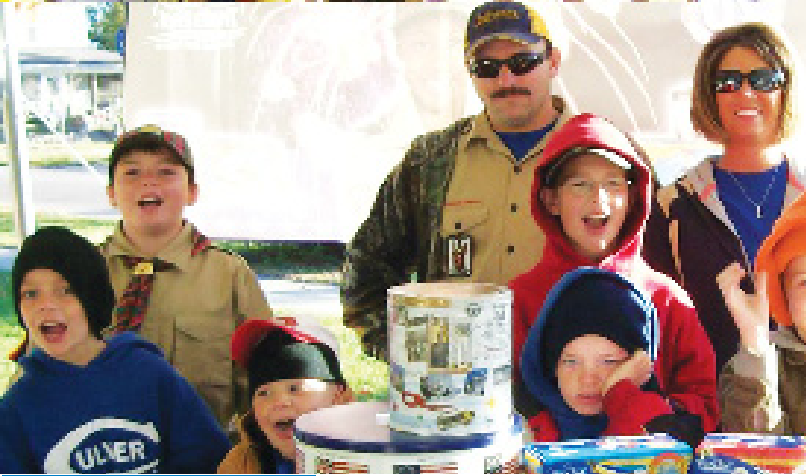


The Culver Citizen



Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008 Vol. No. 114 Issue No. 49 50¢
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



In Brief

Children's Christmas party Dec. 6

The Culver fire department, VFW, and Lions Club-sponsored annual children's Christmas party will take place Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Culver Elementary School cafeteria. Santa will be there as well as a clown (complete with balloons and magic tricks), besides games and other Christmas fun. All area children are invited.

Wesley Cookie Walk

Wesley United Methodist Church, 511 School St., Culver, will have a "Cookie Walk" Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. - noon.

Shoppers can walk along several tables and choose the cookies of their choice.

There will be a variety of cookies available. The congregational members of the church make the cookies. Containers will be provided. Cookies can be purchased for a cost of \$5 per pound.

BPA bake sale Dec. 6

Culver High School's Business Professionals of America will hold a bake sale Sat., Dec. 6 from 8:15-11 a.m. at Osborn's Mini-mart on Lake Shore Dr. in Culver. Funds raised support various BPA efforts.

St. Nick Party Dec. 6

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church invites the public -- and children of all ages -- to meet St. Nicholas and hear the story of how this real-life, early Christian bishop became Santa Claus. The event takes place Sat., Dec. 6 (St. Nicholas Day around the world) at 2:30 p.m. in the basement of the College Ave. church. Children will meet St. Nick, watch a short video about his life, enjoy treats, make St. Nick-related take-home crafts, and more. Parents are welcome to bring cameras to photograph their children with St. Nicholas.

Bloodmobile Dec. 7

The Culver Academies will host an American Red Cross Bloodmobile Sun., Dec. 7 from 12:30- 5:30 p.m. It will be held in the Fleet Gymnasium - a part of the athletic complex. Please park near the Ice Arena or Chapel and follow the signs. Previous donors are encouraged to participate, and any-

Cub Scouting in the town of Culver

Above: Images from Culver's active Cub Scout Pack 290. Top left: Scouts at a popcorn "show-and-sell" fundraiser, from left, Wyatt Coiner, Jacob Fisher, and Alan Dilts. Bottom left: At another popcorn fundraiser, Scout parents and den leader Jim Coiner and Brandy Reinhold, and Linn Campbell (in back), Scouts Alan Dilts, Robert Warren, Austin Dilts, Garrett Reinhold, Jack Campbell III, and Wyatt Coiner. Center: Current Cubmaster Chuck Dilts. Lower right: Wolf Den awards in November including Scouts Adrian Craig, Wyatt Coiner, Dakota Bennett, and Nik Vela. (see story below).

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Culver Cub Scouting reborn

Scouting program for younger set thrives in numbers, activities

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Cub Scouting isn't new to Culver by any means, but if you've noticed a new level of visibility and activity to Culver's Pack 290, it's no coincidence. In the last few years, the program has been reinvigorated in Culver, and that's good news for area boys from first grade through age 10.

Donna Vela, one of those responsible for the current vibrancy of the local Pack and the Scout Master until recently, notes the boys last year went camping every month, attended a Sil-

ver Hawks baseball game, and participated in both the Memorial Day Service and Lake fest parade here in Culver. She says Pack 290 became involved in the Scouts' "Good Turn" project, doing a "good turn" in the community each month. That included collecting canned goods for a needy family in November, canned goods for the local food pantry, picking up trash down a country road, going caroling, and donating food to the group home in Culver.

Some of the Scouts, says Webelos Two den leader

Chuck Dilts (and also a major force in the Scouts' recent success), also journeyed in the past year to radio station WTCA, the Fulton County Historical Museum, attended a South Bend Bowl-a-Rama, camped out at Rice Woods in Starke County, held a pinewood derby, attended both day and resident camps, and "adopted" Culver's Indian Trails to pick up trash as a conservation project. With a total of 27 Cub Scouts in the Pack, participation is surely at an all-time high, at least in recent memory.

Vela recalls son Josh starting as a Tiger Cub with Pack 290 during the fall of 2004, when the McTavish family was heading up the group. Former town manager Jon Guenin was a popular Tiger den leader at the time, she recalls. At that year's annual Blue & Gold ceremony, Joe and Nicky Dilts were introduced as new Cub Masters. Urged to become Cub Master throughout 2005 and 2006, Vela finally agreed to the task.

"By the end of the Scout year of 2007," she says, "We had eight boys in the

Pack. The Roundup flyer was passed out at school for the 2007-2008 year (and) I started to receive a lot of phone calls from interested parents of boys that wanted to join the Pack. I received one very important call from Chuck and Ruth Dilts. They were interested in starting a Pack themselves and wanted to know if I would like some help in Pack 290. I accepted their help with much enthusiasm."

The Dilts' son Alan, now

See Cub Scouts page 2

Water rate hike likely, says council

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

If the news of an imminent water rate hike in Culver seems like a dark cloud, there is a silver lining of sorts: customers likely won't see a change in their bill until February or March. That's the estimate given by Culver's town council at its Nov. 26 meeting, at which Steve Carter of accounting firm Umbaugh & Associates presented his findings, having studied the inflow and outflow of funds to the town's water budget over the past three years.

Carter noted that fund had around \$241,000 at the end of 2006, a number that has dropped as of August, 2008 to \$67,000. The lion's share of the drop has been due to outlays for capital improvements related to an ongoing project, said Carter, who noted revenues in recent years have stayed fairly steady at around \$215,000-\$220,000 annually. Carter noted that figure indicates constant usage and that seasonal citizenry in Culver hasn't caused radical shifts in water income.

However, Carter said, the town is short about \$46,000 in revenues, and its water rates all across the board are less than 119 comparable municipalities in the state. He recommended a 21.1 percent increase to break even over the next year. That number would raise water customers' minimum water bill between \$1 and \$1.25 per month, said Carter, though larger families would likely see a somewhat larger increase.

Council member Ralph Winters, noting none of the council members want to see rates increase, said present rates are such that "we could be sitting on a time bomb where there's a break someplace (in the town's water system) requiring a massive expenditure."

See Council page 3



'Soup's sales check

Linda Mullen Clevenger of Plymouth-based women's shelter Hemminger House accepts a \$1,500 check from Culver Elementary sixth graders (left to right) Haley Klimaszewski, Janele VandePutte, and Riley Dare for the shelter. The money was raised via the sixth graders' "Soup for the Soul," a Nov. 20 event at which students sold soup bowls, mugs, and utensils they made themselves in CES art teacher Joyce Lyman's class. Soup and other food was donated by area restaurants, with students (and volunteer teachers and cafeteria workers) serving the public.

Clevenger thanked the students, apologizing she couldn't be there, opting instead to avoid taking Hemminger residents on the road during the snowstorm the night of the event. "You guys did a great job," said Clevenger, adding she'd seen the event on the TV news that night. What a neat idea."

Lyman promised the students would make special soup bowls for the house to hang as decorations in the near future. Sixth grade teacher Missy Trent, thanking the students for their hard work and praising community support, said she hopes "Soup" becomes an annual event.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

See Briefs page 2

Uptown Cinema to screen free holiday film

Culver's Uptown Cinema will hold a free screening of the holiday movie "Prancer," (original release date: Nov., 1989) Wed., Dec 10 at 7 p.m. New toy donations will be accepted for Kids with Cancer, and concessions not included in free admission. The film is part of a series of free screenings at the Lake Shore Dr. theatre

In the film, the daughter of an impoverished apple farmer comes across a reindeer with an injured leg and assumes it's Prancer, who had fallen from a Christmas display in town. Her father finds the reindeer and decides to sell it to the butcher as an advertising display.

Cub Scouts from page 1

nine years old, wanted to become a Cub Scout, says Chuck Dilts, so jumping in with both feet was a natural option for them. The Sept., 2007 Roundup netted around 20 new sign-ups (this year's Roundup netted another 10 boys).

"Donna and I decided we wanted to provide the best program we could," recalls Dilts, "so that night at the (2007) Roundup, we asked the parents there who wanted to help. We got a full slate of leaders. That night, we put together a committee that oversees the entire program."

The Cub Scouts' program, for the uninitiated, includes Tiger Cubs (age seven), Wolf Cubs (those finished with first grade, or age eight), Bear Cubs (boys who have completed second grade, or are age nine), Webelos (third grade completed or age ten). Cub Scouts beyond Webelos age transition into the Boy Scouts of America, of which Cub Scouts is a part.

Over Cub Scout Packs are Districts (Culver falls into the Algonquian District), then Councils (Culver's is the LaSalle Council), and Regions, before reaching the national level. Each "Den" in the Pack has an adult leader, who ideally expands his or her skills by attending training, an effort the Dilts and Vela both felt was important for themselves and others heading up Dens in Culver. They and Wolf Den leader Jim Coiner attended a number of seminars, workshops, and other training opportunities over the past year.

"We made the decision," explains Dilts, "if the kids earn it they're going to get it. If they earn their rank, their badges, they're going to be awarded it. That's expensive. Our budget comes from fund raising, with the biggest (being) popcorn sales, which we're just now finishing up, and there's other fundraisers and private donations. It's not cheap.

Part of the problem (with the local program) in the past was, kids were not getting the awards they earned. Kids get enthusiastic about that stuff; they're proud to wear those (badges) on their uniforms and belt loops on their belts."

Dilts adds the \$750 the Pack received from the Marshall Co. United Way helps greatly in that it covers almost six months' worth of the badges and other awards earned by the boys.

Pack 290, he explains, is owned and operated by Wesley United Methodist Church, at which the group meets (a non-profit, non-governmental organization -- such as Culver Academy, which has its own program, Pack 209 -- must act as charter for a local Pack).

Plans are in the works to resurrect Culver's local Boy Scout Troop starting next spring, he says. St Mary of the Lake Catholic Church has agreed to re-charter that Troop and host it as a joint effort with Wesley, sharing equipment and working together with the Cub program. Jim Coiner is slated to be Scout Master there.

Other new plans for the Cub Scouts include the annual Pinewood Derby on Jan. 31 (to which the public is invited; it will take place at the Elementary School gym), enhancement of the Indian Trails including placing bird feeders and benches there, as well as a sand table allowing Scouts to study animal tracks. All of this besides the ongoing activities Pack 290 has offered in the recent past.

"It's never too late to join," notes Dilts, who says the Pack is also seeking interested adults who would like to help out. "Our vision is to offer a quality program here." Interested persons are asked to contact the Pack at pack290@culcom.net or Dilts himself at crdilts@culcom.net.

And, though she resigned as Cub Master in September to take care of her family, Donna Vela's boys are still actively involved, and son Josh joins fellow Webelo Malik Guerra in planning to transition next year into the Boy Scouts proper. "The leaders are doing very well this year," she says. "You can tell walking into a meeting that everyone is becoming (a) family and working as one unit to make this work. And what's more, the boys are having a blast."

Dilts concurs. "I like the lessons the Scouts offer," he says. "And I like the ideals of Scouting. I also like the outdoors side of it. It gets the kids out of house...it's healthy to be out running around and hiking in the woods. It's also learning how to do certain tasks: to tie knots, pitch a tent. And you're learning teamwork; you're learning how to be a friend. I think those are important lessons kids still need to learn."

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Sharing labors of love

From left to right, Tracy Sietz, Nancy Davis, and Sandy Rearick of the Pathfinders group homes in Culver and Knox display their work at their annual craft show at Culver's REAL Services Nov. 18 at the Culver beach lodge.

Pathfinders Community Integration team leader Jennifer McKee said one of the objectives in day programming at both houses is working on crafts and games. She said the many crafts on display have been worked on by residents all year, starting in July.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Briefs, from page 1

one that has never donated is also encouraged to do so. Plan on a little more than an hour for the entire process. Please have a picture I.D. with you. Anyone age 17 and older and in good health may donate. Call 1-800-GiveLife for an appointment.

Culver Coffee Co. open house

Culver Coffee Co. on Lake Shore Dr. will celebrate its five-year anniversary as a Culver business -- and the upcoming holiday season -- over the weekend of Dec. 4-7 with an open house event features live entertainment, special sales, and free samples. More information will appear in a future issue of the Citizen..

Winter open gym

An open gym will be held for adults at the Culver Middle School gym this winter, Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m., from Nov. 30, 2008 to March 1, 2009. Cost is \$2 per Sunday, or \$15 for the entire winter. Questions can be directed to Ken VanDePutte at 574-274-9942.

St. Mary's Nativity pageant Dec. 19

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church will hold its annual Nativity Pageant, reenacting the Gospel story of the birth of Jesus, Fri., Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m. Following the pageant, which will feature children playing the various roles in the Nativity, an Advent party and carry-in will take place in the basement of the church at 124 College Ave. in Culver. Area children are welcome to the tryouts and rehearsals for the pageant, which take place at the church from 9 - 10:30 a.m. the first two Saturdays in December. The public is welcome to the pageant.

Culver library's 'food for fines'

The Culver-Union Twp. Public Library will accept donations of non-perishable food and personal items for Culver's food pantry to offset fines accrued for already returned items, between Nov. 3 and Jan. 3. Each item donated is good for one dollar off a patron's fine. Donated items may not be used to pay for lost or damaged items, and will not be accepted to pay fines for items still unreturned. Items should be brought to the circulation desk and given to a clerk along with the patron's name.

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File Name: 00050870; Ad Number: -; Cus-

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.

Citizen cell phone

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

Name: ADDED VALUE; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black;
File Name: 00050954; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Argos Bar &

Name: Weekly Ad; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00049616; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Morrow Insurance Agency; Size: 15 in

Historic postcard book now available at the Pilot News

PLYMOUTH – A unique “coffee table” book of historic Marshall County postcards is now available for holiday gift giving through the Pilot News.

“Wish You Were Here: Historic Postcards from Marshall County, Indiana” is in stock and ready for purchase at the Pilot News, 214 N. Michigan St., downtown Plymouth.

The 128-page book features more than 220 historic postcards from Marshall County. Adorned with a colorful cover, the book’s purchase price is \$30 plus tax.

“Wish You Were Here” was produced by the Pilot News and contains shared postcards from more than two dozen contributors.

The bulk of the postcards are pre-1925.

Featured sections include Argos & Tippecanoe, Culver, Culver Military Academy, Bourbon, Bremen, Donaldson, LaPaz, Inwood, the lake areas and Plymouth.

“This compilation was intended to provide a historic oversight to Marshall County through old postcards,” explained Rick Kreps, publisher of The Pilot News Group of newspapers. “Those not familiar with the rich, historic context of old postcards will see this book as an unexpected visual trip to yesteryear. Others, who understand the era of old postcards, will appreciate that so many have been gathered and are published in one book.”

In addition to Marshall County landmark buildings and urban streetscapes from the early 1900s, “Wish You Were Here” contains postcards of Plymouth’s Mill Dam, the Bourbon Fairgrounds, Pretty Lake, Twin Lakes, Bremen, LaPaz and Argos businesses, as well as Culver tourism and varied images from Culver Military Academy. Donaldson and Inwood are included too.

“We believe this special book is a perfect holiday gift for anyone with an interest in Marshall County,” said Kreps.

A marketing campaign in the newspaper has started featuring advertising explaining convenient mail ordering for the book.

Those wishing to purchase “Wish You Were Here: Historic Postcards from Marshall County, Indiana” can stop by the Pilot News office, 214 N. Michigan St., downtown Plymouth. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phone number is 574-936-3101.

Correction

In last week’s (Nov. 27) edition of the Culver Citizen, the top photo on the front cover was mis-labeled. The students pictured were Culver Elementary School sixth graders Abbi Atkins (left) and Summer Turney. The *Citizen* regrets the error.

Community Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 4

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

Friday, Dec. 5

Town Christmas tree lighting and caroling (Knights of Columbus sponsored), 6:30 p.m., train station/depot

Saturday, Dec. 6

Culver High School BPA bake sale, 8:15 a.m., Osborn’s Mini-mart
 Cookie walk, 9 a.m., Wesley United Methodist Church, School St.
 Children’s Christmas party (Lions-VFW-Kiwanis sponsored), 10 a.m., Culver Elementary School
 St. Nicholas Day party, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic church

Sunday, Dec. 7

Bloodmobile, 12:30 p.m., Fleet Gymnasium, Culver Academies’ campus
 Open gym, 1 p.m., Culver Middle School gymnasium

Monday, Dec. 8

Knitting Class, 10 a.m., Culver Public Library
 Culver Redevelopment Committee mtg., 4:30 p.m., town hall
 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
 DivorceCare, 7 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ
 Culver Comm. School board mtg., 7 p.m., administration bldg.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Fitness class, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library
 Town council mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library
 Hooked on Books discussion group, 330 p.m., Culver Public Library
 Lions Club mtg., 6:30 p.m., train station/depot
 Knights of Columbus St. John Vianney Assembly business mtg, 7 p.m., church rectory basement

Thursday, Dec. 11

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

Council from page 1

Council member Ginny Munroe asked if a much smaller increase could be added annually, rather than one large increase; Carter countered such a move wouldn’t allow for a major emergency project if one should arise. Munroe suggested the water budget should have a capital improvement plan for just such emergencies.

The council agreed to prepare a preliminary rate ordinance. Culver’s water rates have not increased since 2001.

In other discussion, the council agreed to inquire with two area engineering firms as to the cost of replacing the structure undergirding the outlet from Lake Maxinkuckee, which carries outflow to nearby Hawk Lake on the lake’s northwest shore. Ralph Winters passed around photos and a report from the Marshall County Commissioners pertaining to the outlet, which he said should last another winter or two, but is in danger of collapsing within five years. The council will also discuss the matter with Marshall County, the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council, and the Maxinkuckee Lake Association in hopes of sharing some of the cost of replacing the road and underlying outflow culvert.

Culver resident Pete Peterson sought direction from the council on an ongoing issue facing his neighbors on the south side of State Road 10 between Lake Shore Dr. and State Road 17, whose residency has caused some apparent confusion in the area of voting. Peterson cited his mother, who he said has, over the years, been told by both town and township precinct workers she is ineligible to vote at their respective precincts due to her address. On this year’s election day she was told she could vote, said Peterson, by poll workers at the town polling place at Culver Public Library, but that her vote wouldn’t count.

Winters, suggesting poll workers spoke “out of turn,” suggested Peterson’s mother speak to precinct inspector Jim Sawhook. Council president Sally Ricciardi suggested any of Peterson’s neighbors experiencing confusion amongst poll workers as to their designated voting precinct should take the matter to the county to be resolved.

EMS director Millie Sytsma told the council she would like to encumber 2008 funds for the purchase of a new ambulance, which will cost around \$105,000. The council approved Sytsma advertising for bids for the new vehicle.

Street department head Bob Porter reported the town’s leaf truck is down and being repaired; he said leaf pickup crews lost a week’s work while waiting for coverage approval from an insurance adjuster.

Town attorney James Clevenger said he will meet with Pete Trone of Culver’s Board of Zoning Appeals concerning a writ filed by an attorney representing Mr. Ratcliff on the south shore of the lake; Ratcliff is challenging a BZA ruling concerning storage sheds on his property.

Following up on discussion at past meetings pertaining to Culver’s nuisance ordinance, Bob and Glenn Cooper were present at the meeting in response to a letter sent by Clevenger at the council’s request. One of the Coopers’ neighbors complained at a previous meeting of unplated vehicles and other nuisance ordinance matters on the Cooper property, prompting council discussion and Clevenger’s letter.

Clevenger, noting Bob Cooper had been “quite pleasant” on the telephone, said Cooper has already done some cleanup of the property.

Cooper said none of the vehicles on his property met the requirements of the abandoned vehicle ordinance, and noted several of the pictures presented him of the property were taken in Cooper’s own back yard and showed parts of his property not visible from the street. “Whoever took those pictures was trespassing,” added Cooper, “and I’d like to ask them not to do it again.”

Cooper said the photos were “obviously taken during the summer months” and the no longer reflect the situation on the property. He said he worked throughout the day the previous weekend on the property, adding his job requires he work “dark to dark” daily during the week. He noted many of the specific items cited as nuisances on the property have been removed for some time.

“We both work full time we have five kids,” added Glenn Cooper, “and we’re tired of people picking. The neighbor complaining has a boat sitting in his driveway too.”

Clevenger suggested – and the council agreed – to monitor the situation, noting the Coopers’ efforts and work.

The council also asked Porter to fill several potholes on the west end of Academy Rd. near the Culver school bus garage and re-platted a set of lots recently purchased by Ricciardi, converting six lots into four in order to make building on the lots more feasible.

Christmas in Culver

Holiday events around the area



Please submit your holiday events to citizen@culcom.net or by calling 574-261-7887.

Dec. 4-7: Culver Coffee Co. holiday and five-year anniversary open house (all wknd).

Dec. 5: Annual Christmas tree lighting and caroling (sponsored by the Knights of Columbus), 5:30 p.m., depot/train station, Culver town park

Dec. 6: Children’s Christmas party (Lions, Kiwanis, VFW sponsored), 10 a.m. - noon, Culver Elementary School cafeteria.

St. Nicholas Day party, 2:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church

Dec. 10: Maxinkuckee Singers holiday performance, 7:30 p.m., Grace Church

Dec. 14: Annual Christmas Vespers, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel, Culver Academies campus

Dec. 15: “Spirit of Christmas” Huffington Concert Series performance, 7:30 p.m., Eppley Auditorium, Culver Academies

Dec. 19: Nativity Pageant and Advent party with Santa, 5:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church

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, Dec. 4: BBQ pork, bun, whipped potatoes, Italian green beans, pineapple, and milk.

Friday, Dec. 5: Sweet & sour smoked sausage, black-eyed peas, cole slaw, roll and margarine, cherry cobbler, and milk.

Monday, Dec. 8: Ribbette, bun, stewed tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, peaches, and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 9: Chicken Ala King, diced potatoes, cauliflower, dinner roll and margarine, grape juice, and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 10: Salisbury Steak, gravy, carrots, broccoli, bread & margarine, strawberries, and milk.

Thursday, Dec. 11: Beef Manhattan, gravy, bread & margarine, mashed potatoes, beets, fruit, dessert, and milk.

Friday, Dec. 12: Turkey & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, green beans, bread & margarine, fruit cocktail, brownie delight, and milk.

Cafe’ raises funds for MCHS

Culver’s Café Max is once again sponsoring its annual “Thanksgiving for the Homeless” drive, in which contributions of supplies and money benefit the Marshall County Humane Society. For each dollar contributed, donors receive a chance to win a decorative Nut Cracker over two feet tall, for which the drawing is Dec. 16.

The shelter wish list includes monetary contributions, used towels and blankets, stamps, stamped post cards, bleach, laundry detergent, clay cat litter (non-scoopable), paper towels, heavy duty 33-gal. garbage

bags, cat toys, brand-name kitten and puppy food, AAA batteries for pagers.

Café Max is open Sun.-Thurs., 6 a.m.-2 p.m., Fri. and Sat., 6 a.m.-9 p.m., and will accept donations during these hours. The Café is located at 113 S. Main St. in Culver and may be reached at 574-842-2511.

Name: 2 SAVE MONEY; Width: 9p9.833; Depth: 6.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00050606; Ad

Name: Citizen; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00049478; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Kings Jewelry; Size: 10 in

Name: A wonderful; Width: 52p1.167; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00049593; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Amish Acres; Size: 20 in

It's Not Christmas - Yet

Name: COLUMN SPONSOR; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 20 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00049732; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Marshall County Solid Waste; Size: 40 in

There is an air of expectancy, an undercurrent of waiting at this time of the year. Lights and decorations are being put up. Gifts are being purchased and wrapped. Parties are being planned. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. But wait! It's not Christmas. At least, not yet.

In the Church, the four weeks leading up to December 24/25 is known as the Season of Advent which began last Sunday. Advent is time of penitential anticipation brought forth in one of the appointed Gospels for the first Sunday in Advent in which Jesus tells us:

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming — in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning — lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (Mark 13:33-37)

In the penitential aspect of the season of Advent, you and I are reminded of the coming judgment on the Last Day — that time when the world will crash and burn, disappearing in a consuming heat. That Day is unknown, but we know that it will most certainly come, for Christ has said that it will and He tells us to "Watch" for that Day and His return.

The Church marks this time because she knows that things are not right with us. Indeed, things are not right among us nor within us. You and I need help. And it is to point our attention in the direction of that help that the

Church keeps Advent.

In this time of penitential anticipation, we look forward the source of our help as we look to the celebration of our Lord's first coming into this world as a Babe in Bethlehem. Because of our sin the God of all creation entered this world as a creature — taking on our human flesh in the womb of Mary. Jesus was conceived, born, lived and died to free us from our sin. He lived the perfect life that we cannot live and then He died the perfect death in our place. When Jesus died as the sacrifice for our sins, He took away our sin, washed us in His blood, defeated Satan once and for all, and emptied death of its sting.

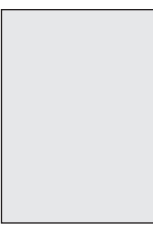
Now, as Christians, we joyfully anticipate our Lord's Second Coming. This time He will come, not as a Baby, but as our Savior and King. We need not fear His wrath and judgment when He returns because He was judged in our place. When He returns, He will do so to receive us, and all who believe in Him, to Himself in heaven.

You see, for Christmas to be properly understood and appreciated, Advent must always come first. Advent is a time to recognize our sin and need for help. Advent is a time of penitential and anticipatory preparation to celebrate our Lord's first coming as a Baby in Bethlehem. Advent is a time to watch for our Lord's return as Savior and King.

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and salvation he doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing. To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

Pastor's Corner

By Rev. K.C. Dehning
Trinity Lutheran church



Scouting in Culver Looking back, at a glance

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Boy Scouting in Culver is internationally known in connection with Culver Academies' Woodcraft Camp, of course, which was aided firsthand by no less an historical Scouting figure that Daniel Carter Beard, one of the great leaders in the national Scout movement at its American inception.

The history of Scouting in the town of Culver, home to Cub and Boy Scout Packs 290, may not be as illustrious or go back as far, but the Scouts have been serving Culver for almost 80 years.

Twenty-two boys made up the charter for Culver's first Cub Scout Pack, as reported in the Dec. 24, 1930 Culver Citizen. The Cub Scouts program was launched in 1930, so it's probably no idle boast when the Citizen claimed the new Culver Pack was "one of the first of its kind to be organized in the country." The pack was headed by Cubmaster E.R. Corwin with an advisory committee of Rev. C.A. Lang, H.M. Delorme, E.A. Thessin, H.R. Speyer, Mrs. M.R. Robinson, Mrs. J.W. Henderson, and Mrs. Earl Foreman. Den leaders included Alfred Brooke, Reed Kepler, and Jack Parr.

Cubmaster Corwin, incidentally, may be best remembered by Culverites for his then-definitive history of the area, "One Township's Yesterdays," reprinted several years ago by Culver's Tri Kappa. Corwin was also heavily involved in the scouting program at Culver Military Academy's Woodcraft Camp, and in 1931 wrote an adventure story for boys based on that program entitled "Totem of the Beaver," which the Academy published. That book alone is evidence that Corwin was fit for the job, at least as enthusiasm goes.

On Oct. 22, 1930, it was announced that Culver's new Boy Scout cabin was ready for use; the Scouts, Campfire Girls and Legionnaires welcomed the announcement that it was finally ready, said the Citizen, referring to the popular "log" cabin structure on School Street.

For over two decades, that cabin was home to Boy and Cub Scouts, as well as Brownies and Girl Scouts, before it was purchased by the telephone company in the 1960s, during which the "log" exterior was covered over. Sharon Coffey, who now calls the cabin home, remembers

Name: Culver Masthead; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 7.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00016531; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 15 in

as a little girl a large totem pole and trees in "front" of the cabin, in the area now occupied by the telephone company building on Lake Shore Dr. and School St. Coffey purchased the former cabin from the phone company in 1975, by which time the Boy Scouts had been re-chartered by Wesley United Methodist Church, its home (during whatever periods an active Scout program existed in Culver) to this day. The house, she says, still has the cabin's well-remembered fireplace.



This cabin, built in 1930, was home to Culver's various Scouting programs for over two decades. It is now Sharon Coffey's home on School St.

PHOTO/ANTIQUARIAN & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CULVER ARCHIVES

During those golden years of the 1930s, 40s, and at least the early 50s, Culver's Boy and Cub Scout Troops were as active a crew as anyone could ask, participating in parades, food drives, scrap drives and patriotic exercises during wartime, and a host of educational and civic endeavors that landed them mention — at the very least — in the pages of the Citizen on a fairly regular basis.

The exact date the Scouts were re-chartered at Wesley United Methodist Church isn't known at this time. John Houghton recalls his Scouting days as taking place during the early 1960s, when Wayne Maddox, Culver's Postmaster, was Scout Master and Marcia Adams was his particular Den Mother. By then, he says, the Scouts were meeting in the Wesley church basement, the move undoubtedly coinciding with the sale of the cabin and presumably the end of one era of Scouting in Culver.

According to current Cub Scoutmaster Chuck Dilts, today's Cubs' charter turned 20 years old last February, with various leaders and levels of activity during the decades between.

Scouting in the town of Culver, of course, has always had an ebb and flow as various Scoutmasters -- often enthusiastic parents of Scouts, who then moved on as their children outgrew the program -- came and went. And, while ours is a more cynical and complex world than during the heyday of Culver Scouting, it's probably safe to say Culver's Cub Scout program circa 2008 has more numbers than at most periods in the local program's history. That says a lot about the people in charge today, but also speaks to the ongoing relevance of Scouting for youth of all ages.

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Sports



Cavs victorious in close West Central match

CMA has 'rough' time with Mishawaka

By Dee Grenert
Sports Editor

CULVER — Culver Community's boys basketball team built a 15-point lead with 2:01 left in the third quarter.

The Cavs wound up needing just about the entire cushion.

Culver stayed off a late West Central rally, overcoming eight turnovers against a 1-3-1 half-court trap and five missed free throws — both in the final quarter — to grab a 40-37 win at John R. Nelson Gymnasium Saturday.

"It's nice to see four quarters of effort," first-year Culver head coach Kyle Elliott,

who guided the Cavs' girls program to a regional runner-up finish in 2002, said after winning his first boys game. "On the mental end we lapsed at the end of the game. We needed to slow down. We tried to do everything on the move and got in a hurry. With a young team giving so much effort, anxiety sets in.

"It's very important for the psyche of the kids," Elliott said of the win. "We tell them you've got to defend your home floor — take care of business. They rose to the occasion."

But it took a tense moment or two. After Adam Neace's free throw gave

the Cavs a three-point advantage with three seconds left in the game, the Trojans travelled in the backcourt,



PHOTO/DEANNA L. GREBERT

Culver Community's Larry Clingler, middle, goes up for a shot during the third quarter of the Cavs' 40-37 win at John R. Nelson Gymnasium Saturday.

denying a last-ditch attempt at sending the battle into overtime, and sealing the Culver win.

Neace, a senior forward, and little brother, backup sophomore point guard AJ, scored 10 points apiece for the Cavs. AJ's pass to Adam in transition turned into a traditional 3-point play and 31-16 bulge with 2:01 to go in the third stanza.

Sophomore sharpshooter Zoe Bauer added nine points and four steals for Culver, and 6-foot-1 sophomore Larry Clingler snared eight boards.

"It's nice to see some balance," Elliott said. "The Neace boys both scored 10, Zoe Bauer scored nine. Zoe did a lot of nice things without the basketball. He made some nice passes. Scoring always looks nice, but it's good to involve your teammates, and he's doing that."

"Larry plays very physical for a sophomore," he added. "He's very strong with his legs. As he gets more games under his belt, he'll be even more of a threat on the offensive end."

Defensively, the Cavs' first-half man-to-man and third-quarter full-court pressure put the clamps on the Trojans. In fact, boosted by Justin Master's strong denial defense on West Central top gun Lance Kruger, Culver kept the Trojans off the board until a pair of Jake Podell free tosses with 5:22 left in the second — yes, second — frame.

"Kruger scored 30 in their first game," Elliott said. "I thought Justin Master did an outstanding job getting him completely out of rhythm. We wanted to deny the reversal in their offense, and if we can't get a hand on and deflect the pass, at least we can disrupt them."

The plan worked as the Trojans, who trailed 6-0 at the first-quarter break, missed their first 11 field-goal attempts. Jordan Danford finally found the bottom of the net with a steal and bucket with 3:50 to play in the first half. Culver led 17-11 at halftime.

"We had some open looks," West Central head coach Bryan Heimlich said. "The shots were there. We missed two free throws in

the first 10 minutes, too. Give Culver credit. They put some pressure on us, and once we missed some shots, we pressed and got a little rushed. I thought our defense played very well. A drought like that, we played the worst half we could play. I felt fortunate to be down just 6-0 and 17-11."

After a dreadful start, Kruger scored nine of his game-high 15 points in the fourth quarter. Back-to-back triples from Podell and Trevor Nelson — within six seconds of each other — made it a 39-37 game with eight ticks left on the clock.

"We got Culver to rush some things, and the big thing is we came down and hit some shots," Heimlich said. "We had a chance to tie before the travel. I give our kids credit for not giving up."

Culver hosts LaCrosse Friday and CMA Saturday.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 40, WEST CENTRAL
At Culver
Score by quarters
West Central: 0 11 19 37
Culver: 6 17 31 40
WEST CENTRAL (37): Jake Podell 1 2-2 5, Lance Kruger 5 2-4 15, Aaron Heims 0 0-0 0, Jordan Danford 2 0-3 5, Taylor Fairchild 2 0-0 4, Alex Chrzan 1 0-0 2, Trevor Nelson 1 1-2 4, Alex Yaggie 1 0-0 2. TOTALS: 13 5-11 37.

CULVER COMMUNITY (40): Adam Neace 2 6-8 10, Nick Peterson 0 0-0 0, Brock Elliott 0 1-2 1, Justin Master 1 0-0 2, Zoe Bauer 3 2-3 9, Patrick Mulvihill 1 0-0 2, AJ Neace 4 1-2 10, Larry Clingler 3 0-2 6. TOTALS: 14 10-17 40.

3-point goals: West Central 6 (Kruger 3, Podell, Danford, Nelson), Culver 2 (Bauer, AJ Neace); Turnovers: West Central 23, Culver 20; Rebounds: West Central 33 (Danford, Fairchild 8), Culver 25 (Clingler 8); Assists: West Central 7 (Chrzan 3), Culver 9 (AJ Neace 3); Steals: West Central 4 (Danford 3), Culver 10 (Bauer 4); Fouls (fouled out): West Central 20 (Kruger, Danford), Culver 19 (Master); Records: West Central 1-1, Culver 1-1.

JV score: West Central 40, Culver 24.

MISHAWAKA — Culver Military Academy's three talented new starters learned something Monday — varsity basketball gets rough.

Although sophomore newcomer Wells Davis and freshmen guards Jermaine Myers and Travis Britt all showcased polished and versatile offensive skills for the Eagles, Mishawaka's brawn won out.

The host Cavemen, who seized control of a nip-and-tuck game with a 12-0 fourth-quarter spurt, dominated the glass — particularly on the offensive end — attempted 24 more charity tosses than the Eagles, and benefited from 22 CMA turnovers in a 56-45 win in the season opener for both teams at The Cave.

"They were more physical than us," CMA head coach Alan Huss said. "I think our players were just a little bit shocked by how physical the game was, and I think our young guys were a little too hesitant to take the ball to the basket. We settled for too many jumpers."

"(Davis) went to a school last year that was academic focus and didn't have interscholastic sports, so he'd never played a high school game," he added. "Obviously our freshmen had never played a high school game. To go from middle school to varsity ball in northern Indiana is a big adjustment for these guys."

Steven Heatherly, a 6-foot-2 senior, overcame third-quarter foul trouble to post 14 points and three steals for Mishawaka.

Heatherly scored to make it a 39-36 game with 5:16 to play, and after CMA stepped over the end line on the ensuing inbound pass, Javonte Young's rebound bucket put the Cavemen up 41-36 with 4:57 left.

That quick burst — coupled with a 19-for-29 mark from the free-throw line compared to CMA's 3-of-5 night — helped Mishawaka survive an 18-for-49 — 36.7 percent — tally from the field.

The Eagles, who swapped leads with Mishawaka seven times through the opening three quarters, scuffled in the fourth quarter. After Ramsey Bradke's two fourth-quarter free throws — CMA's first made free tosses of the game — with 6:38 left put CMA up by three points, the Eagles went scoreless for more than three minutes, turning the ball over twice and missing three high-percentage shots in the process.

"Ramsey Bradke and Trace Thews, they played last year and understood the fight we were in," Huss said. "We don't do a very good job simulating situations in practice. It's just so much more physical in a game than practice."

"I know (Mishawaka) plays in a big league, but they're not going to be easy for any team to beat," he continued. "They really beat us on the offensive end. They moved, screened and passed better than we did."

CMA travels to Washington (Ill.) Wednesday.

• MISHAWAKA 56, CMA 45
At Mishawaka
Score by quarters

See CMA page 7

Sports briefs

Boys basketball

Zebras rough up Culver

Rochester outscored Culver Community 20-0 in the third quarter en route to a season-opening 66-26 win over the visiting Cavs Wednesday.

Sophomore guard Zoe Bauer led Culver with 14 points, including a quartet of 3-pointers.

• ROCHESTER 66, CULVER COMMUNITY 26

At Rochester

Score by quarters

Culver: 12 16 16 26

Rochester: 13 26 46 66

CULVER (26): Adam Neace 2 2-2 6, Nick Peterson 0 0-0 0, Brock Elliott 0 0-0 0, Justin Master 0 0-0 0, Zoe Bauer 5 0-0 14, Patrick Mulvihill 0 2-2 2, Kyle Pugh 0 0-0 0, Zach Loehmer 0 0-0 0, AJ Neace 1 2-2 4, Larry Clingler 0 0-2 0, Nate Niswander 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 8 6-9 26.

ROCHESTER (66): Nate Basham 4 0-0 8, Cameron Screeton 0 0-1 0, Brody Schoen 3 0-0 6, Marc Bowers 2 0-0 4, Evan Hoff 4 0-0 10, Austin Lowe 6 1-1 13, Colt Meadows 0 0-0 0, Collin Harris 2 0-0 4, Jason Smith 2 1-2 5, Chris Messersmith 0 0-0 0, Bruce Grimm 5 4-5 16. TOTALS: 28 6-9 66.

3-point goals: Culver 4 (Bauer), Rochester 4 (Hoff 2, Grimm 2); Turnovers: Culver 31, Rochester 16; Rebounds: Culver 21, Rochester 23; Assists: Culver 4, Rochester 13; Steals: Culver 4, Rochester 20; Fouls (fouled out): Culver 13 (none), Rochester 11 (none).

JV score: Rochester 50, Culver 14.

Eagles notch first win

CMA picked up its first win of the basketball season by a 46-31 count over Delavan (Ill.) Wednesday at the Trusted Choice Tournament of Champions held in

Washington, Ill.

CMA sophomore Wells Davis scored 15 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and swiped three steals, while freshman Travis Britt chipped in 13 points and four assists.

Girls basketball

North White trips up Cavs

Culver Community's girls basketball team lost to visiting North White 39-34 at John R. Nelson Gymnasium Saturday.

Culver sophomore Gwen Zehner scored a game-high 14 points.

• NORTH WHITE 39, CULVER COMMUNITY 34

At Culver

Score by quarters

North White: 6 17 26 39

Culver: 7 10 19 34

NORTH WHITE (39): Hillary Kesler 0 0-0 0, Lynnette Griffin 6 0-2 13, Brittney Kesler 2 5-10 9, Amber Mosher 3 0-3 7, Ashlee Ruemler 1 0-2 3, Erica Harvey 3 1-3 7, Katie Maple 0 0-0 0, Sarah Griffin 0 0-2 0. TOTALS: 15 6-22 39.

CULVER (34): Nicole Carnegie 2 1-4 5, Susannah Baker 1 1-2 3, Olivia Knapp 0 0-0 0, Whitney Sanders 1 0-2 2, Alison Zehner 1 2-3 4, Gwen Zehner 6 2-3 14, Cindy Miller 2 0-0 6. TOTALS: 13 6-14 34.

3-point goals: North White 3 (L. Griffin, Mosher, Ruemler), Culver 2 (Miller); Turnovers: North White 21, Culver 20; Rebounds: North White 28, Culver 32; Assists: North White 4, Culver 5; Steals: North White 4, Culver 10; Fouls (fouled out): North White 12 (none), Culver 21 (Baker, G. Zehner); Records: Culver 2-3, North White 1-4.

JV score: North White 23, Culver 17.

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Name: 1 PRISON; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00050668; Ad

CES students of the month

CULVER — Culver Elementary School has named its students of the month for October.

- Kindergarten: Katie Hoffman, Fritz Ellert, Taylor Lewandowski, Sean Ruhly, Damian Byers
- Grade 1: Maggie Gormaly, Alexandra Temme, Brooklyn Sellers, Emily Bendy
- Grade 2: Kate Heim, Autin Otteman, Nik Vela
- Grade 3: Payton Lowry, Dylan Lewandowski, Caleb Sheridan, John Solano, Ben Myers
- Grade 4: Staci Jefferies, Madisen Diaz, Mya Lewis, Matthew Markovitz, Staci Jefferies, Josh Krsek
- Grade 5: Tyler Thomas, Brianna Overmyer, Machayla Allen
- Grade 6: Katie Blocker, Natasha Harris, Frank Kline, Angela Lewellan

Trees nixed by cost-concerned school board

Bobbie Washburn Ruhnow

“I think that I shall never see. A poem lovely as a tree.” The poem didn’t resonate with the members of Culver Community School’s board of trustees when it translated into spending money for the trees. At a previous meeting, members of Culver’s Tree Commission proposed planting 30 - 31 trees along the School St. corridor from State Road 10 to Academy Road on the public right away of school property. The cost would have been approximately \$100 per tree that the Commission would purchase from the DNR. At that time, board members took it under advisement pending financing.

Echoing earlier statements of Jim Wentzel, Ed Behnke said he would have a hard time justifying that amount to his Union Township constituents. Superintendent Brad Schuldt said there hadn’t been enough time given for the corporation to make a decision on finding the financing. The Tree Commission needed a commitment soon as trees are ordered now for early April delivery. Chris Kline, said he hoped that the project could be considered at a future date with other volunteer organizations taking a role also.

Greg Saal and Martin Truesdell, Stair Associates, were present to discuss possible site plan alterations for Culver Elementary School’s gym. They also addressed the issue of water leaking into the building from the roof.

Due to the tall parapet around the roof, water is directed to several drains, but if those drains plug, water pools on the roof. They propose fixing two drains in the area and adding scuppers which will drain the water into an outside drainage pipe. They will discuss using a sheet drain pending the Town of Culver’s approval. The cost will be approximately \$5,000 for a short term fix.

Before a final decision on the type and number of bleachers to install in the gym, a decision had to be made about locating exits. Originally, the plan was to remove the two double doors on the south side of the gym to increase bleacher space. However, these exits would have to be relocated since they would not be allowed to reduce the number of egress by law. To maintain the two exits, the seating number will be reduced to 587. Chuck Kitchell, Elementary principal, hoped to keep the seating capacity at 837.

Saal pointed out the south side bleachers were movable and could be extended by several rows if necessary. Also, the gym floor could be used for additional seating for programs. By keeping the two south doors, the historical look to the gym will be maintained.

The west entrance will be enlarged to double doors giving a larger vestibule. The entrance is from the parking lot and the larger entrance will allow for less crowding.

The board agreed to the proposed changes and asked that movable bleachers on the east and west end of the gym be bid as an alternate consideration. This would add an additional 85 seats per section.

Schuldt noted the Fair Wage hearing was set for December 3 and asked that preliminary figures be available by then.

In other business:

Trustees approved bidding for two 66 passenger buses. Board members thanked Cheryl Geik for organizing the Veterans’ Day program. Schuldt noted headlines in an Indianapolis paper noted “Schools Could Face Budget Cuts” and said that the next legislative session could be “interesting” as property tax revenues are ruled out of education funding. School funding is 46 percent of the State budget, Schuldt continued.

The policy of alternate meals was discussed. Schuldt explained that no cash payments are accepted for cafeteria meals. Patrons pay into an account and when the deficit becomes \$10, students are given an alternate meal. This may be a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or a protein bar. He noted that free and reduced lunches were available if the family could not afford the regular prices.

CMA from page 6

CMA: 15 21 34 45
 Mishawaka: 15 22 33 56
 CMA (45): Jermaine Myers 5 0-0 12, Wells Davis 5 0-0 12, Ramsey Bradke 1 2-2 5, Travis Britt 3 0-1 7, Brian Wang 0 0-0 0, Alex Dodane 0 1-2 1, Trace Thews 0 0-0 0, Trevor Weaser 4 0-0 8. TOTALS: 18 3-5 45.
 MISHAWAKA (56): Preston Tracy 0 0-0 0, Adam Wojtysiak 2 0-0 4, Cortez Lee 0 5-6 5, Joseph Schuster 0 0-0 0, Steve Heatherly 5 4-6 14,

Alex Kish 0 0-0 0, Javonte Young 3 2-4 8, Frank Kuespert 2 3-5 7, Ryan Benner 5 5-8 16, B.J. VanderZwaag 1 0-0 2, Michael Curtis 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 18 19-29 56.
 3-point goals: CMA 6 (Myers 2, Davis 2, Bradke, Britt), Mishawaka 1 (Benner); Turnovers: CMA 22, Mishawaka 15; Rebounds: CMA 22 (Davis 9), Mishawaka 37 (Benner 11); Assists: CMA 13 (Davis 5), Mishawaka 10 (Lee 8); Steals: CMA

5 (Myers 2), Mishawaka 8 (Heatherly 3); Fouls (fouled out): CMA 22 (Myers, Dodane), Mishawaka 14 (none); Records: CMA 0-1, Mishawaka 1-0.

Name: Perfect Gift; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00051052; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 30 in

Name: CHRISTMAS PACKAGE; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File

Name: OPEN HOUSE; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00050585; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Elizabeth’s Garden; Size: 15 in



Col. Warren Foersch
 CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

By Jeff Kenney
 Citizen editor

Col. Warren Foersch thinks the cadets of today’s Culver Military Academy are better informed than any generation that’s graduated before them, and at least as patriotic as their CMA forbearers. Given perceptions of youth these days, Foersch’s Nov. 13 audience at Culver’s Kiwanis Club may or may not have been surprised to hear that, particularly those to whom it was undoubtedly most directed: past graduates of the school in the audience, of which there were a handful. Foersch’s observation is certainly a reflection of his self-described optimism, but it means more coming from CMA’s Deputy Commandant than it might from some others, even though Foersch points out three months – the time he’s been at Culver so far – is a relatively short time in CMA’s more than 100 years of history.

Col. Foersch, a California State University graduate who served the past 30 years in the Marine Corps, retired last summer with a longstanding nickname he says he’s “not always proud of.”

“I’m the ‘peace colonel,’” he smiles, explaining he commanded at every level up through that of colonel before being stationed in Iowa on recruiting duty. Though he never saw combat, Foersch helped write a peace treaty to stop fighting between sub groups in Yugoslavia and to help make peace in Macedonia near the Greek border, which he says cemented his nickname. Back stateside, he

hit the trail as a Marine recruiter with a fervor that shows in his enthusiasm, both for his past career and present work at Culver, where he lives with wife Debbie and five children, two of whom are themselves serving in the Marines.

It’s no great secret that the work of present CMA Commandant Kelly Jordan, along with Foersch, is distinguishing itself in the minds of many as bringing a fresh sense of both discipline and excitement to the corps of cadets, apparently growing from a mixture of sometimes-neglected traditions with a currency and vision of the future.

“John Buxton went out of his way to hire a superb commandant,” says Foersch of Jordan. “He’s a Doctor of military history, he taught at West Point, was a full professor at Notre Dame...he’s really got a handle on things. I recognize a true leader when I see one.”

Foersch characterized the history of CMA as divided into two eras: before and after the Cold War, with the children of the earlier generation taking “the gauntlet from the old timers and push(ing) it on.”

“I’m very proud of the cadets,” Foersch continued. “We scored higher this year than we have in the last decade as far as GPA, so they’re doing very well. They believe they’re learning something important at Culver. They’re practicing the same leadership traits you (alumni) did in 1955. The boys are wearing their uniforms better this year, they’re meeting and greeting people with a little more courtesy.”

Foersch says he and the new commandant “walked into the office at exactly the same time. After discussing it with our first guest, Jim Henderson, we looked at each other and said, ‘We’re going to return to tradition, and be careful to move forward and to look at things very carefully.’ We’re starting to take the boys in the right direction.”

Foersch shared with the club a poster he created advertising the Academy’s annual Veteran’s Day observance, showing a 1924 photo of cadets bearing flags in front of the Legion Memorial Building, and a photo of the same ceremony from the past few years. “You see the (modern) cadets are standing at attention with the same degree of bearing and attention as the 1924 model,” he noted. “I want you to feel comfortable seeing these cadets are every bit as good as you were, and they will lead the way.”

Foersch noted he and Jordan are writing a twenty-first century mission statement over Christmas break, with plans to focus more time and attention on leadership development. He noted the school today is “more of a leadership academy than a military academy,” but added he and Jordan have delved deeply into the school’s past practices and traditions as a base for leadership training. They also intend to make the structure of CMA more formalized and organized, with letters of instruction, and backups (“I don’t want to issue orders twice; I want babies, not labor pains!”).

“I asked (the cadets), who are the people they look up to the most, (and many) said their grandparents. Imagine that. They want to be like their grandparents, and learn from their struggles and strife.”

“Come back to campus,” Foersch added. “You’ll be proud of what you see.”

Name: ANCILLA; Width: 62p8; Depth: 21 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00050986; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 126 in

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