

# The Culver Citizen

Thursday, February 27, 2014 Vol. 121 Issue No. 7 50¢  
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CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

## Making points about the park

ABOVE, LEFT: Culver resident and town council member Ed Pinder was visibly upset as he spoke at last week's 'town hall' style meeting regarding the Culver town park. SEE STORY BELOW.



PHOTO PROVIDED

## Lauding Latham

ABOVE, RIGHT: Culver Kiwanis Club president Larry Brockey, left, hands a plaque to Latham Lawson commemorating 17 years of service to the club, another facet of Lawson's service to the Culver community as a whole, which included 39 years as a high school history teacher here, among other endeavors. SEE STORY BELOW

## In Brief

### Community meal at St. Mary's Friday

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church's monthly community meal will take place Friday, Feb. 28. Typically on the 30th day or each month, a community meal will be provided for anyone interested in attending. St. Mary of the Lake is located at 124 College Avenue in Culver. Questions may be directed to 574-842-2522.

### VFW dinner Friday

The Culver VFW Ladies Auxiliary will serve an Italian beef dinner with choice of potato, vegetable, and dessert for \$9 on Friday Feb 28 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Post on Washington Street.

### "Seuss-a-Bration" program March 1

Come to the Culver Public Library for stories, games and crafts in the Children's Room Saturday, March 1 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss with a "Seuss-a-Bration." This program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jill Gavlick at jgavlick@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941.

### Benefit for Wilson and family March 1

A benefit for Tim Wilson and family is scheduled for Sat., March 1 at 4 p.m., at the VFW in Winamac. Wilson was in a severe car accident and was airlifted Dec. 29, where he spent four days in a coma, having sustained heavy brain shearing and many physical injuries. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$7 children 5 to 12 (children under five are free). Raffles, a bake sale, food, and a live auction, as well as a live performance by the band "Overdue" will be part of the activities. Those with questions may contact Honey Loehmer at 574-225-0251. Donations may be made via Paypal at honeyloehmer@yahoo.com.

### Free community meal at CBC Sunday

Culver Bible Church on South Main Street will

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## Park issues revisited at stormy town hall meeting

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

If, as was stated during the town council's planning discussion in weeks past, the "town hall" style meeting held Feb. 18 at the depot on Culver's Lake Shore Drive was intended to be focused primarily on the community's suggestions for the future direction of the town park, the meeting was instead dominated by a very different line of discussion.

Not that that likely came as a shock to many in the community who had followed the often-contentious track of Culver's park board in recent months. In fact, it could be argued that very little truly new came from the meeting, which the council had promoted primarily as simply a sounding board for public-generated ideas as to the park's future, rather than a forum for specific issues or particular decisions, though plenty of particulars were suggested.

The format of the meeting, as outlined by council president Ginny Munroe, was not intended as a debate, but instead required each person speaking to sign up to do so before the meeting was underway, and limited each to four minutes at the podium.

And while the depot was nearly packed with spectators, 18 people spoke (and two of those referred to previously-given statements as reflective of their positions, rather than making any statements of their own). Seven speakers were highly critical of the current park board and some of its recent decisions, particularly the dismissal of longtime park superintendent Kelly Young and activities director Donna McKee, who had been hired last year. Most of those criticizing the park board also pointed to what they suggested were condescending or unwelcoming attitudes on the part of park board members.

Many of the same members of the community who had been outspoken in park board meetings in recent months -- whether in support or criticism of the board -- constituted the bulk of speakers at last week's public forum.

Gerry Burkett's comments were representative of many of the points made by speakers critical of the park board, and not only questioned Young's and McKee's terminations, but specifically suggested the council should either "remove three members of the park board, abolish (the park board), or make it an elected board."

She suggested park board members had been disrespectful to the public and had their own agenda, and "manipulated Indiana state code to meet their own directives" by stating Young's lack of a parks and recreation degree disqualified her from holding the superintendent position according to state statute.

See Meeting page 2

### Background to park controversy: a look back month-by-month

*Editor's note: In the wake of ongoing controversy and particularly last week's public forum on Culver's town park, some have asked for more information on the events, issues, and debates which led up to present circumstances. With that in mind, Culver Citizen editor Jeff Kenney has compiled a what is intended to be a brief history of park board-related controversy in recent years. Obviously no such endeavor will be complete or detail every aspect of debated matters, but the editor hopes instead to here present a general overview to help put context on matters of longstanding discussion.*

**2009:** Major controversy regarding the park board began in August, when a group of citizens questioned the use of funds collected from her family and more than 400 others starting in 2006 for Vandalia Village, a planned community-built playground in the east end of the park. Monies were specifically collected for personalized fence pickets for the playground, though the design company was switched and playground design drastically changed by the fall of 2008, when the much smaller playground

See Park page 7

## Culver bids Lawson farewell

Longtime teacher, community servant lauded

Latham Lawson, a respected and familiar face in Culver for more than four decades, bid the community farewell earlier this month as he prepared to move to the central Indiana of his upbringing.

Culver's Kiwanis Club lauded Lawson at its Feb. 6 luncheon, where he recalled his four years of service with the Navy in Japan during the Korean War, his

See Farewell page 7

### Lawson reflects on four decades at CHS

By Rachel Meade

The name Latham Lawson conjures up memories for generations of Culver High School graduates. Lawson taught everything from history to physics to yearbook at the high school for nearly 40 years, from 1959 through 1998. His

See Lawson page 10

## Culver REAL Meals program to close Feb. 28

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

After 21 years, Culver will no longer be home to a REAL Meals program as of this Friday, Feb. 28.

The announcement was made last week by Crystal Hallwood of REAL Services of St. Joseph County, which provides hot meals for seniors five days per week at the Culver beach lodge. The local organization partnering with the program is Culver's longstanding Golden Agers, a senior citizens group dating back to the 1970s.

"It is with a heavy heart that REAL Services must notify you that we have been forced to make some changes to our programs in order to deal with lower funding, rising food (and) transportation costs and a higher demand for services," said Hallwood in an email to the Citizen. "This has forced us to make some temporary changes, as well as some permanent ones."

Hallwood went on to note that all of the program's nutrition sites would be open only Monday through Thursday on a temporary basis beginning in March and through June.

Culver is one of three nutrition sites (the other two are in Westville and the Westscott Apartment Center in South Bend).

"It has been our privilege to serve these communities," said Hallwood. "We appreciate your support and understanding."

In making the announcement on the Culver Citizen's Facebook page, Culver REAL Meals site director

See REAL page 2

## Baker was legend at Academies, beyond for more than 6 decades



PHOTO/CULVER ACADEMIES ARCHIVES

Mary Baker, right, during the early years at the Canteen at Culver Military Academy.

By Jan Garrison, Culver Academies

For more than 64 years, Mary Day Baker was a friend, a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother to everyone who found their way into Culver Academies Canteen and, later, The Shack. She was also a mainstay in the Culver community (many may remember her several years of service to the Culver Public Library, for example). She passed away in Culver on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Barely older than some of the Culver Military Academy cadets she was serving, Baker started her career behind the Canteen's counter as a soda jerk in 1941. She fin-

See Baker page 2

## 'Fantasticks' onstage here March 10

By Jan Garrison, Culver Academies

The longest-running musical in history, "The Fantasticks," will be the Huffington Concert Series' next featured performance on Monday, March 10. Performed by the Nebraska Theatre Caravan, this steampunk-inspired adaptation of the classic musical promises to provide an unparalleled experience.

"The Fantasticks" is a classic romantic comedy about a boy, a girl, their meddling fathers and the wall that divides them. With music by Harvey Schmidt and lyrics by Tom Jones, the musical is based on Les Romanesques by Edmond Rostand. The musical includes the memorable songs Try to Remember and Soon It's Gonna Rain.

Of the steampunk concept, director Carl Beck said "It's not an intrusive concept. It seems like the allegoric-quality can blend with the fantasy, giving it a quasi-period feel and making for a stronger statement than [The Fantasticks] usually gets." He added that the story is not

See Fantasticks page 6

## REAL from page 1

Cecelia Moroni wrote, "I have enjoyed talking with the seniors in Culver as well those that I have had the pleasure in serving meals to. I will truly miss each and every one of my seniors. We are wanting to have one last celebration of being together. Hope all the seniors who have come out before and even new ones come and help us close the site in style."

Jeanette Geiselman, who has assisted the site director for several years, expressed sorrow at the decision.

"We were getting to know Cecelia and appreciate her daily trips this winter from Knox in all kinds of weather,"

## Meeting from page 1

Burkett went on to claim that board members, "caught in the deception," used allegations of racial slurs alleged to have been made by Young, a reference to one of the reasons given for Young's dismissal during a park board meeting last month.

Burkett also criticized the manner of McKee's dismissal, noting McKee was said to have first learned of the decision by reading it in *The Culver Citizen* on Christmas Eve, rather than having been informed by the park board.

Also criticized was the park board's hiring of its own attorney, its stated plans to hire an architect to head up renovations on the park's beach lodge building, and the "wasteful" decision not to house anyone in the beach lodge apartment formerly occupied by Young.

Also speaking was council member Ed Pinder, who emphasized he was speaking as a citizen of Culver rather than a council member. He referred to "two men on the park board who were so frustrated they finally quit coming to meetings (last year)," presumably a reference to former park board members Ed Behnke and Leroy Bean, both of whom left the board recently.

Pinder suggested a "little clique" overtook the park board, and said some ideas favored in a community survey the park board conducted some months ago -- including a restroom in the west pavilion -- had been ignored.

"The whole thing has been a frustration to me," said Pinder, who suggested park board members resign and turn over the board to the council, or the council abolish the park board and take over management of the park.

Speaker Kathy Montgomery echoed many previous comments and added suggestions that park board meetings are "confusing" and include "skirting around issues." "We don't have transparency or trust," she added. "We have hidden agendas."

Jean Rakich expressed concern at the possibility of alcohol being allowed in the town park (a request had been made earlier this month for an exception to the ordinance banning it, and a member of the park board had, during the same meeting, suggested the park board would be open to individual exceptions being made by request). Rakich added the Culver Lions Club had "fought long and hard to keep alcohol out of our park. I fear that's what's down the road for us."

She also criticized the park board's purchase of \$10,000 worth of Christmas lights for the past year's holiday season.

Kathy Hart described her resignation late last year from the park board, during her second year of what would have been a four-year term. She said her resignation came as a result of a sense that her agendas were "very different than (other park board members)," who she said had personal agendas rather than "what's better for the park."

She praised Young's performance as superintendent and

she says.

REAL Meals has been the subject of some discussion in recent months after the Culver park board voted in December to clear the beach lodge of all activities pending planned renovations. After Geiselman addressed the park board about the matter, REAL Meals was granted permission to continue its use of the lodge until work actually begins.

The program, however, has struggled to maintain numbers, which have gradually lessened from year to year. In recent months, despite efforts to reach out to seniors in the

echoed other speakers' criticism of the manner of her and McKee's dismissals. She acknowledged "the beach lodge is in horrible condition."

Don Baker, also echoing previously expressed concerns, added that "The residents who pay property taxes (and) send their children to swim lessons are expecting the park to be open for business this year and hope it will be run smoothly and represents our town well."

## Speakers defending the park board

Only one current member of the park board, Rhonda Reinhold, addressed the council at the event, explaining that when she was appointed to the park board last March she was "shocked at what I found."

Reinhold pointed to the lack of a Point of Sale accounting system and what she described as "no system of accountability to the taxpayers at all (at the park)...one person decided all of it. It was illegal to say the least."

She also said she "didn't join the board to be part of a pack, but we're following the law. It's right in front of us...the park board didn't even look at the (financial) claims a year ago."

She described the meeting's tone of criticism of the park board, which she said is trying to manage business "the right way" as "shameful."

Among those more supportive of the board's recent direction was Kathy Clark, who said she's "looking forward to a full-time, hands-on park director...we've needed that for several years."

She also pointed to the newness of the current makeup of the park board, which she emphasized is operating with legal advice and "moving forward from situations that have been here for a long time. I'm very pleased."

Clark praised the concerts in the park and expressed hope the new superintendent would carry on those events, or McKee might be brought back.

Sue McInturff questioned the purpose of the "town hall" meeting itself.

"This has turned into a complaint session with the same people making unfounded accusations about the park board," she said. "Without knowing the details of terminations, people can't state anything other than opinion."

McInturff also pointed out there had been complaints in the past from members of the public regarding the superintendent and past board members, but no public forum was held. She also noted it had been suggested the park board be abolished under its past makeup, "long before the new members came on, and the previous members were not doing their due diligence, but no meeting was held then."

"This is being made personal when there were issues for years (regarding) the superintendent and park board members."

area, a small handful -- sometimes as few as two or three -- have been in attendance most days.

"I would like to point out that if there (are) enough 60-plus (year old) seniors in Culver that (are) interested in joining us for lunch," adds Geiselman, "I will try to find a new location--after the Park Board says we have to move out--and find someone to cater food to us at low cost."

The final meal provided by REAL Services, which began serving Culver in January, 1993, will be served at the beach lodge at noon on Friday, Feb. 28.

She also cited recent, non-summer events such as the previous weekend's winter carnival as examples of endeavors not supported by the park superintendent or activities director, but instead requiring volunteer labor. She pointed to requests for help with the beach lodge-based haunted house during last October's Fall Fest, which were turned down by the superintendent and activities director, who instead organized a 5k run.

"We need someone who is proactive, engaged, and accountable to the citizens in the superintendent position," she added.

Marlene Mahler acknowledged she wasn't entirely comfortable with the manner in which Young was dismissed, "But nor do I like some of the things Kelly has done in the past. When I was township trustee, there was a huge problem that was brought to her and the board, but no follow-up."

Mahler added everyone has made mistakes, and both the current and past park boards "have done some good and bad things. This board is all new and they're doing all new things...but can I say they're doing them wrong?"

Mahler especially pushed back against the idea of the town council taking over the park, which she said would leave "the township out in the cold with no representation. We (township residents outside the town proper) pay taxes to the park board...I don't think that's fair."

Vernon Chmielewski Jr. suggested giving the current park board a year to prove its worth.

"I see passionate expertise; they have invited people onto sub-committees, and that's a good thing...if they can't do it in a year, put some red flags up and make a change."

## Speakers make suggestions for future

A few speakers expressed surprise at the direction of the meeting, noting it had been described as a forum for suggestions as to the future direction of the park.

Kim Amond Wright expressed concern that the piers utilized for boat slip rentals are "shoddy" and can be difficult to maneuver boats into. She also suggested they "seem to be encroaching on the beach" and could be limited in number.

Susie Mahler emphasized the importance of maintaining green space in the park, and also pressed for more non-summer activities, including opening the beach lodge in the winter. She suggested the concert series is unneeded since many residents flock to the park in the summertime already.

She also suggested utilizing the existing restroom in the depot rather than building a new restroom in the west pavilion.

## Baker from page 1

ished as The Shack's head cashier -- ever present on her stool -- until Dec. 31, 2005.

"I love it," she told the South Bend Tribune in a Nov. 4, 2003, article. "I have met so many nice people."

Those people include the late New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, who said in 2003 "There is only one Mary Baker, just as there is only one Culver. She is a very special, special and wonderful person, as good as any I have ever known."

In 1998, Richard W. Foster '61, as president of the Cul-



PHOTO/CULVER ACADEMIES ARCHIVES  
Mary Baker at the Shack in 1972.

ver Legion, presented Baker with a "long overdue" Culver ring and honorary Legion membership. Presented during the Alumni Reunion Weekend, those present gave Baker a standing ovation, according to the Culver Alumni Magazine.

Jeff Honzik, a 1965 summer Horsemanship graduate and, later, director of Horsemanship, told the Tribune Baker "was the heart and soul of the Shack."

The late Dean John Mars, who started at Culver shortly after Baker, told the Tribune, "For many cadets in those early years, it was not necessarily the allure of the food and opportunity for a break from the mess hall, it was the presence of this petite, pert and

pretty waitress, whose warmth of personality, charm and ingratiating smile captivated all who wandered into the Canteen.

"She is a legend of Culver, and old alumni may still return to visit her to recapture, for a moment, their youthful amorous thoughts," he added.

Baker said her importance in the lives of the Culver students was exaggerated.

"Most, I've enjoyed the kids," said in the 2003 interview. "I've had a lot of fun; we've had great conversations. I have enjoyed meeting students of all nationalities and joking around with them all."

*This article courtesy of news.culver.org. All attributed quotes come from the Nov. 4, 2003, South Bend Tribune article "Something about Mary."*

## Briefs from page 1

host a free community meal Sunday, March 2, starting at 6 p.m. Community meals are held on the first Sunday of each month at that time in the church basement. All are welcome.

### '2001' at book-film club March 5

"A Novel Approach," the book and film club at the Culver Union-Township Public Library, will meet Wednesday, March 5, at noon in the library's large meeting room downstairs. The book and movie will be "2001: A Space Odyssey," by Arthur C. Clarke. Copies of the selection are available for checkout and may be reserved by contacting the library at 574-842-2941. Patrons are encouraged to bring their lunch to eat while they enjoy the movie and the discussion afterwards.

### Movie night Wesley

Wesley United Methodist Church in Culver will hold a movie night Friday, February 28 at 6 p.m., showing

"Monsters University." This is open to everyone, and pizza, popcorn and drinks will be provided at no charge. Any questions, please contact Tracy Gordon, Director of Education at 574-842-2900. Wesley United Methodist Church 511 School Street in Culver.

### Balanced school calendar presentation March 12

A presentation on the possibility of a 'balanced calendar' schedule for Culver Comm. Schools will be given at a special meeting Weds., March 12 at Culver Comm. High School, at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

### Wesley seeks nursery worker

Wesley United Methodist Church in Culver is looking for a responsible and energetic nursery worker on Sundays from 8:30 11:30, and Tuesdays 6 to 7:30, \$15 per hour. This person must be 16 years or older. Anyone inter-

est ed please contact Tracy Gordon, Director of Education at 574-842-2900 or email at tracy@culverumc.com

### Children's dance classes move to library

"Dancing with Meagan" classes held previously at the Culver beach lodge each Tuesday and Thursday will continue, but relocated to the Culver Public Library at 107 N. Main Street, at 6:30 p.m. The classes are free and open to boys and girls ages 7-12.

### 'Catholicism, Coffee, & Current Events'

Topics of current interest and relevance through the lens of historic Christianity and Catholic teaching takes place Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the conference room of the Culver Coffee Company, Lake Shore Drive in Culver. All are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. Topics include: Pop culture (music, movies, and TV) and man's search for the "Good, the True, and the Beautiful" (Feb. 23), Current events open forum/Q&A (March 2), Consumerism in a hungry world - limits and responsibilities (March 9), Women, feminism, and the Church (March 16), Current events open forum/Q&A (April 6).

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## Obituaries

### Robert L. Cultice Sr.

June 16, 1929 – Feb. 22, 2014



CULVER — Robert L. Cultice Sr. went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 at Miller's Merry Manor in Culver.

Robert was born on June 16, 1929 in Culver, to Emmitt E. and Marie K. Smeltzer Cultice, who preceded him in death. He graduated from Culver High School in 1947 and attended Manchester College.

Robert married Frieda Streffling in Knox, on Nov. 14, 1953 and in the following years they were blessed with four children: Debra L. Miller of Culver; Robert L. Cultice Jr. (Denise) of North Judson; Katherine A. Cultice of Pompano Beach, Fla.; and Dennis E. Cultice (Kris) of Warsaw.

He is survived by six beloved grandchildren — Robert L. Cultice III (Rachel), Megan Evon, Elizabeth Miller, Kathleen Miller, Evan Cultice, and Ryan Cultice; six precious great-grandchildren — Ava, Charlotte, Nolan, and Olivia Cultice, Bryce Meeks, and Emma Evon; and Tiger (the dog). Several cousins include Jean Snyder, Joanne Lucas, Tom Cultice, Richard Cultice, Sondra Hubert, Terry Miller, and Jerry Miller.

Robert was drafted in 1951 and trained with the 101st Airborne Division at Camp Breckenridge in Owensboro, Ky., before being shipped out to Japan. From there, he went to Busan, Korea. While awaiting his assignment with the 8th Army, he was recommended to apply for a driver's job at the Army Headquarters.

After a thorough FBI check, Robert was cleared to drive for anyone, including the President of the United States, if needed. Turns out, he did. Robert was the driver for President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower in December 1952, and also Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, Lt. Col. James A. Van Fleet, and Syngman Rhee, President of South Korea. Robert was proud to serve his country and felt privileged to be a driver for President-elect Eisenhower. Robert received his honorable discharge in January 1953 and was part of Sen. Richard Lugar's Veterans History Project.

Robert was a local insurance agent for more than 50 years and owner of Insurance Services by Cultice; 28 of those years he was at the State Exchange Bank in Culver. He was a member of the Indiana Association of Life Insurance Agents, the South Bend Underwriters Association, and was on the Real Estate Planning Council of South Bend. Robert was a life insurance agent for Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, and in 1975 he achieved national distinction when he was ranked in the top one percent in the nation.

Robert served his community well. He was president and treasurer of the Lions Club, the Culver-Union Township United Fund, and the Culver Chamber of Commerce. He served as an officer of the Trinity Lutheran Church congregation, was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and was a lifetime member of the Culver VFW Post 6919. He was also the secretary-treasurer of the Maxinkuckee Country Club and was on the board of directors of the American Lung Association for Northern Indiana.

Robert and his wife are Charter Members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Culver.

Visitation was from 4 – 8 p.m. EST on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014 in the JOHNSON-DANIELSON FUNERAL HOME, 1100 N. Michigan St., Plymouth.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014 at 11 a.m. EST at TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 330 Academy Road, Culver, where visitation resumed at 10 a.m. The Rev. K. C. Dehning, pastor officiated. Military Honors provided by the CULVER VFW POST 6919 followed at the church.

Burial is in the CULVER MASONIC CEMETERY.

The family would also like to express their deep-felt gratitude to the staff at Miller's Merry Manor, Dr. Warren K. Reiss, Dr. Michael F. Deery, and Dr. Szabolcs Szabo.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 330 Academy Road, Culver, IN 46511 or in Robert's name to Manchester University, 604 E. College Ave. P.O. Box 365, N. Manchester, IN 46962-0365.

Notes of condolence may be sent to the family through the website: [www.johnson-danielson.com](http://www.johnson-danielson.com)

## 10-year-old whose cancer battle inspired Culver, beyond mourned by many



By Cheryl Patrick  
KNOX — Korie Howard, 10, of Knox, lost her battle against cancer Thursday, Feb. 20.

Korie's fight against stage 4 osteosarcoma touched people all over the world, including many in Culver, where her mother, Amber, works at Miller's Merry Manor.

The "Fight Like a Girl Korie" slogan was visible at a number

of Culver businesses and entities, as well as in Starke County, Plymouth, and beyond.

Howard's story inspired others battling illness and even some who had overcome great obstacles. Amanda Sullivan, a handicapped runner from New York City participated in the Spartan race giving praise to Howard for the inspiration she had given so many. Korie Howard received a photo from Sullivan with her tripecta medal.

A benefit held at the Washington Township Community Center was attended by hundreds.

Culver's Tim Yuhas was among many who made a huge personal contribution at Korie's benefit by putting himself on the auction block, liter-

See Howard page 6

### Miss Virginia Ford

Aug. 8, 1926 - Feb. 17, 2014

WINTER PARK, Fla. — Miss Virginia Ford, 87, of Winter Park, Fla., died at 2:33 p.m., Monday, Feb. 17, 2014 at Winter Park Memorial Hospital. She was born Aug. 8, 1926 in Wabash to Wilbur Edwin and Florence Gertrude (Jeup) Ford. She maintained residences in Winter Park and at Lake Maxinkuckee, Culver, where she was a long-time resident. Her parents and two brothers preceded her in death: Stanley W. (1928-1978) and David J. (1929-1979). Surviving are a brother, Richard E., and sister-in-law, Mrs. Stanley Ford (Marilyn Hansen), and three nephews, Steven R. (Lisa), Daniel H. (Tammy) and Mark S. (Amy) and seven grandnieces and grandnephews.

Miss Ford was a 1944 graduate of Wabash High School and graduated from Wellesley College in 1948 with an A.B. degree in economics. Following graduation, she worked for a short time at the Ford Meter Box Company, Wabash, before joining the Market Research Department of Procter & Gamble. She later became head of hiring for the researchers in that department.

A principal interest was music; she played the cello in her college orchestra, and later supported several arts organizations including the Orlando Opera and the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. She gave her cello to an inner-city school in Orlando to encourage its string program, with the hope that the students would enjoy the rapture she had found in music. She also helped support the Winter Park Public Library, the Negro Spiritual Scholarship Foundation, and she delivered Meals on Wheels for many years.

Miss Ford was an active alumna of Wellesley College, serving terms as class representative and endowing scholarship funds in memory of her mother and Dr. Mary M. Crawford, both class of '22. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Winter Park and she served as Trustee of the Charley Creek Foundation in Wabash.

Memorial services will be held in Winter Park and in Wabash, at a later date. Following cremation, she will be buried in Falls Cemetery, Wabash. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Charley Creek Foundation, P.O. Box 454, Wabash, IN 46992, or the Fund for the Preservation of Culver Academies History, 1300 Academy Road, Culver, IN 46511.

Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave., Wabash.

The memorial guestbook for Miss Ford may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

### Mary Ellen Baker

Oct. 20, 1923 – Feb. 18, 2014



CULVER — Mary Ellen Baker, 90, passed away peacefully on Tuesday morning, Feb. 18, 2014 at the Miller's Merry Manor in Culver.

Mary, daughter of Margaret McCoy and Paul R. Day, was born in Akron on Oct. 20, 1923. She spent her early years growing up on the family farm near Leiters Ford and she was a 1941 graduate of Aubbeenaubee High School. Following graduation she moved to Cul-

ver and began working at the Culver Military Academy where she worked for the next 63 years at the Canteen, Culver Inn and the Shack, and the Lay Center Snack Bar. Her fondest memories included those of the cadets and the girls who attended the summer and winter schools, their families, and the faculty and staff who frequented the campus over the years. She especially looked forward to alumni weekends, events and family camps as an opportunity to see the kids again and meet their families. She loved everything about the school, particularly the Black Horse Troop and the Summer School Parades. Mary was a lifetime member of the Culver Finney-Shilling VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 6919 and the Culver United Methodist Church.

Mary leaves her brother Francis Day of Culver, her son Jim and Deborah Baker of Atlanta, Ga., and grandchildren Peter Lanno of Ft. Gordon, Ga. and Candace and Mike White of Jacksonville, Fla. Mary was preceded by her parents and her sister.

A time of visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 21, 2014 from 1 – 3 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 511 School St., Culver with the service to follow at 3 p.m. Burial will follow at Culver Masonic Cemetery.

Memorials may be given in Mary's name to Miller's Merry Manor in Culver.

Condolences 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.

## Lawson from page 1

wife Rita taught at the elementary school through 2005. Rita died in 2010.

In a 2011 interview, Lawson reflected on how the structural and societal changes he'd witnessed throughout his teaching career have altered the teaching profession. Lawson witnessed a number of profound changes to the Culver school system—such as the 1968 consolidation with Monterey and Leiter's Ford, the institutionalization and growth of standardized testing, and a changing parent-teacher relationship.

Lawson said he was inspired to become an educator by his 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Swickman. While attending school in a two-room schoolhouse in Beard, Indiana, he was one of a few students who lived close enough to go home for lunch. The day FDR died, he heard about it at lunch, and immediately ran back to school to tell his politically minded teacher. "She just sat down at her desk and cried," recalled Lawson. "That really affected me. That she could do that. That she cared about things."

Reflecting on the consolidation of Culver schools, Lawson noted that the increase in size allowed Culver to offer some additional courses, without sacrificing the closeness and community afforded by its small size, similar to what he'd experienced in high school.

Lawson got his first introduction to standardized testing in 1990, when Culver schools began spending a week on testing. He noted that the tests reduced the amount of control of teachers over their curriculums. Not only were days and weeks cut out of the curriculum to devote to test taking, but the universalized standards meant that teachers were under pressure to teach to a single standard. "It was very difficult. We were restricted as to some of the things [we could do]. The intent was to make every class do the exact same thing in the state of Indiana," said Lawson. Although he acknowledges the intent behind standardized testing, he feels that these standards ignored regional, local, and individual specificities. For example, the needs and realities of learning and future employment are very different for a rural place like Culver than for an urban area.

Lawson is a firm believer in the role of the school in preparing students for their specific realities. As yearbook editor, he encouraged his students to keep the yearbook financially self-sufficient by selling advertisements local businessmen. "I thought it would give the students an opportunity to learn salesmanship. They found that selling was not easy. But it did do some good in helping the students learn usable trades. I tried to get them to think independently," said Lawson.

For Lawson, the most dramatic changes in the education system over his career are a factor of changes in the culture of American life, particularly changes within families. As the oldest child among six, Lawson had certain responsibilities growing up. When he was in school, resources tended to be pooled towards the eldest son, and it was

expected that the majority of students would become laborers. Today, he notes, the expectation of college is much higher for a larger proportion of students, including girls.

"In the last half a century we've altered our culture. The family structure has altered and that's changed what we need from our schools," said Lawson. "You have a situation where somebody has to have the responsibility for ensuring that the right thing is done. [This was] once done between the school and parent."

Lawson relayed an anecdote to illustrate his point about how changing family structures has changed schools. When he was a young teacher, a father burst in to his classroom during study hall and said "I need to talk to you." His son had recently gotten in trouble and had apparently told his parents a much-altered version of what had happened. Once Lawson explained to the parent what had really happened, the father apologized on behalf of the student and promised that he his son would see a consequence for his actions. Lawson believes this situation would be resolved in a very different manner today. "Parents aren't involved enough to get the whole story," he said.

Illustrating what he sees as a decline in parental involvement in education, he recalled that the senior class used to take a 10-day trip. It was a huge production that was only possible through the combined efforts of the parents. In order to raise money for the trip, the parents worked together to host ham suppers. "This was just one example," said Lawson, noting that today there are very few activities which actively involve parents in the life of the school. The changing role of technology in the lives of students has also altered the way parents interact with the schools. The fact that high school students are now given an iPad "alters the relationship with parents. Now Mom and Dad can't help with homework because Mom and Dad can't use an [iPad]."

Lawson's unique and impassioned teaching evidently had an impact on his former students, who remember him fondly. "You could hear him whistling all through the school. It would sound like three people whistling," recalled former student Tina Montgomery. She said Lawson blended right in because he was smaller than many students. "He was easy to talk to. He was a different kind of teacher," said Montgomery.

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# The surprising status of Culver's seniors

This week's *Culver Citizen*, unfortunately, is chock full of less-than-cheerful news. I'm not referring to the conflict-laden 'town hall meeting' regarding Culver's park last week (though in many ways that qualifies!), but rather to our obituary page -- which not only includes coverage of the sad passing of 10-year-old Korie Howard, but whose other names read like a 'who's who' of Culver luminaries of their time: Mary Baker, Bob Cultice, and Virginia Ford. If that isn't enough, page 1 features the departure from Culver of a man whose name seems, to many of us, simply synonymous with Culver itself: longtime local high school teacher Latham Lawson.

Latham's moving back to his childhood home in central Indiana came at a time when I was contemplating several issues, not least of which is the community-within-a-community that is Culver's senior citizen population.

I can't speak for others, but I often think of Latham in a similar vein to that generation of Culver leaders who are now retired but continued to stay here, in some cases as community servants of one sort or another. I'm reminded of examples such as (to name a few) Jim and Rosalie Bonine, Ed and Lora Pinder, Andy Venum...and among those departed, folks like Ron Tusing and others.

A side note to that generation of businesspeople and leaders of yore, perhaps interesting in light of the ongoing debate over 'outsiders' coming in to Culver and -- in some cases -- operating businesses and allegedly changing the culture of Culver (a recent hot topic in some circles), is that the names above (including Latham) all came from parts elsewhere, put down roots here, and became, for many of us so quintessentially "Culver" that it's hard to imagine the community without them.

You can see how Latham's departure to what was actually his pre-Culver home got me thinking along these lines: Culver seems less "Culver" without him, yet he was at one time a "newcomer" here. Interesting to contemplate.

But all of this, more broadly, connects with something about which I've had several conversations in recent days and weeks: the interesting status of senior citizens in Culver.

Perhaps the most prominent manner this came to my attention lately was speaking with both Cecelia Mormoni (site director at Culver's REAL Meals nutrition program, which meets weekdays at the beach lodge) and Jeanette Geiselman, long an assistant at the site.

Both were discussing the question of how to attract more seniors to attend REAL Meals, which one could argue became a moot point with the announcement last week that the program is being shut down (as of Feb. 28) by its sponsoring organization, REAL Services of St. Joseph County.

For the record, something many of us didn't realize until it came to the fore in conjunction with the park board's

decision late last year to vacate the beach lodge, REAL Meals is only the food service component serving the much longer-lived Golden Agers group, which dates back to the 1970s here.

What was especially interesting to me -- and is the real point of all this -- is how much attendance at REAL Meals had dwindled in recent months and years, and the implications of that fact regarding Culver as a community.

My relationship with REAL Meals in Culver began in 2004 when I accompanied then-library director Scott Pletka to a REAL Meals gathering to update the seniors there on what was new at the Culver Public Library. At the time, perhaps 15 to 20 seniors were in attendance. We were invited back, which gradually evolved into my speaking monthly at the site, usually on a Culver history topic, starting around 2005 and continuing to the present.

Through those years, the number of seniors gradually dwindled: someone passing away here, someone moving away or becoming too infirm to attend there. By late 2013, following the retirement of former site director Ruth Walker, the numbers were at two or three, which usually counter Ruth herself and Jeanette.

It's interesting to note, as I did in discussing the matter with Jeanette and Cecelia, that Culver is considered increasingly a "retirement oriented" community, chock full of seniors (it's the under 40 crowd that's more scarce and the under 20 crowd that's a true rarity!). So the question became: why is it that Culver's seniors for years were quite interested in a regular lunchtime gathering for socialization and fraternization, but none have moved in to replace those who gradually slipped away from the group?

Certainly some of the answer lies in the changing nature of entertainment, socialization, and mobility in America.

We know that we're a more mobile culture, less likely to gather simply to eat and speak with one another, what with plenty of entertainment and socialization options at home. But we're also aware, from information provided by REAL Services and other entities, that the program is quite different in many surrounding communities, which retain fairly steady and robust numbers of seniors in attendance.

Instead, I'd suggest this all gets at some interesting and unusual angles to Culver and its own senior population. A few other tidbits to help paint a fuller picture:

After some effort to get the service rolling, the "Community Cab" provided by the Marshall County Council on Ageing specifically designated to transport seniors around Culver, remains virtually without customers -- and that's



## View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney  
Editor

after months and months of running news of it in the Culver Citizen, and its having been made very available here all through last summer and fall.

Interestingly, a number of respondents to a community survey sent out by the town of Culver listed the Community Cab as an important service they wished to see come to fruition for our senior citizens. This tells me that our collective perception of our senior citizen population is quite different from its reality.

A few other facts: while most of us thought there would be something of a mad stampede of local applicants to fill the brand new Garden Court senior living facility on South Main Street, in fact there are still vacancies after a few years of its existence.

I was approached by a resident of the senior citizen apartments on Forest Place at the north end of town who is quite fond of the apartments there (as most who live there seem to be), but who noted there are several apartments which have remained vacant for an oddly lengthy period of time. Again, while the apartments there may not be luxury condos, I've never heard it suggested they're anything other than perfectly fine, certainly clean residences. So again: spaces for seniors but, in a town full of seniors, no one to fill them.

Some of this may be gotten at by a comment made by town council president Ginny Munroe during a recent council meeting. She was remarking on her efforts to follow up with seniors around town during our recent bouts of extremely cold and snowy weather, to be sure they were staying warm, fed, and safe.

What she found, somewhat to her surprise, I believe, was that every one of the folks she called already had someone to look after them and care for their needs, be it a family member, friend, or fellow church member.

I commented to both Cecelia and Jeanette that I know where at least a number of Culver's senior ladies are most days, especially in decent weather: they're out each morning, as a group, walking through Culver. Another several who don't walk still choose to join the group -- which often welcomes similar-aged ladies recently moved to Culver into its fold -- at one of several eateries, each one assigned to a particular day of the week (in fact, even in poor weather, several members of that group are either still walking outdoors or can be found walking at an indoor site where they graciously make space for me as I jog by them several mornings a week).

My suggestion to Cecelia and Jeanette was based on the only conclusion I could come to: many of Culver's senior folks already have socialization lined up, and many may be sipping coffee at one of several local businesses, or enjoying tacos at the VFW for lunch.

That's not to say Cul-

See View page 6

## Letter to the editor

### Consider safety in marking storm drains, shoveling

I think the city needs to do a better job of flagging/marketing the deep storm drains. I was walking my dog Sunday and ran over one that I didn't see due to it being covered in snow and ice with my powerchair at the corner of Lakeview and College, getting myself badly stuck in the process. Luckily after about 20 minutes, a wonderful good samaritan who was getting out of his car heard my pleas for help and was able to get me out. Incidentally I

had at least three cars pass me without stopping, with my arms flailing trying get some help. To that awesome man that helped me, thank you so much.

On a separate note, ever since the last few snows, the wonderful sidewalk going from the dentist office across Academy-owned property and ending on Monterey Bank land that takes those that can't/don't drive safely to the Park N Shop has remained once again unusable by the

very people that need it the most, when it's needed the most. You would think between all those businesses that somebody could maintain that one sidewalk.

**Kim Burdick**  
Culver

### Issues with beach lodge invite further examination

year basis. I checked with my deputy clerk and former Park Board president who agreed that the lease was intended for 99 years. I understand that has been changed but we should be eternally grateful to the Lions Club for their efforts to maintain this depot in its original construction.

This leads me to the concern for another historic park building, the Culver Beach Lodge. When Bill and Margaret Washburn were in charge, it became a local meeting place for all ages. There was a juke box, pool table, etc. and often, meetings of local organizations. Washburns lived there in the summer and in the winter, opened the "Barn" on School St. to maintain a place for teenagers to "hang out". The summers were full of activity at the beach and park area. There were even band concerts and boat races which drew large crowds to the park and benefited local merchants.

As an elected official, I believe our duties are to our taxpayers, town and township, to insure all tax dollars are spent wisely and to the welfare and safety of the citizens. Our department heads are responsible to maintain our buildings and equipment and report accordingly to the governing board of any issues.

There are some possible structural issues with the Beach Lodge. Although we paid over \$400 for eight light bulbs and "winterizing" a pipe broke and water was pouring through a crack in the upper balcony. The fireplace and pavilion chimneys are plugged and although we don't use the Beach Lodge fireplace anymore, the pavilion grills are used and the chimneys should be checked on a regular basis. I was told by a local contractor, that possibly, the roof needs repair.

I would urge everyone to read John Helphrey's financial report as it is pertinent to the money flow.

My suggestion is that we ask a structural expert, one with historical history) to inspect the building and report. If we can spend \$8,000 to prepare a budget when there is a perfectly fine computer program designed by the State Board of Accounts to assist in the process, plus the countless thousands spent on sinking piers, etc., surely we can afford a review of this most important historical building.

When I was barely a teenager, I worked for a short while for Leo and Essie Butler at the old Culver Cafe. They had a sign that said, "Wherever be your journey, wherever you may go, keep your eye upon the donut and not upon the hole". At the time, I couldn't figure out what that meant, but with age, I realize it was a very fine proverb to remember.

Thank you all for listening,

**Bobetta Ruhnnow**  
Union Township Advisory Board

## Culver tops Knox in NSC match-up

By James Costello  
Sports Editor



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO

Culver's Trent Elliott directs traffic during a game with Knox.

KNOX — Trent Elliott alone is tough for any team to handle. When both he and teammate Jacoda Anderson are hitting, the Cavs can be downright hard to stop.

Elliott scored a game-high 26, Anderson finished with 16, and Culver Community handed host Knox a 52-35 Northern State Conference loss in Knox Friday night.

“It’s a good one-two punch. We just haven’t been consistent in utilizing that one-two punch as consistently as we can,” said Culver head coach Kyle Elliott.

“We need Trent and Jacoda to be able to step up their game and be able to play at a high level. They’re two seniors that have played a lot of basketball, and they need to be able to take the team on their shoulders and lead us to where we want to be at.”

The duo combined for 21 of their team’s 24 first-half points as the Cavs doubled up the Redskins 24-12 in the first half.

Knox ran back at Culver in the second half, cutting its deficit down to single digits twice, but the Redskins never got closer than eight in the loss.

“Culver’s a really good team. Our kids

came out and fought hard and competed, we just came up a little short,” said Knox head coach Mark Victor.

The loss came on the heels of the Redskins’ first win of the year over Bremen in an overtime NSC match-up last Saturday.

Knox started a little slow in its first foray back onto the court after the emotional win as Culver ran out to a 16-8 lead at the first quarter break.

Leave alone the win, the Cavs were just happy to get a game in after their road trip to South Central (Union Mills) was called at the last moment Thursday night.

“First of all we were just glad to get to play. We drive all the way to South Central last night, and we’re five minutes from the school and we get the call that the game’s been cancelled,” said Kyle Elliott. “So you end up with no practice, no game. We just can’t seem to build a rhythm here as the season’s winding down, and that’s what you want to be doing.”

While Trent Elliott and Anderson led Culver, Knox was paced by Jeremy Crittendon’s 19 and Jordan Anderson’s 10.

Knox slides to 1-16 overall and 1-5 in the NSC with Friday’s loss. Culver moves to 11-6 with a 2-4 conference mark.

“The way the season’s winding down here we’ve got three practices and three games. You like to be able to slow down a little bit and really work in practice on cleaning things up and so on, but the way the calendar has played out here, we’re not going to get that,” said Culver’s boss. “We’ve rescheduled South Central here for Monday, so we’ll travel over there again, and then we’ve got Caston on Thursday and then finish up with a tough conference game against a Bremen team that’s very hungry. We’ve got a lot to play for as this season winds down.”

• CULVER COMMUNITY 52,  
KNOX 35  
At Knox

## Pilgrims down CMA on Senior Night

By James Costello  
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth’s 6-9 Belmont-bound senior and star forward Mack Mercer charged out of the gates Feb. 18 with nine first-quarter points on his way to a game-high 26 and putting in a stellar defensive performance on Culver Military’s Devonte Campbell on the other end of the floor to lead his team to a 55-50 rebound win over the Eagles on Senior Night at The Rock.

“He’s 6-9, possibly an Indiana All-Star; he was a Junior All-Star core player. He’s really good; I mean 26 points,” said CMA coach Mark Galloway. “I thought he did a good job, but when he’s off the court we need to take advantage of that, and we didn’t.”

Mercer’s performance was all the more impressive for the fact that he sat out the entire second quarter in foul trouble.

Josh Anders was also sidelined with two fouls during a large stretch of the first half, and the Eagles jumped out to a 20-16 lead during the span, but Plymouth got solid minutes from reserves Tyler England and Jack Barron, and senior Tom Felke knocked down a pair of 3s during a 12-0 Pilgrims spurt that saw the home team take a 26-20 lead into halftime.

“Plymouth is well-coached. It was Senior Night, and those seniors in that second quarter did a good job of making shots,” Galloway said. “They made 3s, they got the momentum, and any time you can get momentum on your side on Senior Night with the crowd — I’ve got to give them a lot of credit for what they did.”

CMA may have been down, but the Eagles weren’t out yet. They tied it up twice during the third period and took the lead early in the fourth on back-to-back 3s from Nick Zalduendo to go up 44-42 with 7:09 to play.

The final frame saw a trio of lead changes as the two teams battled back and forth, but Plymouth took the lead for good on Mercer’s offensive rebound and pair of free throws with 1:06 on the clock. A Zalduendo 3 rattled in and out of the basket on the other end, and Mercer knocked down another pair of charity tosses in the bonus with 15.2 seconds remaining to push his team out to a 53-50 advantage. Sam Concannon missed another 3 from the wing, and Felke converted another one-and-one with 3.2 seconds left to put the game out of reach and seal the Senior Night win.

While Mercer led Plymouth with 26, and Felke finished with 16, CMA was led by junior guard Elijah Miller’s stellar 21 points. Campbell finished well below his average with 13 as the Eagles played without usual starter Eljay Murray and sixth man James Van Pelt.

“He’s had a lot of big games where he got to the basket,” said Galloway of Miller. “I thought many, many times he got in the lane, and you’ve got to go up stronger if you’re getting a little bit of contact, but he’ll play through that and get better. He’s a relentless worker, so he’ll not only get better this year but next year. I’m very proud of his effort.”

The Eagles fall to 10-5 with the loss and will play Fort Wayne Canterbury Friday and Mishawaka Marian Saturday. Plymouth improves to 7-10.

• PLYMOUTH 55,  
CULVER MILITARY 50  
At Plymouth

## State basketball tournament draws

Teams were drawn Sunday and placed into brackets for the 104th Annual IHSAA Boys Basketball State Tournament presented by the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever. Sectional games are scheduled to begin Tuesday, March 4, and run through Saturday, March 8, with the regional round slated for March 15 and semistates on March 22. The four state championship games that make up the state finals will be played at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on March 29. Below are brackets for play involving Culver teams.

**Class 3A**  
At Jimtown  
Tuesday, March 4  
Jimtown vs. Marian, 6

See Tournament page 6

## CMA 2nd, Plymouth 11th at Warsaw Sectional

By James Costello  
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — Saturday’s Warsaw swim sectional finals had the feeling of a foregone conclusion.

The host Tigers dominated with wins in eight different events and several record-breaking performances en route to 515 team points, while Culver Military was forced to settle for second with 307 points.

“We were unsure how the team would do on Thursday because we had a break — we had five days off — so coming in with the times where we were seeded, we were looking at somewhere between second, third and fourth,” said CMA head swim coach Cali Girard. “Our boys knew they needed to put in some speed on Thursday if they wanted to get second. And Thursday, I think all but one kid had best times. The boys took it seriously and knew what they wanted to do for Saturday... They did a great job today and wanted to earn second place, and they did.”

The Eagles’ top finish came in the 50 free, where junior Grant Ralston clocked a 22.48 to finish in third place behind Rochester’s Patrick Kays and Warsaw’s Specner Davidson. Ralston also placed fourth in the 100 free with a time of 50.74.

“Grant Ralston was our best chance at going to state. This year it just didn’t come out, but the 50 free and the 100 free it’s who has the best start that day. I think we did a great job. I know he’s not super happy with the way it went, but he competed and I think he is at the top level at this sectional,” Girard said.

CMA’s 200 medley really of Nolan Kolden, Johnny Young, Ian Bardwell and Ralston also placed third in their event in 1:48.40,



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO

CMA’s Grant Ralston swims the final leg of the 400 freestyle relay at the Warsaw Swim Sectional finals Saturday.

while the squad’s 200 free relay team of Young, Jose Bravo, Cole Reavill and Santiago Aguirre was fourth in 1:38.91, and Bardwell, Bravo, Aguirre and Ralston finished third in the 400 free relay in 3:32.11, better than eight seconds faster than their prelim time Thursday.

“We lost a lot of boys last year that went to state. We actually lost some to sports within the school,” said Girard of her team’s season. “Coming in they were really

See CMA page 6

unsure of what kind of team



PHOTO PROVIDED

## A caterpillar for all seasons?

Culver Community Middle School students Brianna Minix (right) and Isabelle Ahlenius took advantage of the snow day Feb. 18 (which started out rough after several inches of snowfall but tapered into the more pleasant weather visible above) for a twist on the traditional winter snowman: a snow caterpillar, suitable – as can be seen above – for snowy rides. Ahlenius' mother, Jean Ahlenius, is a second grade teacher at Culver Elementary School.

## Correction - clarification

The Culver Citizen would like to clarify information presented in an article in the Feb. 20 edition of the paper: "Alcohol in the park among topics at Feb. 11 council meeting." In the article, which included discussion of Lakehouse Grille owner Mark Damore Jr's request to serve beer and wine at a Feb. 15 event at the Culver park depot, it was reported that "(Town marshal Wayne) Bean said Damore's liquor license didn't meet county excise requirements making it legal for him to serve alcohol outside his restaurant anyway." Damore has clarified that his liquor license does, in fact, allow him to serve alcohol outside the walls of the Lakehouse Grille. The timing of application with the county excise department to serve at the Feb. 15 event, however, was very close to filing deadline. It should also be noted that Bean affirmed the issue was a moot one due to excise complications, rather than Bean having commented on the status of Damore's license.

## Friday night a short one for Hogan, other area wrestlers

By Tim Creason  
Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS — Friday was a short night for local athletes at the 76th annual IH-SAA state wrestling finals.

Culver Academies senior Edmond Hogan, as well as Bremen heavyweight Caleb Coffel, and John Glenn junior Adam Dodson each dropped first-round matches at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Hogan had a 6-3 lead over Nick Borta of North Montgomery in the third period of their opener at 160 pounds. But Borta caught Hogan in a power move and got the fall in 5:11. Hogan ends his season at 41-5.

### Boys basketball

#### Hansel powers Culver

Preston Hansel poured in 27 points with 11 rebounds, and Culver Community beat visiting Clinton Christian 71-52 on Tuesday night.

Jacoda Anderson put up 19, Everett Krueger scored 13, and Trent Elliott finished with 12 points as the Cavaliers racked up 19 assists in the win.

Clinton was paced by Benson Yoder's 15 and Madison Yoder's 13 in the loss.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 71, CLINTON CHRISTIAN 52  
At Culver

## Tournament from page 5

Friday, March 7 Culver Military vs. Jim-	Glenn vs. SB St. Joseph, 7:30	vis, 8 Friday, March 7 Triton vs. LaCrosse-Cul-
town-	<b>CLASS A</b>	ver
Marian winner, 6	At Culver	winner, 6:30
Rochester vs. Glenn-SB	Tuesday, March 4	Argos vs. South Central-
St.	LaCrosse vs. Culver,	Oregon-Davis winner, 8
Joseph winner, 7:30	6:30; South	Saturday, March 8
Saturday, March 8	Central vs. Oregon-Da-	Championship, 7
Championship, 7:30		

## CMA from page 5

we were going to have and what they could do, and I've been really proud of them because they've come together as a brand new team — half the team at least is new — and put together something that, at the end of the season they can walk away with second place, which is nothing to be ashamed of."

Meanwhile at Saturday's Warsaw Sectional, Plymouth placed 11th with 54.5 points.

The team was led individually by C.C. Bastardo, who claimed 14th in the 50 free and 13th in the 100 free, as well as Matthew Pearson, who was 14th in both the butterfly and the 500 free.

Connor Matthews finished seventh in the dive competition, with a lifetime-best 251.9 score in his first sectional competition.

Plymouth and CMA both close out their team seasons with Saturday's finish at the Warsaw finals. It was one to grow on for the Pilgrims.

• WARSAW BOYS SWIM SECTIONAL  
At Warsaw

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. WARSAW 515, 2. CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 307, 3. ROCHESTER 288, 4. COLUMBIA CITY 199, 5. HUNTINGTON NORTH 161, 6. LOGANSPORT 160.5, 7. PIONEER 152, 8. LEWIS CASS 138, 9. MANCHESTER 105, 10. TIPPECANOE VALLEY 66, 11. PLYMOUTH 54.5, 12. WABASH 51.

## Free income tax return filing assistance at CUTPL

The Culver-Union Township Public Library will host IRS certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers, who will offer free tax return filing appointments Wednesdays from March 5 through April 9. This free program is sponsored by the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. Appointments will be one hour long, and available times are 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. The appointments will take place in the small meeting room on the lower level of the library. To make an appointment, please stop by the circulation desk or call the library at 574-842-2941.

Please bring the following applicable items to the appointment: Photo ID for you and your spouse, Social Security card for you and your spouse, your 2012 tax return, Social Security statements, and any pertinent tax related forms that you have received. Some restrictions do apply.

Appointment times are filling up fast, so please make your appointment before it's too late. For questions, please contact Reference/Adult Services Librarian Laura Jones at ljones@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941. The library street address is 107 N. Main St, Culver, IN 46511.

## View from page 4

ver's seniors don't have their particular wishes or needs, on which the community might focus. To some extent I think at least a few of their concerns were reflected in talks last spring and summer towards Culver's comprehensive plan (the majority of those who most actively participated, if they'll pardon my saying so, probably qualified as senior citizens, though I hasten to point out that not all were!).

So I bid REAL Meals an affectionate farewell. Whatever the reasons, the program appeared to no longer be perceived as necessary for a number of local seniors. I have a great affinity for all the good people I met there over the years, who I hope to see elsewhere in the community. It's my sincere hope that those who were being served by the program at the end of its time here will find ways to stay active and connected to others.

If all of the rambling observations above serve no other purpose, perhaps its to encourage us as a community, in our planning and strategy, not to make assumptions about what programs and services might fill a need for local seniors. Many appear not to fit the proverbial mold, and their needs just might defy some of our expectations.

Keep up with the latest online at  
[www.culvercitizen.com](http://www.culvercitizen.com)  
 and  
[facebook.com/culvercitizen](https://facebook.com/culvercitizen)

## Farewell from page 1

graduation from Indiana State, where he met his wife, the late Rita (the two wed in 1958; she passed away in 2010).

Latham Lawson will perhaps best be remembered for his 39 years of teaching history at Culver High School (later Culver Community High School), where he was famous for his quick wit and acrobatic theatrics.

Besides a variety of service through volunteering, serving on Culver's park board, and his many roles at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Culver, Kiwanis president Larry Brockey noted Lawson first joined the club during its second year of existence, holding a variety of positions with the club (including president), over the next 17 years.

Lawson explored his years as an educator in a 2011 interview with Rachel Meade, which is printed on page 1.

## Howard from page 2

ally. Highest bidder Kelly Graham received a date with Yuhas (the date auction raised \$200 for the family).

President Barack Obama, the cast of "Chicago Fire," the Indianapolis Colts, the Chicago Bears and Taylor Swift each sent Howard a care package.

Hundreds packed the Knox High School gymnasium for Howard's viewing Saturday, Feb. 22 and her funeral services Sunday, also at the high school.

Korie is survived by her parents, David Howard and Amber (Stacy) Howard; brothers and sisters: Paige Howard, Landon Howard, Evan Blankenship and Elliot Blankenship all of Knox, and Tre Blankenship and Dharma Blankenship of Culver; grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

The little girl who touched the hearts of thousands around the world was laid to rest Sunday afternoon in Fletcher Cemetery in Hamlet.

## Fantasticks from page 1



PHOTO PROVIDED

'The Fantasticks' will be performed March 10 at Culver Academies.

being re-written or changed in any way. Outside of the costumes, set and props, this show is, in its entirety, the original.

"It's classical simplicity. It's not a contemporary character tale. It's about a boy who is overly in love with a girl. [Their] fathers are trying to keep them together by pulling them apart," Beck said. "Steampunk seems to lend itself to this story by finding beauty among the broken pieces."

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance are available through the Culver Academies Theatre Department.

People interested in purchasing tickets may do so by calling (574) 842-7058 or emailing Marsha Coven (Marsha.Coven@culver.org). Tickets are also available at the Steinbrenner Performing Arts Center Box Office from 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the Eppley Auditorium Box Office one hour before the performance.

*This article appears courtesy news.culver.org.*

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## Park from page 1

was actually constructed.

**Aug. 25:** Audience members Connie Van Horn and Margaret Dehne were among those addressing Culver's town council regarding the funds. When it was suggested they attend a park board meeting to discuss the issue, both women indicated park board meetings are often canceled due to lack of a quorum of board members, adding board members shouldn't serve if they can't attend meetings.

**Oct. 28:** Heated discussion took place at Culver's town council meeting regarding the playground project and what a number of audience members characterized as a lack of accountability and transparency on the park board.

Audience member Teresa Yuhas also suggested park superintendent Kelly Young made statements as to why the original playground design company was dropped which, when Yuhas contacted the company, proved to be incorrect.

Members of the town council, whose president had sent letters to each park board member asking them to attend the council meeting (some audience criticism was directed at park board president Ed Behnke for his absence) also expressed concern, and said they would attend the next park board meeting. It was also noted by council member Lynn Overmyer that superintendent Young had been directed by the park board president not to appear at the council meeting, which the town attorney said was illegal.

**Nov. 4:** The town hall meeting room was standing-room-only for the park board's monthly meeting, during which a number of residents asked for refunds and demanded accountability for donated funds collected.

Again several audience and council members in attendance criticized what they deemed a lack of accountability and fiscal responsibility on the part of the park board.

**Dec. 2:** The park board meeting was again marked by heated debate between members of the audience and some park board members, particularly park board president Ed Behnke, who at one point stood up to leave the meeting in apparent frustration. Audience member Mike Stallings suggested the meeting was a "kangaroo court" and asked Behnke why he was "evasive" with the public.

Behnke said park board members didn't have financial details memorized and would need time to gather information, eliciting the suggestion from audience member Tom Kearns that the park board consider a "simple computer program" to track finances. The notion of computerized accounting would be a continuous issue of controversy even through the end of 2013.

At the same meeting, the board voted to restore free beach passes to pier slip renters after Teresa Yuhas claimed Young failed to inform her family that beach passes had, for a time, been available for free for all renters (that policy had been rescinded earlier in 2009).

It was also suggested by Connie Van Horn and Lynn Overmyer that the park board begin tape recording its meetings, with Overmyer saying a number of topics of deep discussion never appeared in the park board's official minutes (Behnke noted such discussion isn't required to be recorded in the minutes).

### 2010:

**Jan. 6:** In regards to ongoing discussion about tape recording park board meetings, town clerk Casey Howard suggested the board purchase a digital tape recorder similar to what the town council uses. Howard also said he created a spreadsheet to better track park finances, in response to ongoing debate in the wake of the fence picket controversy.

**March 3:** Park board members debated whether to use a digital tape recorder donated by audience member Teresa Yuhas to record their meetings, with park board president Ed Behnke countering that paper minutes were legal and sufficient, and park board member Ed Pinder Jr. noting documentation by tape recorder had been very helpful in his past work as a police officer. He and Shaffer voted to use the tape recorder but were outvoted by fellow park board members peg Schuldt, Behnke, and Bean. Several audience members, including Yuhas, reacted negatively to the decision, with Yuhas adding, "You (the park board) don't care about the people that use the park at all."

Conflict between board members ensued when Behnke responded to a comment of Yuhas' with, "I don't much care." Shaffer criticized Behnke for what she called rudeness to the public.

**May 5:** Connie Van Horn criticized the lack of quorum sufficient to hold an April board meeting (board member Leroy Bean responded that there wasn't business pressing enough that it couldn't wait another month). Teresa Yuhas continued to criticize Young's conduct and the board's decisions concerning family beach passes for pier slip renters.

### 2011:

**Jan. 11:** Patty Stallings was appointed by the Culver town council to fill the opening for a Democrat on the required politically-balanced board. Leroy Bean was re-appointed to fill the Republican position.

**June 1:** The park board reversed its decision regarding audio recording of its meetings after the absence of board secretary Peg Schuldt at the May meeting resulted in no official documentation of the meeting at all. Union Twp. advisory board member Bill Githens, in the audience, this time offered the tape recorder, which was this time accepted by the board.

**Sept. 7:** Debate arose at the park board meeting as to whether part of the 1880s-era railroad waiting station turned picnic pavilion at the town park should be turned into public restrooms, as had been outlined by superintendent Young. Plans also included constructing a new storage building for the park lawn equipment currently stored in the pavilion, and installation of a new fishing pier just west of the swimming beach.

There was also audience query as to why computerized accounting equipment had not been purchased yet by the board.

### 2012:

**Jan. 17:** Objections were raised by some in the audience and on the town council regarding the party affiliation of Patty Stallings, who had been appointed by

the council to fill the park board's Democratic slot, but had previously been a registered Republican (Stallings formally changed parties prior to the appointment). Controversy particularly arose in light of interest expressed by Rhonda Reinhold, a longtime registered Democrat, in serving on the park board. Majority votes by council members Bill Githens, Sally Ricciardi, and Ginny Munroe kept Stallings on the park board.

**Jan. 24:** Ongoing debate over Patty Stallings' park board appointment took place at the town council meeting, with park board president Leroy Bean asking council why the town is "running with an illegal board you guys created." Town attorney Jim Clevenger questioned whether the board was technically illegal.

**Feb 14:** It was noted during the town council meeting that Rhonda Reinhold had withdrawn her name from the running for the park board position, effectively ending debate as to the legality of the legality of Stallings' appointment.

**May 1:** Nearly 90 minutes of public input was part of the park board meeting, with concerned voiced about the safety and stability of the recently installed public fishing pier in the park, the possibility of switching to a more modern accounting system, and the practicality of adding a bathroom to the historic railroad pavilion on the west end of the park.

Audience member Tom Kearns noted he suggested the accounting software two years earlier; library board president Jim Hahn echoed the call for accounting software, though Young countered there are receipts and a paper trail for all her financial activities. Board member Ed Behnke indicated he felt the purchase amounted to fixing a problem which didn't exist, since the park board annually passes its state audits.

**Sept. 5:** Lengthy discussion ensued regarding specifics of the new public pier long planned for installation west of the swimming beach. Criticism came from one potential bidder for the project, that he felt the park board hadn't done its due diligence regarding specifications for the project. Audience member Ed Pinder expressed happiness with the computer planned for purchase for the park, which had been debated at previous meetings.

**October:** The park board revisited the fishing pier issue with a final decision to reopen bidding. Board members Patty Stalling and Behnke questioned the wording on the survey with regard to the restroom and the pavilion, asking whether the public would understand the significance or historical value of the west pavilion, which was part of the original, 1883 railroad facilities.

### 2013:

**Feb.:** The Culver park board's vote as to whether to allow a beer tasting event in the town park came down to an even 50-50 split, but the lack of a majority of favorable votes equaled a "no." The decision came after lengthy -- and sometimes heated -- discussion between representatives of the proposed event and the park board and audience.

The board approved hiring new park programming director Donna McKee, at the recommendation of park superintendent Kelly Young.

Rhonda Reinhold became a member of the park board earlier this year as the Culver Public Library's representative to the board.

**May 30:** At a park work session, intense discussion took place as to how to handle the \$44,000 partially floating, partially stationary public pier installed in April, which partially collapsed into the lake. At issue was whether the park board had any recourse to demand the installer redo the pier, which had not yet been fully paid for. It was noted -- to the apparent surprise of some board members -- that no contract was created or signed with the installer prior to installation.

**July:** After months of debating a solution for problems with the fishing pier, the park board voted to leave the pier -- which had been made stable and able to be walked upon -- as it was. Prior debates had centered on why no superintendent Young had not required the installer, Dave Van Huise, to sign a contract for the work. Debates raged as to whether the dock -- which remained closed to the public in the interim -- was actually safe and stable.

**July 14:** 22-year-old Valentin Sirghi died as a result of drowning at the town beach where he had been swimming. The incident, whose investigative report has not yet been officially released by the Indiana DNR, was referenced on later occasions by audience and park board members who questioned whether the park policies were sufficiently reviewed and updated to reflect the seriousness of the incident.

**Aug 7:** Numerous verbal altercations again dominated the standing-room-only park board meeting, with debate centering on the removal, in July, of the town beach swimming pier July 28 by superintendent Young, with board president Shaffer's permission. Dozens of residents staged a protest march at the park following the removal, which Young said was a safety measure prompted by ongoing misbehavior by some swimmers. Shaffer said she acted too hastily in granting permission for the removal.

Some park board and audience members cited what they felt were other unsafe practices allowed by Young, such as permission for a large Hobie Cat sailing boat to enter and dock at the swimming area.

A motion to add a seventh park board member in order to halt repeated deadlocked votes and increase likelihood of a quorum failed, with only board members Reinhold

and Stallings voting for it.

Reinhold and Stallings also cited incorrect encumbrance of funds according to State Board of Accounts procedures, and Reinhold also questioned why the park board had not been allowed to tour Young's apartment as part of an overall inspection of grounds and buildings, after what she said was a year of trying (Shaffer interjected that the line of discussion had then become "way too personal... this town needs to work together, not against each other").

**Sept.:** Several community members and business leaders questioned the level of accountability of park activities director Donna McKee, who some businesspeople complained had been prevented from attending Culver Fall Fest planning meetings (Young eventually consented to allow McKee to attend meetings). Debate among board members centered on whether it was too much to expect McKee to devote time to Fall Fest activities, with some countering that such off-season planning was "what she's paid for."

**Oct. 16:** After three consecutive weeks of meetings (and difficulty attaining a quorum in the absence of board members Ed Behnke and Leroy Bean), the park board voted for Tim Yuhas of North Shore Fabrication to remove the much-discussed hybrid floating and stationary fishing pier west of the beach.

Recently established by the board were policy and finance committees -- made up of community volunteers and board members -- aimed at shoring up park operations and conforming them more closely to state and industry standards.

The board also discussed searching for its own attorney, also aimed at more focused advice on policies and decisions.

**Oct. 31:** Lengthy discussion took place at culver's town council meeting as to whether to add a seventh park board member, which town attorney Jim Clevenger was asked to investigate. A public hearing was planned in pursuit of the matter.

**Nov. 14:** The park board voted -- with member Kathy Hart opposing -- to vacate the beach lodge building, including superintendent Young's apartment, by the end of 2013, citing the deteriorating condition of the building and need to begin repairs, as well as what some board members criticized as an inability to get into the apartment to inspect it.

The board also voted to spend up to \$10,000 to purchase and install Christmas lights in the park (installer Tony Sellers said he expected donations to offset part of the cost).

Hart resigned from the board following the meeting.

**Dec. 11:** With new board member John Helpfrey replacing resigned member Leroy Bean, the park board voted to change the superintendent's job description, citing lack of conformity to state standards for the position, with the new description worked up with the help of recently-secured board attorney Rachel Arndt.

The board also extended the date of Young's evacuation of her apartment to Jan. 31, rather than the March 31 date she requested, drawing heavy criticism from several audience members.

Board president Shaffer assumed responsibility for the lack of communication with REAL Services, which meets daily at the beach lodge; she pledged to work with attendees at the program to keep its displacement at a minimum when work commences on the building.

**Dec. 20:** During another heated meeting, the board put the park activities director position on hold, effectively ending McKee's role in the position, noting park superintendents handle activities duties in most parks and recreations settings.

### 2014:

**Jan. 8:** The park board vacated the park superintendent position after a vote to end the tenure of longtime superintendent Kelly Young. Board president Shaffer specifically pointed to allegations of racial slurs made by or under Young, as well as increasing discomfort for Young and public controversy, among reasons for her termination.

The board continues to await appointments to replace school board appointee Ed Behnke (who was replaced on the school board as of Jan. 1) and Hart, the Union Township appointee. Culver's town council repeatedly tabled the final two votes needed to establish its new ordinance adding a seventh park board member, pending the two new appointments.

The council, responding to citizen concerns and debate at its meetings and via email, opted to schedule a "town hall" style public forum Feb. 18 to solicit ideas for the future of the park as a community asset.

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## Melting, rain affect Culver Middle School

By Lois Tomaszewski

CULVER — The rains came and went. With wet streets, thick dense fog and some county-wide flooding issues, the change from fluffy snow to cold, wet rain was no big deal, although some residents, businesses and even schools had some issues last week with leaks and flooding.

“We thought all was going well until the middle school staff noticed that water had quickly seeped into the building through the main doors,” said Culver Community Schools superintendent Vicki McGuire. “Luckily, it did not make it into the gymnasium where we would have had to repair or replace the floor.”

Teamwork by the staff helped cleanup efforts, she said. “It was amazing how high school, middle and elementary school staff pulled together and began to work toward remedying the problem,” she said. “Custodians (both on

and off duty), teachers, assistants, office staff, and administrators were sweeping and running large and small vacuum machines. Some were sweeping the water back toward the doors with large brooms.

“Snow was moved and a trench was created, both allowing for easier water drainage. Some community members were also able to help. I was very impressed with how everyone came together during the incident.”

Also affected by recent weather patterns -- though prior to last week's flooding -- was St. Mary's Daycare, which had to vacate its College Avenue location to a temporary one due to frozen pipes at the College Avenue facility. The problem is outside the building, and it's been impossible for town crews to break through the frozen ground to make repairs.

## Culver Comm. Schools make-up days, hours

Culver Community Schools superintendent Vicki McGuire will be asking her school board to approve the

following make up days for the many missed due to this year's winter weather: April 18; May 2; May 30; and rescheduling a teacher work day originally planned for May 30 to June 2.

In addition, Culver Community students will attend school an extra hour on Fridays beginning March 7 through April 25.

## Culver Community H.S. honor roll

Term 1 Grading Period 2

### A honor roll

**Grade 9:** Brennin Aaron Betts, Brandon P Havron, Hailey A Jones, Brianna S Kinyanjui, Joshua P Krsek

**Grade 10:** Megan L Brady, Jennah D McCarthy, Rebecca E Rainey

**Grade 11:** Haley L Klimaszewski

**Grade 12:** Kevin Caleb Dehning

### A/B honor roll

**Grade 9:** Aviana L Ahlenius, Erin E Bendy, Anna Kathryn Cybulski, Madisen E Diaz, Makayla A Felda, Alexandria M Harris, Tanner R Hoffman, Olivia Brianna Johnson, Morgan Tiara Keen, Amanda G Morrison, Joseph Rivera, Josie Mae Ross, Courtney A Salyer, Roman G Vantwoud.

**Grade 10:** Aaron M Becker, Daniel B Bettinelli, Justine K Dexter, Lindsay R Emery, Marisa L Howard, Renae N Johnson, Tevin Ray Jones, Madeline J Justis, Cecilia A Kenney, Everett J Krueger, Alicia Marie Large, Maria C Lindvall, Jade B Overmyer, Kelsey A Shaffer, Cody A Valiquet

**Grade 11:** Jerrod Isaac Betts, Katie A Blocker, Mickella D Hardy, Lauren Leslie Large, Elizabeth L McElroy, Summer L Moore, Dustie R Pier, Brendon Pinder, Tatum Elizabeth Schultz, Janele L VanDePutte.

**Grade 12:** Henrik Bill, Shakkira N Harris, Grace L Lorenz, Megan Lyczak, Timothy Mathew Wireman.

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## Academies students perform at Carnegie Hall



PHOTO PROVIDED

Culver Academies students Hayne Bae (left) and Jorge Sugich in Manhattan earlier this month during their trip to perform at Carnegie Hall.

including Rockefeller Plaza, World Trade Center, Trinity Church, Battery Park, and Wall Street. They were members of the audience for the taping of NBC's Today Show, and attended a performance of a Broadway musical.

The Honors Performance at Carnegie Hall occurred Sunday, Feb. 9, and featured the Honors Choir, Honors Band, and Honors Orchestra.

The expenses of the trip were partially fulfilled by a grant from Culver's Artistic Fund, established by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gignilliat.

## Academies student recognized as young woman leader in tech

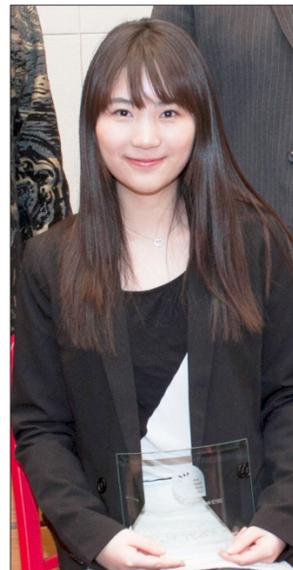


PHOTO PROVIDED

Ziya Zhou.

in her computer programming class. She is active in the Culver Youth Communication Organization and Leadership Committee of Africa at Culver. Zhou plans to study computer programming in college.

“With technology jobs projected to grow faster than all other job sectors in the next decade, it's imperative that we nurture the computing aspirations of women, who will make up half the professional workforce,” said Lucy Sanders, CEO and Co-founder of NCWIT. “This award allows us to recognize and encourage talent that might otherwise be overlooked.”

The award was created to encourage the computing aspirations of young women, introduce them to leadership opportunities in the field, and generate visibility for women's participation in technology fields.

## CCMS Students of the Month

Culver Comm. Middle School has announced its Students of the Month for January.

**7th Grade:** Sarah Stefan (teacher: Bianca Ash), Samatha Smith (John Browder), Kennedy Ash (Jason Crittendon), Morgan Waldrop (Jamie Estok), Sarah Luttrell (Ashli Faulkner), Allison Pearl (Amy Gearhart), Austin Otteman (Gina Hierlmeier), Nick Vela (Shane Lowry), Taylor Noah (Ms. Lynn), Bailey Howard (Crystin Messick), Tommy Brady (Ms. Thomas), Charles Binion (Andy Thomas), Sunny Clingler (Ashleigh Trumble).

**8th Grade:** Tracy Lindvall (Eugene Baker), Jake Rodgers (Jason Crittendon), Reilly Reinhold (Ashli Faulkner), James Fagan (Amy Gearhart), Kia Riale (Chad Hollenbaugh), Dillon Salyer (Heather Jurgonski), Taylor Branson (Shane Lowry), Kristin Heise (Ms. Lynn), Cody Rieckhoff (Crystin Messick), Marcellus Anderson (Julie Perkins), Lindsey Proskey (Tina Stacy), Pierce Ellert (Chris Stevens), Reilly Reinhold (Ms. Thomas).

## Culver Elementary Students of the Month

Culver Elementary School has announced its Students of the Month for January.

**Kindergarten:** Bonnie Fencik (teacher: Amy Bonine), Gracie Milam (Heather Overmyer), Johnathon Craig (Jean Urbin), Jordan Jones (Kelly Young).

**1st grade:** Bryce Personette (Kelly Dickerhoff), Olivia Woodward (April Jefferies), Katie Marek (Stephanie Smith), Matthew Baker (Kris Arvelo).

**2nd grade:** Lilly-Ann Knapp (Jean Ahlenius), Carson Krueger (Lisa Elliott), Dakota Lindsley (Jana VanDePutte).

**3rd grade:** Maegan Pearl (Andrea Berndt), Ashton Macedonio (Valerie Cultice), Abby Nufer (Jill De Salle), Lily Kozubik (Carrie Tharp), Ches Schrimsher (Mike Elliott).

**4th grade:** Adrian Schouten (Mrs. Miller), Kierra Parker (Chris Renneker), Kaydin Sayavonsing (Leslie Shepard), Grace Wood (Steve Young), Alexxa Howard (Rhonda Kinney), Cheyenne Lindsley (Julie Cowen).

**5th grade:** Ally Cook (Pam Craft), John Lesniewski (Gayle Kinzie), Taylor Lewandowski (Raeanne Stevens), Ashley Burkett (Jason Crittendon).

**6th grade:** Ja'Caysia Macon (Bryan Albright), Nick Cornwall (Todd Shafer), Carter Stevens (Missy Trent), Rainbow Hines (Teri Zechiel), Anna Blocker (Becky Risner), Lilly Sayavonsing (Kim Morrison), Krisonica Hesters (Joyce Lyman).