

The Culver Citizen

Thursday, April 16 2009 Vol. No. 115 Issue No. 15 50¢
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



In Brief

Friends seeking used books

The Friends of the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library is accepting used books for their upcoming sale. Books may be donated at any time at the library, 107 N. Main Street in downtown Culver. The Friends organization currently has a limited number of books for sale in the library now, near the entrance to the children's room, but will hold a large sale at a date to be announced.

Town wide yard sale

The Town of Culver is sponsoring a spring town-wide yard sale Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested in participating should contact the town hall between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 574-842-3140, beginning Monday, April 13 through Tuesday, April 21. Please provide your address and the date(s) of your sale. There is no cost for the event. A map of the locations hosting a yard sale will be disbursed by noon Thursday, April 23 at the town hall, Culver Express, and Osborn's Mini-Mart.

Prom Dresses Available

Those in need of a formal dress for Prom or Final Ball, please contact Karen Heim at 574-842-8914. She has around 50 gently worn dresses in a variety of styles and sizes. They can be seen by appointment or at the Tri Kappa Garage Sale, Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25 at 217 S. Ohio St, Culver.

Boat slips available

The Culver Park & Recreation Department has boat slips available for the upcoming boating season. Culver/Union Township residents pay \$700 for a boat slip, while patrons outside of this area are charged \$1,000. Wave runner spaces are \$400. For more information, call the park at 574-842-3510.

Culver baseball, softball sign-ups

Culver youth baseball and softball league sign-ups will be held at the Culver Public Library on Sunday, April 19, 1 to 3 p.m. Those with questions may contact Francis Ellert at fellert@cckokomo.com.

Community garden

See Briefs page 2

Top ten pick their top ten

Above, left: Culver Community High School's top ten seniors honored their most influential teachers. Bottom row, left to right: students Tony Leyva, Kimberly Irsa, Whitney Banfield, Kalie Thompson, and Myles Pinder seated in front of their respective honored teachers (left to right) Chris Stevens, Tiny Stacy, Vickie Benner, and Bob Konzelman. Third row: students Shannon Dunfee, Brittany Collins, Justin Master, Kristina Klausning, and Beth Wojdyla in front of teachers John Browder, Bill King, Marybeth Harness, and Theresa Hammond. See story below, right.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Top ten CCHS seniors honor teachers

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver Community High School teachers, students, and administrators – along with Culver's Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club, who sponsored the event alongside several other area entities – celebrated the seventeenth annual Top Ten awards banquet April 7, which CCHS principal Albert Hanselman called, "one of my favorite evenings of the entire school year."

Hosted at the Pretty Lake United Methodist Church reception hall and catered by the church, the event allowed the school's top ten graduating seniors an opportunity to laud the teachers who most influenced their academic career, and teachers the chance to reciprocate in kind.

Perhaps the most unusual – and to audience members, delightful – aspects of the evening's events was the "virtual" presence of longtime CCHS French teacher Vickie Dearth, by way of a prerecorded video shown via projector to the audience. Dearth, whom Hanselman said had undergone successful heart surgery the day before the banquet, spent much of the past school year in and out of the hospital recovering from a near-fatal bacterial infection. That didn't stop senior Justin Master from choosing Dearth as his honored teacher, explaining Dearth pushed him to be a leader and inspiring him to do his very best.

Master also called Dearth his "adopted aunt," a status she explained in her video presentation as deriving from Master and fellow student Stephen Vantwoud visiting her in the hospital to ask for a letter of recommendation. When staff told the boys they had to be relatives to see her, Master rather quickly became Dearth's "nephew."

"Every time I thought about going to sleep (while in the hospital) and not waking up, I thought, 'No, you have to write that letter for Justin!'" quipped Dearth, who praised Master for taking on CCHS' French Club's involvement in last year's Relay for Life when club president Angelica Bush couldn't be there.

"You have to realize, when I first met Justin, he was a lost soul with no personality, no direction, and no ambition," joked Dearth to a roomful of laughter. "He was headed for definite disaster. Then he took French. I single handedly molded him into the intelligent, motivated young man you see today."

Hanselman noted Dearth has been chosen by students over the years to be honored "more times than I can count... almost every year."

Another once-familiar face absent in recent times

See Seniors page 6

Miller Time!

Above, right: Kenny Miller was Culver's last milk man, ending an era of multiple local dairies of which Miller's own grandfather was the first. Miller shares his story and memories on page 8.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

NFL star Clark to help kick off Relay

One of many highlights of Friday night's event

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

It was a safe bet Culver's Relay for Life 2009 would play host to a wide array of the Culver community's well-known and beloved figures, but news reached event organizers that a new name will be added to the list of guests April 17. It's been confirmed Indianapolis Colts and NFL superstar Dallas Clark will be part of the event, taking place all night Friday at the Culver Academies track and football field.

"The Indianapolis Colts decided Relay for Life is a valuable event that would benefit the community," says Relay organizer and Academies junior Ian Greenberg.

Besides being a member of the legendary Colts lineup at Super Bowl 2006, in 2008 Clark broke the Colts' franchise record, held by Hall of Famer John Mackey, for yards in a season by a tight end (848), and won the John Mackey Award in 2002, among a lengthy list of other accomplishments and accolades.

Besides being quite a coup for Culver's Relay, Greenberg says Clark's appearance here will also mark the first time the NFL has sent a player for an appearance in Marshall County; players in the League make a very limited number of personal appearances per year. Greenberg points out Relay for Life (and its umbrella organization and fund-raising recipient, the American Cancer Society) does not endorse any celebrity or offer them preferential cancer treatment. He also cautions Clark – not a cancer victim himself -- isn't in Culver to sign autographs or take photos, though he may choose to do so at his own discretion. He's here, points out Greenberg, to help.

"He will be at our opening ceremony to share his experiences about cancer and living a healthier lifestyle with everybody," Greenberg explains. "He will help us lead our opening lap. And, thanks to him, the Colts, Fair Oaks Farms (who helped facilitate Clark's visit to Culver, and also this year's lead Relay sponsor) and Relay for Life, one of our theme laps will be a football lap. Everybody will get footballs (for that lap) and can play a little catch with Dallas! He's coming

See Relay page 2

Culver Relay for Life 2009 schedule of events

- 4 - 6 p.m. Team campsites set-up
- 5:30 p.m. Survivor dinner
- 6 p.m. Registration opens
- 7 p.m. Opening ceremony
- 7:30 p.m. Opening survivor lap
- 8 p.m. Theme lap: football lap with Dallas Clark
- 8 p.m. Opening concert: Best Kept Secret
- 8:45 p.m. Food eating contest
- 9 p.m. Fight back ceremony
- 9:30 p.m. Relay's Got Talent, round one (choir, Dancevision, gospel choir, drill team)
- 10:05 p.m. Luminaria ceremony
- 10:30 p.m. Clean-up lap
- 10:50 p.m. Taps
- 11:15 p.m. Mr. Relay pageant
- 12 a.m. Theme lap: entire teams walk together (entire team gets a prize)
- 12 a.m. Flag football
- 12:15 a.m. Relay races (flippers, big dresses and heels)

See Schedule page 2

Local project halts amidst local, state concerns

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Work has stopped at an area construction site while the builder works with Indiana's Department of Environmental Management and Army Corps of Engineers to satisfy those agencies' concerns over the project, many of which center on erosion control with regards to two waterway tributaries to Lake Maxinkuckee on the property. The agreement came after an April 8 meeting at the site between representatives of IDEM and the Army Corps, Sally Ricciardi and Ralph Winters of Culver's town council, Kathy Clark

of the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council, and the builder and property owner, Al Collins of CMD Construction.

That meeting followed a special meeting the previous day of Culver's town council, held at the town hall and attended by a number of concerned citizens. Council president Ricciardi said the meeting was called in response to a number of residents contacting council members over the Sycamore Road project.

Discussion at the meeting centered on issues raised by IDEM and the Army Corps, and the jurisdiction of the town and its building in-

spector, Russ Mason, in responding to those agencies.

Carol Zeglis of the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Fund presented the council documents on Culver's erosion control ordinances as well as several letters from IDEM to Collins.

Zeglis said town ordinances show CMD is in violation of local erosion control measures, adding Mason chose not to order Collins' compliance.. She explained IDEM's concerns focused in part on a newly-constructed house on the property, off Lake Maxinkuckee's south shore, being built very close to a stream leading into the lake.

IDEM cited that stream and another lake tributary as containing material back-filled into both during the construction. IDEM initially inspected the property Feb. 25 and noted violations of five Indiana codes, Zeglis said; the Department sent a letter to Collins asking for remediation of the violations and a phone call to discuss the matter, which Zeglis said was not made. She said Mason also received a copy of IDEM's report.

IDEM sent Collins a second letter via registered mail March 26 asking CMD to cease work, said Zeglis, which did not occur. She

added a copy of the letter was sent to Kelly Young, president of Culver's plan commission, which handles zoning issues like this one.

"It seems this letter was serious enough she should mention it to other members of the plan commission," said Zeglis. "She did not."

Zeglis said Mason is "duty-bound" to support the state and assist its agencies in forcing work to stop at the site, adding Mason didn't report the matter to the plan commission at its last meeting.

See Project page 8

www.thepilotnews.com
Click on Citizen Tab
E-mail: citizen@culcom.net





Marking Good Friday

Members of St. Mary of the Lake Catholic church in Culver, led by Fr. Glenn Kohrman, center, as well as students from Culver Academies held the church's first-ever walking Stations of the Cross prayer ceremony Friday evening, stopping at agreed-upon homes in Culver to pray the traditional service, which recalls Christ's journey to crucifixion in Jerusalem. Members of the congregation took turns carrying and holding the cross.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Schedule from page 1

12:30 a.m. Dancing with the teachers
 1 a.m. Theme lap: beach lap
 1 a.m. Dodgeball
 1:45 a.m. Hula hoop contest
 2 a.m. Relay's Got Talent, round two (individual performances)
 2:30 a.m. 30 minute dance: Patrick Brun
 3 a.m. Theme lap: carnival
 3 - 6 a.m. Carnival with moonbounce, dunk tank, balloon artist, and more
 3 a.m. Nate Pea pushups
 3 a.m. Intern auction
 4 a.m. Limbo
 4:30 a.m. Stomp team
 4:30 a.m. Gospel choir
 5 a.m. Theme lap: congo line
 5 a.m. Tug of war
 6 a.m. Clean-up lap
 6 a.m. Yoga
 7 a.m. Closing ceremony
 7:30 - 9 a.m. Event clean-up (everyone helps so we can all go home quickly!)

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Relay from page 1

to Relay to change and better the community. (and) to show that cancer survivors have people that care about them."

Clark will only be available to take part in Relay for a few hours, says Greenberg. That should be just fine: there's a stunning array of other events slated for the all-night, cancer-fighting extravaganza, many of them new this year.

Among them: the Fair Oaks Dairy trailer, which includes an indoor museum with a mother and calf and interactive displays on the food we eat, where it comes from, and how it affects us. Live cows will provide fun and fund-raising opportunities with "cow pie bingo" (participants buy tickets for squares on a cow-containing field, each hoping the cow will "plop" in their square). Memorial Hospital of South Bend's Health Works museum's Health Works Hummer will be on hand from 8 to 10 p.m., as will its large lungs display, which teachers viewers about the effects of cancer.

Four area restaurants will be amongst the food vendors on hand, and Fair Oaks is providing all-natural ice cream for participants besides milk for breakfast.

Also new this year: a food-eating contest and the Fun Zone. The latter kicks off at midnight and includes a 50-foot inflat-

able slide, bounce and jump castle, ping pong tables, Dance Dance Revolution, and arcade games.

A real automobile will be on hand for the smash car event (to take out participants' anger at cancer, notes Greenberg), as will a professional yoga master to stress yoga as part of living a healthier lifestyle.

Relay's Got Talent will showcase performances by winners from the Relay talent show held at Papa's restaurant in Culver earlier this year, including the Cadence band and young Taylor Smith, "the little girl who won everyone's hearts" at the show, notes Greenberg.

Old favorites will also be back this year, such as the "Mr. Relay" beauty pageant, in which any male can participate; Greenberg says it's preferable contestants sign up by April 16, but last minute entries will probably be accepted. There's also the powerful Luminaria ceremony, during which all event lights are turned off and luminary bags - each honoring a living or deceased cancer victim and containing glow sticks - provide the only light in the area. "That's the most dramatic part of the event," says Greenberg. "We remember all the survivors and those who have passed away, (and we) walk that lap in silence."

A 21-gun salute is then

given the honorees. Those in need of luminary bags may obtain them from Lakeside Auto Supply or Park N' Shop in Culver.

As was the case last year, members of Culver Academies' Vedette newspaper staff will be "blogging" (journaling) about the event throughout the night, on-line via www.culver.org. New this year is live coverage of the entire event using the B2 network online, usually employed to cover live sports events at Culver. Those wishing to tune in should visit www.culver.org/db and click the "Live Coverage" button on the right.

Greenberg, who encourages those with questions to email relay@culver.org, encourages participants to try to bring cash or checks with them April 17 to support the effort. He notes the event so far has already surpassed \$60,000 in donations, and he's confident Culver's Relay will surpass the more than \$100,000 raised at last year's premiere event.

"Even though we're a small town and small county," adds Greenberg, "we can still make a difference in this world."

That's just what a number of Culverites - and others -- plan to do this weekend.

Briefs, from page 1

meeting April 20

Grace United Church of Christ's community garden project is seeking volunteers for a number of facets of the garden, which has moved forward thanks to Wesley United Methodist Church has donating a lot for the garden. A volunteer meeting concerning the garden will take place Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m. in the Grace Church fellowship hall for anyone interested in helping in any way. Interested persons may also contact Barb Quivey at Grace Church, 574-842-2331 Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. or at home, 574-842-2329.

Preschool registration at Wesley UMC

Registration for Wesley Preschool begins Saturday,

April 25 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the preschool room at Wesley United Methodist Church, 511 School Street. Wesley offers two classes, a junior class and senior. To qualify for the junior class, a child must be three years old by August 1, 2009. To qualify for the senior class, a child must be four by August 1, 2009.

The junior class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$64 per month. The senior class meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$92 per month. There is a registration fee of \$40, which covers the supplies for the school year. Please contact Jennifer Luttrell with any questions, 574-250-3852.

Maxinkuckee Players auditions May 2

Auditions for the

Maxinkuckee Players' production of "The Music Man" will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 2, in the Culver Community High School Auditorium.

Anyone interested should come prepared to sing a song of their choice and read from the script that we will provide. Piano players will be available or they may sing with a recording. There are parts available for all ages. Show dates are Friday, July 24; Sunday, July 26; Wednesday, July 29; Friday, July 31; Saturday, Aug. 1; and Sunday, Aug. 2. For more information, call director Becky Liechty at 574-941-2343.

Tyner IOOF holds fish fry

The Tyner IOOF Lodge will hold its annual all-you-can-eat fish fry Saturday,

April 25 at the Tyner Community Building/Fire Station.

Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children. Proceeds go to support many community projects including scholarships. Drive-thru carry outs available.

Citizen contact info

Drop-off boxes for community news are located at the Culver-Union Township Public Library and the Culver Coffee Company on Lake Shore Dr. These boxes will be accessible during the locations' normal business hours.

Citizen editor Jeff Kenney may be reached at 574-216-0075. News can be sent by e-mail to: citizen@culcom.net.

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Name: Chad Week 3; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00062442; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: First Farmers Bank & Trust; Size: 15 in

Death notice - Rans

Dean J. Rans

March 9, 1925 - March 20, 2009

PORT RICHEY, Fla. — Dean J. Rans, 84, Port Richey, Fla. passed away peacefully on March 20, 2009 surrounded by his loving family and the Gulfside Regional Hospice at his bedside. He was a former Culver resident, moving to Port Richey, Fla. in 1989. He was born on March 9, 1925 in Fulton County to Fred and Lelia Rans. Dean graduated from Aubbeenaubee Township High School and immediately joined the U.S. Army, serving in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII.

He and the former Treva Wynn were married Oct. 23, 1949. They renewed their wedding vows in the family home in Port Richey on Oct. 23, 2008, celebrating 59 years together.

In Culver, Dean and Treva were the former owners of the Corner Tavern and he was also the owner of Rans Auto Sales. For many years he was an avid race car driver.

Dean is survived by his loving wife, Treva; two sons: Terry Rans and wife Beth of Port Richey; Robert Rans and wife Julie of Plymouth; four daughters: Carole Lairson and husband Marion of Portland, Ind., Mary Strobel and husband Donald of Cannonburg, Pa.; Kathy Hensley of Port Richey, and Judy Rans of Port Richey. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren; a brother, Don Rans of Rochester; two brothers-in-law: Charles Wynn of Culver and Bobby Wynn and wife Brenda of Culver and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Christopher Strobel; and a great-grandson, Mathew Stiles.

Private family services were held at the family home on March 22, 2009 with Dean's grandson, Jason Lairson officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Dobies Funeral & Crematory in Port Richey, Fla. and locally to the Good Family Funeral Home, Rochester. Electronic expressions of sympathy may be made to the family at goodfamily@rtcol.com.

Obituary - Neff

Ralph W. Neff

May 23, 1930 - April 9, 2009

CULVER — Ralph W. Neff, 78, of Culver, died at 8:45 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2009 at Elkhart Hospice House. He was born May 23, 1930 in Pontiac, Mich.

Ralph was a retired mechanic for Oliver Ford.

He is survived by his three sons: Ken Neff of Culver, Dean Neff of Winamac and Steve Neff of Indianapolis; three brothers: Daniel Neff of Florida, Jim Neff of Logansport and Julian Neff of Logansport; five sisters; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Alice; two brothers and one sister.

Visitation was Monday, April 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bonine-Odom Funeral Home, Culver. Services were Tuesday, April 14 at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be at the Culver Masonic Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to the Finney-Shilling VFW Post 6919 of Culver or the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care. Letters of condolence for the family may be sent via www.bonineodom.com

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

Death notice - Houghton

Ray C. Houghton

April 8, 2009

CULVER — Ray C. Houghton, 70, of Culver, died at 6:43 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at Miller's Merry Manor, Culver.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Houghton of Culver; son, Lee (Karen) Houghton of Culver; daughter, Lori (Jr.) Hines of Grovertown; two granddaughters; four sisters; eight step-grandchildren; and 12 step great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Friday, April 10 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Bonine-Odom Funeral Home, Culver. Services were Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, Culver. Burial was at the Culver Masonic Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to the Wesley United Methodist Church or Miller's Merry Manor in Culver.

Death notice - McKee

Reba D. McKee

April 3, 2009

BRADENTON, Fla. — Reba D. McKee, 88, of Bradenton, Fla., formerly of Culver, died Friday, April 3, 2009.

Survivors include son, Stephen (Sheryl) McKee of Lake Wales, Fla.; daughter, Judith Burns of Rochester; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a sister, Norma Emery of Bradenton, Fla.

A graveside service was held Monday, April 6 at Skyway Memorial Gardens Palmetto, Fla.

Arrangements were by Griffith-Cline Funeral Home Bradenton, Fla.

Birthday - Whiteman

Ethan Tanner James Whiteman, son of Crystal and Joshua Whiteman of Plymouth, will celebrate his first birthday April 17, 2009.

Maternal grandparents are Lynn Jensen of Knox and Daniel Hazen of Elkins, W.Va. Maternal great-grandparents are Linda and Rae Jensen of Apache Junction, Ariz.

Paternal grandparents are Jayme Severen and Pee Wee Warren of Plymouth and Daniel Connolly of Rochester. Paternal great-grandparents are Nancy and Jim Whiteman of Plymouth.

ver Public Library
Plan commission mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall
Culver-Union Twp. Public library board meeting, 7 p.m., Culver Public Library

Weds., April 22

Earth Day
Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library
Euchre club, 6 - 8 p.m., Culver Public Library
Gardening club, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library
Lions Club mtg., 6:30 p.m., train station/depot

Thurs., April 23

Fitness Class, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library
Jim Peterson (Antiquarian & Historical Society of Culver), Kiwanis Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library

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Obituary - Smith

Lee R. Smith

Dec. 14, 1931 - April 9, 2009

ROCHESTER — Lee R. Smith, 77, of Rochester, departed this life at 8:40 a.m., April 9, 2009, following a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was born Dec. 14, 1931 in Mishawaka to Roy and Mabel Hefner Smith.

As a proud graduate of Richland Center High School, Lee was a member of the class of 1949. As a young man, he assisted his dad with the family farming operation. They also farmed a variety of grains including wheat, corn, and soybeans.

With great pride Lee answered the call to serve our country. He became a member of the United States Air Force serving his tour of duty in Japan during the Korean War. Later he was honorably discharged attaining the rank of staff sergeant.

Returning home to the Richland Center - Leiter's Ford area Lee continued to work with his dad on the farming operation. His love for agriculture continued throughout his life as he maintained a hobby farm.

On Sept. 10, 1961 at the Santa Anna United Methodist Church, near Argos, Lee married the love of his life, Bonnie Gibbons. This union of 47 1/2 years yielded two outgoing and beautiful daughters, Mary Lou and Donna. As a loving father and role model Lee instilled a work ethic of dedication and devotion. In 1996 he retired from Sealed Power Corporation after 33 1/2 years of service rarely missing a day of work. Lee was a member of the UAW #220 during his work tenure.

At home Lee was meticulous about the care of his lawn. To relax, he enjoyed listening to Blue Grass music from the era of the 1940s-1950s. Lee is also remembered to be very detail oriented and led a very conservative lifestyle.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Smith; two daughters: Mary Lou Durkes of Rochester and Donna Louk and companion Terry Thompson of Argos; sister, Phyllis (Bob) Overmyer of Rochester; and a niece, two nephews, and several great nieces and great nephews.

In Heaven, Lee will join his extended family and many friends including his parents and sons-in-law, William Lynn Durkes, April 4, 2007 and Andy Louk, July 22, 2008.

A celebration of the life of Mr. Lee R. Smith was held Monday, April 13, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Good Family Funeral Home. Rev. Henry Sprunger officiated. Burial followed at the Poplar Grove/Maxinkuckee IOOF Cemetery, near Culver where military graveside rites were conducted by the Argos American Legion Post #68 and the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Honor Guard. Friends visited with the family from 4 to 8 p.m. on Sunday and an hour prior to services.

Preferred memorials may be made in Lee's memory to the Santa Anna United Methodist Church or Hope Hospice. Electronic expressions of sympathy may be made to the family at goodfamily@rtcol.com

Elliot earns Gold A



CULVER, INDIANA – Kirsten Elliott, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Elliott has earned a Gold A Award at the Culver Academies. Attained with a grade-point average of 3.7 or better, the award is the highest academic honor available during combined grading terms. Kirsten also plays varsity volleyball and rows crew.

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Malone Advertisin; Size: 30 in

Community Calendar

Thurs., April 16

Fitness Class, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library
Kiwanis Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library
Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Culver Public Library
Board of Zoning Appeals mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall
Knights of Columbus St. Mary of the Lake Council #13720 business mtg., 7 p.m., church rectory basement

Friday, April 17

Relay for Life, 7 p.m., Culver Academies track/football field

Sun., April 19

Culver youth baseball, softball sign-ups, 1 to 3 p.m., Culver Public Library
Organ Recital, John Gouwens, 7:30 p.m., Culver Academies Memorial Chapel

Mon., April 20

Knitting Class, 5 p.m., Culver Public Library
Computers for Beginners Part I class, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library
DivorceCare, 7 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ

Tues., April 21

Fitness class, 9 a.m., Cul-

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Ford; Size: 15 in

What does your permission slip say today?

The Culver Citizen is pleased to announce its latest contributing columnist, Andrea Cook.

Andrea, wife to Phil Cook and mother to Savana and Sophia has recently moved with her family to Culver from living the past decade in Chicago. While Andrea claims that a part of her heart still beats for the windy city, she smiles and enjoys the slower pace and new friends that Culver has provided.

Andrea was not too long ago the founder and CEO to The Midas Center, a Chicago advertising and marketing agency where she created award-winning programs for leading law firms and corporations engaged within the legal business industry. Currently on a stay-at-home-mom sabbatical, Andrea now hopes to write and share about the triumphs and tribulations of adjusting to her new role from businesswoman in the city to small town mom.

Husband Phil, a Plymouth native, teaches chemistry and physics at the Culver Academies. Daughters Savana, age seven, and Sophia, age three are wild and sweet and inspire Andrea to love more, laugh more and sometimes cry. In the coming months, Andrea will share stories from the heart in hopes to inspire readers to love more, laugh more and sometimes cry too.

"I am giving myself permission to _____." After a long weekend of family birthday celebrations that induced multiple visits and short road trips to visit extended family here and there I am thankful that it is Monday morning.

Our lives are back to normal, Savana's at school, Phil's at work, Sophia - who just turned three this past week - is sitting here, nestled up to me, watching cartoons. We are both still in PJs lounging on the fluffy down comforter in my master bedroom.

It has been a year and a half since I have left cor-

porate America. I left a six-figure salary, my dream job. I said good-bye to my company and brand that I built from scratch, along with the excitement and exhilaration of new business growth, client lunches and travel reward points. I still thumb through my stack of busi-



by Andrea G. Cook

ness cards as a high school quarter back peruses by the school trophy case. (And, I do welcome freelancing, so feel free to let me know if you need some design or marketing work!)

I have taken on the role of being a stay at home mom as if it is a new full time job, a job that I approached with personal goals on a weekly basis. A job, however, on a number of days I am very unqualified and lost without proper training, gifts or talents. At times I feel overwhelmed and begin to question my role as a stay at home mom. My time seems devalued by everyone; and my opinion, once valuable has now fallen lower than the DOW Jones index. No longer am I an expert and consultant to business owners, chief executives and managing partners in large law firms. These days, my own children don't even listen to me!

Once I was the breadwinner in the family and we focused on investing in my career vision. Now, my husband is the one whose career is thriving as he makes plans for enhancing his education, we plan on his career growth. He is the one who comes home late and attends conferences in the big cities with famous keynote speakers.

Although many days

have filled my thoughts with regret and grief, today, I give myself permission to enjoy this new position in my life. God, the author of our lives, has already written our roles and jobs in His book. He has designed us as a masterpiece to fulfill His purpose for us. Throughout the entire life of my career, I relied on God's provision and timing and He blessed my family and me with success. There were times when I needed to cry out to God to help me through rough times. Today, in my new role, it is no different.

He also blessed us with misfortune that changed our journey significantly. You may not see misfortunes as blessings. It has just been recently that I have realigned my perspective of our latest and greatest challenges as blessings. Within three months, my mother fell ill and passed away unexpectedly while my oldest daughter, at age five was being diagnosed with Asperger's and ADHD. During this personal time of bereavement, there was no time for me to cry. Steeped deeply in deadlines and meetings with busy people, little empathy was stretched to me as a woman trying so hard to be strong and professional. My husband and I realized that we needed to adapt and change our lifestyle so that I could spend time on self-care and health for my children and myself. My five year old had many doctor and therapy appointments and my youngest who had just turned one wasn't getting the best of her mommy, only left-overs from a busy, harried lifestyle.

We moved and changed our lives within a crisis moment in time. At times, I feel like our lives would have

been better had we worked it all out and stayed put. It is during my pity parties, I struggle with regret and anger. I think, "God has created my mind for more than just this! Maybe we should have stayed in Chicago! Did we move away too quickly? Did I give up my career too hastily?" It's the whole "grass is greener on the other side" motto. But lately, I have been feeling renewed again.

I feel the freedom of God's plan that He designed just for me and just for our family. I relax in His hands. And, I smile. I smile that I get to spend quality time with my little girls. Surely there are power struggles that beat me down stemming from the dysfunctions of autism spectrum and ADHD issues, but there are also cuddles and giggles that sustain me. I smile that I get to see my husband grow and develop into the man God wants him to be. I smile and breathe a deep breath of clean air from a small mid-western town. I smile realizing that I don't have to wear uncomfortable shoes in a rushed and stalled commute to the rat race in the big city. I smile that I am who I am and I don't have to pretend to be someone I am not. I don't have to prove myself anymore. I can just be me, in the moment.

Today, I give myself permission to relish being a stay at home mom who watches Dora and enjoys yelling at Swiper with my three-year-old little girl. I give myself permission to enjoy the mound of laundry today. And, I thank God for giving me this lot of my life today.

And, I ask you, "What will you give yourself permission to do today?"

Unity, liberty, and charity at Easter

For the next 50 days in some Christian traditions we celebrate the Easter Season. The core of Christian belief is that "Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen!" This was the way many Christians greeted each other in these days since antiquity. One aspect that separates Christianity from the other religions of the world is that ultimately we do not follow a dead guy!



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Glenn Khorman
St. Mary of the Lake
Catholic church

As incredible as it sounds, Christians believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead! The thing is, there were witnesses. Some saw Jesus die on

the cross and they saw a spear pierced into His side and blood and water poured out; then on the third day the tomb was empty. He appeared to His disciples for 40 days and then was taken up into heaven amidst a cloud of witnesses of hundreds.

The greatest proof of these accounts, to me, stems from the early witnesses -- in Greek the word is "martyrs." How was it that so many early Christians were willing to throw their lives away, instead of just throwing some incense or making a small votive offering to a god they knew to be false? Their integrity was so high they did not want to be a source of scandal and would rather die than to let someone else think they actually believed in these false and mythical gods. They were quick to die because they believed that death would be no obstacle to seeing Jesus their Lord and Savior. They knew that they would rise, but until their physical resurrection they knew, like the good thief next to Jesus when He was crucified, they would see Jesus the very day of their death.

There is an ancient hymn that we sing on Holy Saturday night, the night before Easter, the night when the Catholic Church baptizes those adults who feel drawn to the Christian faith; this hymn is called the Exultet. Christians have been praying or singing this hymn for the last 1,700 years on this day. One line in the hymn makes reference to the light of Christ, symbolized by the Christ Candle or the Easter Candle. It says, "This holy light, divided but undimmed!"

Could it be that this division that is spoken of related to the controversies of the time, to many Christians arguing over theological differences, but that in the end the light is still bright and undimmed? I think this is it. By and large all Christians agree on most essential matters, but historically pride and ignorance all sides damaged the unity that Christ prayed for, "Father, I pray that they may all be One, as We are One!"

This unity can only be achieved through working with the grace that God's gives us. We must strive to truly communicate with one another on those things that truly matter. I believe it was St. Augustine who said, "in essential things, **unity**, in doubtful things, **liberty**, in all things **charity**."

May we do whatever we can in this Easter season to help our community to be more united! May all of us who are able come together to

See Easter page 6

Name that Culver "citizen"



Last week's "mystery citizen" was Ginny Bess Munroe of Culver's town council (and another familiar face around town to many). Chris McNamara was the first to correctly guess Ginny was the one (except Ginny's mother and sister, both of whom contacted the Citizen with the answer within 24 hours of the paper's publication!). Chris edged out correct guessers Chris Renneker and Tonya Noel (working together) by just a few days. Below is a more updated photo of Ginny, submitted by her sister Julie. We should also mention Steve Crowel's correct naming of the previous week's mystery citizen, Karen Dehne (who also happens to be Steve's sister in law), which came in a bit too late to print due to our publication deadline. Good work to all, and of course all correct

guessers win the prize, which is the editor's admiration!

This week's mystery citizen is well known to a few generations of Culverites and her work is visible to almost everyone around town at one time or another.

Readers are encouraged to try to identify the pictured Culver "citizen"!



Name: Culver Masthead; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 7.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00053078; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 15 in

Name: Tyler's Landscaping 2x2; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File

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

Name: Garage sale ad; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00062333; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Renfrow's Trucking/The Garage; Size: 10 in

Name: Open Late; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00062431; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Cafe Max; Size: 8 in

CCMS winter athletic awards

The Culver Community Middle School held its winter athletic awards presentation March 16. All students who participated in athletics were awarded a certificate. The following awards were given: Austin Engle: Wrestling Mental Attitude Award; Matt Hurlford: Wrestling MVP; Alex Baker: Girls Basketball Mental Attitude; Erin Bau: Girls Basketball MVP; Chelsea Salser: Cheer Mental Attitude; Clare Hartman: Cheer MVP; Tylor Minix: Boys Basketball Mental Attitude; Collin Stevens: Boys Basketball MVP; Micah Budzinski: Boys Basketball Most Improved.

REAL Services menu

Those interested in sharing a meal at REAL Meals are asked to call Ruth Walker at the nutrition site (the Culver beach lodge) before 11 a.m. on the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 for each meal.

Thursday, April 16: Fish, diced red potatoes w/ herbs, mixed vegetables, bun, grape juice, apple pie,

and milk.

Friday, April 17: Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread & margarine, tropical fruit, and milk.

Monday, April 20: Apple stuffed pork chopette, peas, wax beans, bread and margarine, fruit cocktail, and milk.

Tuesday, April 21: Ham and beans, pickled beets, cornbread and margarine,

apple crisp, and milk.

Wednesday, April 22: Cheeseburger w/ pickle, applesauce, green beans, bun, juice, cookie, and milk.

Thursday, April 23: Sliced turkey, bun, mayo, sliced tomato, Potato Salad, fruit salad, and milk.

Friday, April 24: Ham, cheesy mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, bread and margarine, pears, and milk.

Sports briefs

Baseball

Cavs split
Culver Community's baseball team snagged its first win of the season with a 9-0 blowout of LaCrosse in the first game of a Saturday doubleheader, before dropping the second game, 3-2 in eight innings.

Bryce Lindvall twirled a four-hit shutout to lead the Cavs in the opener.

CULVER COMMUNITY 9-2, LACROSE 0-3
At LaCrosse
Game 1
Culver: 202 050 0—9 11 0
LaCrosse: 000 000 0—0 4 4
Bryce Lindvall (W, 1-0) and Tony Leyva; Hucker (L), VanWoerder (5) and Jones.
2B: Bucher (L).

Game 2
Culver: 002 000 00—2 3 3
LaCrosse: 000 002 01—3 7 1
Leyva (L, 0-3) and Drew Cultice; Rippe (W) and Jones.
2B: Tucker (C).
Records: Culver 1-5.

Culver falls at Caston

Culver fell behind 3-0 in the first inning and attempted a rally in the top of the sixth but fell short in a 6-2 road loss at Caston Thursday. The Cavaliers racked up four hits compared to five by the Comets, but Culver recorded three errors in the loss.

The Cavs fall to 0-4 with the defeat.

CASTON 6, CULVER 2
At Caston
Culver: 000 002 0—2 4 3
Caston: 300 021 X—6 5 1
WP: Alex Herd (1-0) and Austin Ault; LP: Zoe Bauer (0-1), Drew Cultice (2), Bryce Lindvall (6) and Tony Leyva.
Records: Culver 0-4, Caston 1-0.

Judson rallies past Culver

The Cavaliers racked up 10 hits but were unable to convert them into a win as they fell 10-7 to North Judson at home Wednesday. The Cavs ran up a 3-1 lead in the first inning and led 5-4 going into the seventh, but were unable to sustain it as Judson rallied back with six runs in the final frame.

Culver pitcher Tony Leyva tried to help his own cause with a home run, while Culver reliever

Drew Cultice recorded a double in the loss. Judson recorded three doubles, including two-base taps by Chandler Hochstedler and Terry Howard, in addition to a home run by Andrew Frasure, to improve to 2-0.

• NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE 10, CULVER COMMUNITY 7
At Culver
Judson: 101 020 6—10 9 1
Culver: 311 000 2—7 10 3
WP: Haver, Dan Zimmerman (2, NJ, W) and S. Williams; LP: Tony Leyva (C, L, 0-2), Drew Cultice (7) and Cultice, Leyva.
2B: Terry Howard (NJ), Chandler Hochstedler (NJ), S. Williams, Cultice
HR: Andrew Frasure (NJ), Leyva.
Records: Culver 0-3, North Judson 2-0.

Boys track and field

Master, Vantwoud lead Culver Justin Master won three events, while Stephan Vantwoud also contributed three wins and both Seth Schaffer and Jeremiah Harvey each recorded two wins as Culver edged out South Central 100-99 at a three-way meet with Michigan City, which placed third Wednesday at Culver. Master won both hurdles events and the high jump, while Vantwoud won the 800 and 1600-meter runs and contributed in Culver's 3200-meter relay win. Schaffer won the long jump and contributed to Culver's victory in the 400-meter relay, and Harvey won both throwing events for the Cavaliers.

• Culver 100, South Central 99, Michigan City 16
At Culver
High jump: 1. Justin Master (C) 5-8, Larry Clingler (C) 5-6, Tyler Scott (C) 5-4; Pole vault: 1. Chris Willis (C) 11-6, 2. Blake Bennett (C) 9; Long jump: 1. Seth Schaffer (C) 18-9 1/2, 2. Master 1805 1/2, 3. Siolli (M) 18-4; Shot put: 1. Jeremiah Harvey (C) 38-6, 2. Luke Kitchell (S) 38-2, 3. Jake Kitchell (S) 37-7 1/2; Discus: 1. Harvey (C) 115-0, 2. Burgess (C) 106-4, 3. Pinder (C) 100-6; 3200 relay: 1. Culver (Mike Stout, Stephan Vantwoud, Keegan Minix, Bennett) 9:49, 2. South Central 10:57; 110-meter hurdles: 1. Master 45.84, 2. Kammarath (S) 46.78, 3. Mark Macs (C) 50.97; 100-meter dash: 1. Price (S) 11.5, 2. Gilch (M) 11.64, 3. Schaffer 11.78; 1600-meter run: Vantwoud 5:14, Stour 5:19, Walters (S) 5:28; 400-meter relay: 1. Culver (Chris Willis, Jeremy Rhode, James Dulins, Schaffer) 48.06, 2. South

Central 48:9; 400-meter dash: 1. Briggs (S) 59.93, 2. Black (C) 1:00.95, 3. Megley (S) 1:01.09; 300-meter hurdles: Master 1. 17.39, 2. Hardin (S) 17.31, 3. Kammarath (S) 17.36; 800-meter run: 1. Vantwoud 2:17, 2. Stout 2:25, 3. Sateck (S) 3:08; 200-meter dash: Cielli (M) 24.00, 2. Price 28.69, 3. Schaffer 25.10; 3200-meter run: 1. Wojinski (M) 12:19, 2. Vantwoud 12:20, 3. Stout 12:25; 1600-meter relay: 1. South Central 4:09, 2. Culver 4:10.

Lacrosse

Eagles fall
CMA's lacrosse team continued a weekend road trip with a 14-9 loss at Western Reserve Academy Saturday.

Brandon Benn scored four goals for the Eagles, followed closely by Tommy Ott with three.

Seniors from page 1

to CCHS students was senior Brittany Collins' chosen honoree, veteran science teacher Bill King, who retired a few years back but was on hand to accept the award, which he said was "a wonderful surprise."

Collins said King's eighth grade class greeted her with "a hippie, long-haired teacher with a grand smile," numerous learning opportunities, and "a few life lessons, too."

Collins said King chose to "drive a beat-up van to school, not because he couldn't afford better, but because it got him where he needed to go. He wore shoes with holes in them, not to ventilate his feet but because they did what he needed them to do...I have learned from Mr. King that we all must remember to slow down (and) enjoy life."

King noted Collins father had been ill during her time in his class, requiring her to babysit in addition to a car wreck and "boyfriend troubles...I commend her for being mature beyond her age."

"One (phrase) I talked about in classes many times over the years is common sense. Brittany had an exceptional amount of common sense in eighth grade I'm proud to say she's built upon that strength."

Spanish teacher Chris Stevens was honored by senior Kimberly Irsa, who described him as a mentor and friend in addition to being her teacher. She said she was given "honest and true" advice by Stevens, who also discussed with her the importance of suc-

• WESTERN RESERVE 14, CULVER MILITARY 9
At Hudson, Ohio
CMA statistics — Goals: Brandon Benn 4, Tommy Ott 3, Bud Lowans 1, Blake Saylor 1. Assists: Pierce Leonard, Benn, Troy Grogan, Ott. Saves: Robb Harrison 9, Colton Armitage 7.
CMA record: 4-3.

CMA nipped

CMA dropped a 13-12 lacrosse decision at Sylvania (Ohio) Friday.

Brandon Benn tallied a quartet of goals to lead the Eagles.

• SYLVANIA 13, CMA 12
At Sylvania, Ohio (From Friday)
CMA goals: Brandon Benn 4, Tommy Ott 2, Bud Lowans 2, Pierce Leonard 2, Cameron Dabir 1, Blake Saylor 1.
CMA record: 4-2

cess and "told me I could do anything if I set my mind to it."

Stevens said Irsa faced high school's pressures "with the reasoning skills of an adult. She always went above and beyond. She's an absolute asset to our school and community."

He also noted Irsa is taking a First Responders course. "I know what was I doing at 18 years old," joked Stevens. "And I know some of you know what I was doing then, and I appreciate your silence!"

Senior Christina Klausening told the audience she's been in CCHS' Marybeth Harness' art class since seventh grade, who she said "has always taken teaching seriously. You are a fantastic teacher with some of the best talent I have known. I hope to make you proud of me."

For her part, Harness said Klausening "lights up the classroom...she always has good things to say about all the students' (art) projects. She's very positive. She just spreads happiness all around the classroom."

For the second year in a row, English teacher Vickie Benner was honored by a top ten senior, this time Kalie Thompson, who delivered an emotional tribute to her "favorite teacher ever."

"She wants students to do their best, and she works harder than any teacher I've ever known," said Thompson. "She's taught me a lot about both school and life."

Benner told the audience she had playground duty as a new teacher more than 30 years ago with

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Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Maxinkuckee



Serious injury averted

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WTCA

This crash on Pear Road, just north of the railroad tracks, happened at 11:41 a.m. Tuesday. The single-vehicle accident involved a 2002 Chevy Trailblazer, driven by 16-year-old Corey E. Gleitz of W. 9th Road.

Gleitz lost control at the railroad crossing grade and the vehicle traveled off the roadway, through a yard, through a farm fence and into a farm field rolling over several times. The Trailblazer came to rest on its wheels back on the roadway. Gleitz complained of pain to the left shoulder and upper arm. Two passengers in his vehicle, 14-year-old Andrew M. Gleitz complained of back pain and 17-year-old Cameron D. Garrison of Oak Hill Avenue had bleeding cuts to his lower hand and wrist.

The boys, who are students at Culver Military Academy, were transported to Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center-Plymouth. They were properly restrained by the seat belts which prevented serious life-threatening injuries.

Indiana State Police Master Trooper Mike Gruett investigated the crash and was assisted at the scene by Marshall County Police, Culver Police, Culver Fire and EMS.

Golf

CMA wins Lancer Invite

Culver Military Academy placed four golfers in the top five individual rankings to win the Lancer Frosh-Soph Invite by 29 strokes Saturday at Swan Lake.

The Eagles' Andrew Eiler garnered match medalist honors with an 18-hole 80. Teammate TJ Selby and Warsaw's Mitchell Gauger finished one stroke off the lead at 81.

CMA's Michael Geiger and Connor Vasales tied for fourth with identical 82s.

• LANCASTER FROSH-SOPH INVITATIONAL

At Plymouth (Swan Lake Silver Course)

Team scores: 1. CMA 329, 2. Valparaiso II 358, 3. Lafayette Jeff 360, 4. Concord 367, 5. Valparaiso I 370, 6. Warsaw 376, 7. Hanover Central 388, 8. Concordia 410, 9. New Prairie 443, 10. LaVille 469, 11. Fremont 470, Twin Lakes no score, John Glenn no score, Rochester no score, Washington no score.
Top 10 individuals: 1. Andrew Eiler (CMA) 80, 2. (tie) TJ Selby (CMA), Mitchell Gauger (W) 81, 4. (tie) Michael Geiger (CMA), Connor Vasales (CMA) 84, 6. Forrest Beals (LJ) 85, 7. (tie) Ryan Weworski (CMA), JT Baldwin (VII) 86, 9. Brayden Hamilton (LJ) 87, 10. (tie) Zach Sheey (HC), Logan Bertalan (VII) 88.

Local results: 26. (tie) Adam Anspaugh (JG) 96, 35. (tie) Zach Young (LV) 103, 51. Grant Fritch (LV) 119, 53. (tie) Brad Laidig (LV) 123, 55. Tyler Mendoza (LV) 124, 56. Justin Weislawski (JG) 128, 59. Daniel Francis (JG) 135, 61. Austin Shreve (LV) 142.

Buschman's tutelage, which included football coaching as well as teaching. "One of the things most impressive (about Leyva and his brother) is, they took time to grieve, they took the sympathy of others, but when it was time, they got right back to work. Most kids either put on the total tough guy act or shut down and lose it the rest of the year. But (the Leyvas) handled it as best they could. They never used it as any excuse."

Commenting on Leyva's football skills and sense of humor, Buschman called Leyva "an outstanding young man."

Leyva said Buschman taught him the fundamentals of football, describing him as "my teacher, math guru, and wise guy comedian. He creates a classroom atmosphere that's both fun and laid back."

Rounding out the evening was class valedictorian and recent Lilly scholarship recipient Myles Pinder, who chose science teacher Bob Konzelman — another winner the second year in a row — to honor for challenging him and teaching him "how to be a successful and free thinker" through unorthodox but effective teaching methods.

Konzelman referred the audience to Pinder's plethora of accomplishments and activities, describing him as a serious student always willing to help others. He jokingly referred to Pinder's improvement on a methodical approach that often took too long. "Since I knew he wanted to be a doctor, my reply was always, 'The patient's going to die on the operating table!' He has improved tremendously. When he becomes a physician and walks into the room, you don't need to run."

"I truly believe Myles is destined for great things," he added.

Hanselman rounded out the evening with praise for all the teachers. "When I introduce myself to people and tell them I'm a principal at Culver Community High School, I puff my chest out. You understand why I'm so proud of these students."

Easter from page 4

help those who are suffering in these difficult times. In the end we all have hope, real hope in the God who loves all, even those who do not know Him. His words on the cross are telling, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing!" My faith tells me that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. May we all come to know this truth more deeply: He is Risen, Truly He is Risen!

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Three generations of Millers and milk

Kenny Miller family at the heart of thriving local dairy industry

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culverites today make the trek to one of several area stores to supply their milk needs, but there was a time Kenny Miller remembers well, when milk came to most folks' doors each day, and in fact was processed and bottled by one of a handful of local dairies. Miller has good reason to remember those days: he and his family were central to Culver's dairy industry for the better part of the 20th century.

Miller describes his grandfather, James Monroe



Above: Kenny Miller today, heir to three generations of Millers in the Culver dairy industry.

(or J.M.) Miller, as a man of all trades -- carpenter, brick layer, cobbler, and boat builder among them -- who moved to Culver in 1909, starting a grocery store and dairy at the south end of town in 1918. The remnants of the Miller grocery and dairy, in fact, can be seen in the area of Obispo Street where it intersects Akron and South

Plymouth Streets today. Kenny Miller says his grandfather's store supposedly had the best meats and ice cream around, drawing customers from all around Lake Maxinkuckee.

Starting out with a horse and buggy, Miller Dairy eventually expanded to include three to four delivery trucks with routes in Culver, Monterey, Winamac, Bass Lake, Knox, North Judson, Burr Oak, and Argos.

Keeping all that milk cool also led J.M. Miller to create his own small ice house on his property. At one point he employed 10 to 14 people in his operation, says Kenny.

J.M. Miller sold his business to his son Kenneth (K.H.) Miller in 1938, the name changing from J.M. Miller Dairy -- which Kenny believes was Culver's first dairy -- to Miller's Dairy. By 1950, he says, the array of various Miller milk and cream bottles transitioned from round to square bottles. That's also when K.H. Miller bought the company's first milk homogenizer. By the late 1940s, too, refrigerated trucks had come into prominence, the need for cooling ice gone by the wayside.

"They converted his ice house into a home," recalls Kenny Miller. "My family and I moved into that house when I was young."

The late 1940s also saw the shocking death of J.M. Miller, an event Kenny says was talked about throughout the area for months after. The Miller operation, he says, included four dry wells which gathered soap scum from cleaning milk

tanks, requiring cleaning themselves every few months. Protocol dictated a six-hour wait for natural gas collected in the dry wells to evaporate, but for some reason J.M.

Miller waited just an hour that fateful July day in 1949.

"He went down (into one of the wells) and it killed him right away," Kenny Miller explains. "Alda Thomas (was) with him and thought he had a heart attack, so he went down in to get him, and it killed him too. The fire department came and they tied a rope around one of the fireman, and he passed out, but they revived him. I was over in Bass Lake at the time on the milk route with my dad. I was 11 yrs old. I remember a gentleman coming over and telling dad he had to get home."

Miller's operation was one of three dairies at one time in Culver, according to Miller. "Zechiel started the Cloverleaf Dairy where Northstar (Plumbing and Heating on Slate Street) is today, and then he moved across the street to where Hammer's garage is. In the late 1940s Cloverleaf Dairy became a Borden's distributor."

Culver's Lakeview Dairy was born in the 1940s when a Cloverleaf employee

struck out on his own, creating a plant where today's Elizabeth's Garden is, at Jefferson and Plymouth Streets; Lakeview operated, says Miller, until the

en days per week, including summer and weekends. "There were five of us (siblings)," he recalls, "and I was the lucky one. I was the oldest boy, so I got the job!

wouldn't hurt you -- it was just the idea of it!"

Bottles were re-used in earlier days which required daily washing using brushes on the end of small motors, dipped in soapy water and rinsed by hand. Miller recalls the "wonderful day" in 1943 or 1944 when the family purchased an automatic bottler that washed the bottles using a pressure washer on a belt. "It was an impressive thing. My grandfather set this all up himself."

In addition to bottling milk, the Miller's label adorned orange juice, orangeade, buttermilk, chocolate milk, half and half, and coffee and whipping cream. The bottling end of the job ended December 31, 1955, after which the company bought its milk in paper cartons prepackaged by Producers creamery in South Bend, who delivered the milk to Culver daily.

Cloverleaf Dairy was sold through the years to a man named Kennedy, then Pat Hallinan in the 1950s, who built a home and dairy building on Cass Street before the younger Kenny Miller bought the milk operation and home in 1964.

Many -- if not most -- people between the 1920s and 1970s ordered milk delivered daily to their homes. Kenny Miller recalls the small-town chumminess many people felt towards their milk man. "I'd have notes left for me that said, 'Please put some milk down for the dog,' or 'If the cat dish is empty, please

See Miller page 8



PHOTO/CITIZEN ARCHIVES

Above: Kenneth Miller Sr. circa 1940 in front of a Miller's Dairy truck.

early 1950s. Miller's absorbed most of Lakeview's customers.

Milk bottles still exist as well labeled, "Culver Military Academy." Miller notes CMA for a time purchased milk from the well-known Newman farms, bottling and pasteurizing it themselves with the CMA label (CMA dairy bottles fetch premium prices at auctions, both online and off).

Kenny Miller joined his father on milk delivery routes in the mid-1940s at eight years old. He was allowed at the time to carry only a pint of milk before later graduating to quart bottles and beyond. The route, he says, took up sev-

When I turned 16 I started driving my own milk route, and then my brother Mike took over my place helping my dad."

Delivery for the Millers meant rising at 4:45 a.m. daily to load the milk truck, leaving the plant by 6 a.m., and "if we were back by 5 that night, we were very, very fortunate."

Milk was picked up from Newman and other small dairy farms of eight to 15 cows, bringing it back to the plant for processing.

"Every once in a while," he smiles, "the cows got off into the wild onions and it would taint the milk; if you didn't catch it, it would ruin the whole batch. It

CCMS students inducted into National Junior Honor Society

Twelve students from the Culver Community Middle School were inducted into membership of the National Junior Honor Society in a ceremony held at the Middle School March 18.

Members were selected by a Faculty Council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

Students inducted were: Hayes Barnes, Erin Bau, Dylan Bennett, Allen Betts, Victoria Christlieb, Donald Clark, Shane Comiskey, Caleb Dehning, Megan Deon, Patience Durbin, Trenton Elliott, Victoria Elliott, Kirsten Gergely, Maeve Kline, Megan Lyczak, Caleb Nash, Stephen Paolini, Nick Pritz, Melissa Schalliol, Kayla Shaffer, Emily Shidler, Kennedy Thomas, Paul Tulungen, Brittany Wilkman, Timothy Wireman

“National Junior Honor Society members are chosen for and then expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school and community” said Julie Kitchell, chapter adviser.

The National Junior Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious organizations for middle level students. Chapters exist in more than 60 percent of the nation’s middle level schools, and since 1929, millions of students have been selected for membership. NJHS is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary Principals, which also sponsors the National Honor Society.

Miller, from page 1

feed him.’ One little old lady would leave a note and ask me to turn on the oven to 350! I’ve had people ask me if I’d pick up things at the grocery for them and bring them next day. You know, little old ladies that couldn’t get out.

“In the old days,” he continues, “homes were not locked. Whether anyone was home or not, the milk man...left the milk in little boxes or brought it in.”

Milk consumption changed a great deal in all those years, too, Miller notes. “People (today) sit down at the table and a family of four will go through half a gallon in a meal. The milk back then was rich; you didn’t have to drink much. The butterfat content nowadays I think is 3.2 (percent). Back then it was 4, 4.1, and 4.2.

“In winter, you’d set the milk on people’s step and it would freeze and pop the cap off. They’d cut the cream off the top, use that for their coffee, and the rest was still rich milk. We used to send skim milk back to farmers to slop the pigs! Now it’s high dollar.”

But, he acknowledges, American lifestyles have changed. Less fat is considered healthier. “I used to be able to drink two to three quarts of milk a day, but I was working it out then...(today) we don’t need the fat in our system.”

In 1975, Kenny bought out his father and combined the routes, his father and sister-in-law, Chuckie Miller, working for him for a time. All of this meant volume was too large for the existing coolers, so Miller moved his operation to State Road 17, building a cement block building and walk-in cooler (the property has remained his home ever since).

Running the route in 1981, he put in 14 to 15 hours per day until he himself quit delivering house to house in 1986. Amazingly there were still 150 houses receiving his twice a week deliveries in the Culver area, even then.

“When I quit my retail route in 1986, I had three key rings full of keys,” he notes.

Kenny Miller left the dairy business altogether in 1999. “I just got tired. I figured I’ve been in this business (almost) 60 years myself!”

When his run ended (by then he was delivering only to retail outlets), so ended a nearly 100-year tradition of locally produced or delivered milk in Culver. And so ended an era.

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CCHS announces honor roll

Culver Community High School has announced its honor roll for term 2, graduating period 1.

“A” Honor Roll

- Grade 9: Aspen Kitchell, Joseph Krsek, Kalee Miller, Cameron Turney

- Grade 10: Cassandra Dehning

- Grade 12: Isaac Berg

“A/B” Honor Roll

- Grade 9: Kellie Bonine, Samuel Hissong, Blanca Jurado, Cassandra Vansky, Austin Vela

- Grade 10: Clarissa

Baker, Jaclyn Bauer, Paige Norwich

- Grade 11: Sarah Bailey, Cynthia Miller, Cy Page, Amanda Rabenau, Pamela Sedlacek, Jerry Smith, Angeliqwe Tobey, Alena Williams

- Grade 12: Whitney Banfield, Jordan Buckman, Drew Cultice, Shannon Dunfee, Kimberly Irsa, Christina Klausing, Laura Lyczak, Justin Master, Adam Neace, Leanna Overmyer, Edward Pinder, Kalie Thompson, Andrew Williams, Elizabeth Wojdyla

Project, from page 1

Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council director Kathy Clark also described in detail the various events leading up to the council’s last meeting March 24, at which the matter was discussed.

“When I heard at the town council meeting there (weren’t) any problems (at the site),” said Clark, “I had to step in. That’s the point I’m most frustrated at. From February 22, when IDEM told this builder to shape up, nothing happened on a local level, even if there was local awareness. Where else do I go (besides local officials) if there’s violations?”

Clark noted IDEM’s ability to enforce state laws has been curtailed by budget cuts, with the state hoping local governments instead will work in support of state and federal agencies to enforce statutes when informed of violations.

Council member Ed Pinder said there are two sides to the issue, with council member Ginny Munroe pointing out Collins – who was not present at the meeting – had been made aware of that day’s meeting.

Audience member Mike Stallings, a local builder and Culver resident, said he felt Mason needed a chance to defend his position, noting his past experience with Mason suggests he is “unwavering about erosion control” and “very difficult but fair in dealing with us in what we have to do.”

From the audience, plan commission member Bobetta Ruhnnow asked that a letter from CMD in response to the charges be

read at the meeting as well.

CMD’s letter, excerpts of which were read aloud by Clark, said the company was not in receipt of IDEM’s certified letter initially, though it said Collins later received a copy from Mason. The letter said CMD takes the allegations seriously, pointing out donations of three wetlands at Potawatomi Park near Tippecanoe as an example of the company’s commitment to the environment. Requirements were met, the letter said, for Mason to issue the company a building permit.

“The creek bottoms referred to in your letter start just north of the home built by our client,” the letter continued. “To call the disturbed area a state waterway is a gross exaggeration.”

Soil erosion control at the site, Clark read from the letter, is consistent with the city of Culver’s design criteria, adding the construction superintendent at the site observed a clay tile in unmaintained and poor condition for some time with “several blowouts,” with work on the tile possibly giving “someone the wrong impression as to disturbance in the area, which was minimal.”

Clark, noting she felt it unfair to read much of CMD’s letter verbatim without reading aloud the “long list of violations from state agencies,” said she felt it more logical to trust the judgement of state agencies as to violations than the builder.

Mason said he felt CMD was fulfilling the requirements of town ordinances, noting the company com-

plied with his order to install a silk fence and add other erosion control measures after a March 3 visit to the site by Mason. He also said he was unaware of a stream or waterway at the site, adding he felt the matter was under control until the March 23 council meeting, after which he called Collins to ask about IDEM’s letter, which Collins said he hadn’t received, leading Mason to fax Collins a copy.

“That letter says nothing about stopping work,” said Mason. “They were dry-walling and putting in trim at that point.”

Mason said he didn’t believe he had the authority to stop work at the site and that he had done what was needed to enforce compliance at the site.

Mason said he thought erosion issues had been rectified and “as far as streams, that’s between IDEM and (CMD).”

There was some debate amongst council members as to whether Mason was ordered at the council’s March 24 meeting to actually stop work at the site, and whether town attorney Jim Clevenger confirmed at that time that Mason had legal authority to do so.

At the April 7 meeting, Clevenger said he sees “a little bit correct in everyone’s position” on the matter, noting he agreed, however, that a code violation has occurred at the site and Mason has the authority to stop work.

“Yes, dry-walling is not necessarily having any impact on the stream,” he said, “but apparently there’s ignoring of regulations.”

Council member Munroe said she felt the council needed to send a message it complies with state agencies asking for cooperation. Munroe motioned Mason be asked to stop work at the site, which the council passed.

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Name: Bowman-; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 8 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00062286; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: RE/MAX Oak Crest Auctions; Size: 16 in

Name: Classifieds; Width: 62p8; Depth: 21 in; Color: Black; File Name: -; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Classifieds; Size: 126 in

Name: Classifieds; Width: 62p8; Depth: 21 in; Color: Black; File Name: -; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Classifieds; Size: 126 in