

# The Culver Citizen



Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 Vol. No. 114 Issue No. 42 50¢  
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



## Cleaning up Culver

Above: Culver Youth Community Organization (CYCO), a volunteer service group composed of Culver Comm. High School and Culver Academies students, assisted Oct. 11 with the first annual town-wide cleanup, helping residents haul away junk items and nearly filling an industrial sized dumpster in the process. Pictured in the front row, left to right: Cindy Miller, Nicolette Banfield, Chelsey Jones, Lauren Shaffer, Tiana Basham, Katie Barnes, and Kley Reynolds. Back row: Boosik Choi, Tommy James, Joel Florek, Carlos Salinas, and Peter Bin. Culver street department head Bob Porter assisted, using the town backhoe, with cleanup.

PHOTO/NANCY MCKINNIS

## Memorializing a son of Culver

The Culver community paid tribute this week to well-known EMT, Academies security guard, and lifelong community fixture Jeff Willhite (above, right) following his unexpected illness and death Oct. 7. See story below.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

### In Brief

#### Vandalia Village volunteers needed

The Culver Park and Recreation Department and the Vandalia Village Playground Committee are seeking volunteers to complete the Vandalia Village Playground. The building dates are Sat., Oct. 18 and Sun. Oct. 19. Please call 574-842-3510 to volunteer.

#### Lions Halloween party Oct. 30

The Culver Lions will again sponsor the annual Halloween Party on Thurs. Oct. 30 at the Culver Middle School gymnasium. This is a party for anyone in the Culver Comm. School Corporation. Registration will start at 6 p.m.. Costume judging will start at 6:35 p.m. Games will begin at 7 p.m. The judging categories will be: Infant through 3 years old; 4 and 5 year old; 6 and 7 year old; 8 and 9 year old; 10 and up. It is not necessary to be in costume to participate in the games.

#### Trick-or-Treating in Culver and Monterey

Halloween Trick-or-Treating this year in Culver will take place Fri., Oct. 31 from 5 - 7 p.m. Monterey Trick-or-Treating will take place the same day from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

#### Check out a club at the library Nov. 8

Looking for a new craft, club or hobby? Find it at the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library Sat., Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you have a club you wish to grow or even start a new club, a craft or hobby you want to share, just call the library at 574-842-2941 and reserve a free table to decorate with your information. Genealogy, Friends of the Library, Antiquarian and Historical Society, and many more are already expected. Get a hobby, join a club, start a craft before the cold winds and snows of winter are all over us.

#### DivorceCare begins Oct. 27

DivorceCare divorce recovery seminar and support

See 'Briefs' page 2

# Vandalia Village playground will be built this weekend

## Volunteers still sought

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

After much work in fund raising and preparation, Culver's town park is about to have a new, community-built playground, but the project is in great need of more volunteers for the Sat., Oct. 18 build, according to park director Kelly Young. She notes the 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift that day is especially in need of more workers to lend a hand at the site, on the east end of the park nearest the beach.

What was originally slated as a two-day, all-weekend effort is hoped to be completed on Sat. only, with mulch to be spread, completing the work, around 3 p.m. that day. Young says a crew will place posts and cement them in the previous evening "so we'll be that much further ahead."

Mostly adults are needed, Young explains, for the work, and there's work for everyone, not just those with past building experience. A student group comprised of Culver Comm. High School and Culver Academies students is slated to help spread the mulch,

See Park page 12

## Town park milestones: A look back

**-1883:** Railroad service arrives in Culver via the Pennsylvania Railroad's Vandalia line, which also buys several acres that include today's town park as well as the "Indian Trails" land extending north to Academy Road, including the Lakeview Hotel on the bluff. This large area is known collectively as "Vandalia Park."

**-1886:** The M.F. Mosher boat house (which included a

See Milestones page 12

# Willhite mourned as 'community icon'

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

The Culver community as a whole is mourning the unexpected death of a lifelong fixture in Culver whose impact on the lives of many has come to the fore in the wake of his Oct. 7 death.

Jeff Willhite, a 1990 graduate of Culver Community High School, was rushed to the hospital Oct. 5, the victim of a bacterial infection that eventually took his life.

Through his work as a campus security officer at Culver Academies, as an active member of Culver's volunteers EMS, in assisting his brother Lee in the day-to-day operation of Gladie's Deli on Main St., and simply as an outgoing and highly visible member of Culver's community, Willhite was known by many in the area.

Shortly after his entry into the hospital, EMS director

See Willhite page 2

## Culver Time

### Rare clocks among Culver history items at talk, display

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

Fred Lintner's collection of Culver clocks and other memorabilia is something of a legend in the area, and to help kick off the upcoming display of part of that collection at the Center for Culver History, Lintner shared his expertise in the subject with attendees at the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver's annual wine and cheese gathering Sept. 27.

Lintner - retired from 30 years at Culver Academies as a counselor and in the Development office -- brought along one of the clocks, credited to the Culver brothers' Southern Calendar Clock Co., to the event, held appropriately at the Culver Academies' guest house on 18<sup>th</sup> Rd. After a brief biography of the New London, Ohio-born Henry Harrison Culver (born in 1840 the

youngest of six children), Lintner described the shared efforts of Culver and his brothers Wallace W. and Loucius L. to make a living after Henry's departure from home at age 15 or 16, the Culver siblings' father having fallen on hard times. Eventually, Lintner explained, the three Culver brothers hooked up with Springfield, Ill. hardware dealers the McCreey brother, who put the Culvers on the road with horses and wagons selling hardware and stoves as "hucksters."

This went on until 1864, when Henry met and married Emily Jane Hand, a school teacher at Wolf Creek, near today's Muckshaw Road south of Plymouth. The same year, the three founded the Culver Brothers Stove company, which would eventually see the manufacturing of as many as 40 stoves per day at the Covington Stove Co. in Kentucky. The cast iron stoves, which had more breakage than the Culver brothers would have preferred, nonetheless sold well, and in the early 1870s, they moved their business to St. Louis, where they began manufacturing stoves that eventually would sell under the moniker of the Wrought Iron Range Company. These stoves, said Lintner, were made out of malleable steel and iron, which reduced - though didn't eliminate - breakage.

"They sold them via huge wagons," Lintner noted.

See Clocks page 8



Fred Lintner points out features of one of the rare Southern Calendar clocks -- manufactured by the Culver brothers of the Culver Academy -- in his collection. Portions of Lintner's unusual collection can be seen at the Center for Culver History at the Culver Public Library on Main St.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Name: FULL Bottom Culver Banner; Width: 54p10.5; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00044463; Ad Number: -;  
Customer Name: Black's Tire & Auto Service; Size: 10 in

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



## Willhite, from page 1

Millie Sytsma and her husband, Culcom LLC owner Rich Sytsma, set up a website intended to keep the community aware of Willhite's status, and to act as a channel for well wishes to be sent to his family. In the days since Willhite's passing, hundreds of messages memorializing Willhite and offering condolences to his family filled the site, not only from local regions but also those whose lives Willhite touched all over the country.

Culver Academies head of schools John Buxton ordered flags flown at half staff at the school two days last week, and they were again flown half-staff Oct. 14 and 15, the respective days of Willhite's viewing and funeral at the Academies' Memorial Chapel.

The community's response to Jeff Willhite's death has touched his family, including parents Henry and Gladys and surviving brothers Mike and Lee.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought the responses we would get (to Jeff's passing) would be in that magnitude," says Lee. "What's amazing is, they're all consistent (in their praise of him). I don't think he realized how rich he was. In society, we look at things materialistically. I wish he would have known that."

"Jeff was an amazing individual," continues Lee. "When it came to efforts with community service, he respected it; he had a dignity towards it. He would do anything to be able to help. He really felt it was his calling. He really respected what he did as far as EMS...talking to people, I think they, in return, respected that. That's a gift."

As of this writing, Lee Willhite (who is also food services director at Culver Academies) says Mark Waller of the Academies' horsemanship department plans a Lancers' salute to honor Jeff at his funeral. Fire trucks and emergency vehicles are expected to line up and form a procession as well, with Culver's firemen lined up to salute him.

"We're overwhelmed (by the outpouring of community support)," Lee Willhite adds. "We've been blessed. I wouldn't have thought to say this, but he was a community icon."



Jeff Willhite

PHOTO SUBMITTED

### Remembering Jeff Willhite

**Editor's note:** *Far too many tributes to Jeff Willhite have appeared to print them all, but below is a small sampling from several who worked with or were touched by him.*

"Jeff was a member of a family who have served and supported the Culver Academies and the Town of Culver for generations. Jeff was a special employee with a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and a clear sense of the importance of service. Security Officer, member of the Lake Patrol, and EMS technician. He supported so many aspects of this community with his good work. We have lost a good friend." — **John Buxton, Culver Academies head of schools**

"I think the most memorable thing about Jeff was simply his contagious smile. A few weeks ago, we were called on a fire alarm, about 1 a.m. As is the norm, both the fire and EMS

were called. The fire dept. arrived on the scene first, and the key holder was already there. Since I was the driver, I was outside with the engine when the ambulance arrived. As I attempted to walk to the road to tell them they could return, they met me about the back of the engine. It was Jeff, (EMS volunteer) Chad Becker, and another EMT, all wearing their matching jackets, and these bright yellow fire helmets, and grinning from ear to ear. I couldn't help but laugh, as they all danced in sync and giggled. I asked what they were doing and Jeff replied, "We found these in the rig, and thought we needed a reason to wear them. And this was the perfect time. We knew you guys would appreciate it." I don't ever remember seeing Jeff without his smile." —**Dave Cooper, Culver-Union Twp. volunteer fire department**

"I've known Jeff for a long time and had the pleasure of working with him for the past eight years on the EMS. Anybody who met Jeff was a friend. Jeff was always there to back you up or to give an encouraging word or talk when you needed it. He always tried to get a smile from any patient that he met. You could always count on Jeff to be there when help was needed. Jeff will be greatly missed, but for all the lives that he has touched: thank you for all you have done, and we will miss you." —**Tim McCarthy, Culver EMS**

"Jeff Willhite was a dedicated public servant and a friend to all. He will be greatly missed by many throughout Culver and Marshall County. On behalf of the City of Plymouth, our thoughts and prayers are with his family." —**Mark Senter, mayor of Plymouth**

"As we navigate life's path, too often we simply put our lives on cruise and forget to slow down to enjoy and appreciate the moments around us. Sometimes these rare moments that cause us to pause are places that capture our imagination; sometimes they are mere moments in time that cause us to stop and reflect; sometimes, if we are lucky, these moments are times well spent with good friends. Evidenced by the community's outpouring of compassion and sympathy, Jeff Willhite was one of these individuals who was uniquely able to reach out to us, slow us down, and focus us on the importance of these moments.

Jeff was my friend and my colleague. I will miss his smile, his endearing wit, and his infectious laugh. I will forever find peace, though, as I enjoy moments of rest in the memories of our good times spent together." —**Tom Thornburg, Culver Academies, Culver-Union Township EMS**

"Contagious...that's a good word to describe Jeff's personality. It's not very often that any of us want to be near something that is contagious—especially those of us who work in healthcare or emergency services. But Jeff knew how to touch people. He made you want to be around him. Jeff truly worked to be the change that he wished to see in the world. May we all work to help fill

the void created by his passing. Although small in stature, Jeff's passing has left a big hole on this planet...one that was filled by a big hearted guy. Our lives will never be the same without you, Jeff Willhite, but each life you touched is so much better for knowing you. A special "thank you" to Jeff's family for allowing us all to be a part of the celebration of his life."

—**Rich & Millie Sytsma**

"When we gathered around to laugh and talk, a joke was normal. Jeff would always say with a smile and a laugh, 'Sure, pick on the little guy.' Jeff was no "little guy." he was always *big, big* in heart, *big* in laughter, and *big* in presence. To a "little guy" who made a *big* difference in our community through your service and a lasting impression on individuals through your smile, May the Lord look after you till we meet again to have another round of laughter, a few jokes and some 'picking on the little guy.' To the family of Jeff, may the Lord give you peace and comfort knowing that Jeff was a *big* guy to all. —**Ruth Dilts, Culver EMS**

"As we all know, Jeff was an exceptional young man. He loved to be in the action and was always there for us when we needed help. This was true both at his full time job as Security at the Academy and his full time love as an EMT with the ambulance service. He always made time for us, whether we were working a big event at Culver or at an ambulance scene caring for patients. He was compassionate, caring and was never afraid to jump in and help. Jeff never knew a stranger and it always amazed me that he could meet someone once and become good friends in an instant. He had that personality and truly loved people.

Many years ago, when Jeff was on duty over a holiday I invited him to dinner with my family for lasagna and that started a trend. After that if I made lasagna and he found out that I had not asked him over, his look of disappointment was more than I could handle. I invited him as often as I could and will never fix lasagna again without thinking of Jeff. His enjoyment of life will be missed, his laughter and jokes will be missed, his energy will be missed and now there is indeed an empty spot in the world that will never be filled."

—**Sally Ricciardi, Culver town council president, Culver EMS, and Culver Academies security**

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## A blessed pup

Judi Dodge, left, looks on as Margie Shaw, pastor at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal church on State St. in Culver, blesses her dog. The Oct. 4 pet blessing, an annual tradition in churches across the world, marked the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of animals and creation. A number of St. Elizabeth's parishoners and guests brought pets to the event.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

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Name: PUB NIGHT; Width: 32p7.5; Depth: 6 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00045542; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Edgewater Grille; Size: 18 in

Name: WEEKLY AD; Width: 10p4.5;

Name: HOLIDAY SHOPPING; Width: 21p6; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00045601; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Cindy Banfield; Size: 8 in

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Name: WEEKLY AD; Width: 10p4.5;

## Death notice

**Jeffrey D. Willhite**  
**October 7, 2008**

Jeffrey D. Willhite, 37, of Culver, died Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008 at 11:17 p.m. at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend.

He is survived by his father, Henry Lee Willhite Sr. of Culver; his mother, Gladys Willhite of Culver; his son, Zachary Willhite and two brothers: Michael Lee Willhite and Henry Lee Willhite Jr., both of Culver.

Visitation took place at Culver Academies Memorial Chapel, Culver, Ind., Monday, Oct. 13 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Funeral services took place at the chapel Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at the Culver Masonic Cemetery.

Letter of condolences may be sent to the family via the Web site [www.bonineoddom.com](http://www.bonineoddom.com).

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

## Birth - Knox



Charles (Chad) and Amanda Knox of Goshen announce the birth of a son born June 19, 2008 at 8:17 p.m. at Memorial Hospital, South Bend. Samuel Alexander Knox weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.

He was welcomed home by a sister, Emily Grace, 4, and a brother, William Charles, 3.

Maternal grandparents are Karen Betz of Plymouth and Randy Murray of Plymouth. Paternal

grandmother is Rebecca Knox of Goshen.

## Claud 'Lewis' Jones

**Feb. 9, 1915 - Oct. 8, 2008**

CULVER — Lewis Jones, 93, of rural route Culver, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth.

Lewis was born on Feb. 9, 1915 in Burr Oak to Samuel and Bertha (Houghton) Jones.

Upon his graduation from Culver High School in 1932, he traveled cross country ending up in Central Oregon where he met his "red headed gal", Marguriete (Margie) Mason. They were married at the Portland Army Air Base in Portland, Ore. on Jan. 24, 1943.

After serving his country during WWII he returned to Madras, Ore. for a few years before moving his family back to Indiana. Lewis owned and operated a service station in Burr Oak while also working as a machinist for several companies in South Bend. He then took his family to a small farm in Grovertown where they spent the next

six years.

In 1962 he returned to the Burr Oak area to the family farm where he continued to live.

Lewis retired from McGill's Manufacturing in Culver in 1980.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Margie; daughter, Mildred (Milly) Olle of Berwyn, Ill.; daughter-in-law, Patricia Jones of Michigan City; grandsons: Ron (Barb) Olle of West Chicago, Ill. and Jim Olle of Schaumburg, Ill.; granddaughter, Michelle Jones of Michigan City; and great-grandchildren: Amanda, Briana, Sarina, Sophia, Jaedon, Giovanni, Amani, Johntay, and Jamari. Also numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; son, Jimmy; brothers: Floyd, Glen, Thomas; sisters: Hazel and Gladys; and great-grandson, Johntarias.

A celebration of Lewis' life was held Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008 at 2 p.m. EDT at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Culver, where he was an active member.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 401 S. Main S., Culver, IN 46511.

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

## Thursday, Oct. 23

Fitness Class, 10:30 a.m., Culver Public Library  
Kiwans Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library  
Yoga, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library  
Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Culver Public Library

Culver Public Library  
Al-Anon Mtg., 5:30 p.m., Culver Public Library  
Computer class, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library  
Overeaters Anonymous Mtg., 6:30 p.m., Culver Public Library

## Tuesday, Oct. 21

Fitness class, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library  
Yoga, 10 a.m., Culver Public Library  
Plan commission mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall  
Culver Public Library board mtg., 7 p.m., Culver Public Library

## Wednesday, Oct. 22

Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library  
Lions Club mtg., 6:30 p.m., tran station/depot

## Community Calendar

### Thursday, Oct. 16

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

### Saturday, Oct. 18

Vandalia Village playground build, 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (see information, page 1)

### Monday, Oct. 20

Knitting Class, 10 a.m.,

## Letter to the editor

### Culver community amazes

I have lived in Culver my entire life, yet this community never ceases to amaze me.

Last spring, our son endeavored to raise \$500 for his Relay for Life team in memory of his grandfather, "Big John" Strycker. But because of the generosity of this community, he collected over \$2,700. Our whole family was touched by the sincerity of all who donated.

Now, Poplar Grove United Methodist, our small, country church, is venturing to raise over \$17,000 to restore the historic stained-glass windows. We had our first yard sale fundraiser September 26th and 27th, and God not only gave us two of the most beautiful days of the year, but he also brought us caring friends and neighbors who helped our cause tremendously. We made enough during that event to restore one window and start another.

One common thread that has woven these two success stories together is the fact that Jeff Kenney, Citizen editor, wrote two wonderfully detailed articles about these events. Jeff has really written stories that help our community come together, and we want to thank him for that. We also want to thank everyone who donated items for our fund-raiser, gave money toward our window restoration, or volunteered their time to help us set up our sale. Without the generosity of our friends, families, neighbors, and community, our sale would not have been such a huge success or nearly as much fun.

God has truly blessed us with this community and a dedicated editor of our local newspaper!

**Sincerely,**  
**Susan Strycker Shaffer and the members of Poplar Grove Church**

## First birthday - Donald



Brady Donald, son of Elizabeth Coffin and Eric Muse of Warsaw, will celebrate his first birthday Oct. 8, 2008. He has two brothers: Maeson, 10, and Kyle, 6.

Maternal grandparents are Donald and Sarah Coffin Jr. of Plymouth. Maternal great-grandmother is the late Mae Pranger of Plymouth.

Paternal grandparents are Roger and Pat Muse of Rochester.

## REAL Services

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

There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 for each meal.

**Thursday, Oct. 16:** Broccoli soup, peas & carrots, chicken salad, applesauce, bread, and milk.

**Friday, Oct. 17:** Liver & onions, mashed potatoes, three bean salad, bread & margarine, sliced apples, and milk.

**Monday, Oct. 20:** Cheeseburger w/onions, bun, potato salad, cauliflower/broccoli, peaches, and milk.

**Tuesday, Oct. 21:** Beef stew w/vegetables, biscuit & margarine, corn on the cob, mixed fruit, and milk.

**Wednesday, Oct. 22:** Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, bread & margarine, apple-

sauce, and milk.  
**Thursday, Oct. 23:** BBQ pork, bun, whipped sweet potatoes, Italian green beans, pineapple, and milk.

**Friday, Oct. 24:** Sweet &

sour smoked sausage, black eyed peas, coleslaw, roll & margarine, cherry cobbler, and milk.

Name: OCT. AD; Width: 21p6; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00044705; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Family Vision Clinic; Size: 8 in

Name: WOMEN; Width: 66p0; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00046084; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

# Cheshire cat grin

A former Culverite's Iraqi journal

By Paul Cummins

The requirement is to travel 13 miles from Victory Base Complex, Baghdad, Iraq to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Loyalty, Baghdad, Iraq and return. The mode of transportation is UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Day one begins with a dust storm that delays all transportation in and around Baghdad, but requires you to wait to "see if it clears", it doesn't. Morning of day two begins by waiting in standby to see if you can make a flight. Negative.

Return in the afternoon. Still stand-by without success. Return to airport in late evening. Finally, success for an 0030 flight that doesn't really leave till 0100. Arrive FOB Loyalty 0130 and find billeting. It has taken you 43 hours to travel 13 miles. You finally lay down in your assigned bunk at 0200. You wake in the morning to begin your assistance visit. The need is great, and the travel difficulties fade to the past. The explosives storage situation is not like anything you have seen before. You assess the situation and develop unique mitigating measures. Mission complete. You return to the helo pad for a potential 1930 flight home. Negative. Wait for 2000 flight. Success. The 1 hour and 45 min flight takes you to three other FOBs and requires one refueling stop. You are flying 300-500 feet over Baghdad, Iraq at night in a UH-60 Blackhawk. The doors are open and you are sitting behind the door gunner. Your mind wanders. You wonder, "What am I doing here?" The wind is hitting your face and causing your cheeks to flap like the cheeks

of a bulldog with its head out the window of a car. All of Baghdad is spread before you like a carpet of lights. As you fly over the Tigris river, the helo spits forth some flares. The red and green flares only add to the beauty. You look down you see the Iraqi population going about their business. There are people in the streets, and cars everywhere. Intersections are a jumble of cars that makes you assume that if there are traffic lights, they are truly being ignored. You can even see a family having a BBQ on their back porch. You land at a distant fueling point. The door gunner is your ticket to safety.

You listen and follow his instructions like a fourth grader during a fire drill. You grab two newbies by the collar when they start to walk to the marshalling area without their door gunner ground guide. Darn kids. You stand in the marshalling area while the bird sucks the essential nutrients required for the continued flight. You re-board the aircraft for the final leg home. The crew returns you safely to your "home." The door gunner gives you two thumbs up and screams above the thwap-thwap of the blades that "You're the man." You scream into his ear, "Only because I listen to you," and you return the two thumbs up while sporting a ridiculous Cheshire grin.

You are tired and dirty, but happy. You go to bed and sleep in peace. You wake the next day to discover that two Blackhawk helicopters have collided over Baghdad. An Iraqi soldier has been killed, two US soldiers and two Iraqi soldiers injured. You wonder the fate of the door gunner that kept you safe and guided you like a mother taking their child to the first day of kindergarten. You hope he is O.K. You realize that the minor discomforts of the previous few days are insignificant compared to the risks and sacrifices that many of our soldiers take and make everyday. I don't know the soldiers that were killed or injured that night, but be certain, I know of them, and I and my family owe them for the sacrifices they make for me and their country. I hope that my door gunner can return home one day and tell the story of the DA Civilian with the Cheshire grin.

*Paul Cummins, who with his three brothers grew up in Culver, is serving in Iraq as a civilian in a classified position. Cummins' father, Kerry, a retired Navy Petty Officer and mother, Patty, moved to Culver Kerry's retirement from the Navy. Thanks to Paul Cummins' aunt (and Culver Citizen correspondent) Bobbie Ruhnow for sharing this writing.*

Name: Culver Masthead; Width: 21p6; Depth: 7.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00016531; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 15 in

While working on a sermon based on readings from 1 Peter, I came across the

to one's faith and beliefs. In America, where we are less likely to be killed or tortured for our faith, we can return to the Greek root word martyrria and be a "martyr" simply by living and speaking our faith. When we live our faith as Jesus taught, we live doing mission. We proclaim the good news of



## Pastor's Corner

By Rev. Robin Keating  
Grace United Church of Christ

Greek word martyrria, which translates "to witness". The word "martyr" stems directly from martyrria. While we commonly use this word to refer to any and all personal suffering, the historical usage of "martyr" defines the word as "one who is tortured or killed for one's faith or beliefs". Being a martyr asserts the ultimate way in which one can give witness

God's reign to our family, friends, and neighbors and strive for better lives in our communities and around the world.

Sometime ago I asked our congregation to come forward and place an "offering of their self" into the collection plate. Here is what we offered to God as a way of giving witness to our faith:

Reach out to someone who

lost their significant other in a car crash

Check on my family each day [as we move through] our grief process

Invite / ask / call / bring one person / neighbor / friend / family / guest to church

Bring items to the food pantry and volunteer my time

Call a friend with words of love and encouragement

Mow Grandmother's lawn & help with her needs

Minister to e-mail friends / grandson / a teenager

Visit the nursing home and other shut-ins

Help my granddaughter until she is completely on her feet

Tell someone about Jesus

Help at my church more

Help at the nursing home

Help with school soccer

Help with the prayer chain

Show my faith more openly

Reach out to members and non-members

Preach to college students about God

Show more appreciation

Have more patience (with my mother)

Spiritual care at hospital

Volunteer at school

Read the word of the Lord each day

This of course is not an exhaustive list. You can add your own items to it with just a little thought and prayer.

What better way to offer our love to God and neighbor than to do these actions regularly? What better way to be a "martyr", a witness? What better way to say, "Jesus loves you and so do I!"

*The Reverend Robin Keating is pastor and teacher at Grace United Church of Christ, 407 N. Plymouth St., Culver.*

# Thanks, Jeff Willhite

This past week has been a rough one in Culver, chiefly for the loss of Jeff Willhite, whose unexpected illness and death shocked me as much it did most of Culver. It's almost impossible to imagine Culver without Jeff...almost as if imagining one's face without its nose or eyes. I can't remember existing without knowing Jeff Willhite, who was about three years older than I and a familiar face as far back as I can recall. I can see him as clearly at what must have been six or seven years old as I can the last time I saw him, which I think was busily assisting at Gladie's Deli, zipping past the Citizen office window with a wave and a tray of food.

Speaking last week with Jeff's brother Lee, it dawned on me that, had I been asked two weeks ago to define Culver, I don't know that Jeff's name would have come up. But when he passed away, I -- and I think most of us -- suddenly realized what had been taken from us, how much a part of

our lives and our community Jeff was. Again, Culver will hardly be Culver without him and as 200-plus online tributes to Jeff indicate, he has touched lives far beyond even our community.

Lee commented to me that Jeff didn't realize how rich he was, and I'm sure that's true. I don't think we fully realized it, either, until we were made poorer. Maybe an ongoing tribute to Jeff can be for each of us to look around our community and ask who else's passing

might, like Jeff's, leave an unexpected void, and who might not know how many lives they've touched, here and now. I'd like to think, too, that when the community paid collective tribute to Jeff at his funeral services this week, he knew then what he might not have realized during his life. Thanks, Jeff, for everything.



## View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney  
Editor

## Nostalgia

75 years ago

Oct. 18, 1933

- With the approach of Halloween, Marshal Charles Buffington warns all celebrants of the evening that no law violations will be permitted. Soaping of windows, destruction of property, etc., will result in arrests and a full force of deputies will be patrolling the town. The Marshal expresses his appreciation of the clean fun had last Halloween and urges all to repeat the same this year.

- Problems of traffic were the discussion topic at the Culver Chamber of Commerce meeting at the New Culver Hotel Monday noon. Besides the menace of buses and trucks parking on the two business blocks and the corner by the depot, it was brought out that these vehicles parked as they are is a danger to the public. It was urged that business men for their own benefit park off those main blocks to allow more parking for the public. The Northern Indiana Public Service building parking lot at Plymouth and Jefferson Streets was pointed out as a convenient spot for overflow traffic.

- Harry R. Speyer was elected Post Commander of the William Alexander Fleet post of the American Legion held Thurs. night at the Officer's Club. He succeeds H.W. Walmer. Other officers named for the ensuing year include first vice-commander, Ben Oberlin; second vice-commander, Samuel Shrimper; adjutant, C.A. Whitney; finance officer, H.S. Rice; chaplain, M. R. Robinson; sergeant-at-arms, Hugh Harper; service officer, C.G. Mackey; athletic officer, E.A. Thessin; historian, Bert Alumbaugh.

Name: CHANCE 3; Width: 21p6; Depth: 3 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00043725; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: KidsPeace National

Name: INTERNET SERVICE; Width: 21p6; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00044702; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culcom, LLC; Size: 8 in

- The Culver Relief Committee still has wood for sale to reimburse the fund used for labor last year. The relief rooms in the library are open every Weds. afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. Shoes and wearing apparel, especially for children, are badly needed. A request has come in for a cook stove or heater. Anyone with these items should contact Mrs. W.O. Osborn or Mrs. C.I. Ferrier.

50 years ago

Oct. 15, 1958

- Eugene C. Eppley, member of the board of directors of Culver Military Academy and a great benefactor to the Academy, died yesterday at his home in Omaha. A 1901 CMA graduate, Mr. Eppley was one of the nation's leading hotel operators until he sold his chain of hotels a few years ago to the Sheraton corporation for \$13 million. His benefactions to the Academy total \$3,600,000, including the construction of the Eppley Auditorium (under way now) and the Eppley Halls of Sciences and Mathematics. He also supplied \$1 million for endowed chairs to help the school secure some of the finest instructors in the country.

- Sun. morning, Oct. 12 climaxed the work and dreams of a year for members and friends of the Culver Bible Church when services were held for the first time in their new \$27,000 church building on South Main Street. Although the facilities are not complete, the structure is such that services may be held in it. Sunday School opened at 10 a.m. with the morning worship service at 11 a.m. The church came into being when Milton Goble and the late Joe Boetsma, Sr., organized it in 1951. The present pastor, the Rev. Maynard Tittle, moved here Nov., 1952.

25 years ago

Oct. 19, 1983

- Alex Barshes was presented with a resolution from the town of Culver after 18 years at the town sewer plant. Present was Alvin Triplet, who recently completed the training necessary to take Mr. Barshes' place. Culver Water and Sewer superintendent Bob Breyfogle presented the award to Barshes.

- The Culver Community School board Monday evening unanimously approved plans for construction at the Culver Elementary School. The Dept. of Public Instruction will next have to approve the design before construction can begin.

- Culver Park Gift Fund Committee head Tom Sholly announced that funds raised for purchase of the depot and railroad right-of-way in the town park have now surpassed \$10,000.

Name: WEEK 3; Width: 21p6; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00045069; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Lakeside Auto Supply; Size: 8 in





# Sports



## CMA edges out CCHS at soccer sectional

CULVER — Culver Military Academy defeated Culver Community 5-0 to win its third straight Culver Community Soccer Sectional Saturday.

Jason Torf scored in the eighth, 11th and 54th minutes to lead the Eagles, who out-shot the Cavs 22-4.

Dominic Panetta and Nick Barron also scored for CMA.

The Eagles advanced to the championship match by virtue of a 5-2 semifinal win over Kouts Saturday morning.

After battling to a 1-1 half-time tie, the Eagles scored four times in the first 26 minutes of the second half to seize command.

Michael Lee's 14th-minute goal knotted the score at 1-1, just two minutes after Kouts grabbed an early lead.

Enrique Ituarte, Barron, Torf and Jesus Castro all scored during the Eagles' second-half uprising.

In the second semifinal, Justin Rearick and AJ Neace both scored in Culver's 2-0 shutout of Winamac.

Culver got off 20 shots, while surrendering just six.

• CULVER COMMUNITY BOYS SOCCER SECTIONAL

At Culver

Championship round: CMA 5, Culver Community 0

Halftime score: CMA 3, Culver 0

FIRST HALF

CMA — Jason Torf, 8th minute

CMA — Torf, 11th minute

CMA — Dominic Panetta, 33rd minute

SECOND HALF

CMA — Torf, 54th minute  
CMA — Nick Barron, 67th minute  
Shots: Culver 4, CMA 22.  
Saves: Culver 5, CMA 4.

Semifinal round: CMA 5, Kouts 2  
Halftime score: CMA 1, Kouts 1

FIRST HALF

K — Charles Detraz (Sydney Robertson), 12th minute

CMA — Michael Lee, 14th minute

CMA — Enrique Ituarte (Lee), 45th minute

CMA — Nick Barron (Ituarte), 55th minute

CMA — Jason Torf (Dominic Panetta), 58th minute

CMA — Jesus Castro (Hyoung Lim), 66th minute

K — Winston Yergler, 79th minute

Shots: CMA 15, Kouts 7.

Saves: CMA 7, Kouts 13.

Semifinal round: Culver 2, Winamac 0

Halftime score: Culver 1, Winamac 0

FIRST HALF

C — Justin Rearick, 15th minute

C — AJ Neace, 67th minute

Shots: Culver 20, Winamac 6.

Saves: Culver 3, Winamac 11.

## Eagles tennis: regionals to semistate

### CMA downs Plymouth at Clay regional

SOUTH BEND — The last time Plymouth and Culver Military met, Kyle Cartwright fought off five straight match points to rally back from a 5-2 deficit and secure a narrow Pilgrims win.

When the two teams met again Thursday at the South Bend Clay Regional Championship, CMA No. 3 singles player Alejandro Blake wouldn't be denied, putting Cartwright away 6-0 in the third set, and the Eagles flipped the script for a 3-2 win over Plymouth.

Last year, CMA took a 5-0 victory over Plymouth in the title match at the Clay Regional on its way to a semistate championship win over Munster. The two teams split sets in four of five matches Thursday, but the Eagles claimed wins at all three singles positions to seal a repeat regional crown.

The final match of the day

came at 2 singles, where

set over Plymouth junior

Andy Langdon.



CMA's Nithin Reddy gets ready to serve against Penn at the Clay Tennis Regional semifinal Tuesday.

CMA's Adam Holt clinched a 7-2 tiebreaker in the third

Plymouth's No. 1 doubles tandem of Tim Gordon and Caleb Hadden will continue tournament play Saturday, Oct. 18 at the individual regional tourney at Ben Davis High School. The seniors came back from a 3-6 first-set loss to beat CMA's Nithin Reddy and German Liz at Thursday's match to stay alive in the state tournament and earn a berth against South Bend St. Joseph this weekend.

• CMA 3, PLYMOUTH 2

At South Bend

South Bend Clay Regional Championship

SINGLES: 1. Christian Sunseri (CMA) beat Calvin Hoeffler 6-2, 6-4; 2. Adam Holt (CMA) beat Andy Langdon 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-2); 3. Alejandro Blake (CMA) beat Kyle Cartwright 6-1, 4-6, 6-0.

DOUBLES: 1. Tim Gordon-Caleb Hadden (P) beat Nithin Reddy-German Liz 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; 2. Mark Danielson-Brad Faulstich (P) beat Kevin Park-Tony Glacin 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

## Eagles finish 1-1 against Penn

By James Costello  
Sports Writer

SOUTH BEND — The rain may have washed out several matches at the South Bend Clay Regional Tuesday, but it didn't come soon enough to turn the tide against Plymouth.

Before play was suspended due to the inclement weather, the Pilgrims sewed up three wins in short order with straight-set victories at both doubles positions and in 1 singles at Leeper Park Tennis Center, clinching a semifinal victory against Clay regardless of the outcome of the remaining matches today. In the opposite bracket at the tournament, 2007 Clay Regional champion Culver Military Academy was locked in a 1-1 tie with Penn when the rain forced an end to play Tuesday.

CMA finished the day 1-1 against Penn after winning at 1 doubles and falling

at 1 singles. Chris Sunseri dropped a two-set 1 singles match against talented Penn junior Andrew Hansen. The Eagles senior 1 doubles pair of Nithin Reddy and German Liz topped Penn's Vincent Beam and Oliver Gunter 6-3, 6-0, however, to knot the match at 1-all for Culver.

"I was very happy with them today, because we knew we were going to have a tough ride at number 1 singles, so that was awesome," said CMA head tennis coach Neil Hunter of his team's doubles win. "You don't want to say you knew your player was going to lose, but we knew he was going to have a tough one so we were expecting our number 1 doubles team to step up like that."

Plymouth topped both CMA and Penn in 3-2 matches during the regular season, but because of the closeness of the matches, Delp

says he hopes his team will bring the same focus to the Clay regional finals that they brought Tuesday.

• SOUTH BEND CLAY REGIONAL

At South Bend

SEMIFINAL RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 3, SOUTH BEND CLAY 0

Singles: 1. Calvin Hoeffler (Ply) beat Christopher Burke (C) 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles: 1. Tim Gordon-Caleb Hadden (Ply) beat Austin Green-Nicholas Burke 6-0, 6-0; 2. Mark Danielson-Brad Faulstich (Ply) beat Peter Lindquist-Donald Bradley 6-3, 6-2.

Incomplete matches

Singles: 2. Andy Langdon (Ply) beat Matt Williams (C) 6-4; 3. (Incomplete) Sean Thomas (C) beating Kyle Cartwright (Ply) 6-4.

CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 1, PENN 1

Singles: 1. Andrew Hansen (P) beat Chris Sunseri (CMA) 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: Nithin Reddy-German Liz (CMA) beat Vincent Beam-Oliver Gunter (P) 6-3, 6-0.

Incomplete matches

Singles: 2. Adam Holt (CMA) vs. Ethan Leiter (P) 0-0; 3. Alejandro Blake (CMA) beating Spencer Heise (P) 7-6 (7-1).

Doubles: Kevin Park-Anthony Glacin (CMA) beating Andrew Bushnell-Leonard Hickman (P) No score given.

## Jana's teams compete, excel

WARSAW — Jana's Gymnastics Team competed in its first meet of the season Saturday.

Jana's Bronze Prep-Op team members are the reigning state champions and they got off to a great start with a

AA 32.7(1st)

Bronze Level (Ages 8-9)

Abigail Bankson: Vault 8.5 (2nd), Bars 8.1, Beam 8.7 (1st), Floor 8.9 (2nd), AA 34.2 (2nd)

Lexi Miller: Vault 7.7, Bars 9.2 (1st), Beam 8.5, Floor 9.0 (1st), AA 34.4 (1st)

Allie Bickle: Vault 8.7 (1st), Bars 8.8 (2nd), Beam 8.15, Floor 8.5, AA 34.15 (4th)

Sydney Oliver: Vault 7.75 (3rd), Bars 8.885 (3rd), Beam 8.35 (3rd), Floor 9.2 (2nd), AA 34.185 (4th)

Alexis Agnew: Vault 7.4, Bars 8.7, Beam 8.3, Floor 9.1 (3rd), AA 33.5 (5th)

Bronze Level (Ages 12+)

Alison Webb: Vault 7.0 (1st), Bars 8.8 (1st), Beam 8.2 (1st), Floor 9.3 (1st), AA 33.3 (1st)

Silver Level (Ages 11 and under)



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Left: Jana's first place Bronze team is Sydney Oliver, Alison Webb, Alexis Agnew, Allie Bickle, Abigail Bankson, Lexi Miller, Karly Gruett, Michela Gibson, Caitlin Kulpa, Belle Beeson and Kendall Rhodes. Right Jana's first place silver team is Lindsay Miller, Betsy Miller, Barbie Kimmel and Hanna Hough.

first-place finish at the "Flippin' Into Fall Invitational" in Warsaw.

Jana's Silver team also came home with a first-place trophy.

Here are the results:  
Bronze Level (Ages 6-7)  
Caitlin Kulpa: Vault 8.2 (1st), Bars 8.5 (1st), Beam 7.3 (1st), Floor 8.7 (1st),

Kendall Rhodes: Vault 8.2, Bars 8.8 (2nd), Beam 8.6 (2nd), Floor 8.6, AA 34.2 (2nd)

Bronze Level (Ages 10-11)

Michela Gibson: Vault 8.45 (1st), Bars 9.0 (2nd), Beam 8.3, Floor 8.8, AA 34.5 (2nd)

Karly Gruett: Vault 7.3, Bars 8.6, Beam 8.9 (2nd), Floor 9.4 (1st), AA 34.2 (3rd)

Belle Beeson: Vault 7.9 (2nd), Bars 9.15 (1st), Beam 9.05 (1st), Floor 9.1 (3rd), AA 35.2 (1st)

Lindsay Miller: Vault 8.7 (1st), Bars 8.9 (1st), Beam 6.8 (1st), Floor 9.2 (1st), AA 33.6 (1st)

Silver Level (Ages 12+)

Hanna Hough: Vault 7.8, Bars 7.8, Beam 7.85, Floor 8.0, AA 31.45 (3rd)

Barbie Kimmel: Vault 7.9 (2nd), Bars 8.2 (2nd), Beam 8.7 (1st), Floor 9.1 (st), AA 33.9 (2nd)

Betsy Miller: Vault 8.3 (1st), Bars 8.4 (1st), Beam 8.5 (2nd), Floor 9.0 (2nd), AA 34.2 (1st)

## Sports briefs

### Football

CMA falls on the road to Lafayette Central Catholic

Culver Military made a decent showing, but Class A, No. 7-ranked Lafayette Central Catholic scored twice in all but the second quarter, taking a 48-20 victory over the Eagles at Lafayette Friday.

Tom O'Neill did most of the scoring for CMA with two field goals — a 25- and a 26-yarder — and the game's opening score just a minute and a half in on a 1-yard run. Zach Deery scored the Eagles' final touchdown on a 13-yard run in the fourth quarter, and O'Neill kicked the PAT.

Culver falls to 4-4 with Friday's road result, while Central Catholic improves to 7-1.

• CENTRAL CATHOLIC 48, CULVER MILITARY 20

At Lafayette

CMA 7 6 0 7 — 20

LCC 14 6 14 14 — 48

First Quarter

CMA — Tom O'Neill 1 run. O'Neill kick, 10:22

CC — Bryan Brinson 64 pass from Chris Mills. Eric Budny kick, 9:16.

CC — Tom Almond 11 run. Budny kick, 2:24.

Second Quarter

CMA — Jake Milakas 5 field goal, 8:09.

CC — Jake Milakas 8 run. Kick failed, 4:21.

CMA — O'Neill 26 field goal, 0:20.

Third Quarter

CC — Mikalas 2 run. Budny kick, 8:28.

CC — Mikalas 1 run. Budny kick, 0:33.

Fourth Quarter

CMA — Zach Deery 13 run. O'Neill kick, 9:30.

CC — Mikalas 2 run. Budny kick, 6:55.

CC — Almond 3 run, Budny kick, 2:47.

CMA

CC

First downs 12

Plays/Yds rushing 36/100

Plays/Yds passing 8-17-0

13-15-0

Passing 147

190

Punting 4/20

0/0

Fumbles/lost 0/0

2/2

Penalties/Yds 7/57

3/40

Records: CMA 4-4, Central Catholic 7-1.

Boys cross country

Lions take 2nd at NSC

Bremen's boys cross country team finished runner up behind New Prairie at the Northern State Conference Cross Country Championships.

Bremen's Nate Avery placed second overall, 25 seconds behind New Prairie's Kyle Smiley.

Triton's Blake Lemler and Curtis Nordmann finished fourth and sixth respectively, and Culver Community's Stephan Vantwoud legged out an eighth-place finish.

• NORTHERN STATE CONFERENCE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

At New Carlisle

Team scores: New Prairie 26, Bremen 64, Triton 85, John Glenn 120, Knox 120, Culver Community 136, Jimtown 169, LaVille no score.

Top 20 finishers: 1, Kyle Smiley (NP)

16:51. 2, Nate Avery (Bre) 17:16. 3, Blake Lawson (NP) 17:29. 4, Blake Lemler (Tri) 17:31. 5, Matt Johnson (NP) 17:35. 6, Curtis Nordmann (Tri) 17:49. 7, Max Rehlander (NP) 17:55. 8, Stephan Vantwoud (CC) 17:58. 9, Austin Nielsen (Bre) 18:01. 10, Tyler Szynal (NP) 18:16. 11, Pat Shetler (JG) 18:17. 12, Kenny Huston (NP) 18:23. 13, Tony Koch (NP) 18:25. 14, Jack Jordan (Bre) 18:33. 15, Austin Edwards (Knox) 18:38. 16, Matt Havranek (JG) 18:40. 17, Travis Amor (Knox) 19:12. 18, Jon Wesner (Bre) 19:15. 19, Evann Coad (Knox) 19:27. 20, Stacy Noland (JG) 19:33.

### Eagles coast

CMA claimed four of the top five times in a cross country win over Lewis Cass Thursday. Team scores were: CMA 19, Lewis Cass 42.

The Eagles' Alejandro Arroyo turned in a time of 17:15 to lead the field.

• CULVER MILITARY 19, LEWIS CASS 42

At Culver

1. Alejandro Arroyo (CMA) 17:15; 2. Chris Trennepohl (CMA) 18:06; 3. Nate Wilson (LC) 18:16; 4. Alex Burke (CMA) 18:46; 5. Ramsey Bradke (CMA) 18:46; 6. Tyler Yeakley (LC) 19:16; 7. Mike Buschman (CMA) 19:21; 8. Zack Hewitt (CMA) 20:02; 9. Andrew Hasse (LC) 20:38; 10. Madison Carney (LC) 20:47.

Girls cross country

Bremen, Schmeltz break streaks

Bremen placed five runners in the top 10 to break New Prairie's 10-year stranglehold on the Northern State Conference girls

See Sports page 7

# Franz helped usher in Culver progress

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

When George Franz died Sept. 20, Culver lost not only a 50-year plus resident, but also a man who helped built portions of the town through the years, was partially responsible for the arrival of the town's first major industry, and was known even beyond Indiana for his bait shop and air strip in Culver.



George Franz and wife Maxine in 1969.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Originally from the Merrillville-Crown Point area, Franz – in a 2007 interview – said he grew tired of “dirty politics” that forced him to “pay somebody off to let you work.” Having met his future wife and obtained his marriage license in Plymouth in 1951, Franz eventually decided to move to Culver. Here, he purchased one 90-acre farm from John Hawk (whose pioneer ancestors are responsible for the name of the lake just west of Maxinkuckee) and a second piece of land from Tressie Hawk. Eventually, he would own 187 acres, all of the land west of Ohio St. to today's state road 17.

“When I moved here,” he recalled, “South Main Street and West Shore Drive and Sage Road was road 17. It changed over (to new 17) in 1958-59.”

It was a few years later, in 1965, that Franz's land became home to McGill's, Culver's first major industry and a great boost to the local economy (the same building today houses Medallion Cabinetry).

From 1969 to 1975, Franz owned and flew his own airplane and built a hanger and 1800-foot airstrip – which ran the entire length of his land. In those days, he said, a number of parents and other guests flew in via his strip to visit the Academy. “One morning,” he recalled with a laugh, “I woke up and there was seven twin engine (planes) sitting in my front yard!”

Franz worked during those days for “Col.” Parker, famous sponsor of Elvis Presley. “I would fly all over the country selling lots for him,” said Franz. “He sponsored me to build Tippecanoe Shores (housing development south of Culver).”

Franz also cleaned up after some key moments in Culver history. There was the huge Lake Shore Garage fire in the late 1960s (at the site of today's Osborn's Minimart on Lake Shore Dr.). He tore down a two story hotel once known as the Johnson Hotel on the same street at the site of today's Bennett's shop.

He cleared a dump on the south portion of the land today occupied by the Lake Shore Clinic. He cleared away debris and filled in the foundations where four houses had been, at the site of today's Farmer's State Bank parking lot, just west of the bank and library (the houses were moved to other locations, Franz said). He did all the excavating work to put in the “new” marina on the southeast shore of the lake (“I did a lot of dredging to make that work,” recalled Franz of the swampy land there).

Along with Dick Zehner, he said, Franz did all the excavating work for the Culver Cove during the 1980s on land that was famously swampy. “When they built the Cove, they used telephone poles as pilings to stabilize the building. Warren Bickel did that. They would drive the poles in the ground and keep banging until they didn't sink any more. They drove people nuts with that banging sound!”

Franz also extended Academy Road to the west; it had once ended at the Lake Shore Drive intersection, and Franz's efforts in the late 1950s eventually extended it the length it is today. “College Ave. was the last street in town,” Franz recalled. “I helped Wayne Von Ehr put the sewer and water lines in.”

Prior to 1972, Franz was in the sweet corn business, and people called from neighboring states to ask if Franz's famous sweet corn – which he used to sell to area grocery stores as well -- was ready.

In 1979, Franz opened what became the community's only bait shop – and a naturally popular one – for many years, moving the operation from his basement to a free standing building. The bait shop closed its doors in 2000.

“I couldn't hack the hours any more!” said Franz. “It was from five in the morning 'til 10 o'clock at night. People came from Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, the upper UP. I even had a sea captain from Athens Greece with an interpreter. He bought a fishing license; he came down here a few days to fish.”

“(George Franz) loved the lake, the town, and the people in it,” says Franz's granddaughter Lori McAbee. “You can look anywhere in town and see his contributions. He took great pride in his work and helping out anyone he could...I feel, and so do many other I spoke with, that Culver will not be the same without him.”

## Sports from page 6

cross country crown Thursday. Meanwhile, LaVille's Elaine Schmeltz became the first individual champion in school history with her time of 19:32.

Hope Jordan led the Lions' charge with a second-place mark of 19:35.

• NORTHERN STATE CONFERENCE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

At New Carlisle  
Team scores: Bremen 35, New Prairie 44, Jimtown 75, LaVille 86. These teams had no score: Culver Community, John Glenn, Triton, Knox.

Top 20 finishers: 1, Elaine Schmeltz (LV) 19:32. 2, Hope Jordan (Bre) 19:35. 3, Mary Gamble (NP) 19:59. 4, Julie Jeszenszky (NP) 20:16. 5, Emily Dean (Jim) 20:17. 6, Megan Burcham (Bre) 20:43. 7, Sarah DeShone (Jim) 21:05. 8, Anna Zeltwanger (Bre) 21:29. 9, Amy Fanning (Bre) 21:29. 10, Stephanie Weldy (Bre) 21:34. 11, Casey Monroe (NP) 21:36. 12, Lauren Shaffer (CC) 21:49. 13, Robyn VanHeste (NP) 21:50. 14, Leah Fanning (Bre) 21:53. 15, Becky Miko (NP) 22:05. 16, Kristin Wagner (NP)

22:33. 17, Sarah Thompson (NP) 22:34. 18, Paige Fox (Bre) 22:49. 19, Amanda Wolf (JG) 22:53. 20, Kim Podell (JG) 23:05.

### CGA wins

CGA's cross country team picked up a decisive win over visiting Lewis Cass Thursday. Team scores were: CGA 9, Lewis Cass 39.

Kaye Sitterly paced the Eagles with an individual winning time of 20:56.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 9, LEWIS CASS 39

At Culver  
1. Kaye Sitterley (CGA) 20:56; 2. Stephanie Burian (CGA) 21:17; 3. Sophia Smith (CGA) 21:40; 4. Ashley Baber (LC) 22:03; 5. Carson Canonie (CGA) 22:09; 6. Hannah Johnson (LC) 23:08; 7. Nina Simonini (CGA) 23:09; 8. Megan Sullivan (LC) 23:26; 9. Katie Gawor (CGA) 23:32; 10. Raelee Puckett (LC) 24:08.

### Girls soccer

#### Eagles tie Marian

Dimeo Mmutla scored in

the second half to help CGA tie Mishawaka Marian 1-1 in soccer action Monday.

• MISHAWAKA MARIAN 1, CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 1

At Culver  
Halftime score: Marian 1, CGA 0

FIRST HALF  
MM — Gaby Marin (unassisted).

SECOND HALF  
CGA — Dimeo Mmutla (Jenna Iwaniec)

Shots: Marin 5, CGA 19.  
Saves: Marian 10 (Lindsey Gilbert); CGA 4 (Alicia Schaefer).

Corner kicks: Marian 2, CGA 3.  
Records: Marian 9-4-1, CGA 12-0-2.

### Cavs grab a late victory

Karla Camacho scored the game-winning goal in the 64th minute to lead Culver Community to a 2-1 win over Elkhart Christian Thursday.

Susannah Baker tied the game with a first-half penalty kick, and Chandler Gast made 10 saves for the Cavs.

# Trinity UMC provides food relief for Marshall Co. families

As food prices escalate, families can now get a \$60 box of food for only \$30  
Plymouth, IN – October 3, 2008 – Trinity United Methodist Church, 425 S. Michigan Street, Plymouth, is now offering food relief to all local residents in one of the church's newest ministries to the community, Angel Food Ministries.

Through Angel Food, participants can buy a medium-sized box of food for \$30 that contains top quality food staples from every food group, including chicken or beef, milk, eggs, vegetables, and other nutritious items. One box of food feeds a family of four for about one week, or a single senior citizen for almost a month. The menu varies each month, and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of approximately \$60.

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit organization providing food relief to communities throughout the United States. Established in 1994 to provide relief for struggling families in the Monroe, GA area, Angel Food Ministries today serves hundreds of thousands of families across 35 states. Since inception, Angel Food Ministries has fed more than 20 million Americans. Angel Food is purchased directly from some of the nation's top suppliers. Those who participate with Angel Food receive brand name food and do not need to worry about it being fresh.

“This is a great way to help my neighbors,” said Darleen Xaver of Plymouth, a recipient of Angel Food Ministries and a volunteer worker. “This is a wonderful program. I went around my block and took orders. The food is delicious! Next month, I am going to go to two blocks!”

Cheri Ringer, a member of Plymouth's Trinity United Methodist church, says, “We decided to become an Angel Food site because we know how hard it is for many people to make ends meet these days. Angel Food is our newest ministry to our community that really helps.”

The great part is that Angel Food is for everyone. There are no limits to the quantity of boxes a person can buy, and there are no applications or qualifications for eligibility.

Orders are normally taken at Plymouth Trinity United Methodist church the first full week each month on Mondays from 9am-noon, Wednesdays from 5-8pm, and Fridays from 1:30-3:30pm. Delivery is typically the fourth Saturday each month from 1:30-3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Specialty boxes are also available. In addition to excellent protein specials, Angel Food Ministries offers a fresh fruit and vegetables box and a Senior Box of 10 heat-and-eat meals to provide an excellent, nutritious variety of food.

For more information on Angel Food Ministries, please call the Trinity UMC church office at 574-936-2519, or visit the Angel Food Ministries website, [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com).

## Briefs, from page 1

group (sponsored by the Culver Community Council of Churches): Meets at Grace United Church of Christ, 307 N. Plymouth St., Culver each Monday evening at 7 p.m. (beginning Oct. 27).

DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include “Facing My Anger,” “Facing My Loneliness,” “Depression,” “New Relationships,” and “Forgiveness.” For more information, call Pastor Robin Keating at 574-216-0331 or Michael Rakich at 574-842-4625.

### Soccer training weekend

A soccer training weekend will be held at Culver Academies Oct. 17-19. Youth ages 8 to 12 are invited to come develop soccer skills during the weekend. Times are Fri., 4 to 6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sun., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with initial meeting at the gym entrance in front of Academies' Memorial Chapel. For more information or to confirm attendance, contact Santiago Martinez ([legasps@culver.org](mailto:legasps@culver.org)), German Liz ([lizg@culver.org](mailto:lizg@culver.org)), or Christian Sunseri ([sunserc@culver.org](mailto:sunserc@culver.org)).

### Library computer classes in October

Culver-Union Township Public Library will be continuing its free computer classes in October. These classes are hands-on and will focus on Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint.

Microsoft Excel Part II (Oct. 20), and Microsoft PowerPoint Part I (Oct. 27).

Classes will be held at the library from 6 to 8 p.m. All required materials will be supplied by the Library, but participants are welcome to bring their laptop computers if they wish. For more information, call 574-842-2941 or e-mail [abaker@culver.lib.in.us](mailto:abaker@culver.lib.in.us)

### Monterey happenings

The town of Monterey will hold a town-wide cleanup Tues., Oct. 21. The children's Halloween party will be held at the Monterey Elementary School Thurs., Oct. 30.

### Culver Bible Church hosts ladies study

The ladies at Culver Bible Church invite you to join them for their fall Bible study, meeting each Tues. at 7 p.m., in the church basement. The Beth Moore series “The Life and Ministry of Paul” will be used. Discover the fascinating details about Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, and how he demonstrated what it means to die daily, crucified with Christ. For more information, call Karin at 574-772-3711 or Kathie at 574-842-3056.

### Center for Culver History needs items

The Center for Culver History is in need of area artifacts to display in our recently renovated space, the future home of our museum. Items can either be a permanent gift to our collection or a loan. Artifacts may be dropped off at the Culver Public Library. Please stop in and see us in the lower Carnegie level of the library during regular library hours.

### Citizen cell phone

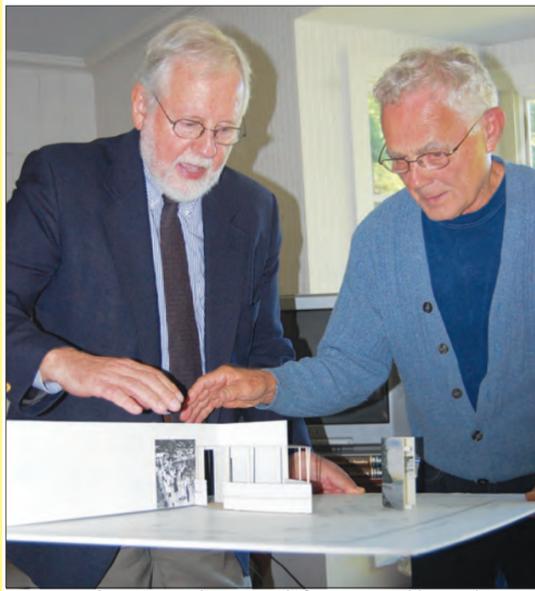
Culver Citizen editor Jeff Kenney may be reached by cell phone at 574-261-7887.

Name: OVERMYER; Width: 21p6; Depth: 7 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00045248; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Overmyer Soft Water Plymouth; Size: 14 in

Name: WE HAVE “NO PROBLEM”; Width: 10p4.5; Depth: 6.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00044969; Ad

Name: Weekly Ad; Width: 32p7.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00044457; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Morrow Insurance Agency; Size: 15 in

## Museum designer debuts model



Museum designer Ted Swigon, left, is assisted by audience member Latham Lawson Sept. 27 as he describes various facets of a scale model of the work-in-progress Center for Culver History museum he's designing with the Antiquarian & Historical Society of Culver.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

Also on hand was Ted Swigon, the Chicago-based museum designer hired by the Antiquarian Society to assist in creating the Culver area museum, the Center for Culver History, to be located in the Society-renovated Carnegie library room in downtown Culver.

Swigon told the audience the museum committee is working on the story of Culver's history now, and has hired Amanda Miller, "a bright young lady studying at Ball State...to tell the story."

Swigon said the museum will tell the story of the "golden era of Culver" in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. "If you walk into a museum," he continued, "and can see everything at a glance, you're not getting your money's worth; you've seen it all! We want to provide the destination and engage you in discovering the story. That's the process we're in now."

He said visitors will enter a replica steamboat overlooking the lake. Swigon showed the audience a small, three-dimensional model of the steamboat and part of the museum that he had constructed.

Fund-raising and artifact-gathering efforts for the museum are ongoing.



## Sprucing up the Citizen

Sharon Coffee arranges flowers for a new window display at the Culver Citizen office, 110 N. Main St. The display, created by the Wesley United Methodist Women's group, features items from the UMW's thrift store on Ohio St. Proceeds from the store, open Saturdays and every other Weds., go to charitable causes.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Name: FLAME 112; Width: 32p7.5; Depth: 10.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00045719; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Horizon Publications Managemen; Size: 31.5 in

## Clocks from page 1

They would burn coal or wood, which was a real plus. They were the real Cadillac of the industry."

Over the years, he added, over a million Wrought Iron Ranges were sold.

But the great depression of 1873 hit the Culver family as hard as it did many Americans. After trying his hand at a Kansas furniture store and, alternately, farming, the brothers connected in 1875 with the Seth Thomas Clock company, perhaps assuming they'd saturated the market with stoves. The resultant Southern Calendar Clock Company never actually manufactured the handsome time pieces (Seth Thomas did that), but they did distribute them, using the same door-to-door solicitation methods in which H.H. Culver so believed.

As his health went downhill in the 1880s, Culver sold his stock to his brothers. The "excitable" Culver, said Lintner, who "liked to have his own way" and was prone to great enthusiasm and story telling, bought the 83-acre Hissong farm on Lake Maxinkuckee in 1883, adding another 202 acres in 1884 and building the farmhouse and homestead house – both of which still stand today – on the northeast shore of the lake. After two seasons in the business of the Culver Park Assembly Chautauqua revival camp (which drew tens of thousands of visitors but apparently not enough revenue) starting in 1889, Culver leased his many acres, now complete with a large Chautauqua hotel and "Tabernacle" building, to the Maxenkuckee Fair Association, adding a grandstand and horse track, a venture that lasted all of two years.

In those post Civil War years, noted Lintner, well educated former Confederate officers were starting up military schools all over the country, and H.H. Culver knew an opportunity when he saw one. Interestingly, Culver himself had only six months of formal education and was later described in an article by his son Bertram as not highly sophisticated (or easy to live with, though he did have a personality that drew people to him). This didn't stop him, as is well known today, from the 1894 creation of the Culver Military Academy, whose miniscule enrollment – mostly family and friends at first, according to Lintner – was boosted by the 1896 destruction by fire of the Missouri Military Academy, whose former Confederate officer head, Co. Alexander F. Fleet, brought his 70 students and handful of faculty to Culver.

Henry Harrison Culver passed away very shortly thereafter, in 1897, leaving his sons Edwin and Bertram B. Culver – whom Lintner says deserve more credit for the success of the school in its early years than they usually get – to carry the CMA torch.

The Wrought Iron Range Company, meanwhile, had expanded to a nationwide operation, eventually finding its way into Mexico and England and later manufacturing field stoves for the government during various wars and casings for bombs during World War II. The postwar spread of electricity put an end to the company's fortunes, as the market for coal and wood burning stoves dried up.

Lintner showed several items related to the clock company, including an advertising booklet with testimonials as to the clock's effectiveness that included a positive review by Alexander Stevens, president of the Confederacy and later governor of Georgia.

Lintner explained the clock he had with him was a centennial clock, officially patented July 4, 1876. The clocks, as he demonstrated, not only featured a traditional time-telling face, they also included a calendar in the same circular format. "The calendars were perpetual," said Lintner. "They took leap year and irregular month lengths into account. They were the most efficient, and in many ways the easiest to use of the clocks made by the 25 or so companies that made calendar clocks."

By 1884, said Lintner, the company claimed it had sold well over 30,000 of the clocks, though no records were kept. The rare clocks sold between \$11.50 and \$35 apiece when new, the latter amount being "a lot of money" in its day.

Lintner also showed an extremely rare Culver Military Academy dairy bottle, the result of the school's short-lived in-house dairy, which came into being after the dining hall was built in 1911. Lintner explained that the school had its own milking cattle, which he guessed were housed in the barn long located on the west end of the Academy golf course (the barn burned in the 1970s), though later Newman dairy farms supplied the milk, which was pasteurized on-site at Culver. "They had a series of pipes where the milk came down to a spicket where waiters would get it," said Lintner. "(Mess hall meals were) a ceremony. The parents would be up

Name: HALLOWEEN CAMP; Width: 21p6; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00045556; Ad

on the balcony and we would all march in. It was show time! It was a big deal."

Lintner also explained the house in which the event took place was the school's fourth guest house, and had been a home built in the mid to late 1950s by Culver's Commander Roos, a Latin teacher.

Name: Added Value; Width: 32p7.5; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00044792; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Argos Bar & Grill; Size: 6 in

Name: CLEVENGER; Width: 32p7.5; Depth: 8 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00045217; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Marshall County Republican Par; Size: 24 in









## 'Real live' emergency vehicles

Students at Wesley preschool learned hands-on about fire trucks and ambulances last week, with some help from fire chief Mike Grover and other firemen, and EMTs Ron Cole and Chad Becker. The senior class traveled to the fire station Oct. 8 and the junior class was visited by the vehicles Oct. 9.

Photo at top left: Senior class member Gavin Salyer tries his hand at holding the fire hose (with assistance from Grover).

Top right photo: Ruthie Counts, in the junior class, gets a lift into the fire truck from Grover.

Bottom photo: From left to right, Bryce Campbell, Mackenzie Banks, and Dalton Powell watch intently inside the ambulance while Cole points out a feature of the vehicle.

Besides seeing and interacting with various components of each vehicle and several items of emergency equipment, students were led in "stop, drop, and roll" fire safety techniques and each given fire hats to take home. Oct. 5-11 is Fire Safety Week throughout the nation.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY



## Got ghosts? Talk about them at the Culver library

When the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library has held ghost-related programs at Halloweens past, one common thread ran year after year: people from all over the area, and virtually every walk of life, have experienced odd, unusual, and sometimes downright uncanny circumstances that lead

them to believe they've had an encounter with the supernatural. In other words: a ghost. And people like to talk – and hear – about them.

Sharing those experiences can lead to some chilling but fascinating conversation, and area residents will get a chance

Thurs., Oct. 30 when the library hosts "Got Ghost?" a night of sharing tales of one's haunted house, farm fields and ghostly apparitions with others. The event will take place in the large meeting room at the library, 107 N. Main St. in downtown Culver, from 6 to 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome, but all should be prepared to be scared.

For more information, phone the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library at 574-842-2941.

Name: RED CRAFT SHOW 08; Width: 21p6; Depth: 8 in; Color: Process color; File Name: 00046037; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 16 in

## Park from page 1

and everyone, not just those with past building experience. A student group comprised of Culver Comm. High School and Culver Academies students is slated to help spread the mulch, and the Culver Bible Church is providing lunch, in addition to donations of baked goods and other items from various individuals around the community, Young says.

Central to the new playground are a play boat and train, two components chosen by students during the 2006 planning of the project and paid for by community organizations. "There will be lots of climbing," says Young, and "it is an expandable project, so as more funds come in, we can add swings back in and other components."

Donations will still be accepted towards the playground, with the surrounding fence slated to be added in the future, to allow room for expansion in the interim. The signs listing project donors and those who bought pickets for the fence will be come in the spring, Young notes, "so we can add the names of any last minute donors."

The playground company, NuToys Leisure Products, is sending three people to assist in the effort, Young notes. Both individuals and groups – be they churches, clubs, or private companies – are encouraged to assist on the 18<sup>th</sup>, though Young asks that she be informed so she can plan for the proper number of workers.

"We are appreciative of everyone who has donated and volunteered," she adds, "we're excited." the Culver Bible Church is providing lunch, in addition to donations of baked goods and other items from various individuals around the community, Young says.

Central to the new playground are a play boat and train, two components

## Milestones from page 1

"commodious bath house adjoining"), where boats are built, sold, stored, and repaired, is built where the beach lodge is now. At the time, the land was private.

-1894: The Vandalia Railroad officially takes over the boat and bath house



This 1950s postcard gives a glimpse into the existence of long-defunct playground equipment in the west end of Culver's town park, the site of a new playground to be built this weekend.

PHOTO/ANTIQUARIAN & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CULVER ARCHIVES

property.

-Feb., 1935: The boat/bath house in Vandalia Park is destroyed by fire (arson, as was later confirmed).

-Feb. 20, 1935: The town of Culver purchases Vandalia Park from the Pennsylvania Railroad for \$6,500. The depot and its adjacent land are not included in the sale.

-Dec. 11, 1935: The WPA opts to build the beach lodge to replace the destroyed bath house. In addition, landscaping such as the stone walls east and west of the lodge itself will be created. The cost of the project is \$18,800.

-May, 1937: The newly-completed Beach Lodge – as it is dubbed – opens to the public, with the third floor living quarters available for rental daily, weekly, or seasonally (only later did they become the residence of the park director).

-1940s?: At some point, a few items of playground equipment are added (it's possible this was part of the WPA project; certainly they were in place by the 1940s at the latest), east of the beach lodge. These include swings and a slide or two, later including a "kiddie" sized slide on the beach itself, into the water, besides a larger one several yards out, for more adventurous sliders.

-June, 1975: A federal grant is officially approved from the Economic Development Association (spearheaded by the EDA's Jim Peterson, a Culver resident) for \$264,000 for improvements to the town park, bringing 24 new jobs to the local unemployed. Some of the planned improvements didn't actually happen, but most did. Among them: stone fireplaces and repainting/renovating work done to the east and west

pavilions (former train station waiting shelters); timber steps added at several points on the bluff leading to the lakeshore on the west end of the park; the access road running along the lakeshore on the west end was converted into twin, paved walkways, lighted by historic street-lamps originally used downtown; a number of improvements to the beach lodge and landscaping additions; a new basketball court on the west end (originally planned with an added "lip" to be used as a skating rink) to replace the courts near the beach lodge.

Most to the point in light of this month's playground project: "Two complete playgrounds will be constructed at the park. Some of the existing equipment will be used as well as a timber playlot. The playlot is a natural wood structure featuring slides, balance beams, horizontal ladders, decks, and other type climbing facilities. The playlots will be constructed on site of wood and lag screws."

-1984: Culver's Lions club purchases the Vandalia depot building and right-of-way land, converting it into community meeting space, as it still is today.

-Late 1980s-early 1990s: Most of the equipment – including slides, new swings, and bouncy dinosaur – on the west end of the park is added under the initiative of park director Kelly Young. The "yellow" play equipment in the east end was added a short time later under Young.