

the Culver Thursday, April 19, 2012 Vol. No. 119 Issue No. 14 50¢

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PHOTOS/PAUL PARÉ -- LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

In Brief

'Grand Liberty Tour' equine performance this wkd

National trainer/performer and recent Cavalia star Sylvia Zerbini will bring her Arabian horses and "Grand Liberty Tour" to Culver Academies' Vaughn Equestrian Center for performances at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aprl 22. General admission tickets are priced at \$10 and are available through the Eppley Auditorium Box Office at 574-842-7058.

Culver clean-up on Earath Day, Saturday

Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council is working in conjunction with the Marshall County Lakes & Waters Council Saturday, April 21 to celebrate Earth Day. Meet in the town park at 9 a.m. to help pick up litter in the park, along the Indian Trails, and at the west side public landing. Bags, gloves, and hand sanitizer will be available. This allvolunteer event will run to noon. Please come and bring a smile, and help us do some spring cleaning!

Preschool registration Saturday

Open registration for Wesley Preschool will be held Saturday, April 21, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. , rather than 9 to 11 a.m. as previously reported. Registration will take place in the Wesley Methodist Church Preschool room, 511 School St. (enter on south side, across from Elementary soccer field). Seniors are to be age 4 by Aug. 1 and juniors are to be 3 by Aug. 1. Registration requires a \$40 supply fee at time of registration. Please call Jennifer Luttrell at 574-250-3852 with any questions.

Flea market items needed

Culver Lions Club now taking donations for their Flea Market on May 5. For pick up please call Fred at 574-842 2015.

Volunteers needed

Culver-Union Township EMS Volunteers, INC., are looking for men and women willing to help out the community. Volunteers are needed to drive the ambulance, and become Basic and Advanced EMT's. Culver-Union Township EMS is an Advanced Organization certified by the Department

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www.culvercitizen.com E-mail: culvercitizen@gmail.com

Spectacular evening

ABOVE: Culver Comm. High and Middle Schools spent Friday evening battling it out at the annual Sports Spectacular, which included the traditional staff-student vollyball and basketball games as well as the usual array of goofier competitions as seen above. UPPER LEFT: Parent Brandy Reinhold is launched into the adult tricyle race by fellow parent Casuel Harris (right). LOWER LEFT: Racing across ther floor are (from left) Micah Budzinski, Clare Hartman, Ali Overmyer, and Tucker Schultz. UPPER RIGHT: Cassie Vansky and Cole Flora hard at work in the wheelbarrow race. LOWER RIGHT: Tugging at war are juniors (from left) Bradley Beaver, Malici Shaffer, Micah Budzinski, Tucker Schultz, John Ahlenius, Collin Stevens, Josh Green, Keith Back, and Kyle Vlach.

Outdoor dining debate ends in temporary permit for local eatery

By Jeff Kenney Citizen editor After much dis-Culver's cussion, town council gave a tentative green light to Cafe Max owner Susie Mahler to install a railing on the sidewalk outside her establishment at 113 South Main Street in downtown Culver, with the intention of full-fledged outdoor

dining this summer. At the April 10 meeting, Mahler and some council and aufor Culver as a resort and tourist destina-

tion, citing similar arrangements in numerous other cities, though there was some debate as to whether it's normative for outdoor dining to take place in public right-of-ways such as the sidewalk.

Mahler noted since alcohol sales will be part of the outdoor options, excise laws require a three-foot high railing be installed, which in this case would be four feet from the restaurant building. Council president Sally Ricciardi pointed out work this September towards Culver's downtown



dience members em-phasized the value of (back to the camera). In the foreground are Sierra (left) and Matt Grant, such an arrangement served by waitress Amanda Dowd (standing at right).

revitalization will require complete removal of the entire sidewalk, to which Mahler replied she intends the railing to be removable, and plans to replace it once the revitalization project is complete. She said the architect designing the project projected enough tables and chairs for around 25 people could be fit in the

sidewalk space created. Concern was raised in the audience over sidewalk width for walkers and bicyclists, though it was pointed out bicycle riding on the sidewalk is illegal.

Mahler noted sidewalks in the downtown area are 11 feet wide.

limited the (tourist) season is in Culver," said Mahler. "Outdoor dining is something everybody talks about and asks us for. To legally even have a cocktail on a sidewalk you have to have a railing, so it's never been legal before, in Culver."

Town marshal Wayne Bean discussed concerns that the project could violate recent ordinances concerning consumption of

See Council page 3

5th annual Culver Relay will kick back at cancer Friday night



Marin Barnes updates Culver Academies' Multipurpose Kiwanis members on this year's building (adjacent to the Relay for Life.

For the fifth year in a row, Culverites from all backgrounds and walks of life will join to combat the common threat of cancer, by way of the annual, all-night Relay for Life, which kicks off Friday at

As explained by Culver

Academies student, Cul-

ver resident, and Relay committee member Marin Barnes, the event will share both indoor and outdoor space, after weather forced the entire Relay indoors last year. As was the case then, this year's lap walking will take PHOTO/TRENT BENNETT place in the shelter of the Henderson Ice Arena just off State Road 10), where

"I think we all know how some of the event ceremonies will also take place. This year, Barnes told Culver's Kiwanis Club at its April 5 meeting, some of the action will take place on the athletic field just north of the Multipurpose, where food vendors,

some ceremonies, and certainly some of the fun will be

This year's fund-raising goal is \$130,000, which will

put Culver's remarkable Relay accomplishments at a halfmillion dollars since the event started, one of the few nationwide to be student-organized and held at a high school.

As of press time, 57 teams had so far raised \$29,222 towards that goal, according to the Relay website, relayfor-

As in years past, a number of local organizations and entities have formed teams and purchased the \$10 luminary bags (paper bags placed around the walking track)

See Relay page 2

Customers, community were Pinder's extended family

Part 2 of 2

By Jeff Kenney Citizen editor

The Pinders' biological family was surrounded by a family of regular, adoring customers as well, including some who dined there weekly and even nightly.

"Our customers became our family," Lora muses. 'On birthdays or holidays or when there were new babies, our customers were so generous.

A quarter of the restaurant's business was the Sunday after-church crowd, Ed notes, and some Sundays people would be lined up to the end of the sidewalk.

"I'd see people coming across the lot and would start getting particular

dishes ready," smiles Ed. "I knew what they wanted."

Besides Culver and surrounding communities, customers came fairly frequently from as far away as South Bend, Logansport, and Kokomo. That changed to some degree when large buffets opened in South Bend, Ed says.

Mother's Day was the busiest day of the year, and Ed remembers 568 people coming through the restaurant in the course of their first Mother's Day open.

Two or three years into business, Pinder's added a salad bar. Within five years, the restaurant had grown by two dining rooms, and after its first 15

years, the popular buffet was added.

"I'd have 40 orders back there," Ed recalls, "and that was hard. It was about wearing me out. I just had two boys (working) back there. It was tough to do off the menu, and the buffet made it a little easier. Then maybe only half the people ordered off the menu.'

Carpenter Harry Sult did most of the building's construction over the years, Ed and Lora explain.

And the restaurant, of course, employed half the population of Culver (or so it seemed) through the

"When we first started," Lora says, "On weekends we'd have six waitresses and four women in the kitchen.'

That number ebbed and flowed through the years, but most Pinders' staffers stayed through high school.

"We had whole families," Peggy recalls. "They were

In fact, says Ed, the family still gets visits from many of the hundreds of former teens who worked for the restaurant.

"A number of times I would fix a cheeseburger for everybody working there," says Ed. "I would put their names on the Styrofoam box; I was tired, but those kids were great. On Sundays, the kids washing

dishes, their favorite thing was mashed potatoes and noodles.'

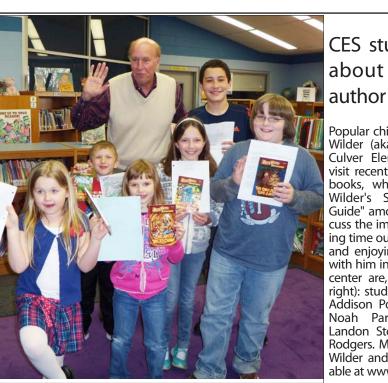
The staff had to serve up to 170 people -- the seating capacity of Pinder's at its height. Pinder's also delivered meals out of the family station wagon to the former Walker factory (today Medallion Cabinetry) nearby.

"We sent out about 180 Christmas cards to our customers and others," Ed notes.

As might be expected, there were some memorable moments with customers and otherwise.

"We got some eccentric

See Pinder's page 8



CES students 'wild' about visiting

PHOTOS/CRAIG HOPPLE

Popular children's author Buck Wilder (aka Tim Smith) paid Culver Elementary School a visit recently to read from his books, which include "Buck Wilder's Small Fry Fishing Guide" among others and discuss the importance of spending time outdoors being active and enjoying nature. Pictured with him in the school's media center are, (front row, left to right): students Linda Thamm, Addison Pohl, Lily Gregorash, Noah Parsons; back row, Landon Stevens, Wilder, Jake Rodgers. More information on Wilder and his books is available at www.buckwilder.com.

I. Timethy Aldridge, DO, FACOI Botal Catified Internal Medicine

Board Certified Critical Care



PHOTO/TRENT BENNETT

New Kiwanians

Culver's Kiwanis Club recently inducted new members (from left) Teresa Hudson, Jane Grund, and Susan Ellert. Kiwanis president Russ Mason, standing between Hudson and Grund, inducted the new Kiwanians. The club meets each Thursday at noon in the lower level of the Culver

Relay from page 1-

to honor a friend or loved will also feature keynote one who has battled or is speakers, special "themed" battling cancer. The bags will be lit during a sol-

laps, and more. More information is available onemn ceremony during the line at main.acsevents. evening's events, which org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr

id=37973 or by visiting relayforlife.org and searching for Culver, Indiana.

Thanks to Trent Bennett for assistance with this article.



Dr. Timothy Aldridge is relocating his practice from Plymouth to Woodkern Hospital in Rochester on April 9. He has practiced medicine for 20 years and is board certified in both internal and Oritical Care Medicine.

His practice formes on procedures such as upper endoscopy, colonoscopy, and stress testing. Dr. Akiridge has performed over 20,000 procedures during his career.

In addition, Dr. Aldridge's special skills will be utilized within the hospital. His

expertise in critical care will allow him to assist local family medicine physicians with patients dealing with complex medical issues. Now, De Alchridge is available to assist your own local physician when hospitalisation. is required. This means you and your family members will be taken one of right here - at home - in lieu of a transfer to larger hospitals out of our area.

To schedule a procedure, call

224-2022



Obituaries

Constance (Connie) Beth Johnson Van Horn

Dec. 12, 1945 – April 8, 2012



CULVER — Constance (Connie) Beth Johnson Van Horn, 66, of Culver passed away April 8, 2012 at the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka.

Connie was born in Michigan City to Axel and Marguerite (Wyse) Johnson Dec. 12, 1945. She grew up on a farm near North Judson and graduated from North Judson High School in 1963. June 26, 1965, Connie married the love of her life, Harry Ronald Van Horn.

A lifelong Republican, Connie held the offices of Precinct Committeewoman and Vice Committeewoman; Marshall County Councilman, and member of the Culver Union Township Advisory Board.

Ron and Connie owned and operated the Van Horn Ford-Mercury in Culver for many years. Connie was involved with many community projects. She was a founding member of the Culver LakeFest and was the Parade Chairman for many years. In addition, she was a Pledge Coordinator for the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon and also one of the founders of Supporters to Oppose Pollution (STOP). She was also involved in the Culver Library's genealogy group and Friends of the Library. She was an avid

Cubs and Colts fan and never missed watching a game if she could help it.

Connie is survived by her husband Ron; children – Harry Ronald (Vilma) Van Horn II of Monterey, Eric of Culver, and Jennifer (Aaron Talcott) of Plymouth; grandchildren, Gunnar, Lindsey, Kevin, and Abby; and great-grandson Bentley. Her faithful dog Dolly II also survives. In addition, she is survived by her sisters-in-law and brothersin-law Jon and Roseanne Van Horn and their children Brandon and Jeff of Culver and Mike (Kathy) Van Horn of North Carolina; and a host of cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A time of sharing memories with the family was held Friday, April 13, 2012 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Grace United Church of Christ in Culver. A memorial service followed at 7 p.m. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, tributes may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Connie will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Condolences may be sent to the family via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

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

Elaine Sandra McVicker

Dec. 14, 1955-April 8, 2012



WATERVLIET, Mich. — Elaine Sandra McVicker, age 56 years of Summit Drive, Watervliet, Mich. died at 3:10 p.m. Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012 at Watervliet Community Hospital unexpectedly but of natural causes.

She was born Dec. 14, 1955 in Knox to Dewey Otto and Pauline Veronica (Nauseda) McVicker. She attended school in Leiter's Ford and has lived in Watervliet, Mich. for many years.

Elaine attended the Apostolic Light-

house Church in Dowagiac, Mich. and had formerly attended the Culver Bible Church in Culver. She enjoyed the fellowship of playing table games, especially Yahtzee, and collecting and making jewelry. Her greatest joy was her family, and holding the babies. She was preceded in death by her father, Dewey

McVicker, and by a brother, Russell McVicker.

Surviving family includes her mother, Pauline V. McVicker of Culver; Elaine's sisters and brothers, Janet Miller of Culver, Andrew Tarquino of Nashport, Ohio, Nora Nugent of Indianapolis, Clifford (& Sandy) McVicker and Cindy (& Joe) Noah, both of Culver; stepbrothers and sister, Douglas Burns, James Burns, and Carin Burns, all of Houston, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Elaine McVicker was at 5 p.m. Friday, April 13, 2012 at the Halbritter Funeral Home, Niles, Mich. with the Rev. Gerald Bushnell of the Apostolic Lighthouse officiating. The family received relatives and friends at the funeral home beginning at 4 p.m. Friday.

Committal Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012 at the graveside at Culver Masonic Cemetery, Culver with Pastor Daniel Huhn of Culver Bible Church officiat-

Contributions in memory of Elaine may be made to LADD, Inc. (Living Alternatives for the Developmentally Disabled).

Council from page 1-

alcohol in public, though council member Ginny Munroe noted state excise laws allow outdoor consumption provided customers don't leave the railing are with an open alcoholic beverage.

"We're a resort town," added Munroe. "It creates an ambiance. To me, it's part of the atmosphere of the town.'

Council member Bill Githens concurred, noting addition of the outdoor dining space shouldn't become a noise nuisance if it maintains its current hours of operations.

Some audience members asked about liability issues, since the sidewalk is town-owned space. Town attorney Jim Clevenger suggested a "hold harmless" agreement be signed for the town's protection, something Mahler expressed willingness to sign.

Audience member Mike Stallings suggested the council agree to the endeavor as a three-month trial period, with council member Lynn Overmyer making a motion Mahler be allowed to install the railing through Labor Day or until

the revitalization project reaches her area, something the council approved. In an unrelated discussion also on the topic of sidewalks, Culver resident Tom Kearns proposed the council share the \$6,330 cost of installing a sidewalk on the east side

of School Street between the Culver Community Schools administration building and Miller's Merry Manor nursing Kearns, who explained his wife spent two and a half months in the Miller's facility, pointed out there is currently no sidewalk connecting the two areas, which he said presents a safety issue and also precludes a convenient op-

portunity for Miller's residents to be entertained by watching baseball games at the school-owned field just south of He said at present, those pushing residents in a wheelchair outside the facility must head into the busy street

to avoid pushing the wheelchair in the grass. He also recounted a 1980s fire at the nursing home, and the danger of moving residents across the street to the high school Culver's sidewalk sharing program, which is budgeted

for \$25,000 this year, has already been earmarked for \$18,000 to be shared with funds provided by a Safe Routes to School sidewalk replacement project this summer. The remaining \$7,000 has been set aside for private citizens to access in a sharing effort for replacement projects around town. Kearns asked the council to amend the amounts allocated, in order to construct the Miller's sidewalk, or use Rainy Day Fund monies to create the 255 foot long, five foot wide walkway. He noted Miller's is willing to share costs, so the town would be responsible for around \$3,500.

Council members raised questions as to how many residents would actually utilize the sidewalk to view ballgames, and where residents could be housed on the east side of school street in an emergency, since the only easily accessible structure is the administration building, with limited space for fitting residents. Overmyer added she

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had concerns about putting public funds into a sidewalk for a commercial property.

Council member Ed Pinder acknowledged the project is an important one, but

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STEVE ULERY TROUBLE SHOOTING/ REPAIR SERVICE UPGRADES PHONE & CABLE LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED



expressed

as to the wisdom of

using "slush" funds,

set aside for emer-

gencies, towards the

project. He also said

tax funding may be

reduced in the com-

doubts

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNFY development Com- Workers install mission has funds Cafe Max last Friday.

efiting commercial properties in Culver. Kearns said he would follow up with the CRC. In other discussion, Ricciardi said the council is prepar-

ing to interview five applicants for the vacant town manager position. Town clerk Karen Heim said she plans to look at re-

sumes collected last fall for the position of deputy clerk,

now that she's been in the office for three months. She said she hopes to interview candidates for what would be about a 30 hour per week position. Culver EMS director Chuck Dilts said his department has had 90 ambulance runs so far, transporting 85 patients to several area hospitals, though the majority were to St. Joseph's in Plymouth. He said volunteer numbers are de-

creasing and the department is actively searching for new

members, possibly reaching out to younger people. Council actions included a resolution to promote the celebration of Arbor Day within the town; appointment of Larry Brockey to Culver's tree commission; authorization of \$2,000, at the request of utilities manager Bob Porter, to hire Shannon McLeoud to write a grant for another round of Safe Routes to School sidewalk funding; and approval of a lengthier space on street poles for hanging of banners promoting the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Culver's Woodcraft Camp this summer.

Also approved was retention by the town of former railroad right-of-way property it currently owns adjacent to Culver's sewer plant, rather than offering the small strip of land to a nearby landowner.

Death notice

Salary

Samuel Lee Salary **April 9, 2012**

CULVER — Samuel Lee Salary, 77, of Culver died April 9, 2012 at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Salary of Culver; sons, Rickie Salary of Culver, Alfonso (Shirlene) Salary of La-Porte, L.C. (Cynthia) Johnson of Lithonia, Ga., James (Ethel) Cody of Springfield, Mass.; daughters, Nettie King of Culver, Geneva (Lynn) Jordan of Culver, Shellie Salary of Indianapolis; brother, George Salary of Forest Park, Ga.; sisters, Charlotte Harvey of Youngston, Ohio, Lilly Richardson of Indianapolis, and 23 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 11 a.m. to p.m. at Odom Funeral Home, Culver, where services followed at 1 p.m.

Burial is at Riverside Memorial Cemetery, Monterey. Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

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

REAL Meals menu

To share a meal at REAL Meals, call Ruth Walker at the nutrition site (the Culver beach lodge) before 11 a.m. the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. A donation is suggested for each

Thurs., April 19: Sloppy Joe, bun, au gratin potatoes, green beans, tropical fruit, milk.

Fri. April 20: Jambalaya with rice, applesauce, carrots, biscuit and margarine, salad and ranch dressing, milk. Mon. April 23: Stuffed green pepper, corn, pasta with

basil, mixed fruit, potato roll and margarine, cookie and Tues. April 24: Turkey casserole and rice, sweet and

sour cabbage, mixed vegetables, Hawaiian roll, mandarin oranges, milk. Wed., April 25: Meatloaf, baby bakers and sour cream,

diced carrots, Texas toast, peaches, milk. Thurs., April 26: Chicken with gravy, mashed potatoes, spinach, wheat roll, mandarin oranges, cookie, milk.

Fri. April 27: Swedish meatballs, stewed tomatoes, scalloped potatoes, wheat bread and margarine, fruit cocktail, milk.

Letter to the editor

Delighted at outdoor dining

We wanted to write in to let you know how excited we are that there will be outside dining available at Cafe Max. We are presently watching the railing being installed and are delighted that outdoor dining will be available in Cul-

We have been in many small towns recently and have enjoyed the outdoor dining experience and have often commented on how fun it would be to enjoy in our own town... and now we can! Thank you for this new opportunity. We believe it will positively impact our downtown area, creating a fresh and inviting energy that so many other wonderful communities enjoy.

We are delighted to be small business owners in Culver and firmly believe that changes such as the ones you are encouraging will bring in other small businesses that will fill up our empty commercial spaces. Every community benefits from thriving shops and delicious restaurants.

We thank the town council for its vision!

Julie Brooks and Julie Workman Civvies, Culver

Dining project is good for the community

Dear Editor,

Last week I was asked by Susie Mahler if I was "Pro Business" and I responded "Yes." Then she told me of her plans to put in an outside dining area behind a railing, and showed me her plans for expanding Café Max. I advised her what she needed to do to get her project done. Since then, Susie has done her homework, and taken the proper steps to achieve a positive outcome.

I would just like to remind everyone that this was approved by Town Council on a "trial" basis. Webster's dictionary defines trial as "a tryout experiment to test quality, value, or usefulness."

Susie has stated that the installation and take-down is to be paid totally by her, and that the take-down will occur before the street beautification project begins this fall. What she has proposed is ADA compliant, and totally within the excise laws of the state.

As a member of town council, part of my campaign promise was to be PRO-ACTIVE. I believe that her project is good for our community, so let's give it a chance to see if it works.

Bill Githens Culver

OPINION - HISTORY

Outdoor dining and the 'old Culver'



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney

N a t i o n a l headlines make it obvious that, contrary to opinions occasionally expressed, small towns like Culver aren't unique in latching onto "contro-

ing onto "controversies of the week" to get excited about and debate, over coffee, at one of several local entities in the morning.

One of those entities happens to be at the center of this week's hot news item, the bruhaha over placing a state excise-required railing around a portion of the sidewalk outside Cafe Max, thus making the restaurant the first to offer full "sidewalk dining" in the Culver area.

You can read all about the specifics of the debate in coverage of last week's town council meeting, at which were presented what, to me, were arguments of mixed validity against the idea.

In a nutshell, Cafe Max owner Susie Mahler and some council and audience members argue the move facilitates in Culver what many communities in Indiana and beyond (college and resort towns in particular were cited) have had for years: attractive, fun outdoor dining in a community conducive to many things outdoor, certainly during the summer months.

It goes without saying that Susie, of course, is also in favor of the move for its profit potential for her business, which is understandable. As some local merchants have commented in the days following the council's decision to grant temporary permission this summer to allow the move, few business owners in Culver are getting rich here.

It's also the case that many or most businesses make their money in the summer and "live off" those profits the rest of the year, with the exception of a few key weekends in fall, winter, and spring (mostly relating to Culver Academies events such as parents' and alumni weekends).

Opposition to Cafe Max's proposal has taken several forms, but the most prominently argued concerns pertain to whether the railing will allow enough space for wheelchairs and the like to move easily down the sidewalk (certainly Americans with Disabilities standards to allow wheelchairs have been met there), and whether consuming alcohol on the sidewalk (which state law allows under the circumstances) could lead to more diners wandering down the sidewalk consuming said beverages, particularly since Culver recently passed open container laws prohibiting such activities. I think overall those concerns have been addressed.

Another concern raised was that other businesses might follow suit and erect their own sidewalk facilities, to which Susie and others have responded (and I'm paraphrasing here), "Great -- sounds good for Culver."

Equally interesting to me were some of the other arguments as to why the move should be supressed, which have been kicked around "on the street" since the council meeting, arguments that (near as I can tell) have little to do with the objective merits of outdoor dining.

Some were personal issues between individuals associated with the restaurant, and some suggested the "old" or

"true" Culverites were opposed to the move, and would make their voices heard (and by "old," I don't think we're discussing age in years). The controversy over last fall's town elections raised similar language among some folks, and in fact was referenced to me, at least, in conversation about Susie's outdoor venture (if you're not really seeing the connection between the two, you're not alone -- neither do I).

I've had a hard time discerning the specific criteria for

I've had a hard time discerning the specific criteria for who the "true" Culver folks are. It can't be strictly about who was born and raised here: several of the implicitly "true" Culver people referenced in this argument are transplants. Granted, long-ago ones, but transplants nonetheless.

It can't be just about income, though I suspect there's a (misguided) perception relating to income. In fact, while I have no concrete insight into the earnings of various folks around Culver (and don't want any, frankly), but I feel safe in saying that those who assume everyone wearing a tie to work is closer to "wealthy" than those getting their hands dirty and wearing jeans, is mistaken.

I suppose the perception of the "true" Culverite among some folks may have as much as anything to do with attitude, but at the end of the day, I'm not sure there really is any hard and fast criteria.

What I expect is happening to some extent is understandable. Culver is changing; there's nothing new in that. Over a period of years, it has been gradually transitioning from a more mixed-class community -- perhaps on average middle class -- into more of a resort town with the added identity of a kind of mini college town, the "college" in this case being Culver Academies, which nonetheless brings similar diversity to what universities often bring, albiet on a microcosmic level. Cumulitavely, all of the above represents a mixed bag of sorts.

One important fact to remember is that all small towns are struggling and -- at least in terms of local businesses -- dying all across Indiana and the country, as is evidenced by any number of neighboring towns. Industry leaves, businesses -- feeling the pinch of internet commerce and "big box" retail outlets like Wal-Mart -- close; eventually schools and other entities (and God forbid, local newspapers) close up, and once-vibrant communities fast become ghost towns. This phenomenon is a national, not just a local one, though obviously local trends and choices fuel it, here and elsewhere.

Culver, thankfully, has not struggled and died in the way many have, owing largely to the existence of a well-maintained lake and of course, one of the top prep schools in the country

Naturally, many local businesses have picked up on this, largely since it's simple mathematics: a great deal of the income of service-oriented businesses here (which let's not forget, employ many middle and lower class workers) comes from tourist -- or Academy-related, or in some means non-full-time customers' -- dollars. In order to survive, businesses have to make money, and that has meant reconsidering Culver's status and identity to make it increasingly attractive to those potential customers.

I'd argue this may have been only partly a matter of choice, but it's largely a matter of necessity. To persist in the same manner of doing business as in the past would have meant

See View page 6

Where in the world is The Culver Citizen?

A couple of readers recognized the locale in last week's "Where in the World" photo. Museums seem to be in the blood of Jim and Judy Sawhook of Culver, who submitted the photo, which depicts the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Designed by Frank Gehry and opened in 1993, it houses an eclectic collection of over 20,000 works, says Jim.

Steve Metzger was the first reader to recognize the museum. Amy Gormaly was the second, and was interested in the prize offered by the Sawhooks: two free, all-day passes to the rides inside the Mall of America.



own Your photo(s) of the Citizen around the state, country, or world) may be emailed to culvercitizen@ gmail.com or call the editor 574-216at 0075.

Name that Culver'citizen'

Last week's Mystery Citizen was recognized by a number of readers (though a few initially guessed one of his brothers!). He was Mike Elliott, today well-known to years worth of Culver Elementary students as their gym teacher, not to mention a high school coach in various sports through the years.

Correct guesses (and so free parking in downtown Culver) came from Iris Hyland, Caitlyn Schrimsher, Jolene Westafer, Patty Stallings, Kassie Crum,

Justin Croy, Kristine Eisenhour, Kay Tusing, Carin Clifton, Marizetta Kenney, Jeanette Geiselman, Vicki Lutz Wagner,

This week's Mystery Citizen has been an active part of the Culver community for years and has been central to several community initiatives and events.

Guesses may be emailed

Small\$3.00 off Large\$4.00 off

\$2.00 domestic bottles \$1.00 domestic drafts

Wednesday

AUCE Fried Chicken...\$12.95



to culverciti-LEFT: Last week's zen@gmail. Mystery Citizen, com or call Mike Elliott, then the editor and now. ABOVE: at 574-216-This week's 0075. Mystery Citizen.



for your dining pleasure 5:30 p.m.

> Saturday SPECIAL Prime Rib Dinner

Prime Rib Dinner 20 cz., griled if desired...\$24.95 Lake Perch AUCE \$19.95

SPORTS





CCHS' Hurford impressive at national-level competition



CITIZEN FILE PHOTO inCCHS junior Matt Hurford is pictured Indiana, from his 5th place win earlier this approximately

Culver Community High School junior Matt Hurford has once again made history for his wrestling accomplishments this past weekend.

According wrestling CCHS Chad Holcoach lenbaugh, Hurford earned the right to be on the Indiana Gold team at the NWCA/Brute Na-Scholastic tional Duals by being the highest placing underclassman in the high school state meet.

The event, held at Wabash College Crawfordsville, included year at the IHSAA wrestling finals in states competing.

Hurford went 5-2 over the two-day event, noted Hollenbaugh, earning notable victories over Virginia's sixth-place finisher and Kentucky's third-place

winner. He had two narrow losses at the event: 5-4 to the third-place wrestler from Illinois, and 12-8 to a two-time state champion from Colorado, added the coach. CCHS coach Louis Posa also participated in the event as

an assistant coach for the Indiana Gold Team.

Hurford's victories and national-level ranking were announced Friday night to great applause at the school's annual Sports Spectacular, by principal Albert Hanselmen.

Girls tennis

Indianapolis.

CGA loses to St. Joe

Culver Girls Academy lost a 4-1 decision to South Bend St. Joseph's Friday. CGA's only win of the night came at 2 singles, where Paulina Cano fought back from a first set loss to beat Haley Powers 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. ST. JOSEPH'S 4, CULVER GIRLS ACADÉMY 1

Sports briefs

Baseball

CMA wins at Rochester

Culver Military plated nine runs off 12 hits, and the Eagles claimed their third win of the season at Rochester,

Kyle Bartelman doubled with an RBI, while Colin Raver and Kevan Bjornson both doubled, and Ralph Laux drove in a run for CMA. Colt Vessels picked up the win on the mound relieving Brian Espiritu in the fifth inning, and Perley Provost took over in the seventh to shut the door on the host Zebras.

Travis Wottring doubled for Rochester, and John O'Dell took the loss relieving Aaron Stuart in the fourth as CMA scratched out six runs in the top of the sixth to take the lead for good.

• CULVER MILITARY 9, ROCHESTER 4 At Rochester

Cougars shell Culver Comm. High School

New Prairie shelled Culver's pitching staff with 15 hits, including five doubles, as the Cougars handed the host Cavaliers a 19-2, five inning loss Wednesday.

Randy Cline and Sam Hissong both doubled for Culver in the Cavs' only two hits of the outing.

Collin Stevens took the loss on the mound pitching through four innings

NEW PRAIRIE 19, CULVER 2 (5 inn) At Culver

Culver loses to Zebras

Rochester jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning and put up a seven spot in the fourth for a 12-4 victory at Culver Community Monday.

The Cavaliers put up five hits in the win, including a homer by Collin Stevens.

Culver slides to an 0-4 start. • ROCHESTER 12, CULVER 4

At Rochester

Eagles edge Morgan Township

Culver Military responded to a Morgan Township run in the top of the fifth with two runs in the bottom of the inning, and Kyle Bartelman earned the save as the Eagles held on for a 3-2 win at home Tuesday.

Cole Grandel earned his first win on the mound for

• CMA 3, MORGAN TOWNSHIP 2 At Culver

Softball

CGA loses

Culver Girls Academy slipped to 0-3 with a 4-0 shutout against visiting South Bend Washington at the Academies

CGA posted five hits but couldn't string enough together

to score a run in the loss. • WASHINGTON 4, CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 0 At Culver

Culver loses in 5

Culver managed just two hits against West Central pitcher Joelyn Flotow, and the Lady Cavaliers fell in a 13-1, five inning game on the road Saturday.

Abby Jones was credited with the loss inside the circle as West Central plated 13 runs on seven hits and six Culver

• WEST CENTRAL 13, CULVER 1 (5 inn) At Francesville

Boys golf

CMA wins Rochester JV tourney

Culver Military Academy won the team championship with a 365, while Reis Yoder earned low medalist honors with an 84 for the second-place Plymouth Red team, which came in two strokes behind CMA at the Rochester JV Tournament at Round Barn Saturday.

Plymouth's White team placed 10th with a 399 score followed by Bremen's 422 in 11th.

Logan Joseph tied for second place individually for the Eagles with an 85, while Plymouth's Kendall Fosler tied for eighth with John Glenn's C.J. Jaske at 90. ROCHESTER JV TOURNAMENT At Round Barn (par 72)

Boys track

CMA tops Trojans

Culver Military earned an 80-52 win over visiting Triton

in a dual boys track meet at the Academies Wednesday. Steve Choi was a winner in the 100, 200 and the 400 relay for CMA, while Landrum Neer was a winner in the

1600 relay, 3200 relay and the 800. Tyler Ameigh won the high jump and the 110 hurdles and placed second in the long jump and 300 hurdles for

the Trojans.

• CULVER MILITARY 80, TRITON 52 At Culver

Girls track

CGA trumps Triton

Culver Girls Academy won 13 events in an 89-38 win over visiting Triton in a dual girls track meet Wednesday. Laura Ma was a winner in the 100, 200 and 400 relay,

while Amber Cowell won both hurdles events for CGA. Autumn Kahn won the 400 and the long jump for Triton,

while Megan Howdeshell won the discus. CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 89, TRITON 38

At Culver



Briefs from page 1-

of Homeland Security-EMS Commission. Training is provided in-house as well as EMT classes are held in the area at different times of the year.

If you are interested in volunteering contact the office by phone or email, 574-842-2773, cutems@culcom.net, or at 200 E Washington St., Culver, In 46511.

Kindergarten round-up April 26

CULVER — Culver Community Schools Superintendent Brad Schuldt announces kindergarten enrollment information for the 2012-13 school year. Kindergarten roundup will be held Thursday, April 26 at 6 p.m. in the Culver Elementary School cafeteria. To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2012. Children do not need to attend this informational meeting with parents, or please contact Culver Elementary at 574-842-3389 to make other arrangements.

CES 6th graders' "Twelfth Night" April 27

The 19th annual 6th grade Shakespeare play will be held Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Culver Elementary School gymnasium. This year's play is "Twelfth Night," a comedy dealing with playing tricks over the Christmas holidays. A free-will donation will be collected and added to the "Soup for the Soul" funds to aid numerous charities, people, and programs.

Maxinkuckee Players auditions April 28

The Maxinkuckee Players will be hosting auditions for their summer musical, "Crazy for You" Sat., April 28, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 to 4 p.m., and 6 to 8 p.m. in the Culver Community High School auditorium. Please bring a song of your choice to sing and be prepared to read from a script we'll provide and perform a short dance combination. For more information, please contact Lenore Jones, director at Lenore@ancoofficeproducts.com or 574-780-7450.

Student art show April 28 wkd

Culver's Tri Kappa is pleased to announce its 10th annual student art show Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 29 from noon to 3 p.m., at the Culver Cove Marmont Room.

Students from the Culver Community High School, Middle School, and the Culver Academies may submit entries. Judged categories include drawing, painting, photography, print making, three dimensional and middle school. Visitors may vote for their favorite artist and entry in the People's Choice category. There is no charge for

Community meal at St. Mary's April 30

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church's monthly community meal will take place Monday, April 30. 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.

The Culver-Union Twp. Public Llibrary is pleased to

Jayne Jacobson is April Artist of the Month

welcome Jayne Jacobson as the Artist of the Month. Jacobson is displaying a unique mixture of her copper enamels, photographs and water colors for the month of April. For more information, call the Culver Library at 574-842-2941, visit www.culver.lib.in.us, or e-mail cgood@culver. lib.in.us. The library's street address is 107 N. Main St.

Town wide yard sale

The Town of Culver is sponsoring a Spring Town Wide Yard Sale Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 from 8

a.m.-4 p.m. If you are interested in participating and would like to have your yard sale location included on a map distributed to the public, please contact Town Hall via e-mail at clerk@townofculver.org or at 842-8140 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. no later than Tuesday, April 24. Please provide your address and the date(s) of your sale. There is no cost for the event. Maps will be available beginning Thursday, April 28 at town hall, Culver Express and Osborn's Mini-Mart.

IOOF breakfast April 28

The Maxinkuckee Odd Fellows Lodge #373 will host an all you can eat pancakes and sausage, biscuits and gravy breakfast Sat,, April 28 from 6 a.m. to noon, at the corner of Pine and 18B Road, Culver. Adults are \$6, children \$4. Come out and eat breakfast before going to town-wide garage sales.

Friends book sale April 27 and 28

The Friends of the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library will hold a book sale Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lower level of the library. Used books are always appreciated and can be dropped off at the circulation desk of the library.

Weekly Culver history classes

A weekly Culver history class sponsored by the Center for Culver History museum will take place through April in the small meeting room of the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library, located across the hall from the museum, and will begin each week at 4 p.m.

State-wide exhibit to include Culver maps

From April 18 to May 22, the Center for Culver History will host "Indiana through the Mapmakers Eye," which examines ways people have used maps through the years and features local and state-wide maps.

Sidewalk program

Applications for the 2012 Sidewalk Program will be available at town hall. Completed application for the program will be reviewed in the order they are received.

Free computer classes

Culver-Union Township Public Library will continue its free computer classes Monday evenings at 6 and Friday mornings at 10; each lasts two hours. These are handson classes and the library will provide computers. If you have your own laptop computer, feel free to bring it to the classes, which include: Computers for Beginners Part II (April 20), Internet for Beginners (April 23 and 27), Email for Beginners (April 30, May 4).

For more information, call 574-842-2941, visit www. culver.lib.in.us or e-mail abaker@culver.lib.

Keitzer scholarship apps due May 1

Applications for scholarships from the Charles B. and Lenore M. Keitzer Trust are available at the First National Bank, Monterey, and Culver Community High School. Graduates of CCHS who have lived within a 5-mile radius of Monterey for at least one year while in high school are eligible to apply for the scholarship. One scholarship will go to a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church of Monterey who is a full-time resident student studying for the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. One or more scholarships will be awarded to students who are graduates of CCHS who are full-time students at a college or university. Deadline for filing applications is May 1 by 3 p.m. for both renewals and new applicants.

Vision specialist at REAL Meals May 2

Daniel Ölson, M.A., Blind Rehabilitation Specialist will speak at Culver REAL Meals, at the beach lodge on Lake Shore Drive, Wed., May 2. Olson aids people's vision with free magnifying glasses. To share a meal at REAL Meals, call before 11 a.m. the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. A donation is suggested for each meal.

'Town hall' meeting for museum's future May 12

The Antiquarian and Historical Society (AHS) will host a "town hall" type event at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12 to bring Culver-wide residents together to save its heritage as preserved and shared at the Center for Culver History museum, which will be evicted from the Culver Public Library next year. The meeting be moderated by Jeff Harris, Director of Local History Services at the Indiana Historical Society, and is open to the public. Anyone with an interested in preserving local history is strongly encouraged to attend and make their voice heard. The AHS requests that organizations send a representative to the meeting.

MCJFL sign-up dates

Culver's Marshall County Junior Football League youth football sign-ups will take place May 15 (5 to 7 p.m.), June 16 (9 a.m. to noon), and June 23 (9 a.m. to noon). Please sign up at the open garage doors on the west side of the Culver Community High School. We are also looking for volunteer coaches as well as event volunteers. Please contact the following if interested: commissioner Chris Stevens (stevensc@culver.k12.in.us, 574-216-5007) or co-commissioner Van Hissong (vhisssong@hotmail.com, 574-225-0712).

Note: players must be 7 years old by July 31 and weigh at least 45 pounds.

Poplar Grove rummage sale Memorial Day

Poplar Grove United Methodist Church will hold its annual rummage sale Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26, Memorial Day weekend, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. As in the past, items will be available both inside and outside, so rain will not cancel the sale. To donate to the sale, please call Susan Shaffer at 574-952-2688 for pick-up of those donations.

CBGC auction will 'Build Brighter Futures'

Organizers of the Culver Boys and Girls Club (CBGC) annual fundraising event encourage everyone to "save the date" for the "Building Brighter Futures" event to be held Friday, June 15 at the Culver Academies Lay Dining Center from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the magical transformation act, "Quick Change." The silent auction will culminate with a premium live auction. Admission to the event is \$65 per person or \$125 per couple and is by reservation only.

Lake Max Challenge paddleboard event June 30

Culver will host Indiana's first-ever World Paddle Board Association sanctioned Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) race Saturday, June 30 via the Lake Max Challenge. The Lake Max Challenge will start at the beach lodge at Culver's town park, 819 E. Lake Shore Drive. Parking and launching will be off the east end of the town beach. Learn more or register at lakemaxchallenge.com and facebook. com/lakemaxchallenge. Or contact 574.889.0022.

View from page 4-

economic death for Culver from a local business standpoint, I suspect -- not so much because of anything to do with Culver per se, but because of those national trends I already mentioned. And let's face it, most of us are a part of it. Bought anything online in the past few years? Shopped at Wal-Mart? Heck, shopped anywhere non-local?

Now thankfully, Culver really has maintained a diverse mix of backgrounds, income levels, and the like. Rubbing elbows at a place like Cafe Max are owners of lake homes, Academies parents, faculty, or alums, and bluecollar workers of one sort or another. Culver still has a community of service-minded individuals earning dollars for local organizations through bake sales and chili suppers -- "elbow grease," so to speak -- right alongside those who are able to contribute strictly by way of their pocketbooks...and we need both, don't we?

And therein lies some of the concern, or to be more exact, fear. My own personal experience might illustrate this. I was taken aback when I sat down and considered the

households on my childhood block in Culver in the 1980s: of the seven houses there, the primary income of six of them was derived from industrial work (this includes my own house, where my Master's degree-possessing mother shared work duties with my factory worker father) or in one case, service industry work. Most houses had children of one age or another, so that many a childhood day and night were spent at play with kids I didn't even have to cross the street to interact with.

Jim Dewitt, who lives just behind our current home on the northeast side of town, told me he'd counted the children on both sides of the stretch of a few blocks we occupy, back when he and his wife were raising their own children, and counted some 50 children!

I don't think the above was terribly unusual for Culver 20-plus years ago, and let's face it, part of the reason so few children live within the actual town of Culver is the lack of affordable housing. This is the under-side to the resort identity of Culver, and I understand the concerns some residents -- who remember the "old days" very well -- as to the future of a town which still feels partly like Mayberry, but which they fear will only lose more and more of that old identity, when everyone knew everyone.

This took the specific form of some backlash against "Chicago transplants" after last autumn's election, and while I, too, lament the number of homes left empty most of the year (due to their being vacation cottages for out of state owners), at the same time a great many Illinois retirees have relocated and contributed to Culver in a vibrant and dynamic way. In other words, it's complicated.

That's essentially what I told one person last week, in

connection with this discussion. We all like having the funding to repair our streets and sidewalks, and keep our town government solvent, but we understandably worry over housing costs and Culver becoming a resort town which squeezes longtime locals (and their voices) out of the equation.

We're glad the town park's parking lot is no longer the bedlam of teen drug and alcohol use and vandalism it once was, but we regret the absence of in-town families with a number of teen (and younger) children. We want a community of small-town folk including lower income, working class neighbors, but we get a little edgy if lawns and fences aren't well maintained or landscaped (not that the two are mutually exclusive, mind you!). I share these concerns and their internal complexities. I miss the "old" Culver, whose streets rang with the voices of children playing outdoors (ok, some of that has more to do with iPads and other tech than it does Culver per se!), but I also don't miss some of what can only be called the downsides to

I'm not suggesting, mind you, that every concern raised over Cafe Max's new outdoor dining venture is linked directly to this ethos. Without a doubt, some have raised concerns over very specific matters which have nothing to do with these issues, and I don't mean to read these issues into their concerns unjustly.

But at the end of the day, we're not going to resolve these concerns by preventing Cafe Max and other businesses from doing what they need to do -- within reason -- to enhance their attractiveness to Culver's very real tourist industry. Fact is, if we populated downtown with all the old businesses we remember from, say 1979, or 1965, or whenever represents the "golden age" of the "true Culver" to each of us, most of those businesses today would fail where they thrived back then.

And whatever changes Culver does go through, I hope it will include more young families, and most of all I hope the community will continue its longstanding tradition of being the sort of place where folks know each other, neighbor helps neighbor, and people work together for the common good.

In a town of some 1,500 people, that shouldn't be that difficult, now should it?

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Pinder's from page 1



Pinder's under heavy snowfall during the blizzard of 1999.

Lora. There was the man who came in with loaded guns, the one who put his teeth in his water glass and cleaned them with a pocket knife, and the one who regularly put a hair in his cherry delight dessert to get an extra.

"We had nicknames for people," smiles Ed. "'Mr. Chicken...Crummy.'

"Our best tipper," says Peggy, "was George Stein-

"He was great to us," agrees Julie. Eddie recalls Steinbrenner gave the family tickets to see the Chicago Cubs in the 1984 and 1989 playoffs.

"Only once did anybody ever go up to him (as a celebrity while dining)," Lora says. "We treated him like any other customer. He loved the meat loaf and chicken and noodles."

Peggy recalls Steinbrenner "always remembered our names and asked about our kids. He and his wife were

amazed we could work together so well as a family."

The family also recalls staying open late for legendary Broadway playwright and director Josh Logan, a Culver Military Academy grad, to dine at Pinder's.

As much as the Pinder's staff enjoyed their customers, at times business just had to go on. Family members learned the trick of making their own telephone ring as an "escape" plan

"escape" plan.
"We had lots of fake phone calls to get Lora away from customers," Julie laughs. "We made about eight or 10 phone calls a day!"

Yoga basics class

Yoga Basics, a five-class series, will build yoga practice from the ground up. Instructor Ellie Nicholson leads this workshop-style class designed to ground you in proper alignment, modifications, breath-work and deep relaxation. The class is ideal for the beginning student who wishes to explore yoga, or the experienced practitioner who would like to renew their commitment to practice.

The series takes place Sundays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., April through May 27 (with the exception of May 13). Fee for the series is \$65. Classes will take place at Bottom Line Training Co., 232 S. Main St. Suite D in downtown Culver. Sign up in advance. Space is limited. 574-842-2400.

"The little old ladies loved Eddie," Ed recalls with a smile, "except for the one he almost killed! A big dog was in our front entry way and Eddie kicked the door open for it, and (the door) smacked her on her back!"

Eddie also had the opportunity to perform CPR a few times.

All in all, of course, the Pinder family wouldn't change its customer base or trade in its great memories.

"In 30 years of business," Lora notes, we could name on two hands all the bad experiences."

PHOTO PROVIDED There were other memorable events, such as the "bLizzzard of the century" in 1978. When the storm first hit, the family barely made it home from the restaurant.

That was a Wednesday says Ed and the s

That was a Wednesday, says Ed, and the streets were just clear enough by Saturday for him to make it to the restaurant to check the equipment there.

"I waded into snow up to my chest and finally got the door open. Then on Sunday we had to clear off a little bit of the front of the lot and we opened (about) three hours. We had an older couple come all the way from Winamac! The snow was piled up at least a month after that."

"We almost starved during the bLizzzard," Lora adds. "I didn't have food here (at home); it was all at the restaurant!"

There was also the short-lived experiment of a Pinder's franchise -- or at least the first in a franchise.

"We thought we could expand," Ed explains. "When Eddie was 14 years old, Julie and Cheryl were willing to run the restaurant in Culver. Lizz and her husband and Eddie went down to Peru (Indiana) with us. We thought it would make them a good career."

After briefly considering opening a Pamada Inn. the

After briefly considering opening a Ramada Inn, the family settled on Pinder's II, which opened to much fanfare in Peru. During its first week, however, the operation was plagued with difficulties.

"Our huge ice machine went down, the coolers on top of the building were going down. We said, 'We can't afford to put all these things in,' and we asked our lawyer, Jim Grund, to get us out of this contract. We had great business; it was a wonderful week. But we turned it back to

the owners."

The building burned down a month after the Pinders handed in their keys.

As Pinder's in Culver neared 30 years in business, things were beginning to change. While location had never hindered the restaurant's business before, it became a factor in the late 1990's, which Lora calls "the new era of fine dining in Culver," though she's quick to point out business was still good. Ed notes Pinder's had cut down to serving one meal daily its last seven years.

The writing was on the wall when Ed lost one of his eyes to macular degeneration.

"I knew I couldn't run the kitchen if I was blind," he says. "I was getting a little tired in the kitchen. I had two boys that helped in the kitchen at that time, and they were wonderful help...they decided I didn't need two people and could get by with one. So I just had one boy help me, and it was a little much for me. I'd come home and take a nap in between hours. It was getting harder to find good help, too, though we had a good crew when we closed."

Ed and Lora offered their children the restaurant, "but they didn't want it, so we put it on the market. A number of people wanted to buy it but didn't have the money."

After four years on the market, the building sold to George and Tammy Pesek, who had operated the Corndance Cafe on Main Street since 1999.

The final week of business at the beloved institution was

The final week of business at the beloved institution was "very busy," recalls Ed. In fact, he told the Culver Citizen in 2002, it was the restaurant's busiest ever, as customers -- still in disbelief that Pinder's could close -- came by for a "last meal."

It's telling that the Pinder name continues to be used to "sell" a community event: the chili at a Council of Churches supper is prominently advertised as a "Pinder's recipe," as are other food items Ed and Lora continue to make from scratch for bake sales, benefits, and events of all sorts. And of course the couple -- and their family -- continue to be household names in Culver, whether its Ed's role on Culver's town council, or he and Lora at Wesley United Methodist Church, Culver Lions Club, and elsewhere.

Undoubtedly, then, the loss is lessened in that while Pinder's the restaurant is gone, Pinders the family are still here; and it was their presence which made the Culver family seem a part of their own.

Culver P.D. to conduct mobilization on rural seat belt use

Culver, IN. – Beginning April 20, the Culver Police Department will increase seat belt patrols along with multiple agencies in Marshall County as part of the state's Rural Demonstration Project (RDP). Agency officials today announced their participation in the annual effort, which aims to increase seat belt use by motorists in rural counties with the highest percentage of unrestrained fatalities.

According to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), 64 percent of the state's total traffic fatalities occurred on rural roadways during 2011. In an effort to reduce these fatalities, approximately 24 Indiana law enforcement agencies throughout the state, in conjunction with the Indiana State Police, have been selected to take part in this year's project, which runs through May 17. Participating agencies will be on the lookout for unrestrained motorists in all vehicles, including pickup trucks.

"The goal of high visibility enforcement efforts such as RDP is to remind all Marshall County motorists of the value of seat belt use," said officer Troy Ulch. "Not only is the use of a seat belt required by Indiana law, its use can increase your chances of survival in the event of a crash by over 50 percent."

Since 2007, Indiana's primary seat belt law has required that all passenger motor vehicle occupants, including those in pickup trucks, buckle up regardless of seating position. During Indiana's 2011 "Click It or Ticket" mobilization,

law enforcement officers cited more than 18,000 motorists for failure to comply with Indiana's seat belt law.

The Rural Demonstration Project (RDP) is an annual traffic safety effort made possible through Federal Highway Safety grants administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).