




Merry Christmas, Culver!



The Culver Citizen

Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008 Vol. No. 114 Issue No. 52 50¢
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



In Brief

Culver HS basketball history book on sale

Culver High School's Business Professionals of America is selling copies of the Culver Community boys and girls basketball record book. The book is a compilation of statistics from teams from 1968 through the present. It includes coaches' and players' individual and team records, awards, and year-by-year, team-by-team scores. The cost of the book is \$10. Anyone who has followed basketball here over the years will want this novel idea for a Christmas gift. Copies may be purchased at the Culver High School.

CBGC holiday hours

The Culver Boys & Girls Club will closed during Christmas Break from Dec. 22 through Jan. 2 and will re-open Jan. 5, 2009 from 3 - 6:50 p. m. The Culver Boys & Girls club is located in the Culver Elementary School and runs daily from 3 to 6:50 p.m. The cost of the program is \$25.00 per year. There are scholarships available for those who qualify. Any questions or concerns can be directed to 574-250-0103.

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.

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 until 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.

Center for Culver History needs items

The Center for Culver
See Briefs page 2

Serving...meals and more

Above: Well-known restaurateur Larry Surrisi and his family have helped usher in a 'golden age' of dining in Culver, managing to serve area causes and community entities along the way.

CITIZEN PHOTO, IMAGE DESIGN/JEFF KENNEY

Comin' to town

Above: Santa arrived early at the Cook house in Culver to remind Savana and Sophia Cook to be on their best behavior. The jolly old elf will have made less obvious visits to households across Culver by the time this *Citizen* is read. Phillip and Andrea Cook extended a big thanks to Pastor Curt Heydt, Associate Chaplain for Pastoral Care at Culver Academies, for helping Santa this year. The rumor is, Pastor Heydt has access to a beautiful, specially-tailored red suit and has enjoyed helping Santa in various locales for many years.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Surrisi story

Feeding Culver, body and soul

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Facing an attentive audience, Larry Surrisi tried to avoid the topic of Larry Surrisi. The popular owner of Culver's City Tavern restaurant tried to concentrate his Dec. 4 talk with Culver's Kiwanis Club on "people who have helped (our family) along from the beginning, from the first day." The audience, as it turned out, wouldn't have it.

Surrisi credited a number of community individuals, including his plumber and electrician, for helping himself and his family in their relationship to the Culver community. He also thanked Eleanor Swanke (who was seated in the audience), a former neighbor who first told he and his wife Jo about the Culver Boys & Girls Club (then CCYC), on whose board Larry sits, and who "helped us get involved more and more (in this community) over the years."

"We can't thank them enough. It helps when you're coming from the outside, knowing very little about the community school -- other than that our son went there -- the Academy, and the town government."

"From the first day we thought about opening a tiny restaurant in this town," Surrisi added. "People filled us in on the history of the community and its institutions, and that gave us a leg up from time to time."

If the Surrisi started on the "outside" in Culver, it's hard to think of many who have brought themselves *inside* the community as much as they. The Surrisi family -- Larry asks that his wife Jo, as supportive and helpful as she is in family endeavors, be given more credit than himself -- are a near-constant sight at community functions of all sorts, providing food, drink, labor, and often physical accommodations for charity functions, fund-raisers, service club outings, and an array of community events throughout the year.

Responding to an audience eager to hear his story, Larry Surrisi said his start in the restaurant business was "not very glamorous." His father was a mess sergeant in the Army, for many years a chef at officers' or NCO clubs wherever he was stationed, eventually retiring at Bunker Hill near Kokomo, where both Larry and his wife grew up.

"My father worked then as a chef at Holiday Inn there," Surrisi recalls. "When I was in the seventh grade, my mother got a call that they needed a dishwasher in a hurry, and I was elected! I worked for 77 cents an hour. I liked hanging out with the bus boys in the back lot after work."

Surrisi says he always enjoyed being around food, due as much to his mother's influence as his father's. "My mother is Japanese, and she always made a great effort to educate people in our community about her lifestyle and food. My father was from big Italian family, and food was central. My brother and I, through the years, worked at various hotels flipping eggs."

Larry and Jo Surrisi themselves entered the restaurant busi-

See Surrisi page 2

Library board hears report, recommendations on finances

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

After many weeks of working through records of library finances at the request of the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library board, Paige Gregory of Indianapolis accounting firm Umbaugh & Associates presented a fiscal analysis and recommendations for the future, at the Dec. 16 library board meeting.

Noting she analyzed library cash flow for the years 2008-2010, Gregory said she reconciled bank accounts and the library's main and LIRF (Library Improvement Reserve Fund) accounts, and assisted bookkeeper Jim Faulkner with entering reconciliations and training in the library's accounting software, among other work.

"We found bank statements not reconciled to the ledger on a monthly basis, which the state board requires," noted Gregory. "Transfers between the LIRF and operating accounts were not being recorded. Receipts and some payroll entries were not posted to the ledger, and bank charges were not posted to the ledger. There didn't seem to be a formal purchasing procedure, which we would recommend."

She also noted the library's accounting software vendor, Computrain, is "more than willing" to offer training, adding the program is a "good program and easy to get around in."

Gregory recommended the library print and utilize state board of accounts guidelines off that agency's website.

See Library page 8

Culver first graders rank top Christmas fun

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

'Twas the week (or so) before Christmas, and the Citizen asked several local first graders -- at the Culver Elementary School -- their very favorite things about Christmas, with the caveat that "getting presents" is a given and should be struck from the list. Here are some of their answers.

Anna Blocker (Tina Bailey's class) preferred "giving gifts to your grandma," while Carter Stevens (Andrea Berndt's class) liked the "food and partying" at two different grandparents' house best of all. Carter also likes the "no school" aspect of Christmas. Zane Kisela (April Jeffries' class) can be included in invoking the grandparent motif: he likes "going to grandma's to eat," though he also makes note that Christmas is, after all, Jesus' birthday.

Erin Renneker (Jeffries' class) is also fond of celebrating Christmas as Jesus' birthday, and she enjoys decorating the tree as well, not an uncommon theme, as one might guess. Lilly Sayavongsing (of Kelly Dickerhoff's class) also likes tree trimming, especially "putting up the star" (on top of the tree), as well as Santa's arrival at her house. John Sieber (also of Dickerhoff's class) agrees about that decorating, and adds he enjoys building a snowman, weather permitting of course. Classmate Brooklyn Sellers shares the tree decorating love, adding she also looks forward to "going to all my families' houses." And "setting up the tree" is tops in (Tina Bailey class member) Cody Nystrom's book as well.

Food played a role in several students' warmly remembered holiday traditions. Taking a break from work in Tina Bailey's class, Jady Evans cited "baking goodies and cookies" as well as Christmas decorating, as among her favorites. Drinking hot cocoa earned high marks from Alexandra Temne (Andrea Berndt's class), though she also cited playing in the snow, the two often going hand-in-hand. "Snow and food," said Alexandra's classmate Emma Krueger, who went on to elaborate that corn and chicken are among her favorites.

Trista Fritter, of April Jeffries' class, also likes going to Grandma's on Christmas, but saves the warmest and best holiday tradition for last. "I like the snow," she said, "because I get to throw snowballs at my brother and get him angry!"



Erin Renneker



Carter Stevens



Lilly Sayavongsing





Blame it on the (freezing) rain

Nancy Curtis of Culver says this ten-year-old tree in front of her Lakeview Street home was split in two around 5 a.m. last Friday in the wake of the freezing rain that coated the area with ice, causing difficult driving conditions but plenty of beautiful scenery and surprisingly little damage to Culver area trees. Also surpassing some expectation was the state of Culver's electrical power: while Monterey, Delong, Leiters Ford, and the Rochester area were powerless, only a few isolated spots in Culver, as of this writing, were known to have suffered power outages due to the ice storm.

It may be understood if Nancy Curtis, however, isn't feeling so lucky. She says the tree was her favorite, but that she intends to inquire of the town what type of tree would be the best replacement, which sounds like a job for Culver's tree commission.

A view of the ice storm's results on Main Street is visible on page 1, behind Santa.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY



REMC awarded

Marshall County REMC has received a Friend of Extension award from the Marshall County Purdue Extension. The REMC has provided leadership, facilities and supplies to help teach 4-H members about the proper and safe use of electricity on the farm and in the home, among other assistance.

REMC supports the Marshall County 4-H with an informational booth and generous support at the Livestock auction. REMC also provides, at cost, many hard to find parts for those electric projects.

Pictured above at the Nov. 18 Marshall County Extension Board annual meeting, board members (front row, left to right): Stacy Weissert, 2008 Jr. Extension Board member, 2009 incoming board members, Mindy Bailey, Argos, Dan Sellers, Plymouth, Laurie Sutter, Plymouth, Donna Schwartz, Plymouth. Second row: Extension Board members, Joel Fisher, Culver, Jeff Selner, Plymouth, Josh Gordon, Warsaw, Scott Caldwell, Plymouth, Tracy Leeper, Argos, Cindy Rash, Plymouth. Not pictured are 2009 incoming board members Karen V. Boland, Culver, Carl H. Hilling, Bourbon and Extension Board members Eugene Cooper, Argos, Dr. Ronald May, Ancilla College, Loren Sellers, Bourbon, and 2009 Jr. Extension Board member, Taryn Cooper.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Briefs, from page 1

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.

Surrisi from page 1

ness in 1974 at Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis, operating an eatery there called The Breadline, which operated from 1974-1981 at the location of today's Cheese-cake Factory. "We had no formal schooling in this, unlike a lot of people in the food business; we kind of backed into it. My wife and I had been married two years. There was an opportunity there. It was a very busy place but there was no place to just get a cup of coffee...that was our start in owning a restaurant. That was our education."

The economic slump of the early 1980s, among other factors, led to the Surrisis' departure from their Indianapolis restaurant. The family would move to Chicago, where Larry worked in the field of magazine publication for 10 years. When Jo wanted their son Sean to attend school at Culver Academies, things began to change. Larry sought work in the printing and publishing field, which he enjoyed, in the Culver area, but he says there "just wasn't that much work."

The family was frequently here on weekends until Sean was a freshman in college, "and that's when I started the Edgewater," notes Larry.

A book – or at least a separate article – could be written about the trajectory of dining in Culver, but it's safe to say

the Edgewater Grille, under Surrisi's management in the 1990s, rocketed Culver onto the map as a destination for quality dining, drawing rave reviews from visitors hailing from across the Midwest and beyond. The restaurant managed to please locals and offer the sort of community gathering space Surrisi has now become known for, while attracting appreciative diners from the ranks of Culver Academies parents, alumni, and students, as well as summer visitors to the lake from Chicago, Indianapolis, and beyond.

"When we started the Edgewater," Surrisi recalls, "a lot of ideas that were the genesis of that menu were from a trip to New York we made during the winter prior, and a cookbook I was working on setting up for Random House in 1996. As I was putting the pages together on the computer, I read a lot of stuff. That's how we started the Edgewater."

Surrisi would eventually sell the Edgewater and try other endeavors before launching the City Tavern on Lake Shore Drive. In the meantime, several other restaurants had added to Culver's reputation as a small town with a large array of choices in the area of great eateries.

"The current (City Tavern) menu was an effort not to step on competing menus

in town," notes Surrisi. "We wanted something that could be separated out from the menus of the competition, and to get down the road a little bit from other items already available. I think that's how everything gets done: you look at what sells and you start eating, tasting, asking, cooking... see what works. All of us in the restaurant business notice our menus stay centered around items you start to feel comfortable with, and sometimes your customers start to tell you what you shouldn't feel comfortable with!"

Nor has the cornucopia of dining choices in Culver been lost on the Surrisi family.

"We try to eat at other restaurants (in Culver)," Larry notes, "and we enjoy being in other people's restaurants. There are very good restaurants in this town; we like to take our friends and family to good places. We're very fortunate we have so many good restaurants in this town, so many good spaces. Not many towns of this size have this demographic."

Thanks to the number of restaurants here – and the presence of the Culver Academies – Surrisi says several national food suppliers make their way to Culver. "Most restaurants in this town have about every base ingredient you can imagine in their every week rotation," he explains. "If not, you go buy something and try it, and if it works, you do it in quantity."

This time of year, he notes, a few trips to Chicago a month to the produce markets yield those items that must be hand-picked, especially if they're delicate and can't sustain much age or travel. He says the City Tavern sushi bar requires a number of items picked up personally in Chicago, rather than being trucked in by suppliers.

"We're all very small restaurants in the grand scheme of things," admits Surrisi. "There's enough to keep us going, and in the summer it's very nice. As far as volume goes, restaurants you see on a pad location in a large city or on a highway do enormous volume by comparison, but there's still enough here. We have a very elevated, well traveled and well seasoned clientele in Culver."

That clientele -- year-round and summer, permanent and visiting -- has made Culver a community the Surrisis have made their own, and that has reciprocated in full.

"We enjoy living here," Larry Surrisi says. "In the last 10 years of watching the town from behind a stove or service counter, the town has improved. We have an improved library facility and sewer infrastructure, and the community school has expanded. There's been a lot of development at the Culver Educational Foundation, which has had very aggressive building and endowment programs. And there's been a great deal of growth around the lake. That tells us this is a very healthy, concerned, engaged, and involved community. All our people are thankful to be here."

With Larry Surrisi practically a household name as much for his community service and involvement as his popular restaurant, it's safe to say the feeling, in Culver, is mutual.

Name: FULL Year End Auction 3x10.5; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10.5 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00052990; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Bremen Chevrolet Buick; Size: 31.5 in

Name: Holiday Greetings; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name:

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

Name: FULL Greeting-Weekly; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 6 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00052075; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 12 in

Death notice - Hermann

Marilyn M. Hermann
Dec. 15, 2008

Marilyn M. Herrmann, 84, of Culver passed away December 15, 2008 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth.

Marilyn was born Jan. 17, 1924 to Charles and Clare Medbourn. Marilyn is survived by her husband, William L. Herrmann of Culver; son, William W. (Casey) Herrmann of Ft. Myers, Fla.; daughter, Marilee (Jim) McCormack of Culver; four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Clare (McLane) Medbourn and sister, Donna Edgington.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church, Culver at 11 a.m. Fri., Dec. 18, with Fr. Glenn Kohrman officiating.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be given in Marilyn's memory to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

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



Death notice - Wilcox

Robert R. Wilcox
Dec. 18, 2008

MONTEREY — Robert R. Wilcox, 80, of Monterey, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008 at Starke Memorial Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Wilcox of Monterey; daughter, Carol (Roger) Chapman of Monterey; son-in-law, Dan Lykins of Albion, Mich.; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, William Wilcox of Knox; and sisters: Ida Budde of Florida, Edna Rance of Logansport, Caroline Blankenship of North Judson and Kathryn Regalado of North Judson.

Visitation is Friday, Dec. 19 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Braman & Son Memorial Chapel, Knox. Funeral services are Saturday, Dec. 20 at 11 a.m. at Calvary Baptist Church. Burial will be at Highland Cemetery.

Portrait of a portraitist

Left: Culver Academies art instructor Jack Williams dropped by Culver's Kiwanis Club Dec. 11 to chat about shifting perspectives in Medieval and Byzantine versus more recent styles of art, a topic he explained was central to his Master's thesis at Notre Dame University. Williams, who was hired — according to retired art instructor Anne Duff, who introduced Williams — after her own retirement from the school in 2002, added he has been working in the area of portraiture. His current subject is Academies assistant commandant Col. Warren Foersch.

Williams was the painter responsible for a recent portrait of the Academies' Janet Stannard Kline, featured in August in the Culver Citizen.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Convenient contact info for Culver Citizen

The Culver Citizen is offering new ways to contact the newspaper.

Drop-off boxes for your community news are located at: the Culver-Union Township Public Library, 107 N. Main St.; and the Culver Coffee Company, 634 E. Lake Shore Dr.. These drop-off boxes will be accessible during the locations' normal business hours.

News drop-off no longer will be accepted at The Culver Citizen's former storefront location on North Main Street.

News can be sent by e-mail to: citizen@culcom.net
 News can be mailed to: The Culver Citizen, c/o The Pilot News, P.O. Box 220, Plymouth, IN 46563.

News can be faxed to: 574-936-3844. News telephone contact: 574-216-0075.

Advertising contact: 574-936-3101 or 800-933-0356.

Newspaper Delivery and Subscription contact: 574-936-3101 or 800-933-0356.

We want your community news and photos! Please contact us!

Death notice - Huddle

H. Joe Huddle
Dec. 9, 2008

CULVER — H. Joe Huddle, 69, of Culver, died Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008 at 4:05 p.m.

He is survived by companion Terra Heitkamp of Culver; a son, Richard J. (Sandra) Hocker of Cincinnati, Ohio; two daughters: Tina L. (Kyle) McClanahan of Versailles, Ohio and Nicole Bravo of Destin, Fla.; a brother, John (Shirley) Huddle of Versailles, Ohio; Terra's five children and eight grandchildren.

There will be no visitation services. Interment will be private.

A time of remembrance will take place Saturday, Dec. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Finney-Shilling VFW Post 6919, Culver.

Letters of condolence for the family may be sent via the Web site at www.bonineodom.com.

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

IDHS Awards Outstanding Performance

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Department of Homeland Security recognized former Culver resident Debbie Noel and 31 other employees for outstanding performance and dedication Wed., Dec. 17.

The annual program was begun by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2006. It empowers agency heads to recognize outstanding performance by state employees. Within IDHS, employees are selected for the award based on a nomination by their supervisors and approval by the employee's division director.

Noel, secretary of Indianapolis' Fire & Building Safety Division, assisted in the coordination with federal and state agencies to provide opportunity for the citizens of Indiana to obtain the disaster relief they needed. She worked several long days in Lake County assisting with the flood victims from Hurricane Ike.

Criteria for the award includes the following. Employees must have been in their current position for a minimum of six months employment at the time of receipt of award. Recipients must have engaged in exceptional performance which produced a measurable outcome such as completion of a project ahead of schedule with results that exceeded expectations, creation of a solution to a problem, or exceptional customer service.

Community Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 25
 Christmas day

Friday, Dec. 26
 Nativity pageant, 5:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic church

Sunday, Dec. 28
 Open gym, 1 p.m., Culver Middle School gymnasium
 Christmas candlelight service, 6 p.m., Culver Bible Church

Monday, Dec. 29
 Knitting Class, 10 a.m., Culver Public Library
 Al-Anon Mtg., 5:30 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. 30
 Fitness class, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library
 Town council mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall

Wed., Dec. 31

Thursday, Jan. 1
 New Year's Day

Name: Thank You; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00053055; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Missy Trent; Size: 10 in

Name: Passer By-Obit; Width: 30p11.5; Depth: 10.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00052281; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Success Press; Size: 31.5 in

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

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. 25: Closed for the holiday.

Friday, Dec. 26: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, tossed salad and dressing, Italian beans, garlic bread & margarine, pineapple, and milk.

Monday, Dec. 29: Chicken breast & gravy, mashed potatoes, Spinach, bread &

margarine, mandarin oranges, cookie, and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 30: Pot roast with gravy, rice, broccoli, pears, corn, pumpkin pie, and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 31: Chopped steak w/gravy, baby bakers w/margarine and sour cream, lima beans, apple juice, American cherry cheesecake, and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 1: Closed for the holiday.

Friday, Jan. 2: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, tossed salad and dressing, Italian beans, garlic bread & margarine, pineapple, and milk.

Jesus: A gift in unlikely wrapping

Christmas day is almost here, and while I have some of my shopping done for my wife's gifts, I am not done yet. There is a strong possibility that I will wait until the last minute. In and of itself, not a problem, but getting the gift to a state that it is presentable under the tree, now that is a different story. Of course, ideally I would wrap the gifts all beautifully and have them stacked under the tree days before Christmas. More likely, however, is that I will

have to resort to that great friend of many men and last-minute shoppers around the world – the gift bag, quick and easy (perhaps second only to the gift-card . . .)

We might like to think that the wrapping around a gift is an indication of the value of the gift itself. A beautifully wrapped package, our subconscious tries to tell us, is certainly going to be very special! Yet as anyone who has ever been involved in a white-elephant exchange can tell you, the quality of the wrapping can be totally unrelated to the quality of the gift itself!

In this season of Christmas, Christians specifically celebrate the unique gift of God's love and salvation – undoubtedly gifts of great value. Such a gift we might expect to be presented with great splendor and care, with much pomp and circumstance! Yet God has chosen to share this gift in the most seemingly ordinary wrapping of all – taking His own nature and enclosing it in human skin, as a new-born child in the midst of a barn in a small town, wrapped up only in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Why God has come to the world in this manner is perhaps known only to Him, but I suspect that in part it was because He wants the focus to be upon the gift Himself, lest we would have become distracted by some fancy presentation.

While I certainly encourage all of you to present your gifts to your friends and loved ones with great care, I call all of us to give our greatest attention to the gift of Jesus Christ, the simple child in whom the “fullness of God was pleased to dwell!” (Colossians 1:19).

Nostalgia

75 years ago

Dec. 27, 1933

- Harvey G. Shafer, 65 years old, passed away Christmas night at a Miami, Florida hospital. He will be buried in Crownhill Cemetery in Indianapolis. Mr. Shafer was a former vice-president of the Marmon Automobile Company, Indianapolis, retiring in 1924 and making Culver his home where he has been a summer resident on East Shore Lane. He involved himself with community activities here, making the present modern fire truck a priority. He took great pride in improving East Shore Lane and his property, and bought the property at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets formerly occupied by J. Saine and Sons; today an attractive service station sits on that spot.
- Bank bandits would have failed to open the State Exchange Bank's vault Thurs. and Fri.; even the bank's officials couldn't open it. Assistant cashier Carl Adams tried to open it using the usual combination; when he failed, asst. cashier Irene Bogardus, cashier W.O. Osborn, and president S.C. Shilling all tried and failed as well. Experts were called in and three of them spent two days drilling

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

Most of us are familiar with Frank Capra's classic holiday movie, “It's a Wonderful Life.” I must admit, I hadn't seen it since I was a teenager, but sat down last Christmas-time with my wife and a friend to watch it again, viewing it of course with a bit different eye today, as a father of four and having shifted my view of my own small, Bedford Falls-like home town.

I hadn't honestly given the film a great deal of thought beyond the sort of nostalgia shared by many of us -- particularly as residents of small communities like Culver -- until running across an article recently on “It's a Wonderful Life” by Anthony Esolen in which the author points out that protagonist George Bailey's choices -- not always his *first* choices -- lead him to a much simpler, humbler life than the globetrotting adventurer he once intended to be. He stays in Bedford Falls, married to a quiet but warmhearted “homebody” named Mary, taking over his father's business, though he originally didn't want to. Bailey, points out Esolen, has become the kind of obscure individual most of us in Culver are, living in a Victorian home with creaky stairs and occasionally drafty windows. Likely no one will write a book or produce a TV show about George Bailey...or most any of us in Culver.

Of course, we know Bailey -- through a series of mishaps unnecessary to recount here -- is stopped from committing suicide, convinced his life has done little good and much harm, by an angel named Clarence, who whisks him through the potential “dark side” of Bedford Falls: Potterville, the profit-driven, inhumane place the town would have become had George and others not stood in the way of greedy Mr. Potter.

There is a third option for George Bailey, notes Esolen, besides suicide or the eventual realization he comes to that his life does matter and *has* made a difference. Bailey could have lived and chosen to look the other way, to allow himself a dalliance here or there, to decide the fate of his family and neighbors really isn't his business after all. Bedford Falls would have become Potterville, then, as surely as it would have if Bailey had died.

“The movie's message,” suggests Esolen, “is *not* simply that every life is important, but that what *makes* my life important, in the long view, in the providential view, is almost always what the world considers silly, small-town, no-account, trivial -- a waste.”

Too many Americans, he suggests, have become convinced that economic prosperity and self-fulfillment, among other dubious “goods,” are the best choices to make, enough so that far too much of America, whatever name a given community may go by, has become, in effect, Potterville. In Potterville, says Esolen, the citizens

through 27 inches of reenforced concrete and electric alarm wires every two square inches while armed guards watched over the bank.

- A bronze plaque has been placed on the exterior of the State Exchange bank honoring “officers and employees of the Culver Military Academy, citizens, and police authorities of Culver, Indiana” for their efforts in apprehending the bandits who robbed the bank in May.

50 years ago

Dec. 24, 1958

- The Lutheran Community service of Culver will observe Christmas Eve with a special midnight candlelight service at the Culver Library auditorium this year. This is the first year the Lutheran Community service will observe Christmas in Culver, having begun its operations the last Sunday in November.
- Among businesses offering Christmas greetings this issue of the Citizen: the Reliable Lake View Dairy and Peter and Pearl Onesti's.

Name: Bridal Fair 2x7; Width: 20p4.667;
Depth: 7 in; Color: Black; File Name:
00052892; Ad Number: -; Customer Name:
Treat's Squire Shop; Size: 14 in

Culver: Bedford Falls or Potterville?

View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor



follow their desire for “personal fulfillment” over and above the good of their children, their spouses, and their neighbors. There, he adds, we may “leave town, not to become a citizen of another town, but to become a citizen of no town at all, and abandon the work of local government to a few meddlers nearby and an army of bureaucrats from far away.”

When we sacrifice the virtues that prevented Bedford Falls from becoming Potterville in favor of unending prosperity, status, material gain, and marks of widely recognized success, we will find ourselves in Potterville.

Lest it be suggested I'm pointing a finger at anyone, I do recognize -- as does Esolen -- that I'm part of the problem as well. And I'm also not suggesting there's inherent wrong in wealth, property, or success. Far from it. Most of us are working towards some form of wealth, are amassing some kind of property, and are striving for some form of success. I'm suggesting, instead, that to attain all or any of the above in the absence of self-sacrifice and a meaningful emphasis on our families and communities -- and with a set of priorities that considers unthinkable the relative obscurity of the “silly, small-town, no-account, and trivial” in our American communities -- will lead us more and more into Potterville, wondering where Bedford Falls (or Culver) went.

We all know, in Culver, of the age-old debate -- sometimes whispered, occasionally voiced out loud -- as to whether “those lake people,” “those Academy people,” or the “town people” are the culprits in whatever challenges Culver faces. But being editor of the local paper, I can assure you I've sat in on a number of events, meetings, ceremonies, and the like, and Culver's well-being, health, and preservation are centrally important to a great many people from all walks of life and all of Culver's various “communities.” There are people in town, on the lake, and in the Academy community who care deeply that Culver not become Potterville.

The ordinary business of living our individual and collective lives in our various Bedford Falls across America -- with diligence and persistence to the small and ordinary work of our lives -- is far more courageous, suggests Esolen, than mere adventuring in exotic locales...or, in our case, maybe more courageous than leaving here for the glamour and success that may or may not be waiting in what we perceive as more “important” places. Not that there's some inherent sin in leaving a place like Culver. Each of us can choose to make virtually any community in America Bedford Falls or Potterville. The difference comes not in where we're from, where in the Culver area we might live, or what our home or bank account looks like. Instead, it comes from the choices that make George Bailey's brother call him, “the richest man in town.”

“The true pilgrimage,” concludes Esolen, “is here.”



Santa reads to youngsters at the Culver Public Library, Dec., 1983.

25 years ago

Dec. 28, 1983

- Youngsters who attended the Story Hour last Thursday at the Culver Public Library were delighted with a visit from Santa Claus, who read “The Animals' Christmas.” Afterwards children were asked if they were good, prompting an affirmative reply. We heard a rumor that Charles Wolf was hiding under those whiskers.
- An ordinance annexing sections of Mill Street and surrounding areas passed final reading by the town board last night. It was announced at the same meeting that final paperwork has been approved for the grant from the state for the depot property.
- Opening Jan. 2 at 6 a.m. is the Olde Town Restaurant at 108 S. Main St. The restaurant is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (*Editor's note: the Olde Town occupied the space most recently occupied by Culver's Chinese restaurant, having taken the space over from the Taber-owned Culver City News Agency*).
- The El Rancho Theater now offers video tape rental of both VHS and Beta movies, and is open seven days a week.

Name: Holiday Greetings; Width: 20p4.667;
Depth: 6 in; Color: Black; File Name:
00051795; Ad Number: -; Customer Name:
First Farmers Bank & Trust; Size: 12 in



Sports



Trojans top Eagles in athletic match-up

By James Costello
Sports Writer

CULVER — Neither team had yet faced such an athletic opponent, but experience won out in the end as the veteran Trojans trumped the young Eagles.

Tuesday's game at Culver Military Academy was nip-tuck throughout and featured innumerable lead changes, but defending Class A champion Triton managed to score the last bucket in every quarter except the third, which the Trojans instead closed out with an 8-2 run that wound up making the difference in a high-tempo, high-flying physical battle that Triton wrested 66-60 from Class 3A CMA.

"I told them this was going to be a tough game," said Triton basketball head coach Jason Groves. "It's on the road; it's a week night. This is going to be by far the most athletic team we've seen thus far, and they were. Our kids battled through and did a nice job just pulling out the victory at the end."

"There might be teams that are bigger than Triton somewhere. There might be teams that are maybe a little deeper than them, but as far as one through seven, eight, that's as good a basketball team as I think we'll see all year," said CMA head coach Alan Huss. "Good basketball teams do things. They hit timely shots. They were tough. They didn't give us second shots. They guarded the heck out of us. They did everything teams that win as many games as them do."

The road win over the Eagles kept Triton, which was awarded a No. 1 class ranking in the latest AP polls, perfect on the season at 6-0 and gave the program its 15th straight win stretching back into the 2007 season. The Eagles dropped to 4-3 meanwhile, and Tuesday's loss represented the first consecutive loss for CMA this season after a 56-50 loss to Bremen Saturday.

CMA gave up few turnovers in the weekend loss to the Lions but pulled down just one offensive rebound. By contrast, the Eagles collected 14 offensive caroms for 13 second-chance points against Triton but surrendered 24 turnovers, including 11 unforced errors for 23 points by the Trojans. Huss said that while his team looked better in Tuesday's loss, he has yet to see the Eagles put together a complete game, a fact that is reflective of their youth as CMA starts three players in their first season of varsity play.

Triton led at the end of each stanza Tuesday, taking a 14-11 lead at the first quarter break on a nice move in the paint by senior forward Colton Keel, who led the Trojans with a game-high 25 points at the Academies, and a slim 30-29 advantage at halftime — following the only quarter in which CMA outscored Triton — on another move in the low

post from sophomore guard Griffyn Carpenter, who finished with 21 points for the night to complement his team-leading 10 rebounds.

Another Carpenter, senior Cody Carpenter, sparked the 8-2 Triton run that gave the Trojans their final lead of the game when he drained a trey from the wing where he was left alone to receive an inbounds pass from Trojans junior point guard Ben Montalbano, who handed out four assists to lead his team along with senior guard Joel Meister. Montalbano made a steal at half court and assisted Meister on the ensuing Eagles possession, and Griffyn Carpenter capped off the 8-0 Triton burst as Keel pilfered one of his four steals and Montalbano hit the sophomore on the wing for the triple. Culver called a timeout to stifle the Trojans' momentum, and freshman guard Jermaine Myers — who recorded game-highs of five assists and five steals as well as a team-high 18 points — threw an alley oop to sophomore Wells Davis to close out the quarter.

Davis put up 17 points and pulled down an impressive 12 rebounds Tuesday as one of two players with a double-double along with fellow sophomore Griffyn Carpenter.

Griffyn hit four of Triton's five 3-pointers and went 3-of-4 from deep in the second half. His final trey occurred on the run with 4:22 remaining in the game and finished off a 7-3 Triton spurt that put the Trojans up 55-47, their biggest lead of the night.

CMA had a chance to tie it up at the 1:56 mark as Davis grabbed his own rebound for a layup and was fouled on the putback. He missed on the traditional 3-point attempt, however, and Keel converted on his own 3-point play with a layup and the extra point on the opposite end of the floor to bring the score to 63-59. Montalbano made a smart foul to spoil a breakaway layup on a Jermaine Myers steal, and the Culver freshman split the free throws for the Eagles' final score of the night. Keel closed out the game with 3-of-4 foul shooting in the double bonus to bring the score to its final.

CMA, won't play again until Jan. 17 at Pioneer.

• TRITON 66, CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 60
At Culver

Score by quarters

Triton: 14 30 47 66

CMA: 11 29 42 60

TRITON (66): Ben Montalbano 1 0-0 2, Joel Meister 5 4-4 12, Cody Carpenter 2 1-1 6, Austin Davis 0 0-0 0, Griffyn Carpenter 8 1-1 21, Colton Keel 10 5-10 25, Zac Moriarty 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 26 11-16 66.

CMA (60): Jermaine Myers 7 2-5 18, Wells Davis 7 3-5 17, Thomas Wilson 1 0-0 3, Blayne Baker 0 0-0 0, Travis Britt 6 0-1 15, Carl Rivera 1 0-2 2, Trace Thews 1 0-0 2, Trevor Weaser 1 1-1 3. TOTALS: 24 6-14 60.

3-point goals: Triton 5 (G. Carpenter 4, C. Carpenter), CMA 6 (Myers 2, Britt 2, Wilson); Turnovers: Triton 15, CMA 24; Rebounds: Triton 27 (G. Carpenter 10), CMA 36 (W. Davis 12); Assists: Triton 13 (Montalbano 4, Meister 4), CMA 10 (Myers 5); Steals: Triton 13 (Keel 4), CMA 9 (Myers 5); Fouls (fouled out): Triton 13 (Montalbano), CMA 16 (None); Records: Triton 6-0, CMA 4-3.



Team Cavaliers

CHS' Paul Paré recently caught up with several of Culver Comm. High School's sports teams. More team photos will follow in future Citizens. Top photo: boys varsity basketball. Front row, left to right: Brock Elliott, Patrick Mulvihill, A.J. Neace, Nick Peterson, Nate Niswander, Zach Loehmer, Kyle Puhgh. Back row: Jessica Pettit (manager), Ryan Carrol (assistant coach), Kyle Krugar (assistant coach), Larry Clinger, Zoe Bauer, Justin Master, Adam Neace, Shaylin Johnson (manager), Kyle Elliott (head coach).

Middle photo: Girls varsity basketball: Front row, left to right: Kaitlyn Comisky, Cindy Miller, Whitney Sanders, Alison Zehner, Nicole Carnegie, Gwen Zehner, Susannah Baker. Back row: Ashli Faulkner (coach), Clair Baker, Olivia Knapp, Patrice McBee, Sarah Bailey, Liz West, Tammy Shedrow (coach).

Bottom photo: Wrestling: Front row, left to right: Jessica Hominger (manager), Michael Stout, Dalton Overmyer, Ian Randolph, Parker Woodward, Stephan Vantwoud, Gavin Norton. Back row: Michael Buschman (coach), Tommy James, Robert Molebash, Jake Sheridan, Jesse Good (assistant coach), Chad Hollenbaugh (assistant coach).

PHOTOS/PAUL PARÉ

Sports briefs

Boys basketball

Neace leads Cavs to win

Senior forward Adam Neace tossed in a game-leading 19 points to help Culver Community's boys basketball team to a 45-42 win at Winamac Tuesday.

Sophomore guard Zoe Bauer chipped in 15 points for Culver, which finished 13-for-15 from the charity stripe.

Culver hosts Jimtown Friday in Northern State Conference action.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 45, WINAMAC 42

At Winamac

Score by quarters

Culver: 8 19 33 45

Winamac: 10 22 33 42

CULVER (45): Adam Neace 5 9-11

19, Brock Elliott 0 0-0 0, Justin Master 2 0-0 4, Zoe Bauer 5 4-4 15,

Patrick Mulvihill 0 0-0 0, AJ Neace 2 0-0 5, Larry Clinger 1 0-0 2. TOTALS:

15 13-15 45.

WINAMAC (42): Nathan Shidler 5 0-0 10, Ryan Abbott 3 1-2 7,

Andrew Malott 1 0-0 3, Taylor Fox 2 0-1 5, Justin Ruff 0 0-0 0, Quentin Blount 0 0-0 0, Steven Wagner 1 2-2 4, Gavun Henry 5 3-4 13. TOTALS:

17 6-9 42.

3-point goals: Culver 2 (Bauer, AJ Neace), Winamac 2 (Malott, Fox);

Turnovers: Culver 25, Winamac 17;

Rebounds: Culver 25, Winamac 20;

Assists: Culver 11, Winamac 5;

Steals: Culver 8, Winamac 14; Fouls (fouled out): Culver 13 (none),

Winamac 19 (Fox). Records: Culver 2-4, Winamac 2-4.

JV score: Winamac 41, Culver 10.

town Saturday

Whitney Sanders topped Culver's scoring chart with nine points.

Sarah DeShone popped in a game-high 25 points to lead the Jimmies.

• JIMTOWN 76, CULVER 29

At Elkhart

Score by quarters

Culver: 7 17 23 29

Jimtown: 21 45 62 76

CULVER (29): Susannah Baker 0,

Nicole Carnegie 2, Chandler Gast 0,

Patrice McBee 2, Cindy Miller 3,

Breanna Powers 0, Whitney Sanders 9,

Alison Zehner 6, Gwen Zehner 7.

JIMTOWN (76): Traci Adams 4, Sarah DeShone 25, Katie Goward 11, Ali Johnson 14,

Samantha LeSure 3, Emma Stahl 12, Brittney Stebbins 4,

Alicia Ward 3.

Girls basketball

Cavs struggle at Jimtown

Culver Community's girls basketball team lost 76-29 in a Northern State Conference game at Jim-

Name: Dec. Ad; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00053031; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Family Vision; Size: 8 in

Name: Book Ad; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 3 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00052187; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Marcia Adams;

Name: Holiday Greetings; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black; File Name:

Adams visits Monterey, other local schools

by Brianna S. Kinyanjui
Fourth Grader, Monterey Elementary School

Author Marcia Adams came to Monterey Elementary Nov. 18 to tell our fourth grade class about her new book, "The Adventures of Alexia, A Lake Maxinkuckee Girl, 1885." She taught the class about what it was like in 1885. She explained everything from what the people rode in, to what tribes were located by Lake Maxinkuckee. She also told the fourth grade class it took nine hours to get from Indianapolis to Culver by train. The fourth graders really thought this was an exciting experience!



Culver's Marcia Adams, author of juvenile-oriented novel, "Adventures of Alexia, a Lake Maxinkuckee Girl, 1885" visited several area elementary schools in November. In the photo above, Adams pauses with Argos Elementary School fourth graders (left to right) Lauren Brugh, Ashley Dean, Katerine Moncada, Marsha Adams (author) and Bailey Nifong.

CHS 'Ignition' program helps transition from middle to high school

By Steven Metzger,
Culver Comm. High School

A new program has been introduced to Culver Community High School this year. The Ignition program was established to make the transition of freshmen into the high school easier and more successful.



Senior mentor Kim Irsa (kneeling, facing camera) and CHS staff member Peggy Arquette (standing) direct their freshman Ignition group in a character-building activity.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ignition, a student-led mentor program, was designed to help facilitate character development and improve leadership. The program focuses on team building, goal setting, mentoring, and communication skills. The freshmen and their mentors meet every two weeks to participate in various activities. Some of the most recent activities included discussions about older students' high school experiences, GPAs and their effects on college acceptance and scholarships, and the impact of

homework on school grades.

Last summer, Ignition mentors and faculty advisers met with one of the program's coordinators from Minnesota to receive training. On the first day of school, the Freshman Class enjoyed a kick-off day, with mentors leading the freshmen on a tour of the school, as well as guiding the groups through several activities, including an outdoor ropes course.

The program also builds relationships between students within the school. "I feel more connected and involved with the whole school, along with the fact that I get to know the freshmen, which most seniors do not," said Senior Whitney Banfield, a mentor for one of the groups.

Behavior changes since Ignition's inception are also being noticed. "We have noticed some subtle differences in the behavior of the freshmen compared to last year's freshmen," said Andy Thomas, program director. "The real differences will show up three and four years from now."

The mentors and some of the freshmen were recently invited by the superintendent to a presentation by Ed Barlow, a futurist known for accurately researching and predicting educational trends down the road. Plans for taking mentors and groups of freshmen to other leadership activities throughout the year are being pursued.

Harris invited to state-level Honor Band

By Kalie Thompson
Culver Comm. High School

The Indiana Band Association held its All District Band Festival at North Judson-San Pierre High School Sat., Nov. 15., and Culver's very own Shae Harris was invited to play. Band students from all over the area sent applications hoping to be chosen to play in the Indiana Band Association's Honor Band. Harris was honored as one of the 87 top band students picked.

Harris is a junior and has played the flute for Culver's band for six years. Jason Crittendon, Culver's band director, has already chosen Harris as next year's drum major.

"I really enjoy band, always have, and I can't wait to be drum major next year!" exclaimed Harris.



From pajamas to the pantry

Senior students at Wesley Preschool – based at the Wesley United Methodist Church on School St. – surround a pile of items they and junior class members collected for Culver's food pantry. Wesley instructors Jill Gavlick, Jennifer Luttrell, and Esmerelda Rogers conceived a preschool "pajama party" centered around the theme of the "Polar Express" and adding three additional hours to the regular class day. "Tickets" were purchased by bringing an item for the pantry, which is especially in need of paper and personal items.

Pictured, front to back: Celia Richeson, Dalton Powell, Spring Ye, Mackenzie Banks, Emily Heim, Adrian Schouten, Austin Dilts, Phoenix Dickson, Sydney Denham, Peter Kenney, Sam Luttrell, Kathleen Perkins, Bryce Campbell, and standing, left to right: Mary Kate Kelley, Zachary Hine, Sophia Heath.



Denham, Peter Kenney, Sam Luttrell, Kathleen Perkins, Bryce Campbell, and standing, left to right: Mary Kate Kelley, Zachary Hine, Sophia Heath.

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Name: Internet Trade; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00051434; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culcom, LLC; Size: 8 in

Name: Holiday Greetings 2x4; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00052436; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culver Dental Clinic; Size: 8 in

Name: Holiday Greetings; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00051803; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Bonine-Odom Funeral Home; Size: 8 in

Name: Dec. Salt Ad 2x5; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00052391; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Culligan; Size: 10 in

Name: Merry Christmas 2x5; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00052350; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Ancilla College (ROP); Size: 10 in

Name: #51 SANTA LITTLE HELPER #6; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00050424; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Town & Country Liquors; Size: 10 in

Novel inspired by '86 Argos murder

By Carol Anders
Staff Writer

ARGOS — Place an author seeking material for a new book in a graveyard in a small northern Indiana town and you have the beginning of a novel that makes a 22-year-old unsolved murder case come to the surface again.

Thomas Ray Crowel's newest offering, "The Passerby," is a fictitious mystery inspired by the short life of an 11-year-old girl who was strangled in her own home. The story is based on the murder of Brandy Peltz of Argos.

However, the novel is different than the usual antagonist-verses-protagonist mystery plot. Readers are simply taken along on the two-and-a-half year investigation using public records, newspaper files and interviews conducted by the author and his publicist.

Crowel said he was drawn to the gravestone engraved "1986" of the murdered child as he wandered through the cemetery where her's family members inquiries into the girl's er unremarkable as he drowned in a bathtub. explains it, "I later was murdered only Christmas. A fire at the al firemen, policemen

"I want (the murderer) to come forward and redeem himself with the Lord."

-Ray Crowel

Crowel then interviewed people from all over the town in the hope of finding answers to the unknown circumstances that he contends were never fully investigated.

He said, "There were people that helped me — only a handful— and then others just told me what they knew."

The novel describes the physical characteristics of some that long-time residents in the town could probably identify in real life.

Crowel said, "You don't have to worry about who these people are — they know who they are. I don't make the characters. They make themselves."

He said, "I spent over two years trying to prove that I was wrong about the person I suspected had strangled the innocent girl, but in the end, I was right. He took everything from this little girl."

According to Crowel, the account in 1986 of the murder in the Pilot News didn't mention the name of the one he now calls "the passerby," but a newspaper article written by a paper a few miles away used his name.

Crowel would still like to see the perpetrator come forward. He said, "I want him to come forward and redeem himself with the Lord."

He would also like to see the investigation become active, but believes it won't happen unless people demand it.

Crowel said, "It won't be up to me. It will have to come from the pressure of the community. The truth has a way of seeping out."

He is confident that the interest in the case is out there. He said, "My books are flying out of the local bookstore."

Any profits from the novel are being given to charities, according to Crowel. He said it cost thousands to complete the investigation that even included a trip to England.

The cost isn't his main concern.

"My interest has always been to find out who killed this little girl. The story is out. I can't take it back," said Crowel.

Name: Holiday Greetings; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00051560; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Bennett's Contracting LLC; Size: 8 in

Name: Week 4; Width: 20p4.667; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00051604; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Lakeside Auto Supply; Size: 8 in

Name: Best Loser 2009; Width: 41p6.333; Depth: 8 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00051568; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Pilot News; Size: 32 in

Library, from page 1

"You want to be complaint with the state's purchasing statutes," she noted, suggesting the use of purchase orders and spending limits in which purchases over a given amount be taken before the board, rather than left to the discretion of the director.

Gregory also reported her analysis of library cashflow, explaining January through September receipts in 2008 totaled \$479,221. Open disbursements, she said, totaled \$375,541 with other disbursements at \$171,667. The library's operating fund cash balance at the beginning of this year, she noted, was \$168,326; that number had dwindled to \$3,341 by the end of September.

Gregory said the library's debt services fund was healthy, but noted the LIRF fund, just under \$400,000 in Jan., 2006, had been completely depleted.

She said the firm projected an ending cash balance by the close of 2008 at \$420,923. Explaining the operating balance percentage measures the health of library finances and is targeted between 15 and 50 percent, with 50 being the best, Gregory said the library will be at 45 percent by the end of 2008, which she said is "pretty good, actually."

However, Gregory said spending has been higher than cash flowing in, eventually dropping the operating balance percentage down to 25 percent. "We're looking at a budget exceeding estimated revenues coming in," she added.

Gregory also suggested the board be on the lookout for impact from state mandated "circuit breaker" laws in 2010, which cap property taxes — the source of most library funding -- in several categories, suggesting there may be less revenue for the library as a result. She did note Marshall County's tax rates are low enough that most publicly funded institutions here won't be drastically affected by circuit breaker changes.

Board members Alfred Nyby and Jim Hahn pointed out the board had opted to reduce the 2009 budget from the 2008 figures, a fact not yet reflected in Gregory's analysis. Board member Carol Saft said the board's recently-formed finance committee is "on the right track of reducing spending." Spending freezes and efforts to lower costs have been in effect at the library in recent months, and continue to be analyzed by that committee.

Board member Melanie Robertson joined the board in thanking Gregory. "From now on, we don't have major questions and confusions," she said.

Gregory added a thanks to bookkeeper Faulkner, lauding him for his organization skills. "He made our jobs a lot easier," she said. "He knows where all your files are."

In other discussion, library staff member Polly Thompson-Wolf asked and received the board's approval to apply for a National Endowment for the Arts grant pertaining to "The Big Read," which among other things aims to involve more community men — particularly younger men — in reading. Thompson-Wolf said the Thornton Wilder novel "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" and play "Our Town" had been chosen, with the intent not only to read the book but perform the play in public, involving community members, between 2009 and 2010. The grant requires efforts at buy-in from community churches, organizations, schools, businesses, and government, she said. An author and prominent member of the Thornton Wilder Society in New Jersey, who happened to have grown up partly in the Walkerton area and is familiar with Culver, has lent encouragement and support for the project, Thompson-Wolf noted, and hopes to attend the play.

Saft praised the idea, adding she's become aware, in her work at nearby Ancilla College, of the need for young people entering college to be more aware of literary classics.

Library director Colleen McCarthy presented a report from library technology head Andrew Baker sharing numbers of "hits" — or unique visits — to the library's website at www.culver.lib.in.us, noting nearly 3,000 people accessed the site in the past month. She also said Baker is working on an entirely new site he hopes will launch in the spring.

McCarthy reported 606 items ("and climbing") have been taken to the food pantry so far as a result of the library's "Food for Fines" program, which allows exchange of a non-perishable item for one dollar off overdue fines on a patron's already-returned items. The program ends in early January.

McCarthy thanked the Friends of the Library for a \$600 donation towards purchase of books and a Christmas luncheon for library staff set for Dec. 19. An anonymous donor, she added, has given the library a 12-foot Christmas tree, which has been decorated and installed in the library lobby upstairs.

The library will be closing for fewer holidays in 2009 than 2008, said the director, noting eight closed holidays slated for the coming year. She said the board's ad hoc policies committee — which is also working on a purchasing policy, among others — plans to continue following Culver Community Schools' closing procedures in case of inclement weather.

The library has shifted HVAC services to McGrath Plumbing and Heating, according to Carol Saft, saving over \$2,000 annually on its heating and cooling service contract.

In other treasurer's report discussion, McCarthy answered board member queries about a recent bill for \$4,384 for reconfiguration of lateral cabinets for use in the library's children's room as part of that room's renovation earlier this year. The fees, charged for reconfiguration of "flipper doors" on the cabinets ordered in June, can't be refused since the work was apparently a special order from then-library director Carol Jackson, said McCarthy. A representative of the billing company, FCS in Indianapolis, apologized for the six-month delay in sending the bill, added McCarthy.

Saft also reported a phone call from Culver resident Connie Van Horn inquiring as to the whereabouts of items taken or sold from the library without consent. Specifically, Van Horn asked about card catalogs sold at the garage sale last summer of an individual in the library's employment, a book case apparently removed from the building, and a number of art prints long part of the library's collection that had been transitioned to the Friends of the Library for resale. The Friends, said Van Horn, can't find the prints.

Responding to Saft's concerns about the prints, some of which she said she understood had been estimated to have some value, Faulkner reported a number of the prints had

been placed in the front desk area of the library within the past year and were given away to the public. Saft noted library property is government property and may not be given away or sold indiscriminately. McCarthy said outdated or damaged library books are typically given to the Friends of the Library for sales whose revenue goes back to the library.

Name: 1 MATURE DRIVERS; Width: 9p9.833; Depth: 6.5 in; Color: Black; File Name: 00050605; Ad

Name: Weekly Ad; Width: 9p9.833;

Name: Legals; Width: 9p9.833;

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