Rozella-Ford with a score of 344 followed by John Glenn's runner-up tally of 355.

Triton's JV team shot 421 for seventh, LaVille finished eighth with a score of 424, and Culver Community was 10th with a score of 441.

Culver was paced by Trent Elliott's solid 79 round, while Cody Peterson carded a 112, Kenny VanDePutte shot 118, and Tristan Schultz came in at 132.

• TRITON INVITATIONAL
At Rozella-Ford (Par 70)

Boys lacrosse

Ferris, Byrne lead CMA

Dean Ferris finished with four goals, Pierre Byrne notched another three, and Culver Military's boys lacrosse team earned a dominant 14-2 win over Detroit Country Day at Notre Dame.

Riley Thompson finished with a goal and three assists, meanwhile, and McKenzie Dawson had a goal and two assists.