

# The Culver Citizen



Thursday, March 11, 2010 Vol. No. 116 Issue No. 9 50¢  
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



## In Brief

### Community meal at Grace March 15

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

### Family Health Carnival at CBGC

The Marshall County Healthy Living Coalition, with support from the Marshall County Community Foundation, announces the first county-wide Family Health Carnival. The Carnival will be held Thursday, March 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Culver Boys and Girls Club; and Saturday, March 13 at the Lifeplex gymnasium in Plymouth from 9 a.m. until noon. Included are vendors offering healthy living tips and information for families. Free door prizes will also be given a way. The LifePlex will be offering up to 50 free beginners swim lessons (first come first served basis) rock wall climbing, and walking for families on the indoor track. For more information call Sarah Flynn at 574-936-2333.

### REAL Meals Nutrition Day

Culver's REAL Services site will present a special Nutrition Day program Friday, March 12, starting with a special lunch menu at noon. Included will be a presentation by Peggy Lowry of Culver's Park N' Shop on healthy foods. Guests are welcome, and those attending are asked to give 48 hours or more notice of plans to attend. A donation is suggested for those planning to eat. Those wishing to make a reservation or with questions may call 574-842-8878. REAL Meals is held weekdays at the Culver Park beach lodge.

### Culver kindergarten student Roundup

Culver Community Schools Superintendent Brad Schuldt announced the kindergarten enrollment information for the 2010-11 school year. Kindergarten Roundup for those students in the Culver Elementary attendance district will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday,

See Briefs page 8

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CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

## Enchanté with Culver

LEFT: After more than 40 years of delighting French students with humor, stories, and, of course, French, Vickie Dearth is retiring from her post as Culver Community High School's purveyor of French language and culture, humorous anecdotes, and student dedication.

## Jazzing up Culver

RIGHT: Noted and award-winning jazz composer, teacher, and performer John C. Harmon II (Culver Military Academy class of '53, standing at right) spent several days with student performers in Culver Academies' jazz band last month in preparation for a Valentine's Day concert in the Huffington Library on the campus (where he and band members are pictured above). A 2008 inductee into Culver's Arts & Letters Hall of Fame, Harmon has been lauded by a number of publications and organizations in jazz, and has performed around the world and been featured on a host of recordings.

PHOTO/SUE FREYMLER, CULVER ACADEMIES

# Dearth bids CCHS *Au revoir*

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

Former Culver Community High School French teacher Vickie Dearth's favorite line in the play, "Pippen," is, "I have once again accidentally stumbled into my destiny."

Dearth, who ended more than 40 years of teaching at CCHS at her December retirement, says "Most of the things that make the biggest difference in your life, you stumble into. Things that are supposed to happen, will."

And for Dearth, becoming a vibrant part of the Culver community she loves – and even the teaching profession itself – she seemed to "stumble" into, and both seem meant to be.

### The journey to Culver

Dearth's third grade teacher in her childhood home of Gary, Indiana, left her in charge of the class for a few minutes one day and returned to find a quiet class full of students working.

"She said, 'You'd make a good teacher someday.' I had probably 100 teachers tell me I couldn't do it. I was a shy, quiet kid who never said 'boo.' My answer was always, 'Yes I can. Mrs. Hunt said I could!'"

Barred from entering the early foreign language program some years later in high school – she believes due to that same shyness – Dearth determined to prove herself worthy and stacked up "A" grades in French.

"I got to college," recalls Dearth, "and saw my first advisor and I said, 'I'm going to be a teacher because Mrs. Hunt said I would.' 'What do you want to teach?' the advisor asked. I said, 'I don't know. She didn't tell me that!'"

Her best grades were in French, so Dearth, on the spot, chose that as her teaching subject. She loved her Ball State French classes and their instructors and, after graduating, she picked Culver as a point midway between Gary and Ball State. She was hired here shortly thereafter.

"I thought, 'Well, I'll stay a year and see if I can or can't teach.' By the end of the year I was pretty well hooked. I liked it here and didn't want to go back to the city."

Dearth says she enjoyed being able to stay with students through all four levels (five when junior high classes were added) of French rather than teaching only one level as usually happens in larger city schools.

"I also found out by the time I had students for three or four years, they were like family. I felt I should call their parents and ask how much I owe for college tuition on their child!"

Though she says she's "never been a sports person," Dearth has "seen athletics turn kids around," and so chose to work in a support role in various sports contexts at the school, where she got to know students

See Dearth page 9

## Academies hosts 'One Night of Queen'

PHOTO AND INFO COURTESY/  
KATHY BOTTORFF, WTCA RADIO

Culver Academies' ongoing Huffington Concert Series will present "One Night of Queen" Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Eppley Auditorium on the Academies campus.

The show is based around the music of acclaimed British pop band Queen, which formed in 1970 and recorded hits such as "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Are the Champions," and "Another One Bites the Dust."

"One Night of Queen," a tribute show, is described on the group's website (www.onenightofqueen.com) as "a stunning, live, two-hour concert recreating and celebrating the music of Queen." Performed by Gary Mullen and band, "The Works," the show includes "fantastic staging, lighting, and effects," according to the site.

"Since winning the Grand Final of 'Stars In Their Eyes' back in 2000 as the legendary Freddie Mercury (lead singer of Queen)," adds the website, "Gary has toured with One Night of Queen, selling out theatres and concert halls throughout the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Hol-

See Queen page 2

## CBGC receives county boost

Marshall County Commissioner Jack Roose delivered a \$5,000 check to the Culver Boys & Girls Club March 2. This gift to the club marks the first time that Marshall County has been able to support the Bremen and Culver Clubs. The Culver Boys & Girls Club has 258 children enrolled with an average daily usage of about 100 students, according to Mary Ann Sallee, Director of the club. Bremen's Boys and Girls Club serves 60 to 70 students a day. "I think this is a vital investment in the future of our community," said Roose, "and I am glad that the Commissioners were able to support these programs."



# Recordings, refunds raise ire at park board meeting

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

A meeting of the Culver Parks and Recreation board was once again the site of some heated exchanges last week as the board voted on whether to use a digital tape recorder given by a member of the public to record its monthly meetings, as well as whether to refund that same individual's money over an apparent beach pass miscommunication. The board, at its March 3 monthly meeting, also heard from Culver resident Tom Yuhas on Indiana law regarding park gift funds.

The question of whether to initiate use of the audio recording device to document its meetings was brought up to the board at the beginning of the meeting by audience member Connie Van Horn, and the board voted on the matter just before the close of the meeting. The recorder was given to the board specifically to record its meetings by Culver resident Teresa Yuhas, who said she felt the board's minutes as published on the town website were insufficient in detail.

Town Clerk Casey Howard discussed the use of a similar device to document Town Council meetings, which she said was put into practice last year. She explained she takes hand-written notes during the meeting, rather than transcribing minutes from the recorded audio. Instead, said Howard, the audio is downloaded onto her town-owned computer for reference should a question arise about a past meeting, or to be available to members of the public, who have requested in the past that the audio be burned onto a CD.

"Three times I've had Council members say, 'I didn't say that or this,'" said Howard, "or a Council member say someone voted this way, and we play back the tape (and reveal the correct information)."

See Park page 8

Council member Lynn Over-

Name: FULL-BANNER; Width: 52p1.167; Depth: 2 in; Color: Black plus one; File Name: 00082797; Ad Number: -; Customer Name: Collins & Co (Plymouth); Size: 10 in



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## A 'Fancy' event

Culver-Union Township Public Library Children's room assistant Alison Gaskill (left) reads a "Fancy Nancy" story to dozens of area children attending the library's annual "Fancy Nancy" party, during which the children (and Gaskill) clad themselves in some extremely "fancy" attire in the spirit of the popular picture book series, from which Gaskill reads a story in the photo at left. Watching closely is Sarah Drake of Culver (right). The library features regular Story Times for youngsters Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the Children's area (see Community Calendar, page 4).

## REAL Services menu

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. A donation is suggested for each meal.

**Thursday, March 11:** Pot roast with corn, rice, Brussels sprouts, pears, bran muffin and margarine, and milk.

**Friday, March 12:** Chicken mole, Maui vegetable blend, fruit crisp, roll and margarine, spinach salad, milk, tea and coffee.

**Monday, March 15:** BBQ chicken breast, broccoli, tossed salad and dressing, wheat roll and margarine, pudding, and milk.

**Tuesday, March 16:** Pork fritter, bun and mayo, stewed tomatoes, scalloped potatoes, fruit cocktail, and milk.

**Wednesday, March 17:** Chopped steak with gravy, succotash, mashed potatoes, bread and margarine, dessert, and milk.

**Thursday, March 18:** Liver and onions, mashed potatoes and gravy, baby carrots, , and milk.

**Friday, March 19:** Scrambled eggs, biscuit and biscuit gravy, diced potatoes, green pepper strips and ranch, orange, margarine, and milk.

## Queen from page 1

land, Italy, America, South Africa and New Zealand"

The public is welcome to the show, and tickets are available at Culver Academies' Steinbrenner Performing Arts

Center Box Office, open Monday through Friday from 1 to 4 p.m., and the Eppley Auditorium Box Office, open one hour prior to the performance. All seats are reserved. Cash, personal checks, MasterCard, Visa, and America Express are accepted. Contact the Box Office at (574) 842-7058.

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WEEKLY ADS;

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Pilot News; Size: 30 in

## Obituary

### Anna Marie Chidalek Knepper July 17, 1936 - Feb. 28, 2010



CULVER — Anna Marie Chidalek Knepper, 73, of Culver, passed away Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010 at St Joseph Regional Medical Center in Plymouth.

She was born July 17, 1936 to John and Anna (Husik) Chidalek in Knox. She was married to Jerry Knepper May 2, 1964.

Ann was retired from Rickman Tool, Culver Military Academy, State Exchange Bank and American State Bank. She graduated from Knox High School in 1954.

Ann loved to play cards with the P.I.G.s club and gather with her old schoolmates. She was a member and former secretary of St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church in Culver and was a caregiver to many a wayward cat.

Ann is survived by her husband Jerry; sons, Brad (Lawrie) Knepper of Sandwich, Ill. and Chad Knepper of South Bend; step-son Jon (Carolyn) Knepper of Sulphur, La.; and stepdaughter Jackie (Rick) Jozwiak of Middlebury; three grand-

daughters: Elinor, Ava, and Margaret Knepper; five grandsons: Jared and Devan Knepper, Al, Matt, and Randy Jozwiak; sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Chidalek of Whiting, Donna Chidalek of Logansport, and Joanne Stratton of Plymouth; as well as many nieces and nephews and lots of friends and neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Anthony, Al, Joseph, and Ed Chidalek, and stepdaughter Joleen Knepper.

A time of sharing memories with the family will be held at St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church, Culver, Saturday, March 6, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. EDT.

A mass of Christian burial will follow at 11 a.m.

Interment will be at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be given to a charity of the donor's choice or to the family. Condolences may be sent to the family via the obituary page of the funeral home at [www.odomfuneralhome.com](http://www.odomfuneralhome.com).

The Odom Funeral Home, Culver, was entrusted with arrangements.

## Letters to the editor

### The sad demise of 'Culver Chuck'

Dear editor:

It is with a great deal of chagrin that we must report the calamitous conclusion of Culver Chuck's continuous concerns for Culver climes. Shortly after Chuck made his 2010 corroboration of his calculations for Spring, he was set upon by a jealous neighbor. Although CPR and chest compressions were administered, Chuck did not survive the onslaught.

Culver Chuck was well known for his cautious concerns for climate conclusions for Culver and will be missed. Internment was private and attended only by Punxsutawney Phil, and Warton Willie. General Beauregard Lee's commitments did not allow him to attend.

Memorials may be made to G.U. (Groundhog University) to enable prescient, prognosticators to publicly predict the weather.

**Bobbie Washburn Ruhnow**  
Estate Executor

### Parents primary influence on teen drinking

From proms to graduations, teens have plenty of reasons to celebrate this time of year. But no matter what the reason for celebrating, help keep the occasion safe for everyone by making sure alcohol isn't part of your teen's party plans.

Parents play an important role in helping teens make smart decisions, including choices related to alcohol. According to the 2008 GfK Roper Youth Report, the majority of youth—71 percent of 13- to 17-year-olds—say parents are the No. 1 influence on decisions about whether they drink alcohol or not.

At Tippecanoe Beverages, we're parents too, and we share the same concerns as every other parent about these issues. That's why we distribute free copies of Family Talk About Drinking, which encourages parents to talk with their children about underage drinking. In addition, our Prevent Don't Provide program reminds adults that supplying alcohol at teen parties is never a good idea. To help prevent alcohol sales to minors, we also provide retailers with I.D.-checking materials and training to help them serve and sell alcohol responsibly. Thanks to law enforcement and these kinds of community-based programs, we're making progress in the fight against underage drinking. According to the 2009 Monitoring the Future Study, the 8th grade past-month drinking rate is at a record-low level, declining 41 percent since tracking began in 1991, and high-school senior drinking is down 13 percent since 2000. We can all do our part this prom and graduation season to help keep celebrations safe.

**Frederick K. Zahrt, President Tippecanoe Beverages**

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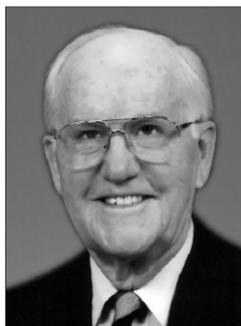
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## Obituary

### Joseph D. Barnette Sr. Nov. 12, 1908 — Feb. 27, 2010



INDIANAPOLIS — Joseph D. Barnette, Sr., 101, passed away Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010. He was born Nov. 12, 1908 in Rochester. A lifelong resident of Indiana, he lived in South Bend until 1969; in Culver, at Lake Maxinkuckee until 2006 and presently resided in Indianapolis at Hoosier Village.

His business career started in the backroom operations at the bank in South Bend, now known as First Source Bank, eventually working his way up to become president for more than 20 years. Mr. Barnette was also elected president of the Associates Corporation, a New York Stock Exchange listed finance company. After Associates Corporation was acquired by Gulf and Western, he was then elected to its board and served in that capacity until his retirement.

Mr. Barnette was a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor George N. Craig, the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America and numerous other business and community awards.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 78 years, Frances E. (Aitchison) Barnette; two sons, Joseph D. Barnette, Jr. and wife Charlene of Indianapolis and Dennis A. Barnette of Chicago; three grandchildren: John C. Barnette of San Francisco, Calif., Michael J. Barnette of Indianapolis and Anne B. Zalubowski and her husband Matt of Annapolis, Md.

Memorial services will be private. Memorial contribution may be sent to Wesley United Methodist Church, 511 School St., Culver, IN, 46511 or to the donor's favorite charity. Care and arrangements have been entrusted to the Leppert Mortuary, Nora Chapel 740 E. 86th St. Indianapolis.

## Death notice

### Finneran

**John E. Finneran**  
March 3, 2010

MISHAWAKA — John E. Finneran, 84, of Mishawaka, died Wednesday, March 3 at his residence.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine; eight children: John, Frank, Timothy, James Finneran and Barbara Simon, Patricia Larson, Marie Koontz and Michelle Green; 17 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Visitation took place from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 7 at Bubb Funeral Chapel, Mishawaka, and one hour prior to the services Monday at the church.

Funeral services took place at 10 a.m. Monday, March 8 at St. Jude Catholic Church, Mishawaka.

Burial followed at St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park, Mishawaka.

## Birth - Schmidt



David & Valerie Schmidt, Walkerton, announce the birth of a son born at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 23, 2010 at St. Joseph Medical Center, Mishawaka.

Brennan Kay Schmidt weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

He was welcomed home by brother Alexander, two years old.

Maternal grandmother is Cindy Spitler, Tippecanoe. Maternal grandfather is the late Terry Spitler, formerly of Tippecanoe.

Paternal grandmother is Rhea Schmidt, Culver.

Paternal grandfather is Tom Schmidt, Culver.

## 80th birthday



Betty L. Reinholt will celebrate her 80th birthday April 17, 2010 with an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 511 School St., Culver.

She was born April 14, 1930 to Ethel and Elmer Johnson in Pulaski County, Indiana. She has two sisters, Dorothy and Norma of Culver, and a brother, Lowell, who is deceased.

She married Virgil Reinholt (now deceased) Dec. 18, 1948. Reinholt and her husband lived on a farm all their married life.

She has four children: Linda Shedrow, Bradenton, Fla.; Dennis (Nancy) Reinholt, Rochester; Brenda (Dean) Sellers, Bristol; and Michael (Nina) Reinholt, Bristol; 13 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She requests no gifts. Cards may be sent to her at 20858 Sage Road, Culver, IN, 46511.

## Nostalgia

### 100 years ago March 10, 1910

Capt. Ed Morris will enlarge his boat plant factory this season with the erection of another storage building to the north of the present building. Its dimensions will be about 40 x 100 (feet) and it will cost about \$1,000. Capt. Morris has also just completed a 20-foot gasoline launch with a 5-horsepower engine, which will sell between \$600 and \$700 (editor's note: Capt. Ed Morris was a local character and boat-builder said to have built over 1,000 boats on Lake Maxinkuckee, including the famous steamer The Peerless (on which

*Cole Porter is said to have played piano in younger days) and The Peerless II. Bob Rust's local boat timeline suggests he opened his boat livery in the area of the*



PHOTO/ANTIQUARIAN AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CULVER

Capt. Ed Morris' boat livery and piers near the site of today's Huffington Library at the Culver Academies campus.

old Palmer House -- later Culver Inn -- hotel near today's Huffington Library on the Culver Academies' campus around 1870).

W.E. Hand has received plans for a new building which will occupy the

ground owned by him on the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets (ed. note: this building would apparently become Hand's service station, and later the Cultice-owned Texaco station, at the site of today's Antiquarian and Historical Society Heritage Park at the southwest corner).

### 80 years ago March 5, 1930

One of the landmarks of the town disappeared last week when the Johnson Tire Shop building was demolished. The building once housed the *Culver Citizen* when it was known as the *Marmont Herald* (ed. note: the building sat at 202 N. Main, the site of today's Family Vision Clinic. The building which replaced the Tire Shop housed several other businesses through the years, including two other auto-related companies bearing the Johnson name).

### 70 years ago March 6, 1940

Ice on Lake Maxinkuckee is about 20 inches thick and fishermen, numbering about 175, were on the lake Sunday fishing through the ice.

The Hoosier State Press Award for the best feature story in 1939 weeklies in Indiana with less than 1500 circulation went to *The Culver Citizen* at the annu-

al awards in Indianapolis. Members of the town board are visiting several towns in Indiana and Illinois today on an inspection tour of sewage disposal plants to round out their study of the possibility of launching a sewer project in Culver.

### 50 years ago March 9, 1960

Regardless of what Mark Twain said about the weather, it's the big news and Culver is still digging out of its biggest accumulation of snow in exactly ten years...8 to 10 inches of depth almost everywhere.

### 40 years ago March 12, 1970

State climatologists at Purdue put Culver on the map last week when they declared our town "the coldest spot in Indiana in January." Of 100 temperature stations around the state, the lowest temperature of 23 degrees below zero was reported here.

The Culver park board stressed the need for volunteers for this summer's programs including a Commissioner for the Little League program as well as volunteers for a new summer handicrafts program. According to board president Latham Lawson, the board is still investigating the possibility of a youth center at the beach lodge. An outboard regatta festival is planned for the weekend of July 25-26.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Where in the world is the *Culver Citizen*?

Another of our readers has submitted a photo of the sophisticated, world-traveling *Culver Citizen* (never leave Culver without it!) on one of its excursions, and your, our readers, are invited to guess just where the paper has traveled to this time. The editor encourages those traveling outside Culver to shoot similar photos of themselves or family or friends with the paper in hand at some well-known, iconic, or unusual location around the state, country, or world. Guesses as to the location of this photo or submissions of similar photos may be emailed to citizen@culcom.net, dropped off in one of our drop boxes (located at the Culver Public Library and Culver Coffee Company), or call the editor at 574-216-0075.

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## Community calendar

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Thurs., March 11</b><br/>Kiwanis Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library<br/>Story time, 3:30 p.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Family health fair (Culver Boys &amp; Girls Club), 4 to 6 p.m., Culver Middle School cafeteria<br/>Census job testing, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library</p> <p><b>Fri., March 12</b><br/>Computer class, 10 a.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Nutrition week program with Peggy Lowry of Park N' Shop, noon, Culver REAL Services, Culver beach lodge</p> <p><b>Sat., March 13</b><br/>Quilting group, 9 a.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Census job testing, 2 p.m., Culver Public Library</p> <p><b>Sun., March 14</b><br/>Lenten Service, 4 p.m., Emmanuel United Methodist Church</p> <p><b>Mon., March 15</b><br/>Story time, 11 a.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Free computer class, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Community meal, 6 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ, Culver<br/>DivorceCare, 7 p.m., Grace United Church of</p> | <p>Christ</p> <p><b>Tues., March 16</b><br/>Tuesday Tea (and crafts), 1 p.m., Market Basket &amp; Co., SR 17<br/>Plan Commission mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall<br/>Culver Public Library board mtg., 7 p.m., Culver Public Library</p> <p><b>Weds., March 17</b><br/>Story time, 9:30 a.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Genealogy mtg., 10 a.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Garden Club, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library<br/>"One Night of Queen" live concert (Huffington Concert Series), 7:30 p.m., Eppley Auditorium, Culver Academies</p> <p><b>Thurs., March 18</b><br/>Kiwanis Club mtg., noon, Culver Public Library<br/>Story time, 3:30 p.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Census job testing, 6 p.m., Culver Public Library<br/>Culver Board of Zoning Appeals mtg., 6:30 p.m., town hall<br/>Knights of Columbus St. Mary of the Lake Council #13720 business mtg., 7 p.m., church rectory basement</p> |
|---|--|

## Name that Culver "citizen"

Not surprisingly, a number of Culverites past and present guessed the identity of last week's Mystery Citizen, Karen Easterday. Some remember her as a fellow student at Culver High School, others as an active part of the Culver community on a number of levels,



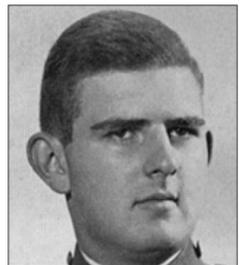
Left: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Karen Easterday, then and now. Right: this week's mystery citizen.

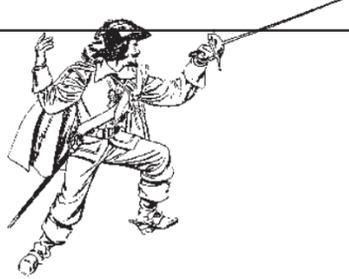


Guesses may be emailed to citizen@culcom.net, dropped off in one of our drop boxes (located at the Culver Public Library and Culver Coffee Company), or call the editor at 574-216-0075.

and others as the wife of longtime Culver dentist Greg Easterday. Among the correct guessers: Lora Pinder, Donna Huberty, Lynn Overmyer, Judi Burns, Jim Taber, Carin Clifton.

This week's Mystery Citizen has long been connected to Culver and today serves a range of people beyond the borders of our community.





# Sports



## Culver pulls upset of North Judson

VALPARAISO — Zoe Bauer put up a second straight game with 30 points or more, and Culver held off a talented North Judson-San Pierre squad 52-49 at the Class 2A Boone Grove Sectional semifinal Friday.

“Every time they made a run in the fourth our kids were able to make a play or get a stop.”

Culver was led on the defensive end by Larry Clingler and Micah Budzinski as they helped hold Judson big

of kids is an outstanding group; they’ve had them since freshman year, but we played them in that sectional championship game in their sophomore year when we won our sectional championship.”



CITIZEN PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO  
Culver Community's Zoe Bauer (20) shoots a jumper over Bremen's Ben Hueni (10) and Jesse Glinge during a Northern State Conference boys basketball game Feb. 26 at John R. Nelson Gymnasium in Culver.

“This is the biggest win we’ve had all year,” said Culver head coach Kyle Elliott. “The kids have been starting to play better basketball as the year has gone on. We’ve been in some tight ball games, and I think those tight ball games were good preparation for us.”

Bauer scored 15 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter alone with a 7-for-7 effort from the stripe as the Bluejays threatened down the stretch.

“It was a tight ball game throughout. They cut it down to one, and our kids were able to keep their composure,” Elliott said.

men Chandler Hochstedler and John Eckert to a combined 16 points. Eckert led his team with 11 points, including a 3-pointer that cut Culver’s lead to one point late in the fourth quarter Friday.

The Cavaliers will face a similar match-up against another big Boone Grove squad — which topped Winamac 55-37 Friday — in the championship game tonight at 7:30 p.m. It was the Wolves who Culver beat for their last sectional title in 2008.

“We feel that we know their personnel very well,” said Elliott. “This group

## Cavs fall at Boone Grove championship

BOONE GROVE — The Wolves held Zoe Bauer to just 10 points, and Boone Grove outscored the Cavaliers 17-4 in the final frame for a 55-36 victory in the Class 2A Sectional 34 championship game at Boone Grove Saturday.

While Bauer was held more than 10 points below his average, freshman post player Micah Budzinski stepped up big with 10 points to keep Culver in championship contention at the game. Freshman Collin Stevens put up five points in the loss, as did junior

guard A.J. Neace. Boone Grove was led by 26 points from Michael Eleftheri, while Ryan Reynolds and Jacob Wright both finished the game in double figures with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Culver finishes out its season 9-13 and bids goodbye to seniors Pat Mulvihill, Nick Peterson and Kyle Pugh.

CLASS 2A SECTIONAL 34  
At Boone Grove  
BOONE GROVE 55,  
CULVER COMMUNITY 36  
Score by quarters  
Culver: 4 16 32 36

CLASS 2A SECTIONAL 34  
At Boone Grove  
CULVER 52, NORTH JUDSON 49  
Score by quarters  
Culver: 12 17 34 52  
Judson: 5 14 28 49  
CULVER (52): A.J. Neace 2 3-4 9, Nick Peterson 0 0-0 0, Brock Elliott 0 0-0 0, Collin Stevens 1 3-5 6, Zoe Bauer 9 7-7 30, Kyle Pugh 0 0-0 0, Micah Budzinski 2 0-1 4, Larry Clingler 1 1-3 3, Totals: 16 14-20 52.  
JUDSON (49): Andrew Frasure 3 0-1 8, Kendall Hochstedler 4 2-3 13, John Eckert 4 2-2 11, Mitch Fingerhut 0 0-0 0, Nathan Hankins 4 4-6 12, Dustin Knapp 0 0-0 0, Chandler Hochstedler 2 1-2 5, Totals: 17 9-14 49.  
3-point goals: Culver 6 (Bauer 5, Stevens), Judson 6 (K. Hochstedler, Frasure 2, Eckert); Rebounds: Culver 23, North Judson 19; Assists: Culver 9, Judson 9; Steals: Culver 3, Judson 6; Fouls (fouled out): Culver 16 (none), Judson 20 (C. Hochstedler); Records: Culver 9-12, North Judson 15-7 (final).

Boone Grove: 9 24 38 55  
CULVER (36): A.J. Neace 2 0-0 5, Nick Peterson 0 0-0 0, Brock Elliott 0 0-0 0, Collin Stevens 2 0-0 5, Zoe Bauer 4 0-0 10, Patrick Mulvihill 0 0-0 0, Kyle Pugh 2 0-0 4, Micah Budzinski 3 4-4 10, Larry Clingler 1 0-3 2; Totals: 14 4-7 36  
BOONE GROVE (55): Dan Block 2 1-2 5, Michael Eleftheri 8 4-4 26, Wayland Roach 1 1-3 3, Ryan Reynolds 5 1-1 11, Bobby Rapley 0 0-0 0, Jacob Wright 3 3-4 10, Greg Wilkins 0 0-0 0; Totals: 19 10-14 55.  
3-point goals: Culver 4 (Bauer 2, Neace, Stevens), Boone Grove 7 (Eleftheri 6, Wright); Rebounds: Culver 14, Boone Grove 20; Assists: Culver 8, Boone Grove 9; Steals: Culver 4, Boone Grove 7; Turnovers: Culver 10, Boone Grove 8; Records: Culver 9-13 (final), Boone Grove 19-4.

## Rochester drives CMA from tourney

By James Costello  
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — The Zebras attacked the open lane, and when they couldn’t get the bucket, they got to the line.

Over and over again.

Rochester used the dribble drive to draw 24 fouls from Culver Military Academy, and the Zebras capitalized with 24-of-33 charity tosses, including 6 of 10 down the stretch in a 66-62 overtime win over the Eagles in a Class 3A Sectional 19 semifinal at Plymouth Friday.

“I thought the first half we kind of went around them, but then the second half we took it right at them,” said Rochester head coach Rob Malchow. “One of my coaches that



PHOTOS BY JAMES COSTELLO  
ABOVE: Rochester's Marc Bowers, left, passes around Culver Military's Juwan Brescacin (25) during a Class 3A Sectional 19 semifinal game at Plymouth Friday.

BELOW: Culver Military's Jermaine Myers goes up for a layup around Rochester's Evan Hoff, right, during the two teams' Class 3A Sectional 19 semifinal Friday at Plymouth.



Zack Novak played in — he plays for Michigan — and he just said his greatest attribute when he was in high school if the guy was 6-10 or 7-foot he went right at him, and if the guy blocked the shot he got the ball and went right back at him. I just told the guys at halftime, that’s what I want to see you do. I want you to challenge these guys, I want to see you attacking.”

“I don’t know what to say other than it hasn’t happened to us all year. But I don’t want to make excuses,” said CMA head coach Alan Huss of the 24-7 foul discrepancy at the game. “They just beat us... They just made plays. They got to the free-throw line, and we didn’t.”

“My hat’s off to them. I don’t want to sour grapes here because they made the better adjustment and they just beat us. That’s the way it goes.”

With shooting guard Travis Britt out with a broken toe and 7-foot front liner Chier Ajou sitting out long stretches of Friday’s game in foul trouble, point guard Jermaine Myers put in most of the work for Culver Military’s offense.

The 6-1 sophomore went an outstanding 14-for-18 for the night with nine 3-pointers for a whopping 41 points. Juwan Brescacin was the only other Eagle in double figures with 10 points for the night.

“Jermaine’s a great player,” said Huss. “He’s a sophomore. He made some shots and kept us in the game there a little bit.”

Rochester put up balanced offensive numbers with 13 and 11 points from Marc Bowers and Collin Harris, respectively, but it was Evan Hoff who led the attack with 27 points, earned largely at the stripe with 12-of-16 free throws for the night. Hoff went 6-for-6 from the field in the second half and overtime to help hold off the Eagles, who tied it up at 59-all at the 2:38 mark of overtime but never got any closer.

“Their key to keep playing I don’t think it’s one guy playing well, I think it’s just them sharing the basketball and having good chemistry, which I think they do,” said Huss.

CMA ends its season at 14-9, while Rochester improves to 16-6 and will take on Plymouth in a Sectional 19 championship rematch tonight at 7:30 p.m.

“We want to be there; that’s a goal every year to play in the sectional championship so you have a chance to win one,” said Malchow. “Just thrilled to have a chance to play for a championship.”

CLASS 3A SECTIONAL 19  
At Plymouth  
ROCHESTER 66, CULVER MILITARY 62, OT  
Score by quarters  
Culver Military: 10 27 43 56 62  
Rochester: 13 26 46 56 66  
CMA (62): Nick Ahlers 0 0-0 0, Chier Ajou 4 1-2 9, Ramsey Bradke 0 0-0 0, Juwan Brescacin 5 0-2 10, Jermaine Myers 14 4-5 41, Trace Thews 0 0-0 0, Braxton Troyer 0 0-0 0, Trevor Weaser 1 0-0 2. Totals: 24 5-9 62.  
ROCHESTER (66): Nate Basham 1 0-0 2, Marc Bowers 1 7-8 13, Collin Harris 3 3-4 11, Evan Hoff 5 12-16 27, Colt Meadows 3 2-5 7, Cameron Screeton 2 0-0 6, Nathan Sewell 0 0-0 0. Totals: 15 24-33 66.  
3-point goals: CMA 9 (Myers 9), Rochester 8 (Meadows 3, Harris 2, Screeton 2, Hoff); Rebounds: CMA 17 (Brescacin 6, Ajou 5), Rochester 21 (Bowers 7); Turnovers: CMA 6, Rochester 9; Fouls (fouled out): CMA 24 (Bradke), Rochester 7 (none); Records: Rochester 16-6, CMA 14-9 (final).

## Invasive Plants Identification Workshop scheduled for March 13

An informative workshop on identification and landscape alternatives will be offered Saturday, March 13 at Camp Buffalo. Participants can learn about invasive species in the woodlands, wetlands, and other natural areas from District Forester James Potthoff and Stuart Orr from the Nature Conservancy. Information on various cost-share programs will be covered and weather permitting an outdoor hike will be given by our presenters to help with plant identification.

Gardeners love plants that are adaptable, tough, and fast-growing. It is even better if that plant produces showy fruits that attract birds or other wildlife. Unfortunately, many of these plant traits desirable to gardeners can also increase the likelihood that a plant jumps the garden fence and invades natural areas.

Invasive plants are spreading on almost all private and public lands in the Midwest. If left unchecked they will limit many uses on lands now and for future generations. They can harm the natural heritage of our wetlands, prairies, forests, lakes, and rivers. Invasive plants can decrease your ability to enjoy hunting, fishing, mushroom collecting, bird watching, and other recreational pursuits.

Invasive plants threaten our environment and economy. Invasive plant species pose an enormous threat to our native plants, animals, and ecosystems. They can also alter communities by changing the hydrology or soil chemistry, and they cost the United States approximately \$35 billion per year to eradicate the problems encountered.

The Invasive Plant Identification Workshop is sponsored by Arrow Head Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. This is a free workshop, however, registration is required. Please call the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District office, 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, phone, 574-936-2024, ext. 3 by March 8 to register.

## Nominations sought for Leader of the Year

Leadership Marshall County (LMC), a program of the Marshall County Community Foundation and the United Way of Marshall County, requests nominations for the Leader of the Year Award which recognizes an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership in Marshall County. The award recipient will receive an engraved plaque and an award check in the amount of \$500 to the not-for-profit organization of their choice.

Any individual meeting the selection criteria and award requirements will be considered. Individuals may be nominated by any resident of Marshall County. Nomination forms are available at: [www.marshallcountylmc.org](http://www.marshallcountylmc.org). The recipient will:

Exemplify outstanding leadership; exhibit a passion for community service; possess the ability to encourage, develop, motivate and influence people; display the ability to identify and address community problems; must be a current

or former resident, employee, or volunteer in Marshall County, Indiana; must be of good reputation

Submit Nominations by March 31 to: Leadership Marshall County, c/o Marshall County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 716, Plymouth, IN, 46563 or e-mail to: [LMCinfo@marshallcountycf.org](mailto:LMCinfo@marshallcountycf.org). For further information contact Jennifer S. Maddox, President and CEO at 574-935-5159.

## Young Author's Conference in Culver March 11



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Children's author Carolyn Crimi will visit Culver today as part of the Young Author's Conference.

The Young Authors' Conference will be held March 11 in the Culver Elementary School gymnasium from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All Marshall County students and their parents are welcome to attend. Guest author is Carolyn Crimi, who wrote on her Web page "I consider myself a very lucky person. All my life I wanted to be a children's book author, and now I am one."

Although she was born in New York, Carolyn now lives in Evanston, Ill. with her husband and pug Emerson. Some of her books include "Don't Need Friends," "Where's My Mummy," "Boris and Bella," "The Louds Move In," "Get busy Beaver," "Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies," and "Henry and the Crazy Chicken Pirates."

Crimi's books may be purchased at City Center News and Books (formerly Bookworm), 114 N. Michigan St., Plymouth. Her Web site is [www.Carolyncrimi.com](http://www.Carolyncrimi.com)

There will be a pre-conference and reception from 6 to 6:30 p.m. for each school's writing contest winners. Students were to write on "my life in 25 years" since this is the 25th anniversary of the Marshall County Reading Council.

Each school may name a winner from Grades K-3 and another from Grades 4-6. Winners and their writings will be published in the Pilot News.

The public is invited to attend the conference. Cost is for \$2 for students or \$3 for a family. Contest winners and their families attend free of charge. For more information contact conference chairperson Carol Jackson at [jackson@culver.k12.in.us](mailto:jackson@culver.k12.in.us).

## CES Students of the Month

Culver Elementary School announces its Students of the Month for January, 2010

Kindergarten: Sophia Heath, Kaydin Sayavongsing, Nikolas Ferguson, Ayden Annis  
First grade: Leah Minix, Abbi Richard, Rasha Hoover, Sarah Lowry, Makenzie Handley

Second grade: BreeAnnah Spicer, Dakota Clark, Gabe Hissong, BreeAnnah Spicer, Matthew Cole, Nicole Dekoker

Third grade: Bailey Howard, Mackenzie Buckman, Taylor Noah, Wyatt Coiner

Fourth grade: Cody Rieckhoff, Cara Oquendo, Rachel England, Sierra Craig

Fifth grade: Trista Vela, Zackary Kisela, Jacob Skiles, Matthew Markovitz

Sixth grade: Kent Shaffer, Diamond Skiles, Aaron Becker, Jade Overmyer, Zachary Cobern

## Park from page 1

myer, in the audience, expressed appreciation for the recordings of Council meetings. "If we have a question, she can go back to the recorder and know exactly what was said."

Park board President Leroy Bean noted park board minutes, which are available to the public, are only required to record votes taken during the meeting, rather than the details of what was discussed during the meeting.

Park board member Ed Behnke suggested keeping paper notes is "both legal and sufficient," adding, "If we do decide to use the tape recorder, this will probably be my last meeting."

Ed Pinder Jr., a former Culver police officer, said after completing his written reports while serving on the police force, he would watch a video tape of a given incident. "There would be a word or two that's different, which completely changed the context," he noted. "(A recording) is very good to have."

During the vote, Pinder and fellow board member Tammy Shaffer were the only two voting in favor of its use; Bean, Behnke, and board secretary Peg Schuldt -- constituting a majority -- voted against it.

Several audience members, including Teresa Yuhas, reacted negatively to the decision. "For a board that seems so concerned with liability," Yuhas said, "this seems ridiculous...you don't care about the people that use the park at all."

Teresa Yuhas' criticism came following an earlier vote by the board to deny her family a refund for money paid for beach passes they purchased in recent years. Yuhas claimed, during the December, 2009, and January, 2010 meetings, that park Superintendent Kelly Young failed to inform the family that beach passes were free to people renting pier spaces at the park, and that the family should receive a refund for money spent on beach passes.

Young gave the board a detailed history of the Yuhas' use of park pier spaces, explaining her initial conversations with the family about the specifics of pier slip rental and its various amenities would have taken place over the telephone in 2005.

"Obviously," said Young, "with five years passed, I can't attest to the (specifics of the) conversation."

Young described several precautionary measures she will initiate this year to ensure similar misunderstandings are avoided in the future, including mention of the free beach passes in the letter sent to pier renters and keeping a list of topics to discuss verbally with new pier renters, among other measures. Young said she and Clerk Howard had spoken with town attorney Jim Clevenger, who recommended not issuing the requested refund to Yuhas but making the policy changes Young outlined. At the request of board member Shaffer, Young affirmed the letter she intends to include for pier slip renters will be brought before the park board for final approval before it goes out.

Pinder apologized to Yuhas -- who said she felt the decision was unfair -- for the misunderstanding. The board voted, with only Shaffer voting to the contrary, not to refund the money.

Also during the meeting, Behnke raised questions about the propriety of allowing Yuhas' husband, Tom, to address the board concerning Indiana code as it relates to monies donated to the park for fence pickets sold as a fund-raiser for Vandalia Village, a community-built playground erected in 2008. When Teresa Yuhas defended her husband's address, Behnke's response of, "I don't much care" elicited expressions of surprise from several audience members, and criticism from Shaffer.

"You're being rude to a member of the public," Shaffer said to Behnke. "Where are your manners?"

Board president Bean upheld the decision to let Yuhas speak.

Tom Yuhas distributed copies of Indiana statutes as well as some figures of his own to the board, noting he intended to raise questions "in what appears to be a violation of Indiana code."

Yuhas cited section IC 36-10-3-18 of the code and suggested the playground project was not handled in compliance with some aspects of that law. He also tallied reports given at past meetings and written accounts of funds taken in for picket sales, suggesting a discrepancy of \$9,075 between the amount of money listed on paper as picket sales, which totaled close to \$2,400, and the number of pickets (459) previously reported as sold at \$25 each, for a total of \$11,475.

Yuhas also challenged Behnke's October, 2009 statement that the Friends of the Vandalia Village, a group of volunteers formed to facilitate the playground, was "not a park project," distributing a letter written by Young on park letterhead signed as representing the Friends of the Vandalia Village. Yuhas concluded by suggesting the Superintendent and park board have not followed Indiana law with regards to the project and added the park board should review all bills prior to their payment.

Bean told Yuhas the board would take his points under advisement for the moment.

In other actions, the board voted not to make ice skating on Lake Maxinkuckee an activity offered by the park, following a presentation by Young on the possible liabilities incurred on the park and town should a skater be injured or drowned due to any skating-related incident. Young noted she and Howard had spoken separately with Scott McKinnis of Miller-Norcen Insurance and were told the insurance cost would be \$500 annually to cover ice skating on the lake adjacent to the park. However, McKinnis expressed concern about potential lawsuits should an incident occur. It had been suggested the park reinstitute a decades-old practice of facilitating clearing of the ice at the beachfront for skating, which was an annual winter routine for much of the 20th century up to the early 1980s at the park.

Young also said signs asking park patrons not to feed ducks, geese, or seagulls should be installed within the week, and that the park's annual Easter egg hunt will take place April 3 at 10 a.m. She also noted some vandalism in the form of spray painting had taken place in a few areas of the park.

An arborist working with Culver's Tree Commission plans to examine the town Christmas tree at the west end of the park on Lake Shore Drive, said Young, following requests from some members of the public alternately to remove the storm-damaged tree or leave it as a memorial to late Culver resident Selestine Ware. A recommendation on the tree should be forthcoming by the spring, Young said.

## Briefs from page 1

April 7, in the Culver Elementary School cafeteria. Kindergarten Roundup for those students in the Monterey Elementary attendance district will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 8 in the Monterey Elementary School cafeteria.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before Aug. 1, 2010. Children do not need to attend this informational meeting for parents.

During this meeting, parents will be informed about required health records, forms needed for registration, kindergarten screening, Indiana curriculum standards, and programs available for kindergartners. Parents should bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, to verify the date of birth, and the child's immunization record. If a parent cannot come April 7 or April 8, a parent or guardian should contact Culver Elementary at 574-842-3389, or Monterey Elementary at 574-542-2601 to make other arrangements.

## Faculty artworks at

### Coffee Company

The Fine Arts Department of Culver Academies invites the Culver community to view an exhibition of artwork by its Visual Arts faculty, including Audrey Blessman, Jack Williams, Ashley Zimmerman, and Bob Nowalk, at the Culver Coffee Company, 634 Lake Shore Drive in Culver. The work will be on display from now until the first week of April and its viewing is free and open to the public.

### VFW fish fry to benefit fire dept.

Culver's VFW Post #6919 is sponsoring an all-you-can-eat fish fry in conjunction with the Culver-Union Township Volunteer Fire Department Saturday, March 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Post, 108 E. Washington Street in Culver.

Prices are \$4 for children 12 and under and \$8 for adults, and carry out orders will be available. The doors are open to the public and all meal fundraiser proceeds will be donated to the Culver Fire Department.

The fish will be prepared by the Tyner IOOF Lodge. Those with questions may call 574-842-3886.

### Free computer classes at the library

Culver-Union Township Public Library will continue its free computer classes in March. Classes will be held Monday evenings at 6 p.m. and Friday mornings at 10: a.m. and will last two hours. Sessions for the month of March will cover the following: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Publisher. These are hands-on classes and the library will provide computers. Those with their own laptop computer may bring it to the classes. Instructors will conclude the session of computer classes with a class that demonstrates how to build a computer from parts.

Classes for March include: Microsoft PowerPoint, March 12 at 10 a.m.; Microsoft Publisher, March 15 at 6 p.m. and March 19 at 10 a.m.; and Computer Building March 22 at 6

p.m.

For more information, call the Culver Library at 574-842-2941, visit its Web site at [www.culver.lib.in.us](http://www.culver.lib.in.us) or e-mail [abaker@culver.lib.in.us](mailto:abaker@culver.lib.in.us) or stop by at 107 N. Main St.

### Weekly Lenten services

The Culver Community Council Of Churches will once again hold weekly Lenten service, held at 4 p.m. each Sunday. The dates and Churches are as follows: Emmanuel United Methodist Church (March 14), Leiters Ford United Methodist Church (March 21). All are welcome and encouraged to attend these inspirational services.

### Market Basket offers weekly crafts

The Market Basket and Company, 13775 S R 17, will be holding Tuesday Tea and Crafts each Tuesday in March from 1 to 3 p.m. A different craft project will be offered. All crafts will be in the \$5 range, and include bead and wire spoons (March 9), glass painting

(March 16), fairy craft for mom and kids (March 23), and lavender sachet (March 30).

### Friends book sale

The Friends of the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library will hold its next book sale Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to noon both days. The group welcomes book donations any time; please bring to the main desk at the library. Those with questions may contact Charlotte Hahn at 574-842-3267.

### Park boat slips now available

The Culver Park and Recreation Department is now leasing boat slips for the 2010 summer season. The fees for the boat slips are as follows: Culver-Union Twp. Residents: \$700; outside of the area: \$1000; waverunner spaces: \$400; and Hobie spaces: \$400. All boats and waverunners must be placed on lifts. Interested individuals should contact Kelly Young, Park Supt. at 574-842-3510 dur-

ing the evening hours.

### Museum areas closed for renovations

PLYMOUTH — Beginning Feb. 24, parts of the Marshall County Museum will be closed due to reconstruction. The research library will remain open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Those wishing to visit should call 574-936-2306 before arriving so accommodations can be made.

### Citizen contact info

Drop-off boxes for community news are located at the Culver-Union Township Public Library and the Culver Coffee Company on Lake Shore Dr. These boxes will be accessible during the locations' normal business hours. Citizen editor Jeff Kenney may be reached at 574-216-0075. News can be sent by e-mail to: [citizen@culcom.net](mailto:citizen@culcom.net).

## Dearth from page 1

even better (once accused of cheating by a spectator while score-keeping at a basketball game, Dearth replied drily, “Sir, I don’t care enough to cheat!”)

### The classroom

If it’s not evident by now, one of Vickie Dearth’s great assets in and out of the classroom is her dry sense of humor. Another is her obvious love of the students themselves.

“I don’t have kids,” she explains, “and it’s crossed my mind more than once that I have more patience with most kids because I don’t have to come home and deal with (them). Not that I’m recommending no teachers have kids. In a sense, they (my students) were my kids, and I think kids feel that. They know without having to be told who cares and who doesn’t, (and) you have to treat each child as an individual. You can’t lump everything together and expect it to work with every student.”

Dearth says she’s also proud of her emphasis on manners for students, who she feels are often not taught the rules of politeness elsewhere. One former student, she says, came up and hugged her in thanks for all the tips he received – due to manners learned from Dearth, he believes – while waiting tables. “I said, ‘Where’s my cut?’” Dearth adds with a smile.

Students also responded to her sometimes unorthodox methods of teaching, such as allowing shy students to speak French behind the “disguise” of hand puppets she kept in her classroom.

And then there are those stories. As anyone who’s spent more than a minute with Vickie Dearth knows, she often communicates through personal anecdotes – most of them humorous – which she seems to have gathered in spades and can use to great effect in the classroom or in conversation.

Another memorable facet of her teaching experience, says Dearth, was the experience of taking students on several trips to Europe starting in the late 1980s. The first trip grew from Plymouth High School’s need for a few more students on its journey overseas, but in other years included school groups from other states. Some trips combined students from French and Spanish classes, she notes, which made travels to countries speaking both languages all the better. Typically, she says, Culver students experienced England, Paris, Nice (in France), the Riviera, Spain, Italy, Monaco, and Switzerland.

“The kids just loved it,” she recalls. “We had two things going for us: we laid out the rules before we left and enforced them, and we tried to make it fun, to think of things to do if the kids wanted to do them.”

Dearth recalls some chaperones from out-of-state schools allowing their own students to drink and date alone while in Europe. Expecting Culver students to demand the same, Dearth says she was floored when her CCHS students asked her, “What’s the matter with those chaperones? Don’t they care about the kids? If one of us was in trouble, you’d know it and be looking for us; they wouldn’t know if their kid was gone.”

“I was real proud of them,” she adds. “I think they had more fun than the kids going out drinking!”

The trips ended, Dearth explains, after the events of September 11, 2001, which of course ground air traffic to a temporary halt. She had considered working to put together another trip in the near future, she says, but her health got in the way.

### Saying good-bye

And Vickie Dearth’s health ultimately led to her decision to retire when she did. As reported in a previous edition of the *Citizen*, in 2008 she contracted the bacterial infection MRSA and found herself fighting for her life. She missed the entire 2008-2009 school year of teaching, and two open heart surgeries later, she’s up, around, and involved in Culver life again. In fact, she returned to the classroom last semester (fall, 2009), but – still forced to use a walker to get around – decided the risks were too great.

Last December’s ice storm, and the subsequent realization that walkers and snow and ice don’t mix well, led her to concerns for her safety. Further, doctors informed her she’ll need continual health monitoring from now on, which could at times mean a day or more in the hospital. “That’s not fair to the kids,” she says, “Especially with French...right now they’re lucky to have Nicole Trebair from Paris (to teach the rest of this school year). But unemployed French teachers are not walking the streets of Culver waiting for me to get sick!”

And, she admits, she’s “thoroughly enjoying retirement,” though she misses the students.

### “The people have kept me in Culver”

She has every intention of staying in Culver, where Dearth has been an active part of the community almost since her arrival. And, though she fell in love with Culver from the start, she and two other big-city teachers just arrived here in the fall of 1969 “just howled” with laughter when they opened their first *Culver Citizen* newspaper to a headline about “a man growing corn on his garage roof... we said, ‘Where have we ended up?’”

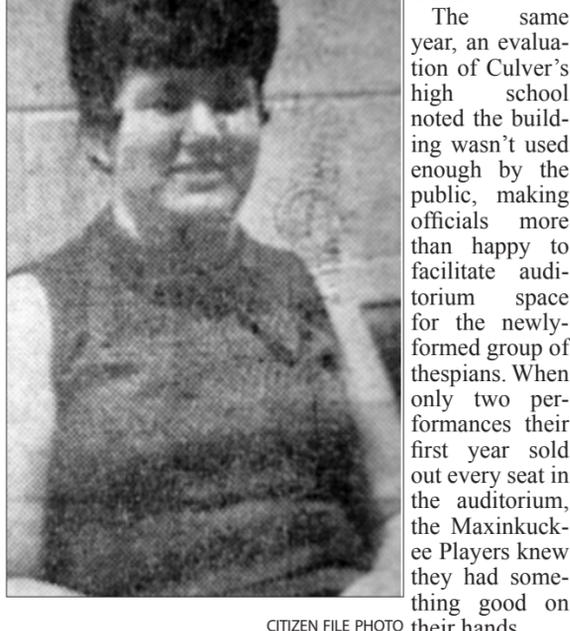
But, she says, “The people have kept me in Culver.” From her arrival here, locals took her under their wing,

sending her baked goods and otherwise looking out for her.

“People here are so out to help the next guy, more than anyplace else I’ve been,” she notes. “It’s a small town and I’ve felt very safe here. Being single, I don’t know if I could walk the dog at two in the morning and feel very safe, but I’ve done that here.”

Dearth was one of the founding members of the Maxinkuckee Players theater group, which she says evolved from the late Mimi Kalt (later Weirick), a CCHS teacher at the time, asking fellow faculty members to take unfilled parts in “Finian’s Rainbow.”

“When it was over, we’d had so darn much fun we sat around and said, ‘It’s a shame adults didn’t have enough parts to do (in plays).’ Some genius said, ‘Why not?’ and we got to talking about all the talent in this town doing nothing, and thought maybe civic theater would work.”



CITIZEN FILE PHOTO  
Vickie Dearth as pictured in the Sept. 18, 1969 Culver Citizen, then being Culver’s new French teacher.

and untested group of performers, as well as the high school for making the space available for both rehearsals and performances “for next to nothing.” In turn, the Players have tried to return the favor by paying for new stage curtains and other upgrades.

Dearth herself has done it all with the group: actress, director, chorus singer, set designer and worker. “Just about everything except play the piano, which I don’t know how to do,” she quips.

She’s also highly involved in Culver’s Lions Club, “just because they do so much good and help out in a lot of ways.” She’s also involved in Grace United Church of Christ and its mid-month meals, which she says exemplifies that church as “another organization that I think helps where they can. I like to be involved in things that try to do some good.”

She also feels Culver is the best of many worlds.

“It’s obviously a beautiful place to live; there’s nothing prettier than around that lake in the fall...I also think a lot of it is the Academy. They attract a lot of interesting people from all over the world. What other small town can you walk in and there’s famous people (and) people from (around the world)? I think that’s great. And relations between town and Academy have gotten so much better over the years than what they used to be. It’s a very nice little town and I love it, but it wouldn’t be what it is if we didn’t have the Academy... for a town our size, I think that’s a wonderful thing. I would venture to say there isn’t another town in the world quite like this one.”

And the big-city girl has embraced the quirks of small town life. Dearth is full of anecdotes about Culver, from residents not knowing names of streets (“If you don’t know where people live, they can’t give you directions!”) to the pro-

## Girl Scout week: celebrating leadership

Beginning this week, more than 15,500 Girl Scouts across northern Indiana and Michiana will celebrate Girl Scout Week as they make the world a better place. Throughout the week and all year long, girls will continue to build leadership skills through contemporary activities that include opportunities to discover, connect and take action. Girl Scout Week, March 7-13, is also a time to celebrate the 4,700 adult women and men who mentor girls and make Girl Scouting possible.

“It’s a great time to be a girl, because the opportunities for leadership and success are unlimited. It’s also a unique time to be a girl, as expectations rise and challenges increase – and that makes Girl Scouts even more important. We’re proud to be providing the valuable programs that help girls develop the skills that make them leaders today and tomorrow,” says Sherri Weidman, CEO, Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana. “This week, we are excited to recognize 98 years of Girl Scouts and the dedication of every volunteer who makes it all possible.”

Girl Scout Week and the leadership projects girls undertake to celebrate it are helping them lead by example in their communities and in the larger world around them. With leadership development at the organization’s core, today’s Girl Scouts take part in a vast array of activities, from outdoor and environmental programs to science and technology initiatives, and they gain knowledge about such things as business and economics.

Today, as when founded in 1912, Girl Scouts helps cultivate values, social conscience and self-esteem in young girls, enabling them to succeed as leaders today and tomorrow. Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana provides leadership experiences for more than 15,500 Girl Scouts ages 5-17. They are guided by more than 4,700 adult volunteers who mentor them and work behind-the-scenes to support Girl Scouts and our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

For information on joining Culver’s Girl Scout or Brownie Troops #30472, please call 219-405-5173.

prietor of a former grocery store on Main Street calling her house to remind her to come in and get milk (Dearth’s visiting, big-city mother was amazed: “Your grocery store runs a wake-up service?”).

“The whole town is just not to be believed,” she chuckles. “It’s really kind of like falling into utopia. You don’t believe this kind of place exists. Other people live in fear for their life in the city. It’s just nice to be able to relax and live and enjoy; it’s kind of like living 100 years ago.”

She’s full of tales, too, of former students and their dedication to her, including some who she found later had been watching out for her safety when she didn’t realize it.

“Anybody not doing some occupation where they’re dealing with kids is missing the boat,” she says. “It gives you faith in the future...I got pulled into 50,000 kids’ world!”

Which brings Vickie Dearth back to that line from “Pippen” about destiny.

“I stumbled into my destiny,” she admits, “but I wouldn’t trade it for anything. I just felt like it was meant to be.”

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