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Thursday, December 18, 2014 Vol. 121 Issue No. 51 50¢
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Touched by Anjelica

ABOVE: A touching tribute to one of its popular employees adorns the Original Root Beer Stand property in Culver this week, bearing the simple message: "Smile." For many, the word summarizes the impact in their own lives of 24-year-old Anjelica Bush, who lost her life in a house fire here last week, even if it's a message which defies the feelings prevalent in Culver after the tragedy. SEE STORY BELOW

Community mourns loss of life in tragic Culver house fire

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

The Culver area community is still adjusting to last Thursday's tragedy, as family and friends of 24-year-old Anjelica Bush prepared to gather this week to reminisce and celebrate her life.

The Culver resident and Culver Comm. High School graduate, known to many through her employment at the Original Root Beer Stand in Culver, among other means, died as a result of smoke inhalation -- according to Marshall County coroner Bill Cleavenger -- in a house fire at 504 Mill Street in Culver.

According to Culver fire chief Terry Wakefield, a call was received at 1:32 Thursday morning, to the

Neher residence where Bush was house-sitting. Monterey's fire department was also called to assist.

Wakefield said an electrical cord was the cause of the fire, which he said did extensive damage to the house, which remains standing. He added that Marshall County fire marshal Fred Sumpter assisted in determining the cause and origin of the fire.

The fire chief also emphasized the importance of ensuring smoke detectors are installed and functional in residences, noting none were present at the house in question.

Remembering 'Jelcs'

Bush's impact on the lives of many, as well as her positive and support-

ive demeanor and sense of humor, was evidenced by the flood of tributes on her Facebook page, which portrayed a young woman who loved children (she was a frequent babysitter in the community and had worked with children in a number of capacities, including at Priscilla's Fun-N-Learning Preschool and Daycare in Monterey, at the time of her death), loved life, and helped others to laugh through their challenges.

At the Original Root Beer Stand, a simple and touching memorial appeared to the young woman who was a familiar summertime face (as an employee) there: a wreath bearing a message that may sum up Bush's message for those who knew her: "Smile."

Indeed, if there is one recurring theme in the many, many words of reflection -- and photographs of Bush -- on her Facebook page and across local social media, it's her laughter, her positive attitude, and yes, her smile, visible in nearly every image.

An annual scholarship in Bush's honor is also underway, via a partnership between The Original Rootbeer Stand and The Lakehouse Grille (father Mark Damore Sr. owns the stand, and son Jr. owns the Grille), available to employees of either estab-

lishment. The first annual Angelica C. Bush Scholarship will be awarded August of 2015, according to Mark Jr., who adds that a tree planned for a planned outdoor dining area at the Lakehouse will also be a memorial for Bush.

A time of visitation with Bush's family was scheduled for this Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Culver Academies Memorial Chapel.

Rallying around the Nehers

The community has also rallied around Don and Anna Neher, lifelong Culverites who lost their home in the blaze.

Ironically, the Nehers had recently been impacted by another tragic fire, that in Knox on Dec. 5 which claimed the lives of two-year-old Lucas Fisher and his grandmother, Linda Manns. Anna Neher's granddaughter was a cousin to Lucas.

The prediction of one Culver resident commenting on the Culver Citizen's Facebook coverage of the tragedy, was borne out in the days that followed. Wrote Karen Lee: "In true Culver fashion we will all come together, as we always do." It was an easy assumption to make, and it didn't take long for the community support to take shape.

Soon after, fellow Culver Comm. High School graduate Tonia Allen Gould set up an online fund-raiser to collect donations for the couple, at www.gofundme.com/HelptheNehers.

On the Citizen's Facebook feed, Gould wrote of the Nehers kindness in driving her from Chicago to Culver to visit her gravely ill stepfather a few years back, later inviting her for a special dinner they had prepared for her.

"All I know is that Anna and Don would give the shirts off their own backs, like any upstanding Midwesterner would, to anyone in need," wrote Gould, adding, "This time it's Anna and Don who are in need, and I imagine I'm not the only beneficiary of their past kindness."

Within hours of the Nehers' return flight from California, where they had been engaged in their work as truck-drivers, a Culver resident also responded to their post on The Culver Citizen feed requesting adoption of their dog, and another Culver couple had made arrangements for them to move into a rental house the couple owned.

Commented Anna Neher in response to the endeavor -- and amidst the couple's expressions of grief and sorrow: "Our hearts are full of the love."



CITIZEN PHOTOS/
JEFF KENNEY

This Mill Street home was the site of last Thursday's deadly fire.

Culver Comm. Schools launches strategic planning process, seeks community involvement

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver Community Schools has faced its share of challenges in recent years, leading to speculation that -- particularly in the current climate at the state level of consolidation of small schools -- the school's long-term future could even be in question.

It spite of being named an "A" school recently by the state Board of Education, Culver Community Schools has struggled with matters ranging from de-

mographic-oriented to financial (with funding cuts and shifting student populations), among others.

Likely with all of the above -- and more -- in mind, the school corporation has been increasingly proactive in addressing its issues, including inviting two state-level legislators to a special session last month to outline ways recent mandates have hurt it and other small corporations.

Last week, another proactive endeavor was

launched when the corporation held its first session towards forming a strategic plan for its future, though superintendent Dr. Vicki McGuire emphasized that the next steps are up to the community, whose members she invited -- during the short session held Dec. 9 at the Culver Comm. High School auditorium -- to participate in the ongoing process.

McGuire led attendees through a Power Point slideshow outlining a strategic plan as "a group of in-

dividuals working together toward common goals."

The common goal, she added, is the success of students.

The strategic plan, said McGuire, is "a roadmap we will create. It is not something that the superintendent can do alone."

The process will begin with a core planning team, which will revisit and revise the school's mission statement, or possibly create a new statement that is very easy to remember will be created.

McGuire added that other teams will be created as well, including teams focused on marketing, technology, school culture (to ensure an inviting and welcoming atmosphere), enrollment, school safety, curriculum (which will require some knowledge of new standards, tests, ways to engage students, individualize instruction), and cost containment (ways to save money in the school system).

See School page 2

See Briefs page 7

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Kicking off the CUTPL centennial

ABOVE: The Culver-Union Twp. Public Library kicked off its year-long observation of its centennial with a special program Dec. 6. In addition to a roster of local musicians and a holiday-themed open house at the library, the official kickoff included an introduction by library director Colleen McCarty (left, flanked by library board president Melanie Robertson, at right), and a reminiscence given by Marizetta Kenney (seated at right), who started work at the library at age 14, under then-director Jane Scruggs, and worked there intermittently for the next decade (Kenney's memories, as well as those of Scruggs' own daughter, and other historical retrospectives on the library, will appear in future editions of *The Culver Citizen*).

Posed left of Kenney is "Flat Andy," a life-size cardboard cutout of philanthropist and steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie, who provided most of the funds for the original, 1915 library in Culver. "Flat Andy" will be available during the centennial observation and act as its "mascot."

In addition, a series of historical exhibits on the library was launched with an upstairs exhibit by Museum of Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee History director Anna Campbell (the first focusing on founding board member and Culver teacher Edna Stahl).

School from page 1—

In fact, all decisions made in strategic planning, added McGuire, will need to reflect cost containment.

"We will need to be very creative in new ideas with little funding."

Teams will assess their respective areas for strengths and weaknesses; McGuire used the SWOT (Strengths,

Academies aims to take leap forward in sustainability via new program

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver Academies is taking a leap forward in its already-existent efforts to be "green" and ecologically sustainable, and a Culver native long working in that field has taken the helm of the initiative.

Culver's Chris Kline took a position in the Leadership department of his Academies alma mater about a year ago, but the position has a new direction aimed specifically at sustainability.

"The Buxtons (Head of Schools John and his wife, Pam) have been talking about it for a while," says Kline, who spent the previous ten years working for Northern Indiana-based environmental consulting firm J.F. New, and worked with a similar firm prior to that, having started his career on Capitol Hill. "They recognized, looking at other schools and institutions with more active sustainability programs, that Culver needed to do it."

With the retirement of two longstanding members of Culver's Leadership department last year, Kline came on board as a Leadership instructor on the Ethics side, but with a multi-tiered focus on sustainability.

That's a focus which affects Culver Academies on many levels: educational, in terms of the health and success of its campus' relationship to Lake Maxinkuckee, and even on the financial side of things, as Kline assists in a broad look at making campus buildings more eco-friendly.

One recent, and very visible, aspect of the overall focus is the



PHOTOS PROVIDED

TOP PHOTO: Culver Academies student volunteers prepare new recycling bins placed around the campus as part of a sustainability initiative spearheaded by Chris Kline of Culver.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Students clean up part of the "Indian Trails" between Culver Academies and the town of Culver earlier this year, as part of the same program.

appearance in recent months of a number of recycling bins across the campus, inside and out, though Kline emphasizes that's "not the most impactful thing" Culver may be undertaking.

"On the sustainability side, we're focusing more on education," notes Kline. "Recycling programs have been going on a long time at Culver, but we're also looking at sustainable elements in some of our new building programs."

Terms like "sustainability" and "green" (relating to ecologically sound) are currently in vogue, but Lake Maxinkuckee has been long ahead of the curve as the beneficiary of proactive efforts at keeping it clean and pristine.

That's due in large measure to the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council's endeavors dating back to the early 1980s, but it's also been due to the support and cooperation of Culver Academies, whose past efforts have ranged from elimination of phosphate chemicals in its landscaping work, reduction of waste and some composting at its dining facilities, and financial and labor support of a host of LMEC projects, all partly in recognition that the quality of Lake Maxinkuckee also affects the quality of the campus and its students' experience there, not to mention the future of the area as a whole.

Some of the efforts Kline has assisted in have included sustainability and ecological student senior service projects in conjunction with LMEC and in partnership with the school's science

See Academies page 11



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Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to describe the process.

"You will work with the end in mind. Where do you want to be in this specific area in 3-5 years?"

Each team, explained McGuire, will three to four goals and determine how to measure them in order to assess if they will be met in the future. Each team will then present the plan to the core planning team, who will determine if it fits with the mission that was created. That team will eventually approve it, but may ask for adjustments here or there, she added.

"After all teams' plans have been approved by the school board, the new, very short mission statement will


be posted throughout the school buildings and at the admin building," said the superintendent, after which each team will work toward carrying out the plan.

"This is a long range plan so that we don't become overwhelmed," she added. "Is this the answer to every problem a school would have? No. It is a plan to keep us focused and to make a great school even better."

Thanking faculty members Peggy Arquette and Missy Trent for their help in putting together the program, McGuire asked attendees interested in participating to fill out forms and return them to the school by Dec. 14.

She also said she will visit various entities in Culver such as the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, to explain the planning process and reach out for further participation.

Those interested in being part of the process may call the school's administration building at 574-842-3364.



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Obituaries

Anjelica Corrine Bush

May 17, 1990 – Dec. 11, 2014

CULVER — Anjelica Corrine Bush, 24, of Culver passed away tragically on Dec. 11, 2014 in Culver.

She was born on May 17, 1990 in Rochester to Dennis and Cheryl Bush. She was a graduate of Culver High School.

In loving memory of our sweet selfie queen, Anjelica Corrine Bush. You touched more lives than we can list... daughter, sister, auntie, and friend. The Root Beer Stand will never be the same, as a coney dog will not have your sweet smile behind it. Looking at the messages on your Facebook page, everyone had a picture or special moment with you. Heck, even Victoria Secret, Justin Bieber, and The Back Street Boys fan club, and Budweiser will feel your loss.

You will truly be missed by many. As one of our cousins put it, an entire town weeps for you. Words cannot express the sadness that is felt. Your spirit and heart were so bright that we couldn't even think of a place big enough to hold all the lives that you have touched. As Machine Gun Kelly puts it, you can't see my tears in the rain so I let it rain. Just for a little while because no matter how we feel, we get up, dress up, show up, and never give up. We will never give up, thanks to memories we have of you.

Anjelica is survived by her parents Dennis (Kelly) Bush and Cheryl (Rick) Bush; sisters Nicole (Marcos), Jessica (Bobby), Charlotte (Chris), Jennifer (Dan), and Liza (Mark); brother Dylan; grandparents Richard and Vivian Bush and Betty Shidaker, 17 nieces and nephews, tons of aunts and uncles, hundreds of cousins, millions of friends, and the entire community of Culver. She was preceded in death by William J Shidaker and William (John) Shidaker, and her namesake Corrine Faith Kelly.

A time of visitation was held at the Culver Academy Chapel on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014 from 4 – 6 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Priscilla's Fun-N-Learning Preschool/Daycare.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

Sarah Lovina Behnke

Nov. 23, 1927 - Dec. 12, 2014

CULVER — Sarah L. Behnke, 87, of Culver, died at 4:58 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 2014 at Woodlawn Hospital in Rochester. Sarah was born on Nov. 23, 1927 in rural Starke County, near Culver. She was a 1945 graduate of Winamac High School. Sarah married Roland A. Behnke on Aug. 22, 1948. He died May 21, 1988.

Sarah was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Culver and was also involved with the United Methodist Women.

Sarah was a very hardworking woman. She spent many years as a farmwife, helping Roland on the farm. She and Roland moved to Culver in 1961, where she spent many years working at the Culver Military Academy and ultimately retiring from the Culver Inn.

Sarah never knew a stranger. She formed strong relationships with everyone she met and had amazing name recall.

Sarah enjoyed cooking, baking, sewing, quilting, embroiderying, and crocheting.

Sarah was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be dearly missed.

Survivors include: Patsy A. (Roger) Sickmiller, Plymouth, daughter; Edward Roland (Barbara) Behnke, Culver, son; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandsons; and Wanda Miller, Plymouth, half-sister.

Preceded in death by: Leo William Warren, father; Esther Warmbrod Warren, mother; Roland A. Behnke, husband; and Jessie Allen Sickmiller, great-grandson.

Funeral Services were held at 2 p.m. EST Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, at Frain Mortuary, Winamac.

Burial took place in Reed Cemetery, Winamac.

Visitation was from 3-8 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014 at Frain Mortuary.

Memorial Contributions may be given to Wesley United Methodist Church or Culver EMS or Culver Union Township Fire Department.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Frain Mortuary, Winamac.

Online condolences may be offered in the guestbook at www.frainmortuary.com.

Ralph Geiselman

July 11, 1920 – November 23, 2014



CULVER — Ralph Geiselman, long-time resident of Culver, died at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Culver on Nov. 23, 2014, at the age of 94.

Ralph was a well-known and loved resident of Culver, always with a witty sense of humor. He was a loving husband and father, married to Frances (Tabor) Geiselman for more than 70 years. She

still remembers him asking her for their first date. All who knew him well remarked that "he is a good guy." He was a long-time member of Wesley United Methodist Church of Culver. He liked to watch Cubs baseball and just about any basketball game. He was a member of the Plymouth Kilwinning Masonic Lodge F & AM and the St. Joseph Valley Scottish Rite.

Ralph and Frances donated their time for several years delivering "meals on wheels" to shut-in residents of Culver. He was a World War II vet of four years — Navy — and saw duty in both the Atlantic and Pacific arenas. He worked at the Bendix Corp, South Bend, for many years as a pipe fitter, where he frequently worked several weeks in a row without a day off including weekends to earn a living for his family. He was a proud member of the UAW and was a committed supporter of labor unions. He enjoyed many years in retirement traveling with wife Frances, especially to Branson, Mo.

He is survived by wife Frances (current resident of Miller's nursing home), son Edward (Cindy), granddaughter Garianna, and grandson Grant. He was preceded in death by son Scott.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be sent via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

The Odom Funeral Home, Culver, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Council debates limits of government in private property tree discussion

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

The question of how the town of Culver should handle privately-owned trees alleged to pose a threat to public right-of-ways became a question of just how much government is too much, at least to some members of Culver's town council at last week's Dec. 9 meeting.

The discussion was a follow-up to the previous meeting's, when Tom Kearns of the Culver tree commission had presented the council questions as to whether property owners could be forced to remove -- or reimburse the town for removal of -- trees whose condition posed a threat to any publicly-owned property.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, town attorney Jim Clevenger noted he had sent a letter to the College Avenue property owner Kearns had specifically cited at the previous meeting, and part of whose tree had damaged part of Kearns' own home.

Kearns asked the council to strengthen existing laws regulating tree care and removal, to address the concern on a town-wide level.

Clevenger suggested, however, that the town could "get into a lot of other issues with private property (as opposed to trees actually growing in the public right-of-way)...we need to be careful we don't violate somebody's rights by regulating trees on their property.

"I think if a tree is on private property that's unlikely to fall onto the right-of-way or public lands, I don't know that you could regulate it. It would almost have to have a public safety aspect."

Council president Ginny Munroe expressed concern

over the possibility of heavy-handed enforcement as well.

"What about a bad storm that does damage where you don't know you have a problem tree? It could get really sticky. And who enforces it?"

Munroe added that some residents may not have the money to remove identified trees.

Kearns proposed instead that the tree commission identify trees which could damage the public right-of-way or a public place -- utilizing the commission's hired arborist -- and notify the property owner.

Munroe and fellow council member Lynn Overmyer asked for more time to consider the matter, with Clevenger agreeing he had concerns as well.

Following up on another discussion from last meeting, the council approved a recommendation from town marshal Wayne Bean to purchase a Ford Explorer SUV as the police department's newest vehicle.

It was noted the depart-

ment also received \$2,600 from a county-wide program encouraging follow-up on enforcement violations, and that Bean had written a letter requesting \$10,000 for each of Culver's three emergency services departments -- police, fire, and EMS -- from Culver Academies for services provided its students while in town and to the campus in general, something the school has done for some years.

Updating the council on Culver park board actions was park board member John Helphrey, who said the board had its last meeting of the year earlier that week, and that three furnaces and two air conditioners were being replaced in the park's beach lodge (no air conditioning is planned for the lodge's lower level).

He added no negative feedback had come back regarding price increases for park pier slip leases, in the works for next year. He noted some patrons had questioned whether they should be charged the out-of-town pier slip rate if they own property in Culver.

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WEEKLY DEADLINES

Advance News, Bremen Enquirer, Bourbon News-Mirror, Culver Citizen, Knox Leader

December 25th Issue

ROP & Legals - Wednesday, December 17th (5pm)
Classifieds - Thursday, December 18th (noon)

January 1st Issue

ROP & Legals - Tuesday, December 23rd (5pm)
Classifieds - Wednesday, December 24th (10am)

SHOPPER/REVIEW DEADLINES

December 28th Issue

ROP - Monday, December 22nd (4pm)
Classifieds - Monday, December 22nd (4pm)

January 4th Issue

ROP - Monday, December 29th (4pm)
Classifieds - Monday, December 29th (4pm)

PILOT NEWS DEADLINES

December 24th Issue

ROP & Legals - Monday, December 22nd (4pm)
Classifieds - Tuesday, December 23rd (noon)

December 26th Issue

ROP & Legals - Tuesday, December 23rd (4pm)
Classifieds - Wednesday, December 24th (10am)

December 31st Issue

ROP & Legals - Monday, December 29th (4pm)
Classifieds - Tuesday, December 30th (10am)

January 2nd Issue

ROP & Legals - Tuesday, December 30th (4pm)
Classifieds - Wednesday, December 31 (10am)

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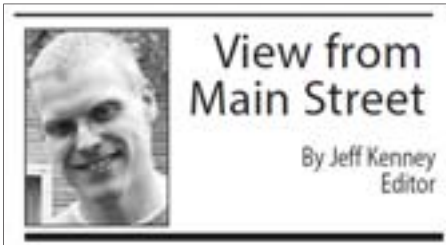
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Tragedy, a ‘thank you,’ and a community mourning

Last Thursday morning's news, of course, was the sort a local editor (or reporter), especially in a small town, hates to wake up to.

As Culver fire chief Terry Wakefield told one of the television crews at the scene of the tragic Dec. 11 fire which claimed the life of 2008 Culver Comm. High School grad Anjelica Bush, this sort of thing hits hard in a place like this, because practically everyone knows everyone else. As was the case for Terry and his crew (and that of the Monterey fire department, as well as Culver's EMS and police), here "work" coincides with community life: the impact of neighbors, friends, family, and so forth.

My situation, however, is nothing compared to that of our emergency responders. We often speak of appreciating their work and sacrifice -- especially since many are volunteers -- but I wanted to make a special point of thanking them this week. The Culver fire department,



especially, has some newer, younger members who really are peers of Anjelica Bush's, and I think few of us want to imagine what it meant for them to enter that house -- to experience what they did. They -- again, along with our EMTs and police -- experienced something most of us won't (and do so, from time to time), and did it on our behalf, and I want to thank them for that.

In my eighth year as Citizen editor, I see, over the months, the regularity of losing members of our community, and sometimes in unexpected and accidental ways. There's something about this tragedy, however, that feels to me like one which will be a touchstone for the community for years to come. As an amateur local historian, I can cite particular horrors which seem to remain in the collective memory (several, going back decades, spring to mind, but I won't get into them here), and evoke sober reminiscences from Culver residents. The loss of such a

young, vibrant, and positive presence in the Culver community last week, I think will become part of that unfortunate list.

I hope it goes without saying that the thoughts and prayers of my family can be added to those of so many, for the family, loved ones, and friends of Anjelica. Her family is a longstanding and well-known one in Culver (and I have to add, my son was looked up very much to her brother, Dylan, as his Junior Woodcraft counselor a few summers ago), and I think we are all of one mind, in Culver, in feeling that the greatest tribute to them, and to Anjelica, is her lasting legacy as one so loved by those who knew her.

As reported in this edition of *The Citizen* as well, the community has also united in supporting Culver natives Don and Anna Neher, who have indeed given much of their time and energy in years past to many in Culver, in a variety of capacities. I grew up a few blocks from their home and have known their family all my life, as was the

See View page 12

A very Culver Christmas

A localized take on an ancient theme, by Bob Nowalk

Editor's note: Bob Nowalk of Culver, who kicked off the town's official tree lighting ceremony earlier this month, submitted this more in-depth -- and whimsical -- meditation on Culver and the true meaning of Christmas. Nowalk is Visual Art Collection Coordinator and a Master Instructor in Fine Arts at Culver Academies.

Well, it's the holiday season in Culver with all its rush and wonder. So, lest we grow weary of the season's more stressful moments, it might be good to draw a little attention to just why we gather around an evergreen tree, light candles, sing songs, and tell the kids that this is not about money. It's really about a story; a story rooted in a small town not too different from our own small town and to people not too different from us. If it had happened today and in our town, here is what we might be talking about.

And it came to pass that the Governor of Indiana was looking at his coffers and discovered an apparent budgetary discrepancy between the number of people needing to pay State Taxes and the amount of money he had in his check book. Without consulting the House or Senate, he demanded all local authorities make everyone go back to their home towns and be counted.

So it was that Joseph, a construction worker up in Goshen whose family once owned a farm just outside of Culver, loaded up his ten year old pick-up truck with his tools, Duke, his German Shepard, and, Mary, his fully pregnant wife. Thus they began their journey to Culver.

Joe had been engaged to Mary for a while but when she confided in him that she was "with child", he thought, "Uh Huh." And not being a demonstrative person he decided to end the engagement. However, an angel, or something more like Miss Maxinkuckee with wings, appeared to him in a dream and told him Mary's child would be special and not to be afraid of marrying her. "All babies are special" Joe said. "That's the idea," said the angel while straightening her wings, "But this baby is destined to be very cool in bringing peace to many people." Joe was duly impressed, and being a good man, he did what she said.

Well, the going was slow and the road was a little bumpy with the truck needing shocks and all. Joe kept having

to stop and top up the oil, lost by a small head-gasket leak, and Mary used every one of these opportunities to visit the facilities. When the vehicle came to a complete standstill just west of Argos, Joe got desperate. Lacking a signal on his cell phone, Joe walked back to the Mac Donald's and called Hammers, who sent someone over to tow them the last ten miles into town.

When they arrived, as Hammer's was already closed, they dropped the truck by the CVS. Joe thanked the driver and told Mary to stay in the truck with Duke while he walked over to his Aunt Edna's house on Washington Street. He had meant to call ahead of time but construction work is long days and there is seldom time for chat. Joe, however, still held out hope she would put them up for the night. That way they could get counted and head back to Goshen in a few days.

Unfortunately, Aunt Edna already had an unanticipated collection of distant relatives piled into every room. This despite the fact she had sold the house a month earlier and was getting ready to move into Millers. With everything in disarray, the best she could offer him was a sleeping bag and a space heater in the garage amongst her yard sale items. The only occupants were three stray cats Aunt Edna still needed to find a home for. Joe accepted her offer and ran to get Mary, who, being heavy with child, barely made it the two blocks to the garage before collapsing.

And so it came to pass that Mary brought forth her first born child. She wrapped him in an old high school tee-



shirt and a few beach towels and laid him in an antique wicker basket Aunt Edna thought would surely bring \$50 in her yard sale. At this moment, as Joe watched Mary lay the baby down, a sudden warmth came over the garage. Joe hadn't even plugged in the space heater. Duke, the German Shepard, knelt down next to the baby and the stray cats purred soft and sleepy-like. Mary called him Jesus and sang softly to him. At this, the entire garage became filled with a warm comforting glow which burst out of the windows, gathered into a ball, and shot up into the sky like a searchlight.

Now there were restaurant employees, taking a break at the end of their nightly shift, standing behind Papas watching the last few customers pulling away, when suddenly the sky was filled with what seemed like a thousand or more Maxinkuckee Players singing "Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to all people of good will."

The chef, bartender, and servers blinked, "You seeing what I'm seeing" one of the servers said to the chef. "Not if you're not seeing it," said the chef. "But we are seeing it" said the bartender. The vision continued, "A child is born this day who will bring salvation to all people. He is wrapped in an old tee-shirt and sleeping in a garage on Washington Street. A searchlight will show you the way." And just like that, they burst into four part harmony with a little descant, a very cool guitar solo, and were gone.

They all were standing there staring at the sky when one of them turned to the west and saw the searchlight. Then they all turned. "Let's go and see" they all said at once and without even bothering to put on their coats, began a jumpin' and joggin' down Lakeshore Drive

See Christmas, page 11

Cold air exercise

We exercise for various reasons, but all of us would agree that having ample energy for work, play, social engagements, civic and community service and chores around the home are important. My dad teaches me a lesson every time he gets down on the floor to play with his grandkids. At eighty three years old, he receives so much joy from playing games, catch and even tag once in a while. His grandchildren love it too. My eighteen year old son will go deer hunting with him this week, and watching them walk into the woods together is priceless. I want to be like my dad when I grow up. But, I can't expect to be like him later on, if I am not willing to stay active and healthy now. This winter, make sure you keep your positive frame of mind and regularly exercise. You need fresh air and sunshine all year long, not just in the warmer months. As a matter of fact, you probably need it more in the winter. With that in mind, here are a few helpful tips:

1. Acclimate -- We have enjoyed one of the most pleasant autumns in recent memory, but all Hoosiers



Heartbeats and Footprints

BY DANA NEER

cold and unfriendly. A burning sensation in your chest when you inhale cold air is totally normal. "Your body warms outside air quickly -- three inches down into your neck it is already 98.6 degrees -- but even that is not fast enough to prevent the sting," says Daniel Carey, Ph.D., Assistant Professor for the Department of Health and Human Performance at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. The good news is exercising in freezing temperatures has no negative effects on your lungs, according to a study Carey published in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research. To make it less annoying, he suggests something that we all know to do, pull a neck warmer up over your mouth to warm the air.

2. Predetermine your temperature limits -- What is your bottom line temperature for exercising outside? Many people draw the line at 20 degrees, finding solace in knowing the treadmill is nearby if the thermometer

know, we will probably pay later on. Gradually introduce cooler air to your body by exercising outside while temperatures wane. Fresh air is vital to your health, even if that air is

dips into the teens. Remember, the sun can be very warm even, on a cold day. Windy, icy days are prime moments for treadmill use. I would suggest mixing up your training by exercising outside half the session and indoors the other half. Group training can be one of your greatest motivational pieces during the tough months ahead. Knowing others have expectations of you forces the right decision. Even 10-15 minutes outside can do wonders for your heart and soul.

3. Indoor Exercise - We live in an age of many electric cardio-vascular machines and large buildings, like the mall, where refuge exists when temperatures spiral downward. During icy conditions, a good workout designed to increase the heart rate is difficult to achieve. Look for resources around you and find a way to accomplish your goal. For example, roads lined with trees may help break the wind. Parks may provide an oasis of shelter and a safe place to park your car, gaining access to your engine's heat any time you may need it. Our Indiana winters can be harsh at times, but sticking with your fitness plan not only brings physical benefits, but holistic health as well-psychologically, mentally and spiritually. No one ever regrets completing a workout. However, many people wish they had the discipline and dedication to accomplish a daily routine of exercise. As an example, during a normal weekly workout plan, I feel great and motivated two or three days, feel decent a few days and rather blah the rest of the time. Please remember, no one feels good every day. Do not think that you happen to be the unlucky recipient of some "mutant gene" causing you to lack motivation. WE All have to make ourselves exercise. I am a fellow struggler, so let's make it happen this winter!

Dana Neer serves as Wellness Coordinator and Counselor at The Culver Academies. He can be contacted at Dana.Neer@culver.org.

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Miller leads Eagles in 58-51 victory over LaVille



PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

Elijah Miller rises to the occasion both literally and figuratively in a Culver Eagles 58 to 51 varsity home win over LaVille this past Friday. Miller, a senior from Ontario, Canada, scored 16 points against LaVille and 20 against Tippecanoe Valley earlier in the week.

points, largely set up by Miller’s dribble penetration and a series of lob passes to the post. Ricks also secured a game-best seven rebounds.

“Miller in the first half seemed to get down in the lane anytime he wanted,” LaVille head coach Michael Edison said. “Lorenzo Ricks, we made him into an All-American. I’m not saying he’s not an All-American; I wish we would have made it harder for him. He had a lot of point-blank la-

By Dee Grenert
Staff Writer

CULVER — Culver Military Academy point guard Elijah Miller found himself in the middle of all sorts of action Friday.

The 6-foot senior posted a rare form of double-double with 16 points and 11 assists, added three steals and stayed on the floor all 32 minutes of the host Eagles’ 58-51 boys basketball win over LaVille at Fleet Gymnasium.

For good measure, Miller also drew the defensive assignment against LaVille standout Blake Berger and spent much of the evening fighting through the Lancers’ patented screens.

“The best thing to say about Elijah is that he really dictated tempo all game,” CMA head coach Mark Galloway said. “I’d call him an iron man tonight, because I think he played the whole game and he guarded the other team’s best player. He also had 11 assists; when you can get a double-double from your point guard that way, that’s pretty good.”

CMA’s Lorenzo Ricks, a sturdy 6-5 senior forward, scored a team-high 23

See Eagles page 6

Sports briefs

Girls basketball Styers leads CGA

Tori Styers led three Culver Girls Academy players in double figures with 20 points, and the Lady Eagles downed visiting South Bend Riley, 62-35 Saturday.

Marie Stiner finished with 16 points, and Kingsley Cortez scored 10 for the Eagles, who moved to 4-5 on the year.

Jaya Parker and Nautica Uptgrow each scored seven points to lead Riley.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 62, SB RILEY 35
at Culver

Culver rallies past Knox

Culver Community rallied from a two-point first half deficit to beat visiting Knox 58-40 in a Northern State Conference matchup in Culver on Saturday.

The Redskins led 26-24 at the intermission but were outscored 34-14 in the second half.

Culver was buoyed offensively by three players in double figures. Mickella Hardy scored 16 points, while Tatum Schultz and Donna Zehner each scored 12. Zehner also notched a double-double with 12 rebounds, while Schultz finished with five assists.

• CULVER 58, KNOX 40
At Culver

Culver trumps CGA Culver Community

topped Culver Girls Academy 56-48 in a game between crosstown rivals Wednesday night at Culver Community.

Donna Zehner led a balanced Cavalier offense with 16 points ahead of Mickella Hardy’s 15 and Tatum Schultz’s 14.

CGA was paced by Marie Steiner’s game-high 19 points.

Culver Community used a 16-9 second quarter to jump out to a 25-16 lead at halftime en route to its second straight win. The Cavs improve to 7-2.

CGA slips to 3-5 with the loss.
• CULVER COMMUNITY 56, CGA 48

Boys basketball

CMA wins 3rd straight

Culver Military Academy earned its third straight win with a 56-51 victory over visiting Tippecanoe Valley Tuesday.

Elijah Miller finished with a game-high 20 to power CMA, while Lorenzo Ricks scored nine, and Jarmarrio Rule finished with eight points.

Tippy Valley was led by Gavin Bussard’s co-game high 20, and Alex Thacker’s 19.

• CULVER MILITARY 56, TIPPECANOE VALLEY 51
at Culver

Girls swimming CGA downs Marian

Culver Girls Academy’s swim team handed visiting Mishawaka Marian a convincing 130-53 defeat Saturday in Culver.

Cecilia Miller was a two-time winner in the 200 IM and the 100 freestyle swims, while Regina Padilla won the backstroke and contributed to a win in the 200 free relay, and Emma Sexton won the butterfly and swam legs on CGA’s winning 200 medley relay and 200 free relay teams.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 130, MISHAWAKA MARIAN 53
at Culver

CGA tops Logansport

Culver Girls Academy’s swim team beat out Logansport 111-75 in a dual meet at the Academies Wednesday.

Josephine Schott was a winner in the 500 free, the 200 free and 400 free relay.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 111, LOGANSPO 75
at Culver

Boys swimming

CMA wins

Culver Military earned wins in all but one event and went one-two in all three relay races en route to a 137-31 victory over visiting Mishawaka Marian Saturday.

Johnny Young won the 200 IM and swam a leg on CMA’s winning 200 medley relay squad, while For-

See Sports page 7



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Your place to find local places of worship

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CULVER AREA CHURCHES

Culver Bible Church
718 South Main Street
CulverBible.org
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Eve. Service - 6:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Daniel Huhn
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Emmanuel United Methodist Church
401 S. Main St., Culver
842-2133
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Worship - 9:00 a.m.
Pastor: Tom Richards
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Grace United Church of Christ
307 N. Plymouth St., Culver
574-842-2331
Church Service - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.
Children and Adults
Handicapped accessible
Pastor: AnnMarie Kneebone
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Memorial Chapel
Culver Academies
Protestant Chapel - 10:30 a.m.
Catholic Mass - 9:00 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Johanna McCune Wagner, Chaplain
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Mt. Hope United Methodist Church
7022 W. 700N
574-542-9333
www.mthopechurch.com
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Bob Metzger
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
110 N. Main St., Culver
842-3629
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening - 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Bro. Mike Cissna
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠


St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church
515 N. State St.
http://steculver.org
Eucharist - 6:00 p.m.
Pastor: Fr. Clark S. Miller
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church
124 College Ave., Culver
www.culcom.net/~stmarys/
Sunday Masses - 7:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Pastor: Fr. Jeffrey Largent
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Trinity Lutheran Church
430 Academy Rd.
www.trinityculver.org
Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.
Pastor: K.C. Dehning
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠


Wesley United Methodist Church
511 School St., Culver
842-2900
Memorial Day-Labor Day - 8:00 a.m. at Culver Depot
Labor Day-Memorial Day - 9:00 Sunday School
Worship - 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Handicapped Accessible
Pastor: Tom Harzula
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~Matthew 6:33

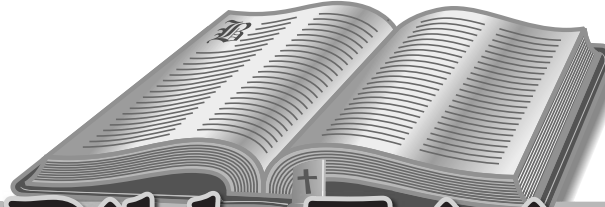


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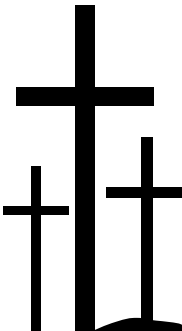


Bible Trivia

— BY WILSON CASEY —

1. Is the book of Luke in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. For the journey to Bethlehem, how did Mary and Joseph travel? Bible not specific, Walked, Rode donkey, Boat
3. When Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were “what”? Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers
4. At the birth of Jesus, who was king of Judaea? Solomon, Herod, Balak, Belshazzar
5. What was the home city of Mary and Joseph? Capernaum, Nazareth, Aphek, Shechem
6. Of these, which wasn’t a gift from the wise men? Silver, Myrrh, Gold, Frankincense

ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Bible not specific; 3) Engaged; 4) Herod; 5) Nazareth; 6) Silver





PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

Culver hardwood heroes

Pictured are members of Culver Comm. High School and Culver Academies' boys and girls varsity basketball teams.

ABOVE: Culver Comm. High School Cavaliers boys' team members and staff (front row, from left): Megan Thompson, Bayli Fearnow, Alex Graham, Everett Krueger, Cash Harris, Westin Bush, RT Roberts. Back row, Coach Krueger, Cody Valiquet, John Robbins, Nate Carneige, Tristan Schultz, Preston Hansel, Josh Krsek, Coach Davis, Coach Lowry.

BELOW: Culver Military Academy Eagles team members (front row, from left): Ignas Masiulionis, Dylan Powell, Jamarrio Rule, Jake Young. Back row, from left: Jose Figueroa, Elijah Miller, Rayford Dexter El, Lorenzo Ricks, Addyson Allyn.



PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

ABOVE: Culver Comm. High School Cavaliers girls' team members (front row, from left): Mickella Hardy, Donna Zehner, Tatum Schultz, Marisa Howard, Angela Lewellen, Courtney Salyer.

BELOW: Culver Girls Academy Eagles team members (from left) Coach Gary Christlieb, Jordi Blackburne, Katie Garland, Brooke Ditmire, Jessie Etheridge, Mary Terhune, Peyton Frank, Marie Steiner, Kennedy Kubica, Tori Styers, Caitlyn Cowell, Margaret McKinnis, Kingsley Cortes, assistant Susan Thews. Seated: Grace Holzer.



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Sports from page 5

yups, and those are hard to miss. They're a well-coached team. Coach Galloway does a great job.”

Ricks sank 10-of-13 field-goal attempts — all from the interior — highlighted by 10 first-quarter points as the Eagles claimed an early edge and never trailed.

Also for CMA, which hit 56 percent from the field, 6-4 sophomore forward Jamarrio Rule chipped in 10 points, all assisted by Miller.

“Lorenzo Ricks got us off to a great start,” Galloway said. “He did a good job catching the ball and finishing; his hands have gotten better. Jamarrio is only a sophomore. This is our fifth game tonight, and the improvement he’s made from the first game to now is remarkable.”

Meanwhile, Berger erupted for 19 of his game-high 29 points in the second half to lead the Lancers. The multi-talented 6-0 senior guard drilled a quartet of treys and scored several times off the dribble.

“I think (Berger) is one of the best guards in Marshall

County, and he might be one of the best guards in northern Indiana,” Galloway said. “He’s a really smart player. He gets the ball in the right spots. His basketball IQ is what’s so impressive. He reminds me of (2008 Plymouth High School graduate) Randy Davis.”

After trailing by multiple possessions throughout the second half, Berger’s conventional 3-point play pulled LaVille to within three points, 47-44, with 4:17 left in the game.

Following a defensive stop, LaVille gave itself a chance to pull even closer, but Miller countered with a steal and basket off a slick crossover to restore CMA’s two-possession lead.

Sophomore guard Ignas Masiulionis provided the knockout blow with a trey from the left corner to put the Eagles up 56-49 with 32 seconds left in the game.

“I’m proud of my guys for battling,” Edison said. “If we could have gotten a key stop or two it’s a different game.

We cut it to three or four a few times and then (CMA) would hit a big shot.

Senior forward Kyle Kopetski chipped in 15 points and five rebounds for the Lancers, while sophomore guard Adam Steinke delivered three assists.

Defensively for the Eagles, senior guard Rayford Dexter El not only held LaVille perimeter threat Isaac Eash scoreless, but also limited the junior guard to just a single field-goal attempt.

“Rayford Dexter El hit a big 3 in the second half, but he also held (Eash) to zero points,” Galloway said. “I have to compliment Rayford’s defense. He did a great job being there on the catch.”

CMA heads to Twin Lakes tonight, while LaVille travels to South Bend Washington on Tuesday.

• CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 58, LaVILLE 51 At Culver

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Library news

Automating tasks at Thurs. Tech Time Dec. 18

The Culver-Union Twp. Public Library's Thursday Tech Time session for December will take place Thurs., Dec. 18, starting at 6 p.m.

The topic will be automating tasks, which covers programs and methods to help automate complex or repetitive tasks.

Thursday Tech Time is an open discussion group for anyone interested in computers and technology. Come and talk, share, listen and ask questions!

Sessions are held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Each session may have a speaker and topic or may simply be an open discussion. All sessions are free and open to the public.

For more information, call the Culver Library at 574-842-2941, visit our website at www.culver.lib.in.us or e-mail abaker@culver.lib.in.us. The library's street address is 107 N. Main St.

"Boys of Winter" at library book-film club

The Culver Public Library's book/film group will meet Wed., Jan. 7, at noon in the library's large meeting room, located downstairs.

The books is, "The Boys of Winter" by Wayne Coffey with the foreword by Jim Craig, the goalie of the 1980 Olympic team. A complete listing of the "dream team" makes for fascinating reading.

The film is "Miracle," featuring Kurt Russell as Coach Herb Brooks. This is a must see film telling the amazing story of the recruitment of the players to the final game at Lake Placid against the veteran Russian team.

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 Culver-Union Township Public Library is located at 107 N. Main Street in Culver. All programs are free and open to the public.

Council from page 3

"We didn't have that information on our computer program before...but thanks to (Culver building inspector) Russ Mason, we will now have that and lots of information we never had before."

Helphrey said new railings will be installed on the beach lodge upper deck, and explained that electrical cords facilitating Christmas lights in the park have been identified as needing consideration, with the hope that next year buried lines can be added, which should also aid in running power to the annual Lake Fest as well.

The park board hopes to replace fencing around the park's dumpster next year, and simultaneously create an expanded space to store pier material during the winter, removing it from the shoreline.

Helphrey added thanks to town clerk Karen Heim and deputy clerk Julie Cowell for their assistance in providing information on the park's finances; he further thanked resident Jean Rakich for her donation of extra Christmas lights to the park.

Fellow park board member Patty Stallings also thanked the council and town utilities manager Bob Porter for assistance to the park throughout the year. Park board member Kearns thanked Mark Damore Jr. for underwriting the cost of Christmas lights at the train station, which Porter's crew hung.

The council approved a proposal from Dave Ferguson of Ferguson Michiana, an area AT&T contractor, to re-

Arnold graduates Basic Training

Army Spc. John D. Arnold has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

During the nine-week training period, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship and bayonet training, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions, and core values.

Arnold is the son of Tricia M. Beach of Albuquerque, N.M. He is a 2004 graduate of Culver Academy, Culver, Ind. He earned an bachelor's degree in 2009 from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M.

Sports from page 5

rest Baumgartner swam a leg on the winning medley relay team and won the 100 butterfly individually.

• CULVER MILITARY 137, MISHAWAKA MARIAN 31 at Culver

CMA routs Logan

The Culver Military Academy boys swim team dominated visiting Logansport with a 136-41 victory at home Wednesday night.

Forrest Baumgartner won the 200 IM, the 200 medley relay, the 100 butterfly and the 200 free relay. Grant Ralston won the 50 free and the 400 free relay for the Eagles. Justin Matei was a winner in the 500 free and both the 200 medley relay and the 400 free relay. James Kerr recorded wins in the 400 free relay and the 200 free relay. Johnny Young won the breaststroke and the 200 free relay.

• CULVER MILITARY 136, LOGANSPORT 41 at Culver



Jason Kuker each scored a goal with two assists for New Trier.

• NEW TRIER 4, CULVER MILITARY (A) 0 at Culver

Sieber newest member of American Angus Association

Grace Sieber of Culver is a new junior member of the American Angus Association, reports Bryce Schumann, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with nearly 24,000 active adult and junior members.

PHOTO/PAUL PARR

LEFT: CMA senior Rayford Dexter El (at right) is fouled by Tippecanoe Valley's Alec Craig during a gritty and contentious game at Culver Tuesday December 9. (CMA shot 29 foul shots during the 32 minutes of the game.) Tippecanoe Valley led by at least 6 points or more after each of the first three quarters though CMA bore down defensively in the fourth and won 56-51. Trailing the play is CMA's #13 Stu Johnston and at left is TV's Neil Clampett.

Boys hockey

CMA shut out by New Trier

Culver Military's A hockey team was shut out in a 4-0 loss to visiting New Trier over the weekend.

Bradley Glass, John Dolby and

place damaged fiber optic under Lake Shore Drive from the west end of the town park and going down Main Street, an approximately 10-day project which would be financed by AT&T.

It was agreed that patching on the street as part of the project would need to be cold patching, rather than poured concrete which council member Sally Ricciardi said could lead to difficult work in jackhammering through for town crews in the future.

The council approved a request from Culver EMS director Ruth Allman to purchase new department pullover attire from Suzie Q's in Culver at \$1,147. Also approved was a three-year technical service support agreement for the department's defibrillator totaling \$9,948.60 split over three years.

Approved by council was a renewed, 25-year lease of the depot - train station in the town park for Culver's Lions Club, which renovated and has maintained the building since the early 1980s.

Also approved, on first reading only, was the town's 2015 salary ordinance.

Wastewater plant meter calibration between the town and Culver Academies was approved at \$940, as was \$2,885 to Peerless Midwest for valve replacement.

Clerk Heim's request for \$1,345.75, the final claim of the year on Culver's sidewalk program, was given the council's nod, and Heim reminded the audience that an

array of positions on town commissions and boards are open and need letters of interest submitted soon.

Audience member Kathy Clark, executive director of the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council, said she received notification that the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources no longer has funds to maintain longstanding water level gauges owned by the United States Geological Survey. The gauges, maintained since 1908, play an important role in tracking the lake's condition in times of drought and other situations, said Clark, who explained the LMEC has been asked to take on the cost, something in which they may be interested. Cooperation, however, would be needed from the council as a local government entity.

Audience member Bill Cleavenger, speaking on behalf of the Culver Public Library board, informed the council that part of Main Street in downtown Culver may be closed part of Dec. 17 or 18 as the library removes part of its building which has been causing ongoing safety concerns.

Cleavenger also noted Jean Rakich had been appointed the night before to fulfill the final year of council member Bill Githens' term, as Githens will leave the council in January to serve on the county council.

Also approved was changing the council's Dec. 23 meeting to Dec. 30.

Briefs from page 1

cated at 124 College Avenue in Culver. Questions may be directed to **Student artwork on display at library**

Featured artwork by Culver Community Middle School and High School students is on display through December at the Culver-Union Township Public Library. If you are interested in exhibiting your collection, artwork, or crafts at the Culver-Union Township Public Library please contact Reference/Adult Services Manager Dana Thomas at 574-842-2941 or dthomas@culver.lib.in.us.

Life Support at Grace Tuesdays

The Grace United Church of Christ, 307 N. Plymouth St. in Culver is offering a Life Support Group on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. People involved with anxiety, stress, depression, emotional issues & addictions are welcome.

842-2331 or 842-3592.

Community meal at Grace Jan. 15

Grace United Church of Christ will hold its monthly community meal on Thursday, Jan. 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.

Donations sought for Blessings in a Backpack

Volunteers are working to bring the national Blessings in a Backpack program, which sends nutritious food home with local elementary students in need, to Culver Elementary School in 2015. Donations may be made online or by check or cash to the program's national center (Blessings

in a Backpack Lock Box, P.O. Box 950291, Louisville, KY 40295) or in person to Dianne Johnson, who may be reached at captdianne@att.net or 812-699-1099. More information about the program will appear in a future edition of *The Culver Citizen*.

Adult recreational basketball

Adult recreational basketball takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. EST, at the Culver Middle School gym each Sunday this winter. This will continue each Sunday, and last day will be March 8, 2015. Cost is the same to cover insurance, \$2 per Sunday or just \$15 for all 15 sessions. Please bring your A game, good sportsmanship, but not your kids. Questions can be directed to Ken VanDePutte, 574-274-9942

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BOARD CERTIFIED OPTOMETRIST
202 NORTH MAIN STREET • CULVER, IN 46511
574-842-3372

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
SEASONS GREETINGS

Culver’s Couts introduces device for 3-D eye imaging

Culver – Dr. Mark Couts, OD, of Family Vision Clinic in Culver, is making a difference in the community fight against sight-stealing eye diseases, such as glaucoma and macular degeneration (AMD).

It’s well known that the key to preventing vision loss is early detection. With the new addition of this 3-D imaging technology, Couts is now better able to identify glaucoma or AMD.

This new system, known as SPECTRALIS, uses an advanced eye tracking system that produces 3-D images of the eye, allowing Couts to more easily identify change. This helps reveal eye disease which may not yet be notice-

able by the patient or detectable with a traditional visual exam. The SPECTRALIS not only aid in the detection of such diseases as glaucoma and AMD, it also provides essential information for monitoring them in follow-up examinations.

The SPECTALIS exam is fast, safe and usually does not require dilating the eye, Couts notes. While a patient comfortably sits in a stationary position, the eye is scanned in a few seconds.

“I am really excited to offer my patients this new 3-D eye exam,” says Couts. “Using this technology, I can image tiny details to help confirm the condition of the eye.”

Couts adds that diseases like glaucoma and AMD can impair an individual’s vision or even cause permanent vision loss if not caught at an early stage. The best preventative measure an individual can take to protect their eyes is to have an annual examination. Early detection and close monitoring of disease change can limit the severity of the disease and help ensure treatment is meeting expectations.

Couts founded Family Vision Clinic in 1985. For more information about his practice, contact Family Vision Clinic at 574-842-3372 or visit fvcculver.com.

Culver Boys & Girls Club updates to county commissioners

Culver Legals

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of the Town of Culver, Marshall County, Indiana that the proper legal officers will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year at their regular meeting place at the Town Hall, at 6:30 p.m., on the 30th day of December 2014.
River Boat Fund

Amount Requested	\$5,000
------------------	---------

Total for Riverboat Fund

Culver Legals

tive other than locating the proposed Community Development Block Grant project described below in a floodplain. The project will entail the construction of new water treatment plant whereas a small corner section of the facility sits within the edge of a designated 100 year floodplain. The improvements must be located in the floodplain because the existing water treatment plant is located already in the floodplain and needs to be replaced to improve the overall operations of the water utility at large for the betterment of the beneficiary services provided. By publication of this notice, Town of Culver is inviting any final written comments prior to undertaking the proposed action. All comments should be addressed to Karen Heim, Culver Clerk-Treasurer, 200 E. Washington Street, Culver, IN 46511, not later than December 25, 2014. Ginny Bess Munroe Council President
Town of Culver
December 18, 2014 CC4768 hspaxlp

**Town of Culver
Notice of Explanation of Project Located In a Floodplain**

This is to give notice that the Town of Culver has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order (11988 or 11990) in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 to determine the potential affect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the environment. The Town of Culver has determined that there is not a practicable alterna-

MARSHALL COUNTY — The Culver Boys and Girls Club is doing well according to board member Alan Loehr's update earlier this month to the Marshall County commissioners.

“The one thing that really separates this club from so many,” began Loehr. “is our ability to tap into the resources at the (Culver) academy. Every first classman (senior) at the academy that has a service requirement they have to meet before they can graduate. For a lot of them this is a great opportunity for them to find those hours.”

The students at the club and the academy benefit from the relationship between the organization. The Connecting Points program is an incentive based program that the boys and girls club work through in conjunction with students from the academy.

For the current year there are 270 members with the average daily attendance being 80 students. In 2010 there were 223 members with average daily attendance being 72.

The Culver Boys and Girls Club has a budget of \$196,000. That money comes from fundraising efforts (63 percent), United Way (15 percent), grants (13 percent), program fees (seven percent) and membership dues (two percent).

“We raised \$122,000 minimum from private sources, including the county commission and the town of Culver,” said Loehr.

The five core program areas for the club include: Education and Career, Character and Leadership, Health and Life Skills, Sports Fitness and Recreation and Arts. The four measurable impact areas are: Academic success, character and citizenship, healthy lifestyles and frequency of attendance.

"I'd like to think that with our improving school corpo-

ration down in Culver, as measured by the state in terms of the grading, which is going up, that perhaps the Boys and Girls Club has some impact on those improvements," said Loehr. “Our conversations with the superintendent and certainly the administration of the elementary school building, we believe we are doing our fair share.”

Week day hours are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. then in January the Kid Stop daycare program will be offered from 5:45 to 7:45 a.m. The daycare program is offered in the summer as well. There is also a summer daycare program. There is a cost involved in addition to the club member fees.

“The patrons do pay for that service over and above what is expected of an annual membership fee,” said Loehr.

Furthermore from September 2013 to September 2014 there were 59 members in the Indiana Kids program. The program provides educational an career development. Combined the members completed over 1,500 educational and career sessions.

In the current school year 2,200 Power Hour homework sessions totaling 2,450 hours. The work was completed by 150 members.

"One of the areas we hit a home run with these kids everyday is the ability to support their homework," said Loehr. “Many of them aren’t able to do at home. By and large it is done, by time they go home, with adult support.”

The county commissioners had praise for the program. “It is a very well used program,” said Commissioner Deb Griewank.

Commissioner Kevin Overmyer said, “It is nice to see that the academy and the town and the community help support the organization.”

Town of Culver

Notice to Public of No Significant Impact on the Environment and Notice to Public of Request for Release of Funds
TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:
On or about January 3, 2015, the Town of Culver will request the release federal funds from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for Community Development Block Grant Funds from the State of Indiana under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for the following project:
Culver Water Utility Improvements Project
The project will entail the construction of new water treatment plant to benefit the entire community.
Finding of No Significant Impact
It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named Town of Culver has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190). The reasons for such decision not to prepare such statement are as follows:
All preliminary environmental reviews by state and county agencies indicated that the proposed project would not endanger the environment under any capacity. An Environmental Review Record regarding the proposed project has been made by the above named Town of Culver which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Culver Town Hall located at 200 E. Washington Street, Culver, Indiana and is available for public examination and copying upon request the Culver Town Hall between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. No further environmental review of such project is propose to be conducted prior to the request for release of funds.
Public Comments of Findings
All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Town of Culver to the Culver Town Hall, 200 E. Washington Street, Culver, IN 46511. Such written comments should be received by January 2, 2015. All such comments so received will be considered and the Town of Culver will not request the release of federal funds or take any administrative action on the proposed project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentences.
Release of Funds
The Town of Culver will undertake the project described above with Community Development Block Grant funds from the State of Indiana under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Town of Culver is certifying to the State that the Town of Culver and Ginny Bess Munroe, in her official capacity as Council President consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval the Town of Culver may use the Block Grant funds and the State will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
Objections to State Release of Funds
The State will accept an objection to its approval only if it is on one of the following basis: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the certifying officer or other officer of applicant approved by the State; or (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicated omission of a required review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to the OCRA, Environmental Specialist, One North Capitol, Suite 600, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2027. Objections to the release of funds on basis other than those stated above will not be considered by the State. No objections received after January 18, 2015 will be considered by the State.
Ginny Bess Munroe
Council President, Town of Culver

December 18, 2014 CC4934 hspaxlp

Former Culver instructor, novelist Davies speaks on Sufis

DONALDSON — Maria Center resident Dr. Richard Davies delivered an enlightening talk entitled “Sufis — The Gentle Mystics of Islam” as a part of the college’s Lampen Lecture series recently.

Dr. Davies spoke on the mysteries that surround our search for God and for the search for God within us.

Davies earned his bachelor’s degree from DePauw University before entering the Peace Corps and serving in Panama. He has two masters’ degrees, one from University of Wales Aberystwyth and one from Columbia. He earned his doctorate from IU.

Davies taught at Culver Military Academy from 1974 until his retirement in 2008. He also wrote three novels set at Culver, each dealing with religious and mythological themes.



Dr. Richard Davies

“In sharing his knowledge of Sufis, those participating in the lecture came to find that many of the teachings of Sufi are not strange to those of Christian denominations. We seek the divine; we seek union with our God; we awake the memory of the divine by grasping its revelation in the beauty of nature and discovering it in other human beings,” said Sister Jolise May, vice president of mission integration at Ancilla College.

In thanking Davies for his presentation, Sister Jolise recalled, “Dr. Davies left his audience with a great respect for youth as he stated ‘the Sufis take seriously the notion that humans are created in the image of God. If so, they argue, then each human reflects that beauty — but especially in young and most particularly in the adolescent. They believe that it is in the young that we glimpse the incandescent beauty of God, it is fleeting and transient, but it is real.’”

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- Team Whitney (new trainer)

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145 Lost & Found

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172 Medical/Health Care

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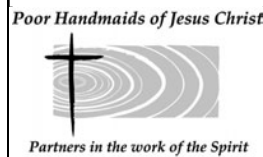
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Academies from page 2

teachers.

Part of taking the effort to the next level, Kline explains, is to examine the plans other schools have put into play, and facilitating a "clear sustainability plan (for Culver Academies), whether that's in food service, our facilities, or other areas. That's what they are trying to do in terms of reducing their environmental footprint, so we're trying to look at Culver's goals toward that end."

The first step, he says, is to create a mission statement outlining what sustainability looks like for Culver. Next is development of a plan which will aim to reduce the school's emissions and raise awareness of the issues at hand.

"Some of the energy efficiency things will have an actual payback on utility bills," Kline says. "But everywhere I can tie back into student learning, that's where I'm focused. You can tie that into student science projects -- they can help measure and report, so they're not just about relighting the gym, but maybe having students measure how it reduces utility bills and carbon dioxide."

This school year, students and faculty-staff involved in the sustainability leadership program visited Moontree Lodge at Ancilla, which has been certified with the "LEAD" industry certification in environmental design, a "very rigorous point system," within which the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ received almost the highest certification possible for the three buildings they constructed.

"I would really like to see Culver consider that for our new construction," adds Kline. "A lot of the recent buildings have that, but it's not well documented."

The group also visited the Houin Dairy south of Plymouth, which uses a methane digester to turn cow manure into electricity (exploration of whether Culver's production of horse manure could be utilized in a similar fashion proved currently unworkable).

Possibilities such as solar panels or other alternative forms of energy for building use are also being considered.

Another angle was examining the University of Notre Dame's efforts to purchase its food as locally as possible, something Culver could consider in the future.

The aforementioned health of Lake Maxinkuckee is as critical to Culver Academies as it is to the town of Culver, notes Kline, so the school is looking at what else it might be able to do to assist in the lake's health, such as additional native landscaping and reduction of runoff into the lake.

He also hopes to organize a "Bio-blitz," partnering scientists with volunteers and students over a given weekend to survey as many species of plant and wildlife in the area, asking why they're here along the way.

Meantime, Kline has every reason to be hopeful, at least if student involvement is any measure.

The school's Greenlife student group has over 200 names associated, with 75 to 100 students attending meetings, "So there's definitely interest from the kids," he adds.

The program's efforts can be followed via its online blog at sustainabilityatculver.wordpress.com.

Christmas from page 4

toward the west. As they were almost in front of Osborn's, three golf carts from the East Shore came barreling out of the Indian Trails heading in the same direction. They skidded to a stop in front of the chef who was bringing up the rear.

"Are you going where we are going," asked the bartender. "We don't know," said a lady in one of the golf carts. "We were outside practicing our putts on the deck when we saw the searchlight over there." She pointed to the west. "At first I said to Henry, 'Look some dealership is having a sales event' but he said, 'No, it's something more special, besides, there aren't any car dealers in Culver.'" "A couple of our neighbors came over all excited because they saw it too," added Henry "and we all just had to go and see what it was." An older man in the far cart interjected, "We felt as if hope itself had come into the world and lay at the base of that searchlight." They all looked at him and woman asked the chef, "What do you think it is?" The chef smiled and said, "Give us a ride and we'll tell you our story."

So all the restaurant employees hopped up and piled into the carts and the whole group pulled away with the chef chattering on about what they had seen. By the time they got to Washington Street, there was a general feeling of wonder and awe so thick you could have buttered your toast with it. With care and gingerly steps, they knocked on the side door and went in to see the baby lying in the basket. And for the first time in their lives, they knew what real peace felt like. The folks from the East Shore offered the young family gifts of money, essential oils, and a gift card to Park and Shop. They did this without really knowing why. He was just a little baby but somehow they knew their world would never be the same again.

Now this story, like most stories, is based in actual events and if you want, you can look it up. The truth that lay behind it, and the reason we light candles in the darkness and colored lights on an evergreen tree, is because we cling to the truth within the story: that we are not alone in this world and, to our joy, there is a light the darkness cannot overcome. If we can just hold onto each other and have faith in the light which brightened the world so many years ago, we will know that light within ourselves, our homes, and our community.

Merry Christmas.

View from page 4

case with many here, and our thoughts and prayers are with them as well.

Included in this edition (on this page, in fact) is a humorous and small-town "Culver"-ey Christmas piece by Bob Nowalk of Culver, written *before* the sad events of last week. In the midst of all this tragedy, I opted to include it this week not only for obvious reasons (it's a Culver and it's Christmas) but also because I thought we could all use a smile this week, and a little reminder of many of the things we love about this community.

Those are reasons of which I like to think Anjelica would have approved.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rakich newest Culver council member

LEFT: Jean Rakich (left), who was named to Culver's town council following a Marshall County Republican convention held in Plymouth Dec. 8, was sworn in by Marshall County clerk Julie Fox (right) last week.

Rakich's was the only letter of interest written to party chair David Holmes to fulfill the one year remaining in the current councilman Bill Githen's term. Githens was elected to the Marshall County council, a post which will begin in January, when Rakich's term on the town council begins.

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55 people were in attendance at our annual Chamber Awards Dinner

It was a lovely night celebrating another successful business year in Culver. We honored Business Person of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Lifetime Achievement recipients.

Mark Damore Jr, owner of The Lakehouse Grille, was awarded Business Person of the Year.

Recognized as Businessperson of the year, Mark Damore Jr., explained Sellers, was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago and as an only child he was always very close to his parents and grew up with the family business; Original Chicago Produce (his father, Mark Sr., owns the Original Root Beer Stand in Culver).

"Ironically, growing up around a wholesale produce purveyor meant Mark spent a decent amount of time in restaurants over the years...as a patron and behind the scenes helping with deliveries."

After Mark Jr. graduated from St. Viator High School in 1998, his parents, Mark Sr. and Becky, bought a cottage on the west shore of Lake Maxinkuckee.

In 2012, when the popular Edgewater Grille went up for sale, his parents encouraged him to pursue its purchase.

"Moving to Culver with only his cats and his clothes, he started over," said Sellers. "Fortunately, Dana Keller was a true local and old friend of his since she had been working for his dad for nine years, and she really helped Mark understand the dynamics of a small town...Mark and Dana's friendship developed into a relationship around the same time he started figuring things out in the restaurant business."

It was noted he has served on the Culver Redevelopment Commission and is currently a part of The Gift of Warmth board, Culver Chamber of Commerce board, Kiwanis, Culver Beard Club and the Museum of Culver & Lake Maxinkuckee History committee.

Sellers pointed out that the club prides itself on giving over 95 percent of its fundraising back into the Culver community by way of its youth. Established in 1996, the club's membership is approximately 60 people and is headed up by a board of 12 members who meet monthly.

Last year nearly \$20,000 total was donated to four four-year scholarships (at \$2,000 each), the Barbara Winter's Award for Excellence scholarship, Culver Boys & Girls Club, Riley Hospital, the Top Ten student dinner, Culver Comm. High School social welfare, CCHS After Prom, holiday baskets, Culver youth sports, Culver Elementary Character Club, CCHS BPA, and the Culver Food Pantry.

Cheryl Rhodes, owner of Park N Shop, took home Volunteer of the Year. Lifetime Achievement award went to Kiwanis Club of Culver.

Introducing Volunteer of the Year Rhodes, Sellers noted she was born and raised in South Bend but has been a part of the Culver community for nearly 25 years (in part via she and husband Bill's longtime ownership of Park N' Shop supermarket here).

Rhodes has been a Chamber board member since 2010, and "has worked tirelessly on nearly every committee of the Chamber. She started on the Nine and Wine Committee four years ago, and with her leadership and work ethic has helped turned the event into

the Chamber Wine Fair that has become the Chamber's biggest fundraiser to date," said Sellers.

Rhodes also helped grow the Taste of Culver event in recent years and more recently has been a key player on the Fall Fest Committee, as well as a board member of the Boys & Girls Club for three years, and part of Culver's Tri Kappa since 2011. Within that organization, she contributed to Tour de Max, annual wreath sales, Chairs for Charity, yard sales, and the Ways and Means Committee. She is additionally heavily involved in Emmanuel United Methodist Church, "from Salvation Army bell-ringing, to making bibs for nursing homes, and serving as the funeral dinner director.

Rhodes told event planners her volunteering stemmed from her children being grown and a desire to "spend my time doing things for other people and groups."

In accepting the award, Rhodes quipped that her wish to be involved led to over involvement, though "I love every part of it. My husband keeps trying to slow me down and I speed him up! As much as I volunteer, he's part of it all the way, supporting me 100 percent."

We welcomed two new board members: Elizabeth Beauchamp and Lynddi Rader! Dawn Brockey, ex officio President, and Greg Fassett both ended their time on the board. We thank both officers for their hard work over the years.

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