



The Culver Citizen

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CITIZEN PHOTOS /JEFF KENNEY

In Brief

Beach lodge open for activities

The Beach Lodge meeting room will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday for adults to gather for card playing, Dominoes, Scrabble, etc. Bring a snack and come to share some fellowship with others.

Community Lenten services

The Culver Community Council of Churches invites all to join for community-wide, ecumenical Lenten prayer services Sundays at 4 p.m. at: Emmanuel United Methodist Church (March 3); Wesley United Methodist Church (March 10); Grace United Church of Christ (March 17). Those with questions, contact Jean Rakich at 574-842-2725.

VFW bingo returns

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

Community meal at St. Mary's Feb. 28

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

Little League sign-ups

Culver Little League will hold sign-ups at the Culver Union Twp. Library on the following dates and times: Friday, March 8, 3 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday, March 20, 5 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, March 23, noon to 3 p.m.

New museum director sought

The Center for Culver History has an opening for a new museum director in Culver, a part time position (20 hours per week) paying \$10 per hour. See www.culverahs.com for detailed job description.

Please send a cover letter

See Briefs page 12

www.thepilotnews.com

Click on Citizen Tab

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It could happen here...

Members of Indiana's State Police and other law enforcement and emergency agencies visited Culver to talk some hard possibilities concerning the need to prepare for the possibility of an active shooter in the area. Pictured ABOVE, LEFT is State Police Capt. Bob Rich; AT RIGHT is Superintendent of State Police Doug Carter. The LOWER photo shows SWAT officer Chris McQuerry addressing the assembled group.

An 'active shooter' in Culver...what would you do?

State police, local agencies gather to discuss, plan

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

According to presenters at an event last Thursday, chances are a mass shooter at a local school, business, or public place will already have departed, committed suicide, or been disarmed by a bystander before law enforcement agencies arrive at the scene -- in which case, civilians need to think ahead and plan, should the worst take place.

That was part of the message presented by the Indiana State Police Emergency Response Section during an event centered on helping local school officials and emergency response crews respond to an active shooter event of the type seen in recent years at Newtown, Connecticut and elsewhere.

Hosting was Culver Academies, which was represented by its safety and security director, Troy Heckaman as well as security officers, Facilities director Jeff Kutch, and leaders in the International and Summer Schools sections of the school. Marshall County sheriff Tom Chamberlin, Culver town marshal Wayne Bean, fire chief Terry Wakefield, and Culver Comm. High School principal Albert Hanselman and assistant elementary principal Erin Proskey were on hand as well. All were gathered at the Roberts Auditorium in the Academies' Roberts Hall of Science.

State Police Capt. Bob Rich, a Culver resident, began the event, noting that Doug Carter, the current (and 20th) superintendent, appointed by Gov. Pence, was also on hand, as was Dave Crawford of the FBI's South Bend and Fort Wayne offices, and State Police Capt. Brad Weaver, in charge of Special Operations. Rich noted Cory Collier of the State Police SWAT team, also present, had worked previously with the Academy in attending to the safety of the children of a foreign dignitary attending summer camp there.

Superintendent Carter told attendees of deep research he conducted just after the Columbine school shooting incident, even visiting the site.

"My world changed," he said, "seeing that memorial and what happened. If you're at any of the 27 or 28 (similar) incidents that occurred in our country, stop and see the environment. It's just like yours. The only difference is, it's in some other place. And now it's movie theaters, college universities, churches and synagogues, and private schools. It turns our stomachs to think about that reality, but now's the time. This cannot simply be a law enforcement issue.

"From today on," continued Carter, "I hope you understand the reality of what's facing us today; I know you don't want to."

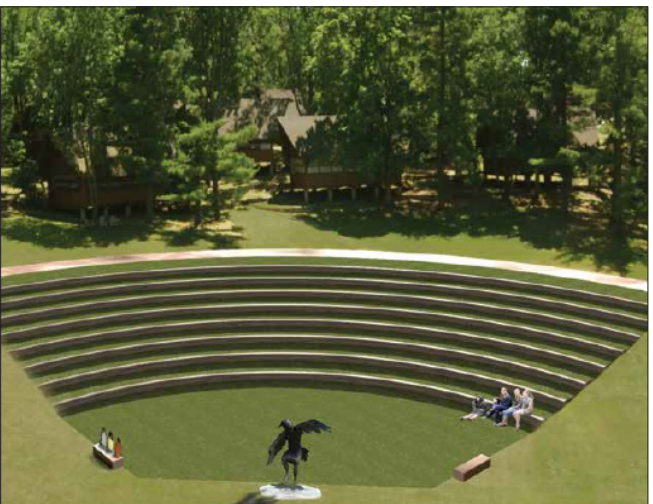
He emphasized the importance of reporting anything believed to be suspicious to the authorities, pointing out one common denominator in every school shooting in America is the presence of warning signs not reported before the incident.

Carter also noted that, should a mass shooting incident happen here, law enforcement's initial efforts "won't be to assist you, but to go after the person creating carnage on the campus."

State Police SWAT officer Chris McQuerry pointed out the presenters couldn't give attendees what they often ask for in similar workshops: specific "what to do" instructions in response to an active shooter, since each scenario is unique. Instead, the intent is "setting ourselves up for success."

Fellow SWAT officer Shaun Armes described an increasingly common term, "the stopwatch of death," which per-

See Shooter page 2



Work begins on Woodcraft amphitheater

PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

Dirt began to move recently (LEFT) on the upcoming Woodcraft Centennial Amphitheater, whose plans were unveiled last summer. The monument to Culver Academies' Woodcraft Camp's first 100 years, which will seat 1,000 people when completed, will serve as a natural yet comfortable place for Woodcrafters, parents and visitors to come together as one group during the weekly awards after Garrison Parade, the camp play and any number of events.

Ultimately, its uses will extend to the Upper Camp and even the winter school. The amphitheater will be located in the southern portion of the camp, west of the Woodcraft dining center (an image of its proposed final look is AT RIGHT)

A Culver success story

ABOVE: Rick Coffman, plant manager at Culver's Elkay-Medallion plant on Mill Street, showcases an exhibit of some of the items manufactured there, now for hundreds of stores across the country, with expectation of increased production this year. The plant was extensively renovated last year to dramatically increase production last summer.

Elkay-Medallion plant boasts upgraded facility, new production horizons

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Chances are, most Culver residents drive with some regularity by the Elkay (Medallion, if you're looking at the sign) factory at the corner of West Mill Street and State Road 17, oblivious to the fact that the plant churns out some 650 cabinets -- some custom made -- each day for national vendors like Home Depot, Lowes, Menards, and Sears, employing some 260 workers. They're also one of the few plants in American which can run both traditional and frameless cabinets on the same line, at the level they do, thanks to an "extreme assembly makeover" at the factory last July.

For the above reasons and others, plant manager Rick Coffman says not only is the factory not planning to go anywhere soon...they will be stepping up production in 2013.

"Last year the company made a major investment of capital in this facility," says Coffman, "and we are on schedule to do so again this year. We will put new lighting -- T5 type -- in the plant this year, which will make things brighter and still save energy. There's a big push for 'green.' This will also help our utilities costs."

That company is Elkay -- not, as people often assume, actually Medallion anymore, though some of the cabinets at the factory carry the Medallion brand. The Illinois-based company, in business for 93 years, began in stainless steel sinks and about 20 years ago expanded into the cabinetry business. Elkay purchased a number of smaller cabinet making companies in recent years, including Minnesota-based Medallion back in 1993. Medallion proper reopened the building many Culverites best remember as McGill's or Walker-Tennaco, in 2005.

Coffman came to Elkay in Culver in Oct., 2011 from the Modern Door Corporation in Walkerton, where he was general manager.

"Ultimately," he says, "Elkay is a darn good company. They have very good values and they stand up to their values. They're American based for primarily the American market, though they are in Mexico and China, too. They're privately held and debt free in good standing."

Coffman says he was swayed to throw his name in the hat here by the advent of the frameless cabinet line which forms the basis of Home Depot's nationally-selling Innermost, whose displays are

See Elkay page 12

See in Home Depots across

Hubbard Street returns to Eppley stage March 12

The Huffington Concert Series continues at Culver Academies with the return of the Chicago-based Hubbard Street II Dance Company (www.hubbardstreetdance.com) Tuesday, March 12, at the Eppley Auditorium on the school's campus. The company, which has performed to rave reviews in 44 states and 19 countries.

Described as "A near-perfect storm of movement, music

and choreography" by the Los Angeles Times, the modern dance company will take the stage at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available through the auditorium's two box offices, including the Steinbrenner Performing Arts Center Box Office in the foyer of the main entry facing Academy Road (open Monday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m.); and the Eppley Auditorium Box Office, located in the lobby

and open one hour prior to any ticketed performance.

To request tickets, email covenm@culver.org or call 574-842-7058. All seats are reserved seating.

Ticket prices are \$20 for orchestra/mezzanine (\$15 for seniors/students) and \$15 for balcony (senior/student \$10). All ticket sales are final. The box office accepts cash, check, MasterCard, Visa and American Express.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Invasion of the coots

A number of residents of Lake Maxinkuckee's west shore have noted they've been invaded -- by the coots so commonly seen nowadays on the water. Likely befuddled by the now solid covering of ice over most of the lake, the birds -- members of the rallidae waterfowl family -- have begun to congregate not only along the shoreline (left), but in residents' back yards, such as that of Carol Saft of West Shore Drive, who sent these photos. Many may not realize (or care!) that a congregation of coots is officially known as a covert, or a cover, which at least gives a name to what's been taking place on residents' lawns of late.



Shooter from page 1

tains to the ratio of emergency response time to number of innocents killed or injured by a shooter. Most shooting incidents are over within 10 minutes of their beginning, he said, usually well before law enforcement agents are on-scene.

Armes asked the audience to pay particular attention to warning signs fitting common profiles of active shooters, including: an unexplained increase in absenteeism; a decrease in attention to appearance and hygiene; depression and withdrawal from others; repeated violation of the rules; mood swings; explosive outbursts of anger or rage without provocation; development of "everyone is against me" behavior; and suicidal talk or behavior. He emphasized, however, that not everyone displaying these traits is on the verge of committing a violent act.

"The 'everyone's against me' behavior scares me the most," added Armes, "because they feel they can't win and there's nothing to deter them from carrying out whatever act they've thought about."

He also challenged listeners to consider how well they know their students or co-workers and their families.

"You may be able to deter an act like this by pulling someone aside and asking, 'What's going on?' Open up communication."

While Armes stressed the need for institutions to develop a predetermined plan of action in the event of an active shooter, he also noted procedures and plans shouldn't be cumbersome, or they won't be followed.

Armes quoted author Jeff Gonzales: "In a violent encounter, willingness to act is often more important than equipment and weaponry. Having a plan in place is key to survival."

"We're asking you to plan for this," said Armes.

McQuerry added that many people think mass shootings won't happen in their area, "but the chances are 50-50.

"Develop a lifestyle with a heightened sense of awareness of your surroundings," he said.

In addition to creating a plan and procedure, McQuerry pressed for institutions to test those procedures and look for complicating factors, such as Culver Academies' campus being more spread out than most high schools, and comprised of students of a wide variety of nationalities and backgrounds.

McQuerry also showed a dramatized video of an active shooter incident which outlined priorities of response for those in its vicinity. Getting out of the building as soon as possible is the first and best choice, he said, dialing 911 only after you are safe. If exiting proves impossible, the next best action is to find a place to hide, locking or barricading doors to prevent the shooter or attacker from entering. Turn out lights and silence cell phones while hiding, he added.

"If you have to fight," he said, "attempt to incapacitate the shooter; act with physical aggression, improvise weapons, and commit to your actions.

"We want to get your gears turning -- what would you

do?"

Looking forward, McQuerry emphasized developing stronger relationships between those likely to respond to such a situation in this area: the Academies' campus security, the town marshal and Marshall County officers, the Plymouth police, and the Indiana State Police.

During discussion which followed, Kutch discussed trying to balance the culture of the Academies' open campus with safety and security.

"This is a right step," he added, referring to the event itself.

Armes praised town marshal Bean's emphasis on his department's willingness to work with all involved, and suggested local representatives follow up by meeting again and developing an evolving plan.

Sheriff Chamberlin, after echoing Bean's cooperative sentiment, added, "It's important that all emergency services work and train together for these type of incidents that are going to happen in our area at some point."

Principal Hanselman, noting he's also the school's safety specialist -- a position Indiana was the first state in the country to mandate, shortly after the Columbine shooting -- said he spends two days per year in training for the position. He requested that day's State Police program be presented at an upcoming school safety specialists' training event.

Obituaries

Sherry L. Arbuckle

June 4, 1961-Feb. 16, 2013



BRADENTON, Fla. — Sherry L. Arbuckle, age 51, of Bradenton, Fla., formerly of Culver, passed away Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013. Sherry was born in Knox on June 4, 1961. She married Jimmie Arbuckle in March 1978. She was an employee at Walker of Culver for several years. Sherry enjoyed helping animals and gardening.

She is preceded in death by her husband Jimmie Arbuckle, her father Jessie G. Bradley, and brother-in-law John Strykul.

She is survived by her two sons Joseph and Brandon Arbuckle of Bradenton, Fla.

Her mother Agnes Holderread and stepfather Dean Holderread of Argos.

She has two brothers, Kenny Bradley and wife Kathy Bradley of Winamac, and Michael Bradley of Culver; four sisters, Lisa Strykul of Donaldson, Connie Sibbel and husband Jerry of Wanatah, Lora Fishburn and husband Jeff Fishburn of Argos, and Mary Bradley and life partner Keely Small of Buchanan, Mich.

She has 19 nieces, 14 nephews, one great-niece, six great-nephews, one sister-in-law, and four brothers-in-law, many other aunts, uncles, family members and friends.

Your condolences may be sent to her sons: Brandon and Joseph Arbuckle, 2103 29th Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34205.

Services will be held on a later date in early summer in Plymouth.

Jeffrey David Robertson

Feb. 22, 2013

SOUTH BEND — Jeffrey David Robertson, 39, of South Bend, passed away Friday, Feb. 22, 2013 in Culver surrounded by family and friends.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Norma Lucas (Jack) of Culver and John Robertson (Jackie) of Plainfield; brothers, Chris Robertson (Cari) of Culver, Josh Robertson of Portland, Ore. and Dylan Robertson of Plainfield; sisters, Hannah Schwanekamp (Dan) of Brownsburg, Michele Vanlue (Kevin) of Plymouth, and Jennifer Brewer (Brian) of Culver; grandmothers, Elizabeth Davis of Culver, Mary Robertson (Teeny) of Plainfield and Joan Even of Mooresville; aunt, Carol Keskey (Kevin) of Florence, Mont.; uncles, Gary Davis (Kitty) of Argos, and Richard Robertson (Kathy) of Xenia, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by grandfathers, Leroy Davis, Alfred Robertson and Alvin Even; and a cousin, Heather Robertson.

Jeff's spirit for adventure and his ability to engage children will be greatly missed by his several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was thrilled with the recent birth of niece Addison and was anticipating the birth in July of his namesake.

Beside the time spent with family and best friends Charles, Vu, Mark, Hank, John and Holly, Jeff's happiest memories involved teaching children the history of Indian culture through native dances as an Indian lore instructor with Culver Summer Camps. The highlight of his Culver experience was performing the infamous flaming hoop dance at a Council Fire with brother Chris and father John.

A family memorial service will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Culver Summer Camps, Indian lore department; Hemophilia of Indiana or Center for Hospice Care.

M.C. Smith Funeral Home, Knox is in charge of arrangements.

Library news

Dr. Seuss party March 2

Come celebrate the 109th birthday of Dr. Seuss, beloved master of rhyme and nonsense, at the Culver Public Library on March 2 at 10:30 a.m. The festivities will include Seuss-themed food, crafts, games, and readings of some Dr. Seuss classics. Birthday guests are encouraged to dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character. The Friends of the Library will be hosting a children's book sale in conjunction with the birthday party. This event is free and open to the public.

"Cocoon" at March's "A Novel Approach"

The Culver-Union Twp. Public Library's book and film discussion group, "A Novel Approach," will meet Wednesday, March 6 at noon in the library's large meeting room, located downstairs at the library.

The book will be "Cocoon" by David Saperstein. Visitors from a distant galaxy return to Florida to rescue their teammates that are cocooned deep beneath the Atlantic Ocean. Several residence of a nearby senior citizen center get involved and soon experience a whole new lease on life.

The film version stars Don Ameche, Brian Dennehy, Jessica Tandy, Maureen Stapleton, and Steve Guttenberg, and was directed by Ron Howard.

Copies of the selection are available for checkout and may be reserved by contacting the library at 574-842-2941. Patrons are encouraged to bring their lunch to eat while they enjoy the movie and the discussion afterwards. The library is located at 107 N. Main Street in Culver. All programs are free and open to the public.

CCHS BPA Advances to State Contest

By Sam Mellott-Shoffstall
Culver Comm. High School

On January 19, the CCHS Business Professionals of America members traveled to Warsaw for district competition. Culver students went up against other members from schools around the area to fill spots for the State Leadership Conference, held in March.

Sophomore Katie Blocker, Senior Michelle Elam and Sophomore Molly Sage placed first in each of their events. In addition, 11 students placed second, and eight students came in third to advance to state contest.

BPA members work hard in their areas of competition. "If it wouldn't have been for my friends helping me study the materials for my event, I know that I wouldn't have done as well as I did. Also, being in Mr. Baker's Digital Communications Class helped me a lot with the document formats that the test required us to type," said Blocker.

Mr. Gene Baker, BPA sponsor, was pleased with the event's outcome. He said, "I am very proud of how our BPA members conducted themselves at the competition. Each member represented our school well."

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in The Caval Crier, Culver Comm. High School's monthly newspaper, and is reprinted here by permission of Crier editor Dana Wireman and faculty sponsor Vickie Benner.

Death notice

Wagers

Adam Wagers

KNOX — Adam Wagers, 82, of Knox died at home. He is survived by his wife: Goldie Wagers of Knox, daughter: Lillie Mae (Paul) Dittlinger of South Bend, sons: Lonnie (Janet) Wagers of South Bend, Martin Wagers of Indianapolis, Russell (Joe) Wagers of Argos, Adam (Barb) Wagers of Plymouth, Stephen (Lisa) Wagers of Knox, Troy Ambrose (Janice) Wagers of Plymouth, Timothy Wagers of Plymouth, 21 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held from 12 – 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, at The Odom Funeral Home in Culver with funeral services following at 2 p.m. Burial is at The Maple Grove Cemetery in Argos. Memorials may be given to the donor's choice. The Odom Funeral Home in Culver is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be sent via the obituary page www.odomfuneralhome.com

Beach lodge hosts Mexican Dominoes, scrapbooking events

Want to learn how to play Dominoes with a twist? Come to the Culver beach lodge and jump on the "Mexican Train" on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m. Join in the fun for an hour or two, meet new friends, and share a laugh.

A new scrapbooking club, "Beach House Scrappers," will meet Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to noon at the beach lodge. Bring a snack and/or drink, your own materials, and inspiration to share -- let's make memories!

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

REAL Meals menu

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

Thursday, Feb. 28: Ham, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, rye bread, fruit, milk.

Friday, March 1: (Meatless) spaghetti, cauliflower, green beans, Italian bread, sugar free bundt cake, milk.

Monday, March 4: Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread tropical fruit, milk.

Tuesday, March 5: Swedish meatballs, rotini pasta, stewed tomatoes, peas, bread, fruit cocktail, milk.

Wednesday, March 6:

Ham, sweet potatoes, spiced apples, sourdough bread, brownie delight, milk.

Thursday, March 7: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, bran muffin, fruit cup, milk.

Friday, March 8: Salmon burger, bun and tartar sauce, mixed vegetables, salad and dressing, dessert, milk.

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U16 Hockey @ 10 a.m.
Boys Prep Hockey at Noon

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Letters to the editor

Don't allow fear of unknown to govern Culver's future

I would like to commend Jeff Kenney for his editorial in last week's *Culver Citizen* regarding the Park Board and its decision to deny the Beer Tasting in the Park.

Jeff's points were right on target and I would like to elaborate on a couple of his points.

Someone in the meeting had stated that everyone keeps bringing up the businesses. Well, we need to bring up our businesses and consistently encourage and support our local businesses in anyway we can. As a community we are losing children every year from our school system and now we are laying off our best and brightest, our teachers. Culver is a unique and extraordinary community but if we do not bring business and jobs to our area we will not have a school system.

Jobs bring people and people buy houses and spend money at our stores and bring revenue to our tax base but most importantly they bring children. Children are the future of Culver and we are losing them at an alarming rate.

This is why the beer tasting was such an important issue because it signifies the course that Culver is going to take. Are we going into the future bringing prosperity and jobs and growth, or are we stagnating and watching our school

system ultimately be swallowed up by a larger school system?

I am sure Monterey never thought it could happen to them and look at it now. They say you know a community by looking at it's school system. I see 7 to 10 assets (teachers) being laid off as a symptom of a much larger disease.

We can not allow the fear of the unknown to stop us from growing and becoming the community I know Culver can be. There is a huge difference between protecting what we have and languishing in fear.

Finally, I am begging everyone to get involved in local government and vote. Come to the Town Council meetings and the Park, School, etc. board meetings. Make a conscious decision to participate in Culvers future and stop allowing others to make these decisions for you. The future for Culver and most importantly its children depend on you.

**Rhonda Reinhold
Culver**

Missed opportunity in two-mile zoning boundary

I left the February Plan Commission meeting pretty frustrated. The Plan Commission has been considering a change to the Extended Territorial Authority perimeter, generally referred to as the "Two Mile Zoning Boundary". This was instigated by a change computerizing the building permit process and the limitations of that software. Parcels under one ownership, but with split zoning jurisdiction were a problem.

In anticipation of changes, the Plan Commission had the foresight to create a new AG zoning designation that virtually mirrors that which the County has. This allows the areas which are predominantly farms to continue with no additional restrictions. In some areas, such as subdivision of land, Culver is less restrictive than the County. Coming under Culver's jurisdiction has no tax consequences. The only change would be that they would come before Culver's Plan Commission and BZA for improvement permits and variances.

There was a public hearing on this issue at the January Plan Commission meeting. At the February meeting, Ralph Booker, Marshall County Plan Director, made a short presentation showing that the division of parcels was "fair" and by acreage favored Culver. A vote was called, passing the change with no public input or commission discussion.

In the weeks leading up to this meeting I researched the background of the Extended Territorial Authority, both as it is set forth in Indiana Statute and as it applies to Culver. I discussed the issue with the planning consultant hired by Plymouth for their Comprehensive Plan and the planning consultant we are considering hiring for Culver's Comprehensive Plan. I also spoke with past plan commission members who have knowledge of how the boundary was originally set. I shared what I learned along with my conclusions with the Plan Commission via email.

Why am I frustrated? This issue merited more discussion. I have pushed hard for Culver to have an updated Comprehensive Plan. The extended territorial authority granted by the state is by statute a function of the Comprehensive Plan. It is not a matter of "fairness". It should not be determined by software limitations. It is a matter

of control over Culver's destiny. Do I foresee or desire some booming development around Culver next year? Probably not.

But are we sure there won't be something in the next 20 years? 50 years? We need to consider this in the life of Culver, not the short lifetimes of current residents.

According to the Town of Culver website there has been a named settlement at this location since 1843 - 170 years and four name changes ago. We are about to embark on the process of creating a new Comprehensive Plan. Considering that our community's life is measured in centuries, this change could have waited until our Comprehensive Plan is complete. The planning consultants I spoke to gave varying opinions of how a municipality should determine this boundary, but they both agreed that it should be part of their comprehensive planning process. Culver needs a vision for its future. There is no way we can foresee that future clearly, but if we plan for Culver to be here another 100 years or more, we should lay whatever groundwork we can to make that future bright.

I have no doubt that the Plan Commission members have the best intentions for Culver and I appreciate their volunteering for what is often a thankless job. Unfortunately, I strongly disagree with their decision in this case. My personal opinion is that we should have absorbed all of the split parcels. They are well within the two miles we are allowed. We have annexed additional land in the past 10 years without ever petitioning to extend our territorial authority. I believe we should do so. The Plan Commission vote was to pass a recommendation to accept these changes to the Town Council. The Town Council will make the final determination. I would advocate that they table the decision pending completion of the Comprehensive Plan.

If you want to see my research on this, check out the February 14th and 20th entries in our blog at www.easterdayconstruction.com/blog I have included drawings and reference links there so you can be informed as well.

**Kevin Berger
Culver**



Culver History Corner
The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver

www.culverahs.com

historyofculver@gmail.com

If these walls could talk: the post office

Getting back on track with our ongoing series of virtual "walks" through the historic buildings of Culver, we're still strolling by some important structures "off the beaten path" of the downtown area proper, whose series we finished last year. We've turned west from Main Street and are dropping by 125 W. Jefferson, the Culver Post Office.

For the record, we haven't the time or scope in this article to focus on the fascinating and lengthy history of all things postal in Culver; instead, we're primarily focusing on the property and its precursors.

Suffice it to say the location of the earliest post office

in what is today Culver is unknown, though by the late 1880s, Culverites conducted their postal business in a general store at another site. As was noted in another article on this page a few weeks ago, a May, 1887 article in the Logansport Pharos Tribune reported quite a bruhaha over the move of the post office to "a brick building near the depot," which was intended to be a convenience to visitors arriving on the train, who previously had to go to Marmont (a walk of some eight blocks, perhaps?). However, a 1903 Culver City Herald article reports the

See Walls page 9

Name that Culver 'citizen'

Last week's Mystery Citizen has been a Culver resident for more than three decades, playing a quiet but prominent role at the Culver Bible Church on South Main Street,



LEFT: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Kathie Huhn, then and now. ABOVE: This week's Mystery Citizen, Dan Huhn, has been pastor all along. This week's Mystery

Citizen is a familiar face in the Culver community and a Culver High School grad, seen regularly today in her role in one successful local business.

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



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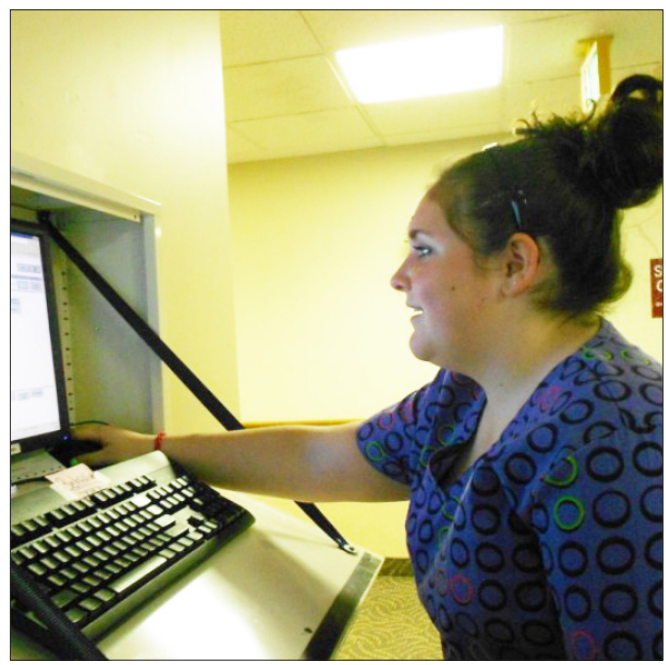
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LEFT: Culver Academies students (from left) Joy Shen (of Chicago), Mary McKinnis (of Culver), and Alexandra Jeffirs (of Plymouth) at Carnegie Hall in New York City for the American High School Honors Performance Series, earlier this month.

Fellow student Matthew Moody (not pictured) also attended.



PHOTO/ANGEL OKRAY

ABOVE: Michelle Elam charting at Miller's Merry Manor in Culver.

Culver students perform at Carnegie Hall

Culver Academies students Alexandra Jeffirs, vocalist (from Plymouth, Ind.), Mary McKinnis, vocalist (Culver), Matthew Moody, viola (Spring, Tex.), and Joy Shen, clarinet (Chicago) recently returned to their campus from a four-day whirlwind of rehearsing and performing in New York City at the famed Carnegie Hall.

The four student musicians were nominated, auditioned, and selected from students across the United States to perform in the American High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. Their participation was sponsored, in part, by Culvers' Artistic Fund, established through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gignilliat, (class of '49).

The students had this to say about it: "A life changing experience!" "An amazing opportunity!" "So thankful I could just be a part of it!" "In just a few short days, I made

so many memories!" "The amount of talent in one room was unbelievable!" "Music has been a part of my life since I was 4, but I've never felt anything like the Honors Performance at Carnegie." "...an enriching opportunity to enhance our artistic passion." "Would not have been possible without the support from Mr. and Mrs. Gignilliat."

The students departed Chicago's O'Hare Airport Feb. 7, just ahead of the huge winter storm hitting the northeast, and returned the evening of Monday, Feb. 11. Their schedule while in NYC included attending a Broadway performance, Manhattan sight-seeing, and more.

Previous Culver students selected to perform at Carnegie were vocalists Katrina Weil, CGA (class of '13), and Callie Wilkinson, CGA (class of '11).

Student gains CNA experience 'on the job' at Miller's

By Angel Okray
Culver Comm. High School

Michelle Elam, a senior at Culver Community High School, is enrolled in the CNA program at Miller's Merry Manor.

Elam is currently working on her classroom hours, but once she finishes she will have the opportunity to receive her clinical hours. Clinical hours involve working on the floor as a Nurse's Aid with the residents.

Elam said, "This is an exciting opportunity and I can't wait until I can start working on the floor."

Right now the class is small and Elam wishes that others would enroll in the course.

"I definitely think more people should be involved because right now," she said. "There are only three people in my class."

After hearing about the program from Brenda Sheldon, the school's guidance counselor, and speaking with students who have participated in the class before, Elam took on the class and feels that she is another step closer to her future.

Elam said, "It really is a great way to get a head start in life. Plus, it's nice to know you have something to fall back on if you ever need to."

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in The Caval Crier, Culver Comm. High School's monthly newspaper, and is reprinted here by permission of Crier editor Dana Wireman and faculty sponsor Vickie Benner.

CCHS "Clue" -- a review



PHOTO/DANA WIREMAN

ABOVE: Onstage earlier this month at Culver Comm. High School's production of "Clue" were, from left, Brianna Kinyanjui, Cecilia Kenney, Sierra Selerni, Jordan Schrimsher, Justine Dexter, Garrett Reinhold, Cody Rieckhoff, and Rebecca Rainey.

By Dana Wireman

This year at Culver Community High School the drama club performed the classic comedy, "Clue," February 9 and 10 in the auditorium. The play was directed by Diane Derrow and performed by both middle school and high school students.

"Clue" began with each of the common characters introducing themselves with secret names as they entered Mrs. Body's mansion. They soon find out each of them were invited to meet their blackmailer. In a shocking twist, Mrs. Body, their blackmailer, gives them the chance to kill Wadsworth, the butler, because he threatens to reveal to the police everyone's secret. Then as the lights go down the audience hears crashing and a gun shot. When the lights are back on, Mrs. Body is the one killed.

Culver's rendition of the 1985 movie, "Clue," and the common board game was well put together. The costumes were spot on, the actors portrayed their characters with enthusiasm, the set provided an atmosphere perfect for the play, and the soundtrack gave everyone chills. The audience couldn't stop laughing throughout the play as dead bodies were carried and amusing remarks were made.

Paige Good, a 7th grader at Culver Middle School said, "I enjoyed every bit of the play! The cast was great and I can't wait for drama club next year!"

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CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

Cavs fall on Senior Night at Bremen

By Kyle Hilliard
Correspondent

BREMEN — The Bremen Lions sent out their seniors on a high note as they held the Culver Cavaliers in check beating them by a score of 62-44.

Bremen started the game out strong, going on a 10-2 run, led by senior Don Browning's two 3-pointers. They were able to keep that going and closed out the quarter with a 14-6 lead.

The lead stayed at eight for most of the second quarter and then at the 3:37 mark, senior Ethan Pike went on an 8-2 run on his own for the Lions, helping push them to a 36-18 half time lead. Pike outscored the Cavaliers 19-18 in the half and finished with 30 in the game.



PHOTO/ALAN HALL

Culver's Jacoda Anderson looks to the rim while Bremen's Ethan Pike guards during a Northern State Conference basketball game at Bremen last week.

"The thing I liked about tonight was that tonight was as good of a team win as we've had," said Eakins. "I am very proud of all the guys that played and everyone contributed significantly tonight."

With the win Bremen finishes the regular season with a record of 10-10 and 5-2 in the NSC. Culver finishes its regular slate with a record of 12-8 and 2-5 in the NSC.

• BREMEN 62
• CULVER 44
At Bremen

Culver coach Kyle Elliott talked about the lack of intensity in that first half.

"It was Senior Night and their team came out with a lot of emotion and energy and hit some shots and we didn't match that intensity," said Elliott. "We had some good looks early on and were unable to finish and at no point were we able to make a run. It was a disappointing game and not how you want to finish the season."

During the second half, it was an evenly matched game with neither team able to make much of a run on each other. Back and forth for the most of the third quarter, Culver was able to close the gap by two, but still trailed 46-30 at the end of the quarter.

The Bremen Lions defense would prove to be the deciding factor as they were able to hold Culver junior Trent Elliott to eight points on 2 of 9 shooting from the field.

"The key the entire night was on the defensive side of the ball," said Bremen coach Ryan Eakins. "If you hold a team like Culver, with a player like Elliott, with shooters around him, you are doing something right. We had a mindset that we were going to be the tougher team and it showed physically very early on."

The Lions finished the game with every senior scoring on the night and extending their lead by two, winning the game 62-44.

Celebrating the champ



Students, faculty, and administration of Culver Comm. High School gathered last Tuesday in the gymnasium to celebrate the victory of state champion (in the 182 pound category) wrestler and CCHS senior Matt Hurford, pictured at LEFT, with CCHS athletic director Andy Thomas. Thomas introduced other top wrestlers this season from the school including (BELOW, from left) NSC champion and 2012 sectional champion (as well as two-time regional qualifier) John Ahlenius and Hurford's brother, NSC and sectional champion (as well as semi-state qualifier) Mark Hurford. Absent but acknowledged was NSC and sectional champion and semi-state qualifier Allen Betts. Also introduced were wrestling coaches Chad Hollenbaugh, Mike Buschman, and Louis Posa.

Thomas called wrestling "the toughest of sports" and said "it takes a special kind of mental toughness" to do what Hurford did. Living up to his usual quiet demeanor, Hurford's only statement was one of thanks to fellow students for their support. "It means a lot," he added.



CCHS principal Albert Hanselman described Hurford's practice at competitions of helping opponents off the mat and shaking hands with opposing coaches after matches. He also said Culver's high school boasted one of, if not the best represented fan base at the state finals in Indianapolis Feb. 15 and 16, where Hurford earned the state title.

Sports briefs

Boys swimming

Culver Military Academy's boys swim team capped off its season at the 76th Annual IHSAA State Swim Meet Friday.

The Eagles qualified swimmers in four different events to the state meet but fell short of advancing anyone to Saturday's fi-

nals/ consolation round.

Bryan DeVries concluded a stellar senior season in 32nd place in both the 100 and 200 free with respective times of 50.91 and 1:50.96, while Leopoldo Burguete finished up his high school swim career as the only returning state qualifier for CMA in the 500 free, slower than his

finish last year.

DeVries also swam anchor for the Eagles' 200 free relay team, which also included Grant Ralston, Sam Curtis and Leonardo Rodriguez. The foursome recorded a 1:31.18 time for 28th place in the state after advancing as the War-

See Sports page 7

CGA Polo in national tournament

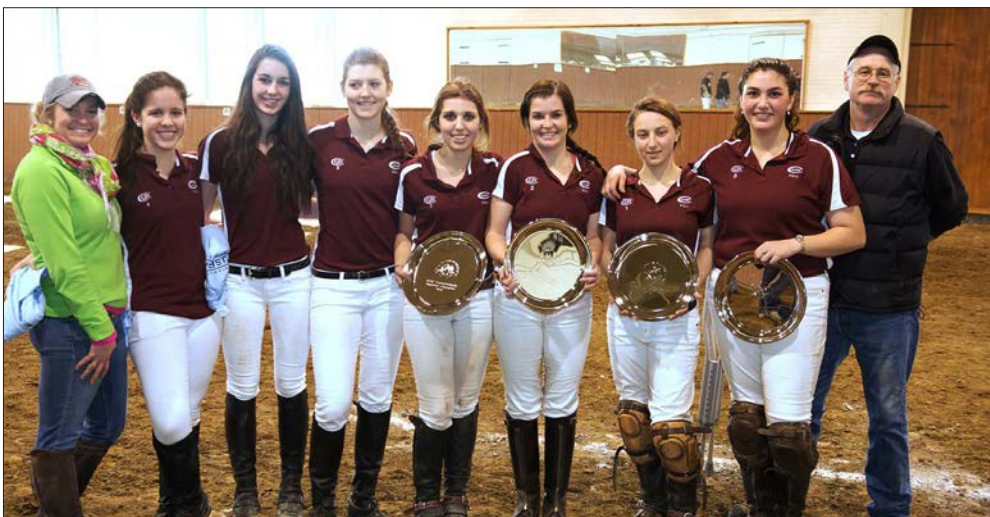
The Culver Girls Academy polo team captured the Girls' Interscholastic Central Regional with a 9-5 victory over Houston on Sunday. Culver hosted the three-day, four-team tournament. CGA opened the tournament Friday with a 21-3 victory over the Longhorn Club of Austin, Texas.

CGA seniors Eleanor Logue (South Bend, Ind.) and Natalie Hogan (Plymouth, Ind.) were named to the regional all-star team. Cuckoo was named the top polo pony for the second straight year. The girls will play in the national tournament at the University of Connecticut in Storrs March 7-10.

The Culver Military polo team will travel to Houston for the boys central regional this weekend. The Interscholastic tournaments are conducted by the United States Polo Association.

PHOTO PROVIDED

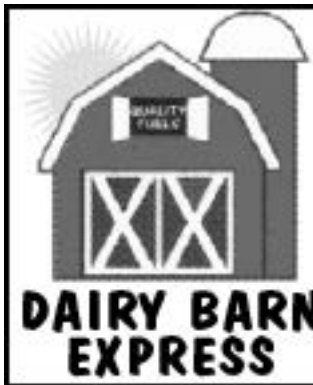
LEFT: Members of the regional winning CGA polo team are (from left) coach Savannah Kranich, Leah Crawford, Alexandra Vaughn, Katy Bjornson, Jane Eyre, Meaghan Burns, Eleanor Logue, Natalie Hogan, and coach Frank Stubblefield.



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We Serve

The who, what, and why of Culver's new comprehensive plan, and other 2013 projects

Town manager details upcoming efforts

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor



FILE PHOTO
Culver town manager Dave Schoeff, photographed last year.

Stepping into his second calendar year as Culver's town manager (having started last June), Dave Schoeff is looking forward to a busy year for Culver, with development of the town's comprehensive plan as perhaps its central undertaking.

But for the uninitiated, what's all the fuss about a comprehensive plan, and what's it got to do with your average Culver resident, anyway?

"It's like a business going without a business plan," he says. "If you don't have goals and objectives, you're not going to go anywhere."

"The comprehensive plan really addresses all the aspects of Culver (including) quality of life. What level of quality of life are you shooting for? What are our priorities? A lot of the questions are trying to find out where we've been and where do we see ourselves going."

Typically, he says, comprehensive plans aim at a 20-year strategy, though they can be structured for any time frame. Culver's existing plan, which is now over a decade old, may be read online at www.townofculver.org/files/Culver%20Comprehensive%20Plan.pdf.

The prior plan includes a community profile followed by a number of goals and objectives in areas such as land use, growth management, transportation, community facilities and services, environmental, infrastructure, aesthetics and identity, economic development, and parks and recreation.

"The crucial part of these (plans)," notes Schoeff, "unlike the majority of communities do, you have to keep it active. If they say you need to build a road between here and there, somewhere in that 20 years you need to build that road. If you put the book on the shelf, you'll never build it."

"It's really the community's responsibility to do that," he adds, "but it's the administration and all its commissions who will make that happen. The comprehensive plan has to be like the Bible on the table at every hotel; it should be a point of reference for every entity."

Work towards developing the new comprehensive plan began last year, when a selection committee was created with representatives from various entities such as the Culver Redevelopment Committee, plan commission, town council, and Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council. The plan commission, however, will be the primary body to orchestrate the plan and maintain an active role in it, Schoeff points out.

Other entities are also financial contributors. "The more people we get vested in it financially, the more people we hope will give input," he says.

Selection of the company to handle developing the plan focused especially on recognition that "community input is crucial," Schoeff notes. "The more you get, the better off you are, and they want to pull as much info out of people as possible."

It's also important that plan developers recognize that while some groups are willing to attend a public meeting and voice their opinions, others likely will not, for a variety of reasons.

The chosen firm, Houseal Lavigne Associates of Chicago, says Schoeff, "seem very creative in reaching out to everyone to get input, which is very important. The glue that binds the community together is the people. The plan being successful makes the town successful."

The committee is working towards securing the remaining funds towards the \$79,000 cost of the plan, with the CRC providing the initial \$50,000.

Various groups, ranging from the town council to the Culver Chamber and Culver Academies, are being approached to contribute.

Once work begins in earnest on the plan itself, Schoeff says information gathering by way of public meetings will be the first step, while the various stakeholders in the plan will gather information.

Then, he says, "they'll have a vision stage where they'll spend some time figuring out where they see the community going."

Next will be creation of an implementation schedule based on task identified in the plan, along with a determined time frame of completion.

"Then it's kind of handed over to use and we go from there," he adds.

All of the above, Schoeff explains, should be done this coming year. Information gathering will need to overlap between pre-summer (to include those absent when the school year is over, for example) and the busy summer season in Culver.

"Then in the fall, before everybody leaves for the winter, we'll try to make sure we get everyone's input into the plan itself. We don't want to adopt it when no one's here."

And yes, in addition to the year round town residents, both "snow birds" and representatives of the Culver Academies community will have input.

"The Academy has to have a voice," Schoeff says. "They're the largest employer in Marshall County. Whether people want to admit it or not, they're one of the reasons Culver, Indiana is the way it is, and I'm not trying to disrespect the long term locals. Frankly, the Academy has been a local a lot longer than anyone around today!"

The comprehensive plan should not be confused with Culver's charette, which Schoeff points out focuses more

on aesthetic of the town. Much of its goals have been accomplished.

"It's just like your household," adds Schoeff. "You have goals and ideas of where you want to be in ten years, but at year five you recognize certain goals won't happen because you're going down a different path. So you look at those goals again and make those changes. The comprehensive plan is no different it's a document that says, this is what we want to happen. You have to be able to adapt to what happens, like it or not. We need to have a game plan as to how we're going to handle it."

There are, of course, other major projects in the hopper for 2013. Schoeff says Jackie Wright of the Marshall County Council on Ageing will soon speak to members of the town council regarding more regular -- perhaps even daily -- public transportation for Culver's seniors.

A water study here is nearing completion, with an eye towards a new well and new water plant for Culver.

"There are some things we need to do," he says, "but it's a big enough project that you certainly don't want to go running and jumping into it...we'll consider financing: what entities or grants are available and what not."

A major, grant-funded project to replace part of Culver's storm water infrastructure -- the long-problematic section south of the Culver Elementary School and moving southwest -- is on track, Schoeff explains, with dirt expected to be moved in August and the entire project wrapped up before winter.

Culver's downtown revitalization project will reach completion this spring, mostly in paving the designated, two-block area of Main Street where last year's curb, gutter, and sidewalk replacement took place, besides creation of decorative "bump outs" and lighting in the area.

Schoeff said the town will continue to examine potential Safe Routes to School sidewalk replacement funding (several Culver sidewalks were replaced in recent years via funding from the program, though a grant application for more was rejected last year) and there are some streets in town, especially on the south side, in "dire need of repair," says the town manager.

He hopes, also, to work hard on housing and other development to enhance Culver's workforce and opportunities in that area.

"I encourage businesses to contact us," he adds. "Maybe there's not a 'For Sale' sign up, but maybe we can help out in some fashion. The town and county can give tax abatements if there's things in a TIF area."

"I was excited when I came here and I'm excited right now because I think this community is taking strides, and I hope everybody sees that...we just have to be patient, which is difficult at times. I encourage everyone to move forward, think outside the box, and take risks. It'll pay itself back."

Sports from page 7

saw Sectional champions with a similar time the previous week.

Boys hockey

CMA shuts out Lake Central

Culver Military Academy's varsity A hockey team shut out Lake Central 9-0 at home Friday.

Phil Kreuser scored twice with two partial assists for the Eagles.

Jimmy Callan, Jules Vigy, Matt Moody, Nick Curtin, Gavin Walker, Logan Badalich and Paul Westman all scored goals for CMA, which out-shot the visitors by a lopsided 33-12 margin.

Charlie Miller finished with 12 saves in goal for the shutout.

• CULVER MILITARY (A) 9, LAKE CENTRAL 0
At Culver

Illinois

Culver Military's prep hockey team jumped out to a 4-2 lead during a prolific first period, but the Eagles were unable to hold onto the lead and had to settle for a 5-5 draw with visiting Team Illinois Sunday.

Brandon Radatovich scored two of CMA's first period goals. Zach Main, Stuart Pomeroy and John Zimmerman each added a goal for the Eagles, which outshot the visitors 32-26 but totaled 22 penalty minutes to 14 by Team Illinois in the tie.


In the U16 game, meanwhile, Culver outshot its opponents 29-25 but still fell in a 5-2 loss.

Karch Bachman and Michael Curtis scored the U16 Eagles' goals.


• CULVER MILITARY (Prep) 5, TEAM ILLINOIS (U19) 5
at Culver

CMA draws with Team


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Walls from page 4

move was thwarted by 1888, which the paper noted was important, since a shift to today's Lake Shore Drive would possibly have meant the "downtown" area of Culver would have been located there.

The post office was in the headlines in 1897 when the town of Marmont formally changed its name to Culver City. In June, 1897,

Henry Speyer was appointed postmaster at Culver and announced plans to erect a 10 x 24 foot building on the site of the K of P building, which is to say the east side of North Main Street.

Events of the next few years surely contributed to the eventual need for an enlarged post office here. In 1901, rural free delivery was established in Culver, and the following year the post office at the Maxinkuckee Village was discontinued and merged with Culver's.

By 1907, a new building was under way to house the growing Exchange Bank and the post office alike. The P.O. was moved to the first floor, rear, of what would become the State Exchange Bank building (today's First Farmer's Bank), on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Main Streets. It's interesting to note that a monthly stipend was set up to pay for carrying the mail between the post office and depot on a regular basis. Bear in mind, delivery to every home was still a thing of the future, though by 1914 it was just about set to begin, pending erecting street signs and house numbers around Culver!

In 1925, the post office was temporarily moved to allow renovation of its home in the rear portion of the bank.

In March, 1931, postmaster Clyde L. Shively received a telegram from Congressman Andrew J. Hickey noting Hickey's recommendation for a \$70,000 for federal building at Culver.

For the next few years, receipt of the funds was an uncertainty, though along the way an article in December,



ABOVE: Culver's 1935-built post office, at 115 W. Jefferson Street near downtown.

1931, noted Mrs. Sadye M. McIntire of the Culver post office force was "possibly the only town or city woman letter carrier in the United States. There are women rural carriers, but not women who trudge through street after street carrying a weighted amil sack in all kinds of weather."

By 1934, the site of the present building was selected. It had been known, reported the newspaper, as "the Mary Walker corner" due to the presence of what had been known as Walk-

er's Boarding House, which was moved to another site to make room for the post office. The other residence at the site was listed under William W. Baker's name in the 1930 census, though presumably it may have become the Moran house, as it was listed as moved from the site to the Arthur Dillon farm in Sept., 1934.

The Easterday Construction Company, a subsidiary of the James I. Barnes Company of Culver was chosen to construct the new structure at a cost of \$37,466.45. The principal decorative feature is a mural entitled, "Arrival of the Mail in Culver," painted in 1938 by Jessie Hull Mayer, an Indianapolis artist, as part of the Public Works of Art Project (the post office itself, contrary to occasional assumption and misconception, was actually not a WPA project, but simply one of many funded in Indiana at that time).

Culver's "beautiful new post office building" was officially opened for business in Dec., 1935, and really remains remarkably unchanged -- with the occasional minor repair or rehab -- ever since, which of course is part of its charm. And of course that mural, which merits an article all its own, really, was featured in the 1975 documentary, "Art for Main Street," on those WPA murals, as well as the 1995 book, "A Simple and Vital Design, The Story of the Indiana Post Office Murals," by Thomas C. Carlisle.

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Relay for Life 2013 kicks off at CCHS

By Sam Mellott-Shoffstall, Culver Comm. High School

Twenty-eight years ago, the Relay for Life event was created by Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma colorectal surgeon in Washington, who wanted to spread the word about the varieties of cancers and to raise money to help find a cure. Dr. Klatt walked for 24 hours straight around a track in his hometown. This tradition has spread across the nation, and Culver has joined in this effort for the past few years. This year's event will be held at the Culver Academies April 19, from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. the following day. If

the weather permits, it will be held on the track, but if the weather does not hold up, then the event will be held on the indoor track.

In years past, the high school has competed to see which class can raise the most money and will do the same again. This year the Culver Comm. High School captains are senior Ali Overmyer, junior Grace Lorenz, sophomore Alecia Rearick and freshman Lindsey Emery. The 7th and 8th graders will also be included in this event. Faculty

members helping include Cristyn Messick, Jamie Estock, and Tara Anderson.

One fund raiser has students purchasing paper feet to help raise money for their class. Captains are currently working on shirt ideas for their individual classes as well.

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in The Caval Crier, Culver Comm. High School's monthly newspaper, and is reprinted here by permission of Crier editor Dana Wireman and faculty sponsor Vickie Benner.

Briefs from page 1

indicating interest and abilities, resumé, names of three references by March 8 to P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511.

Richey on nutrition March 11

Karen Richey, Marshall County Extension Office, will speak on nutrition for Nutrition Awareness Week at Culver's REAL Services meal Monday, March 11, at 12:30 p.m. at the Culver beach lodge on Lake Shore Drive. Attendees may share a meal prior to the event at noon, with reservations requested (574-842-8878) and a donation suggested, or may attend only the program.

Schoonover is artist of the month

Culver-Union Township Public Library welcomes Jim Schoonover as artist of the month for February. Currently featured is a mix of his artwork, including watercolor, oil, enamel, pen and ink, and cartoons. For more information, contact Laura Jones at 574-842-2941 or ljones@culver.lib.in.us.

'One Book, One Town' March 16

During the month of March, the Culver-Union Township Public Library will celebrate "One Book, One Town," a county-wide program whose 2013 selection is "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. CUTPL will host a book discussion led by Reference/Adult Services Librarian Laura Jones on Saturday, March 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the small meeting room.

Elkay from page 1

the U.S. Each and every one is made right here in Culver. "This product could have years of life cycle with a company as big as Home Depot," he says. "It's Home Depot and Elkay's top of the line cabinet. It's truly custom-made, but in mass scale. Other companies do custom-made products, but they're more regional. But at this mass scale capacity, it's unique for this frameless product."

The Culver facility began manufacturing cabinets about two years ago, and the line has grown exponentially, year-over-year, ever since.

The appeal of frameless cabinets, Coffman explains, is that they cause less wasted space in the kitchen. Frameless cabinets are deeper and wider.

"On the drawer box (in a frameless cabinet), because you don't have the frame to deal with, your drawer is wider for the same 15-inch base (for example), so you get more usable space for the drawer base than a traditional cabinet."

The frameless cabinets come in a variety of styles, colors, and stains that give consumers the choices they are looking for, regardless of their tastes. With the wide array of customized options for their frameless cabinets, Coffman says shoppers at Home Depot can special order to fit their needs, and they don't have to stop at cabinets proper. "You can get panels, oven cutouts, crown molding trim;

Additionally, the author, William Kamkwamba, will be speaking at Notre Dame on Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m. The talk will be at the McKenna Center across from the Morris Inn. For more information, please contact Laura Jones at 574-842-2941 or ljones@culver.lib.in.us .

Community meal at Grace March 15

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

Troop inaugural exhibit at museum

Ongoing at the Culver Academies Museum & Gift Shop, 102 S. Main Street in downtown Culver, is an exhibit on the 100th anniversary of the first appearance of the famed Black Horse Troop in its first Presidential Inaugural in 1913. Memorabilia, photos, and interactive videos are part of the exhibit. Visit culver.org/museum or call 574-842-8842 for hours and info.

Extensive Tyler art exhibit at Crisp Gallery

The recently-launched Herbert F. Tyler Bequest – the most generous gift of visual art in the history of Culver Academies – is exhibit in the Crisp Visual Art Center

you can get bookcases, vanities for adjacent rooms -- it's really cabinetry for your entire house, not just kitchens. We have a section of the plant dedicated just to highly skilled hood range production, which can be customized. There's really a high skill set in this building. We have skilled Accessory Builders, CNC operators, sprayers -- even the cabinet assemblers are extremely important to the process, along with all employees from receiving to shipping." It takes every employee to successfully complete cabinetry made to order and get them to customers across the country, and on time.

Though the Culver plant's workforce dropped in 2007 and 2008 due largely to the housing market slump, since then things have only been growing, and Coffman says the workforce here is projected to grow this year by a minimum of 10 percent, based on forecasts.

Currently, the Elkay plant operates on one shift ("Utilities are a killer," says Coffman, in discussing whether a second shift could be added).

The Elkay building is deceptively large, at 285,000 square foot. Occupying the equivalent of multiple town blocks, one can walk through the plant from work area to work area through a seemingly endless sea of workers, parts, and machinery.

"It's a fantastic sized facility, especially for wood products," Coffman says. "it's one of our largest facilities, so there's nowhere to go but up, cabinet wise."

The Culver facility contributes to the community through a payroll-deducted and company-matched annual giving campaign. Employees are encouraged to give back to the community through company-paid volunteering, and the company also contributes to the community in its donations to Habitat for Humanity, which receives any cabinets the plant can't ship for whatever reason.

Coffman says Elkay has been working with the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation in hopes of connecting with a door manufacturer who can provide a local

partnership option. At the Culver plant, however, the transition to edge banding -- necessary to accommodate frameless cabinets -- was a challenging one at first, though the workforce has since gotten into the groove, says Coffman.

Still, finding the more skilled labor needed to keep the operation going has at times been a challenge as well. That's one reason Coffman says plant management hopes to interface more closely with the Culver Community, as well as Plymouth, schools. And whether or not a partnership towards work force grows from that interaction, Coffman says at the very least, a trip to the Mill Street factory could be a "great study place for a math or science class."

TOPS meets Wednesdays

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at the Culver Grace United Church of Christ, 307 Plymouth St., Culver Wednesday at 3 pm. Weigh in is from 3 to 3:30 p.m. meeting is 3:30 to 4 p.m. Use the main door to the east and go downstairs.

Of course, a great many workers at the facility don't reside in Culver proper, and while offering employment opportunities to a tri-county coverage area made up part of the economic incentive package which first brought Medallion here, Coffman would like to see more housing, and even dining options to help localize the economics of the workforce more in Culver (a topic which will be explored in more depth in an examination of the Culver housing market in the next Culver Citizen).

"We may not be the highest paying (employer in the area), but we're up there," Coffman points out, "and as companies go, to me we have good benefits. We offer full time and part time jobs, on one shift, a nice facility, multiple job types, with the ability of employees to develop and grow, and be part of great company and American Manufacturing right here in Culver Indiana."

"We're a very stable company, financially sound, and we're launching new products to new customers. We have a path to continue to grow substantially."

"So this place could be here for years and years to come," he adds. "One of Elkay's values is 'We are in Business Forever.' I say, 'We are in Culver forever!' Whether any of us are here in one week, or one year, or ten years the community will always need jobs. There are still a lot of manufacturing jobs in this country. Until I came here, I didn't really understand what this place was about. But to me, this is a gold nugget in the community, the county, and the state," that we all can be proud of.



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