



The Culver Citizen

Thursday, December 1, 2011 Vol. No. 118 Issue No. 47 50¢
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894

PHOTOS/RALPH WINTERS AND *MAX HERMANS - LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

In Brief

Community tree lighting, caroling Friday

The annual Culver community tree lighting and caroling event will return Friday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., starting at the train station-depot on Lake Shore Drive.

The Knights of Columbus will join Culver Comm. High School and Culver Academies students in the event, which includes hot drinks and refreshments in the depot, caroling to kick off the lighting ceremony, and a visit from a beloved special guest children are sure to enjoy. Following will be caroling at various locations in the Culver community. All are invited to kick off the holiday season with this community event.

Wesley cookie walk

Wesley United Methodist Church, 511 School Street, will have a "Cookie Walk" Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Shoppers can walk along several tables and choose the cookies of their choice. There will be a variety of sweets and treats. Containers will be provided. Cookies can be purchased for a cost of \$6 a pound.

Dancevision performances this wk

Dancevision, a seasonal, student-performed dance recital, will once again hit the stage at Culver Academies' Eppley Auditorium. Performed will be dance selections including "Peter Pan" and a variety of other works, on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m. Both are free and open to the public.

Culver churches holiday/historic tour, concert Dec. 4

The Antiquarian & Historical Society of Culver is teaming up with several local churches for a historic tour, by bus, of several of the community's places of worship Sunday, Dec. 4, starting at 2 p.m., outside Wesley United Methodist Church on School Street. Attendees will enter each church building for a brief look at its architecture and history. The event will conclude at Wesley church, where refreshments will accompany a short concert and prayer service featuring music from some churches with virtuoso organist Ron McMahon providing primary accompaniment, beginning at 4 p.m.

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Worth a thousand words?

Debate at last week's town council meeting centered partially around the above photos (SEE STORY BELOW), all taken within recent months at Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin, and all purporting to show wind turbines on that lake's shore of comparable size to those proposed for placement in this area. The two left-hand photos -- and particularly the upper left shot -- taken by councilman Ralph Winters, seem to tell a different story than the photo at upper right, commissioned by Hank Bilsland of Culver and taken by Wisconsin photographer Max Hermans. The latter photo was distributed throughout the community as a suggestion of how wind turbines placed here might appear, a suggestion refuted by Winters, who suggested his photos reveal deliberate misleading via the Hermans image.

Winters presents Wisconsin wind farm photos, questions authenticity of prior pics

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

A few weeks ago, Culver resident Hank Bilsland defended photographs he'd commissioned of wind turbines placed at Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin following a suggestion by Culver town council member Ralph Winters that the photos could have been digitally enhanced to give the turbines a more ominous appearance. At last week's regular town council meeting, Winters revisited the debate with a set of photographs he'd taken himself at the same site, accompanied by wife Barbara on what he called a "road trip" the two recent undertook to the Wisconsin site.

"I don't have cameras as good as a professional person," Winters said as he distributed copies of the photos to council members, "but I took pictures from the west side of (Lake Winnebago) across to the east. You have to strain your eyes to see the windmills on the east side of the lake. When you zoom in, you can see the windmills then, but nothing like that absolutely gross, total misrepresentation of the windmills that has been passed around in this community, and which a gentleman was quite insulted when I insinuated they'd been Photo-shopped."

Winters added a reference to a comment made in an earlier council meeting suggesting the turbines could have an adverse affect on dairy production.

"There must be a hell of a demand for artificial buttermilk," he said, distributing another photo of a confinement dairy operation with windmills "500 feet behind the (dairy) building.

"There are a lot of legitimate reasons to not want the windmills in the community. I respect that (though) I don't agree. But to do just totally out of reason exaggerations with that...photo that's been passed around this community as to what they'll look like -- it's unbelievable that people are stooping to that level."

He added a story of "two old guys" sitting in a restaurant where Winters and his wife ate, who told the couple that "two years ago, the windmills spun so fast they sucked 18 inches off the lake...they had to go to Minnesota find Paul Bunyan and Babe the ox to fix it. They had straight faces when they told us that."

Winters did concede that, driving home from the site, he "found the lights (on the turbines) at night quite distracting. That's something else."

In other discussion, council member Ed Pinder, the only incumbent besides council president Ginny Munroe to

See Council page 2

'Painter and Poet' bid Culver farewell

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

After more than a quarter Century documenting the beauty of Culver's landmark structures and scenery, Esther and Ward Miller, proprietors of Painter and Poet Gallery at 307 N. Main Street near downtown Culver, are setting sail for other shores - more specifically into a Condo at Robin Hood affiliated with with Grace Village Retirement Community. "We love Culver dearly, and are very sad to leave," says Esther, "but at 82, with all of our children scattered, we think this is a wise decision for us."

The loss of Culver's resident artist and poet leaves some consolation: Painter and Poet prints will still be readily available via Gail's Shop in downtown Culver, and Academies related prints will be sold through that school's bookstore. Although Ward and Esther will not have a retail outlet at their condo, they will maintain their active web site: www.painterandpoet.com, where any of their listed items -- including their unmatred prints, many of their boxed notecards, all of Ward's poetry books, and their cook books -- can still be ordered. And Esther is determined to work hard on many of the commissions she "should

See Painter page 3

Bilsland defends photos based on lake configuration

The *Citizen* was contacted following last week's council meeting by Hank Bilsland of Culver, who refutes Winters' suggestion the photos have been digitally enhanced to create an artificial impression.

Bilsland telephoned photographer Max Hermans, he says, to once again verify the authenticity of the photo, which he says Hermans took -- as commissioned by Bilsland, August 10, 2011 from the town of Van Dyne, Wisconsin, using a Canon 50D and used a 70-200mm lens.

The key factor differentiating the two photos, Bilsland suggests, is the layout of the two lakes. While Maxinkuckee is approximately 1,864 acres and around one by two miles, Winnebago is 30 by 10 miles with a 137,708 acre surface area. Winnebago tapers at its south end, near Fond du Loc, while Osh Kosh is nearest the center of the lake.

The Hermans photo, Bilsland says, was taken at a point at which the distance from shore to shore is six miles. The wind turbines are two to three miles from the shore. The photo was

See Photos page 2

Manhunt for murder suspects leaves Culver area rattled

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

It was a Thanksgiving few in the Culver area will soon forget, but by Friday afternoon, it was announced that Roy Bell, the third and final suspect in the Nov. 22 murder of 81 year old Wilma Upsall, was apprehended by Starke County police in southeastern Starke County near Monterey Friday afternoon. The arrest brought a close to several tense days and a massive search effort which reached a peak



PHOTOS/INDIANA STATE POLICE

Wednesday evening near Culver. Tuesday, at approximately 7:06 p.m., officers from the Indiana State Police and Fulton County Sheriff's Department responded to a 911 call reporting a possible murder at 6832 West Olsson Road, just outside Leiters Ford.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the owners of the residence, Timothy and Deborah Richardson, arrived home from work, and found a rear door to the house open. Upon entering the house, they found the body of Upsall. An autopsy, conducted on Wednesday, revealed that Upsall died of a gunshot wound. There were signs of forced entry into the home, which apparently was targeted by the suspects for robbery.

Upsall lived at the home with her daughter and son-in-law (see article below for more on her life and family). See Manhunt page 2

Upsall celebrated as beloved family member

By Cheryl Patrick
Correspondent

Since last week, we've heard about the violence surrounding the death of Wilma Upsall, when someone broke into the Leiters Ford home where she was staying the afternoon of Nov. 22 and ended her life. Saturday night, however, violence and crime had no place. It was a night to remember, to share and celebrate the life of Wilma Upsall who was so many things to so many people: she was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother



Wilma Upsall

and soon to be great-great-grandmother; she was also a sister, aunt, great-aunt and friend. She lived to be 81 years old and was surrounded by five generations of family who loved and cherished her place in their world.

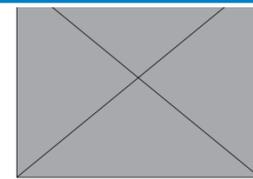
Flowers of every color imaginable lined the room at Braman & Son's Memorial Chapel, Knox. Priceless treasures made by Upsall's hands were on display and represented just a few of the keepsakes her family will cherish a lifetime:

handmade quilts, dolls, and blue velvet dresses all had their special place at the memorial.

Upsall loved to do crafts of all kinds and she was quite skilled in producing beautiful works of art. She could do macrame, crochet, quilt, sew, and do needlepoint. She also had an amazing green thumb which was evident in the beautiful plants she grew.

Photo boards were laid out with Upsall as a young woman, bride, young mother, and grandmother, images of family smiling, laughing and sharing so many years of holidays, birthdays, graduations, wed-

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Manuhunt from page 1

Wednesday night, at approximately 6:34 p.m., officers from the Indiana State Police initiated a traffic stop on a Chevrolet El Camino on 20 A Road near Monterey. The El Camino had purportedly driven across the center line and was exceeding the posted 55 miles per hour speed limit. Officers also wanted to speak with the occupants of the Chevrolet about Upsall's alleged murder. When troopers activated the emergency lighting and sirens on their police cars, the El Camino accelerated and led officers on an approximately ten minute pursuit. The chase ended when the Chevrolet crashed on State Road 117 north of State Road 110. The driver, Jason Miller, 34, Plymouth, and his two passengers, William Scroggs, 25, Delong, and Roy Bell, 24, Rochester, all fled on foot, though Miller was captured soon after.

Several tense hours ensued Wednesday night for residents in the area of State Roads 110 and 117, near Mystic Hills golf course, where a wide perimeter was estab-

lished and multiple police agencies converged, utilizing helicopters and K-9 units. Residents were encouraged to stay indoors and keep homes locked. An announcement was made to this effect at the Culver Community-Rochester basketball game Wednesday evening at Culver High School, warning attendees to avoid the 117 and 110 area when returning home.

The lockdown lasted a few hours, during which neighbors such as Darrell Garbacik updated the Culver Citizen on the goings-on outside their doors, information relayed via the Citizen's updates on social networking site Facebook. Through the night, that site was also home to voluminous discussion as nervous area residents expressed safety concerns in the wake of the news that two suspects remained at large.

Short-lived relief came in the news that two males had been arrested near Kings Lake just after midnight Thursday morning. However, police soon confirmed those ar-

rested were wanted on a separate warrant, and were not suspects in the Upsall investigation, leaving the two suspects still on the run.

After an overnight manhunt, Scroggs was eventually located and incarcerated in the Fulton County Jail. He and Miller face a single count of murder and two class A felony charges for burglary and robbery. They are being held without bond.

Friday afternoon around 2:30 p.m. Culver town marshal Wayne Bean alerted The Culver Citizen that Bell had been arrested, and encouraged dissemination of that news in hopes of calming the fears of area residents. A resident at an Elm Street home in rural Starke County where Bell was resting in the back room, called police with news of his whereabouts. Just after 2 p.m., Starke County police entered the home and arrested Bell without incident. He is being held in the Fulton County jail and is facing charges of murder, class A burglary, and class A robbery.

Photos from page 1

specifically commissioned to be taken at a total distance of around eight miles, to create a comparable visual effect to the distance from Maxinkuckee's shores to the nearest wind turbine here, as understood by way of sponsoring company Next Era's public statements. Should photos be

taken at a point elsewhere on Lake Winnebago, particularly north of Fond du Loc, the lake may be 10 miles across, so counting the two to three miles additional distance of the turbines, "you're looking at a (photo of a) 12 to 13 mile distance," something Bilsland believes may be the case in

Winters' photos.

Hermans did use computer software program Photo-shop adjust the color and remove dust specks on the lens, Bilsland says, though nothing was otherwise altered.

Council from page 1

be reelected in last month's elections, told the council and audience he had initially declined to comment on his victory to The Culver Citizen, "because I was too upset at the time, but I do have a comment now."

Pinder then read a written statement (printed in full, at his request, in this edition of the paper as a letter to the editor), which pertained to written materials distributed in Culver criticizing Howard in particular. He said "hardball" tactics employed in those writings weren't reflective of Culver's values, and did a disservice to both Winters' and Howard's work and reputations.

Audience member Russ

Mason added, "I think the real shame on this is they're (those disseminating materials attacking Howard) anonymous."

"What bothers me," added Pinder, "is these are people I thought of us as friends. Now I don't know what I think about them."

During the public input portion of the meeting, resident Mickey McFarland asked about a citation he received recently for a dog running at large.

Munroe read from the Oct. 21 police report that an officer found the dog running at large on South Ohio Street, where "multiple complaints" had been received about the dog. Finding the dog's owner not at home, the office left the citation, which calls for a \$15 fine, at the door of the home.

McFarland argued he didn't allow the dog to run loose, but rather she broke loose, and asked if the po-

lice had "nothing better to do than chase dogs around."

Munroe said someone has to take responsibility for the pet, which falls on the animal's owner.

During department head reports, Culver fire chief Mike Grover discussed hopes for an item his department sought to purchase some months ago, an ice boat usable for rescues on frozen Lake Maxinkuckee. The department, he said, has "really watched our budget" over the past year in hopes of purchasing the \$60,000 machine.

"I think we'll be okay," added Grover, noting the Township would pay for half of the cost of the item.

"We can always find financing somewhere," he said.

Culver EMS director Chuck Dilts said 800 MHz radios have been ordered for his department, bringing it into communications conformity with other emergency departments in the town and county. The radios, he noted, should arrive by the end of the year.

Town clerk Howard asked for approval for the town employees' annual Christmas party, at which no tax dollars are spent, she noted.

Death notices

Stidham

Eunice Stidham
Nov. 22, 2011

CULVER — Eunice Stidham, 73, of Culver died Nov. 22, 2011.

She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Stidham of Culver; daughters, Karen Ketchum of Culver, Pamela (Todd) Hovarter of Knox; brother, William Fields of Tennessee; sister, Laura Collette of Pierceton; and 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Odom Funeral Home, Culver.

Service was Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011 at 3 p.m. at Monterey United Methodist Church, with one hour visitation before the service.

Burial is at Riverside Memorial Cemetery, Monterey. Memorials may be made to Monterey First Responders. Letters of condolence may be sent via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

Kowatch

Jack B. Kowatch
Nov. 20, 2011

NORTH FORT MYERS, Fla. — Jack B. Kowatch, 89, of North Fort Myers, Fla. formerly of Culver, died Nov. 20, 2011 at Hope Hospice, Cape Coral, Fla.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Kowatch of North Fort Myers, Fla.; brothers, Edward (Mary) Kowatch of Culver, James (Beverly) Kowatch of Chicago, Ill., John Kowatch of Culver; son-in-law, Leon Bennett of Culver; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Culver Bible Church, Culver, where services followed at 11 a.m.

Memorials may be made to Culver Bible Church and Hope Hospice.

Burial is at Culver Masonic.

Letters of condolence may be sent via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

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

Pinder celebrates 100th with open house



Fay Pinder will celebrate her 100th birthday with an open house at Ed and Lora Pinder's home in Culver, 914 Lakeshore Dr., from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, December 11.

Pinder was born Dec. 12, 1911 at home in Kewanna, Ind. She married Harold Pinder in 1934 in Kewanna. Harold passed away Oct. 28, 1982. She was employed as head cook at Fulton and Kewanna High Schools. She also worked at Winamac Coil Spring in Kewanna. Her last 10 years of work were at Pinder's Restaurant in Culver, as a cook and pie baker. She then lived alone in Kewanna until four years ago when she came to live with her son, Ed, and daughter-in-law, Lora, in Culver. She has four living sons:

Ed (Lora), Culver, Ind.; Dick (June) Crossville, Tenn.; Jerry (Beverly), Plymouth, Ind.; David, South Bend. She has one deceased son, Robert.

Please, no gifts, just your presence, cards and shared memories.

Painter from page 1

have finished a long time ago." Ward has been waiting patiently much too long, she says, for Esther to finish small watercolors as illustrations for his poem, "My Indiana Home."

When finished, poem and watercolor together will be a poster. To find out about their new art and projects, friends and fans may go to the top of their website and click on their blog: www.painterand-poet.blogspot.com



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY
Ward and Esther Miller receive an award from Culver's Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

"At this stage in life, we both want to slow down and live an easier life style," explains Esther. "We will soon be settled in a regular condo, where I will have a convenient studio, and we'll mostly take care of ourselves -- cooking, cleaning, shopping, etcetera. But Grace Village takes care of the difficult things: all exterior maintenance, repairs, and will help us get settled -- even hanging pictures for us, and changing up high light bulbs. We will feel safer there -- and will have 24-hour emergency assistance through their skilled care nursing home, located several blocks from our condo. And we will have transportation and more help as we need it."

Esther Powers Miller began drawing before she learned to write or read, and after high school, married and attended Kansas City Art Institute for two years, next pausing to raise four children -- all the while dabbling in art. In her late thirties, she had the unexpected good fortune to come across a watercolor workshop taught by John Pike, an out-

Letter to the editor

Hardball political tactics don't reflect Culver's values

Ralph (Winters, outgoing town councilman) and Casey (Howard, outgoing Culver town clerk) are my good friends, and we have served together as a great team; therefore, it was a hollow victory for me.

I was told by a friend of the new clerk that they were going to play hardball. Little did I know that hardball meant vicious attacks on Ralph and even more vicious attacks on Casey. They even went so far as to try to destroy Casey's good name, so they could have a job for their friend.

The person who told me about hard ball, somewhere in the discussion, mentioned integrity. Unfortunately, this 'core group' doesn't know the meaning of the word integrity.

Casey took over six years ago for a clerk who resigned and left the office in complete chaos. She was able to come in and completely reorganize the office and has done a totally competent job. She has brought the office into the 21st century and has kept us all in good stead with the State Board of Accounts, which is no small feat.

My wife and I moved to Culver 46 years ago, and we always found the people here to have good hearts and judgment. However, this 'core group' that has sprung up doesn't appear to have these same values.

I thank the people of Culver for their faith in me, and I will strive to serve this wonderful community to the best of my ability because Culver is always my first priority.

Ed Pinder
Culver

Thanks to officers, prayers for victim's family

To the Editor,

All crimes can't be prevented; however, it is tremendously reassuring to know that when crimes do occur, as was the case with the robbery and murder in our area last week, we have a well-trained, professional police force to respond to the crimes and protect us. From our family's vantage point, we could see several police agencies -- local, county and state -- working together to apprehend the perpetrators. No additional lives were lost, nor property damaged by these armed and dangerous men.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those officers involved in this effort, and our prayers are with the victim's family.

Regards,

Chris Kline
Culver

Police Chase

Out on the back roads of Union Twp., Marshall County, Indiana, the quiet Eve of Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, took a startling turn. East on 20B Road a car screamed by our house as if the driver were rushing to beat a line of police cruisers, lights flashing, to an outhouse.

Curiosity piqued, the chill of the evening ignored, we clustered on the front porch. We watched police cars set up road blocks on SR 110, 117, 20B Road, 20th Road, and a half mile to the east all along Queen Road, north to south. The farm land in between the mile and a half rectangle of corn and cattle pasture was sealed by armed officers.

It crossed our minds this police chase might have a connection to a very recent murder over to Fulton County. This suspicion was heightened when a State Trooper came to the door and advised us to stay inside, doors locked, as police with dogs were patrolling the area.

This advice presented a minor problem. Our daughter and family from Illinois had rented a Mystic Hills house on SR 117 and 20th Road. They couldn't get there. Our granddaughter and husband from Tennessee were, by cell phone, diverted to Culver's Edgewater Restaurant. Our grandson and

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standing painter and an inspiring and kind teacher. She was "hooked" from that day forward. A few years later, she was divorced and needed to find a "good job." Afraid to risk painting, she opted for a real estate career -- first in brokerage and later in appraisal -- all the while wishing to paint, paint, paint! So she followed Pike's suggestion for people who wanted to paint, but didn't yet have time. He said to "look, look, and look some more." She looked and dreamed, she says.

Meanwhile, Ward wrote his first poem in 1951, walking guard during the Korean War. Both single and living in South Bend, they were introduced, and after their second date, Ward sent her a poem, "My House by the Lake." She was thrilled by the sensitivity inherent in that poem, which is included in his first paperback book, "Small Town," about Culver (it's been reprinted several times and is still available on their web site).

They married and continued work -- he at the phone company, and she in real estate. The painting and poetry journey began a little over two decades ago when she painted a winter scene of Culver Academies' Memorial Chapel, and he wrote a verse to go with it. This was sent as their Christmas greeting in 1989.

The Painter and Poet, focused on their journey, traveled to art shows by camper, usually painting and selling regional scenes. Tiring of the transient life style, they first rented the space cur-

A very Culver Christmas 2011

Another busy holiday season is off to a start, and we'll list holiday-related events in the Culver area, as we're aware of them, in this space through December. Please contact the editor at citizen@culcom.net or 574-216-0075 to add your event.

Fri., Dec. 2: Community tree lighting, caroling, and holiday season kick-off, 6:30 to 8 p.m., town park depot area.

Sat., Dec. 3: Nativity pageant rehearsal (first of two), 9 a.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, College Ave.

Cookie walk, 9 a.m. to noon, Wesley United Methodist Church, School St.

Sun., Dec. 4: Culver historic churches tour (2 p.m.) and Advent service/concert (4 p.m.), bus-driven, starts at Wesley church.

Christmas concert, Culver Academies band, orchestra, and choir, Ancilla Domini chapel, 3 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 7: 'Christmas in Connecticut' movie screening, book/movie discussion, noon, Culver Public Library

Sun., Dec. 10: Annual children's Christmas party with Santa and Rudi the clown, 10 a.m., Culver Elementary cafeteria (Fire dept., VFW, Lions Club-sponsored)

Nativity pageant rehearsal (second of two), 9 a.m., St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, College Ave.

Sun., Dec. 11: Christmas Vespers service, 5 p.m., Culver Academies Memorial Chapel.

Christmas sing-a-long with "Mrs. Claus" and company, 6 to 7 p.m., Delong Gospel Lighthouse Church

Tues., Dec. 13: Holiday concert, Culver Academies choir, band, orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Ep-Auditorium.

Wed., Dec. 14: Maxinkuckee Singers holiday show, 6 p.m., Grace United Church of Christ, Culver

Fri., Dec. 16: Nativity pageant, 5:30 p.m. (followed by party and Santa visit), St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church.

Tues., Dec. 20: REAL Meals Christmas party, noon, Culver beach lodge.



Upsall from page 1

dings, the birth of children and even a fun day at the beach.

Upsall was also a valued employee. For many years, She worked at Howmet Austenal in Laporte. Later, she worked in the kitchen at Starke Memorial Hospital (now IU Starke Hospital). After retirement, she would often visit the hospital because she couldn't stand being idle. She was a woman of many talents, a hard worker and possessed a generous spirit.

Saturday night was about the endless threads of a life that when woven together created a tapestry of memories that her family can cherish a lifetime. It was a time for family, friends and loved ones to reminisce about the funny, happy, crazy and carefree times. It was a time to celebrate a life well lived and to draw strength and comfort from all whose lives were touched by Upsall.

Wilma Upsall was born Feb. 6, 1930. She is survived by daughters: Linda (Leonard) Wachs, Charlene Thompson, Debbie (Tim) Richardson and Carol (Junice) Crittendon; sons: Tim (Deanna) Howard and Pete (Janis) Mercer; brother, Bill Mann, 19 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Visitation was held Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m. at Braman & Son Memorial Chapel. Memorial service were held at 1 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

rently occupied by Gail's Shop, then later established their gallery at the now defunct Bear End, also on South Main Street, before eventually buying the house they're now leaving -- used both as their home and business.

Esther Miller's paintings have ranged from local landmarks such as the Washington Schoolhouse, Council Fire ring, and Vandalia Train Depot, to more regional scenes including Notre Dame, Michigan lighthouses, and Plymouth scenes, including Chief Menominee, with Ward's eloquent poem, and a history of that sad day in our past.

The Painter and the Poet has been a means for the Millers to do "something special and interesting" after retirement, notes Esther, and something which has paid its own way, and even made a bit of money as well. Ward concedes it's more a hobby than a profession, but it's been an interesting and enjoyable one. Esther adds her thanks to Ward for encouraging her to go ahead and try to live her dream, and she thanks all the collectors who have been so supportive.

"It's been a joy to share their painting and poetry with so many...I now hope to finish many of the watercolors that are still 'pictures in my head.'"

Giving thanks with the *extended* Culver family

Even before the events of Wednesday through Friday last week in the Culver area, it had been a pretty eventful week, and I had an entirely different editorial in mind prior to the tense manhunt Wednesday night resulting in the arrest of two murder suspects, and the days that followed before Friday afternoon's arrest of the third suspect.

Tuesday evening's town council meeting, for example, touched on not one, but two highly controversial matters in the Culver area of late: the recent local election (or more specifically, the nature of some of the campaigning leading up to that election), and the proposed wind turbine project in this area (discussion of whether photos of an arguably similar project in Wisconsin had been "doctored" to give wind turbines there a more ominous look).

Once some time has passed, I'm certain those two issues will once again take center stage in this community, but the events of last week do put things into perspective, don't they?

Wednesday night, I found myself, like the rest of the area, watching, reading, and listening with dismay as the area surrounding Mystic Hills golf course took on the appearance, for a time, of a veritable war zone.

As one nearby resident commented to me later, what most concerned locals was the fact that the three suspects appeared to be willing to take a life to achieve their goals. The death of Wilma Upsall near Leiters Ford was not the crime of passion often the motive for the rare murders to have taken place in our quiet community from time to time. While shocking, those rarely leave the general public fearing for its safety.

Whether an accurate assumption or not, the Upsall murder suggested to many that her killers were heavily armed and capable of killing as a means to an end, and I'm certain many in the area -- particularly those in close proximity to the situation -- wondered if they could be next.

This was also one of the few times, in Culver area news, in which the internet in general, and social networking online (in this case Facebook) specifically, played a major role. Unlike most stories in Culver, there was obviously an extremely "timely" nature to Wednesday night -- literally a minute by minute factor which went from "police are establishing a perimeter here," to "there's a roadblock set up there and two have been arrested," and all of it quite different from, say, election night. As heated as this year's election was, even the most invested of us didn't see it as a potentially lethal situation -- at least I hope not!

With that in mind, I'm grateful to those who helped supply information "as it happened," including neighbors, officials, and readers. I think all of us are indebted to town marshal Wayne Bean for his very specific efforts to share information immediately to relieve everyone's concerns.

Wayne will tell you, I'm sure, that he's not a Facebook user and doesn't spend much time using the internet for "social" networking. But obviously he was aware how quickly and effectively people were using Facebook as a tool for disseminating information in this case, as he specifically phoned me Friday afternoon, literally within minutes of the arrest of Roy Bell, to ask that the *Culver Citizen* share that news on Facebook, to ease the worries of the community.

I'm also appreciative for the positive feedback from many for the Citizen's efforts to share information in that timely manner, on Facebook -- and yes, for aiming to separate rumor from fact, and hold off on sharing any "news" until it was verifiable and genuinely "news" rather than supposition. To my amazement, the *Citizen* gained some 80 "friends" within 48 hours or so, starting Wednesday evening. And I even managed to stay fairly lucid through Thanksgiving day with two to three hours of sleep!

So, the contents of the editorial I planned to write have changed. A family in our area has lost a loved one. Other families are reeling from the actions their loved ones undertook, and the lifelong implications of those actions. For nearly everyone, it was a strange Thanksgiving, ranging from tragic to at least somewhat apprehensive.

The sad and unsettling drama of the past week isn't entirely out of sync, though, with what I planned to write *before* Wednesday evening.

I'd been reflecting, as so many families prepared to gather together for the holiday, on the nature of family, and by extension, the nature of community, since the two -- at least where actual community still exists in America, as I believe it does here -- have a lot in common.

I don't just mean that in the "warm, fuzzy" sense. The truth is -- as many no doubt experience when families get together for a holiday -- family isn't always all about holding hands and singing "Kum-ba-yah." That's hopefully *part* of family time, sure (figuratively, I mean). But most families have some areas of tension, some members who are hard to get along with, inevitable factions, cliques, or -- to be fair -- just sub-groups whose members have more in common with one another than other sub-groups.

So it goes with community, which works not because we're all in lock-step but because we all, usually, choose our battles and set aside our major differences to work together to get along. When Culverites *do* work together -- and at many times and places, they do -- that's how it works. And, as with family, communities move ahead thus in part because we must: we're all in it together, like it or not. I may not like you today, but you're my brother, cousin, niece, or whatever. We're part of the family. The same is true, I'd argue, with our community (and its own various

sub-communities: churches, clubs, boards, and the like), and that's the way it's supposed to be. I actually think it's quite good for us, even (or maybe especially) when we don't "like" it.

Ironically, someone commented to me Tuesday afternoon regarding the controversial tactics used in last month's election campaign, that while Culver is still "Mayberry," now the sheriff carries a gun (again, all of it figurative, of course).

That is, we're all perhaps a little less prone to romanticizing our little pocket of the world, and the reduction in "aw shucks" politeness in human relations is much harder to ignore. Of course, the specifics of that comment were almost uncannily prophetic, given what would follow in the days after that conversation, all of which again does bring elections and such into perspective, even if only for a while.

But I think, for all the ugliness of last week's murder and ensuing manhunt, we saw the great value of the family dynamic in community at the fore. At the risk of sounding self-serving, I can honestly say that no media outlet's coverage, however strong, is going to be quite as focused as the local media's, since the *Culver Citizen* editor is writing about events affecting friends, neighbors, co-workers... even family. The situation, obviously, was far more than just a "story" deserving coverage for purely journalistic purposes.

And what came through on Facebook, partly via the *Culver Citizen's* feed (by way of comments, wall posts, responses, private messages, and the like) as well as by observing friends' status updates, was very much a spirit of family: people deeply concerned about, praying for, and at times assisting residents, neighbors, classmates, and police officers as the events unfolded. We were all in it together, and for a while it didn't matter if some of us are, in effect, that dysfunctional cousin or sibling many people have who's all but impossible to deal with. This was bigger than our differences.

None of this is to suggest, as the dust settles, that we all forfeit our convictions and roll over and play happy just to get along and feign camaraderie. In the cases of the wind farm project as well as the election campaign matter, people on all sides have their convictions and feel compelled to act upon them, hopefully in the name of what they feel is truly right and good, and not simply what is self-profiting. Hopefully at the end of the day, however, we can all manage to sit down at the table and share the turkey leftovers in a friendly spirit.

After all, we're all still neighbors in the extended family, however occasionally flawed, that is Culver. And I think this week, much of our talk around town will take place within the context of just being thankful for our law enforcement officials, and simply for one more day's peace and safety.



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor

Culver History Corner

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver

As announced in our Winter, 2011 newsletter, effective with this issue of the *Culver Citizen*, all current members of the Antiquarian and Historical Society have begun receiving a one year subscription to the newspaper. If you were previously a society member but did not renew in 2011, you may still do so to begin receiving your one year subscription. If you currently have a subscription to the *Citizen*, the time remaining on it will be added to the end of this one year AHS subscription.

Along with other groups and organizations in Culver who have recently enhanced their support of the newspaper, primarily through increased advertising, the AHS also recognized the value to the community for the continued viability of the *Citizen*. The paper is the principal way by which information concerning all aspects of Culver living is promulgated. And so your board of directors decided to utilize the *Citizen* as the way in which we will communi-

cate in writing with our membership.

By discontinuing the printing and mailing of newsletters, announcements, notices, etc., the money saved will offset the cost of the subscriptions and advertising space we will receive in the *Citizen*. Basically, the AHS will receive quarterly, a full page for content which will replace the AHS quarterly newsletter, as well as appropriate space to provide society updates, make event and dues announcements, etc.

There may be exceptions when we will do a membership mailing, but over the next year the *Citizen* will be our way of communicating with you in writing. If you have web access, we have launched a newly revised web site at www.culverahs.com which will include all of the information we publish in the *Citizen* plus so much more. The society is on Facebook (AHS Culver) and will continue to send out information via email from: historyofculver@gmail.com.

We have many exciting events planned for 2012 and we appreciate it that you have chosen to be part of the group in Culver devoted to promoting the history of this wonderful community in order to make it a better place for all. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Jim Sawhook
AHS Vice President

Name that Culver 'citizen'

A few sharp-eyed readers recognized last week's Mystery Citizen, including Lori Heins, Marizetta Kenney, Charlotte Blessing, and Lisa Geiselman.

She was Edna Mae Craft, most recently and prominently visible at the window of Culver's town hall, where for years she's been filling in hours here and there for Culver's town clerk and deputy clerk. She also was part of the Lions Club "Organization of the Year," the community gardeners originating from Grace United Church of Christ and based on Wesley United Methodist Church property.

BELOW: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Edna Mae Craft, then (left) and now. ABOVE LEFT: This week's Mystery Citizen.



This week's Mystery Citizen has been prominently involved for several decades with a major local institution, as well as several other local endeavors.

Guesses may be emailed to citizen@culcom.net, or call the editor at 574-216-0075.



Free throws power Dragons past Cavs

By Dee Grenert
Staff Writer

ARGOS — Argos girls basketball head coach Nick Medich searched for an explanation, oddly enough, for how his team beat Culver Community Tuesday.

He quickly eliminated the 36 percent field-goal percentage, 23 turnovers, and generally sloppy play before settling on free throws.

The Dragons drained 15-of-20 tries from the charity stripe — compared to 4 of 7 for the Cavs — and held off Culver in a 37-30 win at Phil Weybright Gymnasium.

The Cavs scuffled to a 12-for-43 finish — 28 percent — from the field and threw the ball away 27 times.

“We’re not a very good team right now,” Culver head coach Tony Scheub, who used four freshmen and two sophomores, said. “We have the potential to be a good team. I’m tired, tired, tired of hearing that this is a rebuilding year. We’ve played five games and we played all summer. These kids are good basketball players. We’ve got to get better, and that starts with the coaching.”

“I thought we only played hard in a six-minute stretch,” he added. “I don’t think we executed. Everything we talked about Argos was going to do we gave away. It was a frustrating game all around.”

Sophomore Kayla Shaffer and freshman reserve guard Angela Lewellen scored seven points apiece to top the Cavs’ scoring chart. Shaffer, who fueled a fourth-quarter comeback bid with her defense, drilled a 3-pointer to cut Culver’s deficit to two, 30-28, with 2:50

left in the game before fouling out at the 2:08 mark.

The Cavs twice gained possession down three points in the final two minutes, but never pulled closer than two points. During the first of those chances, Culver missed perimeter threat Ali Overmyer wide open in the left corner.

“Because of foul trouble we had a post player, playing out of position,” Scheub, whose team lost both Shaffer and guard Tatum Schultz to fouls, said. “I don’t fault her for that. I would have loved to get the ball to Ali.”

Argos averted disaster in the third quarter. The Dragons went to a four-corner offense and burned off critical chunks of time. Karlee VanDerWeele’s driving layup ended a 6-0 Culver mini-run, putting Argos up 25-19 with 2:21 left in the third.

Even with Patterson back in the final stanza, the Dragons stuck to the spread.

Abby James and freshman Mickella Hardy nabbed seven and six caroms respectively, and Schultz swiped three steals for the Cavs.

Culver looks to get back on track Saturday at North White.



PHOTO BY DEANNA L. GRENER

Culver Community’s Tatum Schultz goes up for a shot during a girls basketball game against Argos last week.

• ARGOS 37, CULVER COMMUNITY 30
At Argos
Score by quarters
Culver: 4 13 19 30
Argos: 8 21 27 37
CULVER (30): Ali Overmyer 0 0-0 0, Angela Lewellen 2 2-2 7, Tatum Schultz 2 0-0 4, Abby James 1 0-0 2, Donna Zehner 1 2-2 4, Mikella Hardy 3 0-0 6, Kayla Shaffer 3 0-3 7. TOTALS: 12 4-7 30.
3-point goals: Culver 2 (Lewellen, Shaffer), Argos none; Turnovers: Culver 27, Argos 23; Rebounds: Culver 29 (James 7), Argos 25 (Moyer, Prochno 10); Assists: Culver 6 (Overmyer, Schultz 2), Argos 3; Steals: Culver 7 (Schultz, Shaffer 3), Argos 10 (Moyer 5); Fouls (fouled out): Culver 20 (Schultz, Shaffer), Argos 14; Records: Culver 3-2, Argos 4-1.
JV score: Argos 45, Culver 16

CGA’s Banfich, Neer are All-Americans



PHOTOS/TIM CREASON

TOP: Former Culver Girls Academy state champion Waverly Neer being interviewed after Monday’s NCAA cross country championships in Terre Haute. Note the blood running down her leg from a spike wound she received during the race.

BOTTOM: Princeton University senior Alex Banfich (502) passes the 2K mark during the race.

6:30 p.m. tip-off time.
• CULVER 48, ROCHESTER 41
At Culver

Culver Girls Academy alumni Alex Banfich and Waverly Neer both earned All-America honors at the NCAA Women’s Cross Country Championships at the LaVern Gibson Championship Course in Terre Haute Monday.

Banfich, a Plymouth native and senior at Princeton University, finished fifth with a time of 19:45 flat in her final go-round at the 6K nationals after placing 20th at last year’s meet. Neer, a native of Russiaville and freshman at Columbia University, just made the All-America cut with a 20:30.4 for 40th place after being diagnosed with a stress fracture in September.

CBS television will broadcast a video of the meet on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. Both earned individual berths to Mondays’ national championships at the Ivy League championships Oct. 29.

Meanwhile at the meet, Notre Dame’s women placed 22nd with a 512 team score, while the Irish men were 24th with a score of 575. Indiana University’s men placed seventh with a 257 score.

Sports Briefs

Girls basketball

Culver rebounds with win at North White

Culver rebounded from a loss to Argos with a 49-20 road win over North White Saturday.

The Lady Cavaliers were led by freshman Mickella Hardy’s game-high 23 points, while sophomore Kayla Shaffer finished with three triples and 16 points in the win.

North White was led by Lacey Hendress’ 11 points, meanwhile.

Culver improves to 4-2 with the win and will host Rochester Tuesday. Tip-off is slated for 7:30 p.m.

• CULVER 49, NORTH WHITE 20
At North White

Boys basketball

Culver beats West Central

Culver Community had three players in double figures as the Cavaliers beat host West Central on the road Saturday, 51-33.

Trent Elliott led all scorers with three 3s en route to 18 points, while both Collin Stevens and Allen Biggers finished with 11 points for Culver, which moves to 2-0 on the season.

West Central was led by Zeph Conley’s 10 points and falls to 0-2.

The Cavs travel to LaCrosse Friday for a game with an 8 p.m. tip-off time.

• CULVER 51, WEST CENTRAL 33
At West Central

Cavs win opener

Trent Elliott knocked down three treys on his way to 16 points, and Culver handed visiting Rochester a 48-41 defeat in the two teams’ season-opener Wednesday.

Jacoda Anderson scored 12 points in the win for Culver, while Rochester was led by Andrew Riddle’s 15 and Zac Shoen’s 12.

The Cavs will travel to West Central Saturday with a

Letter from page 3

fiancee from Fort Drum, NY, he a U.S. Army Ranger just back from his second combat tour of Afghanistan, were redirected at a road block, and by cell phone, were also sent to the Edgewater. Our daughter and grandson from Missouri had arrived a day earlier.

Over the hours of the Eve, late into the night, police cars arrived, as many as a dozen around the perimeter. The Mystic Hills golf course parking lot was turned into a command center for another 30 police cars and officers. Police dogs barked. A helicopter zoomed north and south, east and west, search light probing hiding places.

All was mindful of a TV program set in an urban area. With what appeared to be at least half of all of Northern

Indiana’s finest patrolling near our three acres, never over the 25 years living on the back acres of Union Township had we been so protected.

Sleep came easily!

Early Thanksgiving morning friends phoned. They tied the event of the Eve to the alleged murderers of the lady just five miles to our south.

We were told, using Google Maps, the world could focus in our house. We were told two of the three fleeing felons had been apprehended. We were told one fleeing felon remained at large.

Nonetheless, we warmly gathered all our family members to Union Townshjp on Thanksgiving Day, particu-

larly appreciating the presence of our combat experienced U.S. Army Ranger.

**Jim Walsh
Culver**

Maxinkuckee Singers Christmas Spectacular



Pictured above are Maxinkuckee Singers (front) Brian Liechty, Matt Sutton; second row, Julie Scott, Andrea Mallory, Becky Liechty, Laura Snipes; third row, Joy Ritenour, Kathy Overmyer, Beth Webster (director), Betty Martens (keyboardist), Sharon Coffey; back row, Gregg Underwood, Dan Adams, Judy Patton, Charlie Weaver, Jim Oliverius.

The Maxinkuckee Singers, under the direction of Beth Webster, cordially invite everyone to enjoy their annual

Christmas concert, presented publicly in six performances. The group looks forward to sharing standards, contemporary, sacred numbers, comedy routines and featured soloists, sure to please an audience of all ages.

All shows (except in North Judson) will begin at 7:30 p.m. EST (6:30 CST in Knox) and there is no admission charge. A freewill offering will be accepted.

The North Judson show is a fundraiser for the high school theater and music department and will begin at 4 p.m. EST/3 p.m. CST. Admission will be charged for that performance and tickets available at the door.

For more information, call 574-546-4230. Dates are as follows: **Dec. 6** at Trinity United Methodist Church in Rochester; **Dec. 8** at First United Church of Christ in Plymouth; **Dec. 12** at Bremen United Methodist Church in Bremen; **Dec. 14** at Grace United Church of Christ in Culver; **Dec. 15** at Knox United Methodist Church in Knox; **Dec. 18** at North Judson/San Pierre High School in North Judson.



PHOTO PROVIDED

C B G C Member of the Month

Culver Elementary School third grader AJ Cooper was named the Culver Boys & Girls Club member of the

month for October.

This award is given out monthly to the member, who best exemplifies the virtues of respect, responsibility, and honesty.

Briefs from page 1

Nativity pageant rehearsals begin Dec. 3

Rehearsals for this year's Nativity pageant, held at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Culver, will take place Saturdays, Dec. 3 and 10, at 9 a.m. at the church, located at 124 College Avenue. Children of the community are invited to rehearsals, where they will also choose parts and be fitted for costumes. The Nativity pageant will take place Friday evening, Dec. 16, starting at 5:30 p.m. A children's party with a "special guest" will take place immediately following, in the church basement. Questions may be directed to 574-842-2522.

VFW Soup cook-off returns

Culver VFW Post 6919 Men's Auxiliary will once again host its annual Soup Cook-off Sunday, December 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring soup and compete against other entries for best soup, with proceeds (just \$5 to sample all and keep eating) going to the Culver Food Pantry. All are welcome to this popular annual event.

Academies musicians, singers at Christmas concerts Dec. 4

DONALDSON, IN – The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ will present a seasonal concert Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m. featuring the Culver Academies Choir, Band and Orchestra performing Christmas music and other selections in the Ancilla Domini Chapel, PHJC Ministry Center.

Everyone is welcome to this free program. A reception will follow in Cana Hall in the lower level of the PHJC Ministry Center. For more information please call 574-936-9936 or visit www.poorhandmaids.org for directions.

Library book, movie is 'Christmas in Connecticut';

Culver-Union Township Public Library's book and film club, "A Novel Approach," will showcase "Christmas in Connecticut" Dec. 7 at noon, in the library's large, lower-level meeting room. Patrons are encouraged to bring their lunch to eat while they enjoy the movie and the discussion afterwards. The library is located at 107 N. Main Street. All programs are free and open to the public.

Children's Christmas party, Santa visit Dec. 10

The annual Culver community children's Christmas party will take place Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Culver Elementary School cafeteria. The

event, co-sponsored by the Culver fire department, VFW Post, and Lions Club, will feature "Rootin' Tootin' Rudi" the clown, who will entertain children with magic tricks, stories, games, plastic balloons, and more. The fire department will also drive Santa Claus around town on a fire truck that morning, with his arrival at the school slated for 11:10 a.m., after which children may visit with him. The event is free, and treat bags will be provided for all children from all three organizations.

REAL Meals Christmas Dec. 20

Culver's REAL Services will hold its annual Christmas meal and party on Tues., Dec. 20, starting at noon. Rather than the usual male/female gift exchange, attendees are encouraged to bring an item to donate to Culver's food pantry. Santa will be there, and as always, the meal takes place at the beach lodge on Lake Shore Drive. Those wishing to attend are asked to call 574-842-8878 to make a reservation. A suggested donation of \$3 per meal is welcome but not required.

Cafe Max collecting for Humane Society

Culver's Café Max is once again sponsoring its annual "Thanksgiving for the Homeless" drive, in which contributions of supplies and money benefit the Marshall County Humane Society.

The shelter wish list includes monetary contributions, used towels and blankets, stamps, stamped post cards, bleach, laundry detergent, clay cat litter (non-scoopable), paper towels, heavy duty 33-gal. garbage bags, cat toys, brand-name kitten and puppy food, AAA batteries for pagers.

Café Max will accept donations during open hours. The Café is located at 113 S. Main St. in Culver and may be reached at 574-842-2511. The supply drive will end December 22.

Donations sought for Jan. 14 benefit for Culver family

A benefit will take place for the family of Culver native Rob Reinhold, 42, who has been diagnosed with ALS, Saturday, January 14, from 2 to 6 p.m., at Mystic Hills Golf Course. There will be a hog roast, and \$20 per person includes dinner, music, one drink, and entry into a raffle. A silent auction will be held during the hours of the event, at Mystic Hills. Tickets will be sold at Culver Coffee Company, Michelle's Headquarters, and Brockey Insurance. Checks should be made payable to "Wesley United Methodist/Reinhold Benefit."

Those wishing to help or give a donation should contact Dawn and Larry Brockey at 219-670-5584 or 574-933-1100, or dawnbrockey@gmail.com.

Free computer classes at CUTPL

Culver-Union Township Public Library offers free computer classes Monday evenings at 6 p.m. and Friday mornings at 10 a.m. (each class lasts two hours). November-December classes include Computers for Beginners Part I (Nov. 28, Dec. 2), Computers for Beginners Part II (Dec. 5 and 9), Internet and Email for Beginners (Dec. 12 and 16). For more information, call 574-842-2941, visit www.culver.lib.in.us, or e-mail abaker@culver.lib.in.us.

culver.lib.in.us, or e-mail abaker@culver.lib.in.us.

Culver seeking pier quotes

The Culver Park and Recreation Department is seeking quotes for the installation and removal of piers located in the Culver Town Park. Interested individuals may obtain a quote packet from the town hall. It must be returned to Kelly Young, park superintendent, before 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Questions may be directed to Young at 574-842-3510.

Purses sought for cancer-related fundraiser

The first fund raising event for Hello Gorgeous! which treats cancer-fighting women to a spa event with new attire and more, will take place Dec. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Michelle's Headquarters, 114 N. Main Street, in Culver. The Great Purse Extravaganza encourages the community to donate lovingly used purses to be re-sold the night of the event. The items may be dropped off at Michelle's, the Culver Coffee Company, and Elizabeth's Garden between now and Dec. 2. The Dec. 9 event will include wine, cheese, and sweet treats "with some pampering surprises planned." Questions may be directed to 574-842-2662.

Adult basketball at MES gym

The Culver adult winter basketball program will start once again Sunday, November 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. EST, at the Culver Middle School gym.

It will continue at the same time every Sunday, excluding December 18 and 25, until March 18, the last session.

The cost is the same as always: \$2 per Sunday, or \$15 for the entire season, which includes 15 sessions.

As always, please, please bring your good sportsmanship, and do not bring your children. Questions should be

directed to Ken VanDePutte at 574-274-9942.

Fitness classes at Bottom Line

The Bottom Line Training Company, located at 232 S. Main Street, Suite D, Culver, has announced a new, 30-minute fitness class for teachers, "Teacher Express," which meets Tuesdays through Nov. 22, from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$25. Area residents are also encouraged to manage holiday pounds with "Maintain, Don't Gain," through Jan. 1, 2012. Each team or individual will weigh in weekly and be entered into a drawing if weight is maintained. Cost is \$10 per person. Participants may register at Bottom Line, or at 574-842-2400, or shaina@bottomlinetrainingco.biz.

Leaf pick-up

The Town of Culver has begun leaf pick-up. All leaves must be placed in the trash can not in the street. Please separate your leaves from the sticks and brush. Pumpkins, rocks, etc. are not acceptable debris for pick-up. Leaf pick-up will continue through December. The leaf crew will move from the north end of town to the south end of town and then repeat. All questions should be directed to the Town Hall at 574-842-3140 between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



PHOTO PROVIDED/ZAK KEPHART

Crashing Logansport Gate

Culver Academies' iconic Logansport Gate suffered some damage Saturday night as a result of a vehicle running into it. It's not the first time the gate, which was given the school by a grateful town of Logansport after the 1913 rescue of more than 1,000 residents by Culver cadets, has been hit. The original gate has been replaced more than once, and it's suffered various minor amounts of damage through the years since its 1914 dedication.

136995

Authors, dean discuss process, significance of CGA history book

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Forty years ago, officials at Culver Military Academy made a decision which not only drastically changed the course of that school, but many would argue kept it open, and of course in the process changed the Culver community as a whole.

The launch of the Culver Girls Academy (then the Culver Academy for Girls) in 1971 was the subject of a week-end of consideration in October on the Academies campus, while last month, the authors of a forthcoming book on the creation, development, and evolution of the girls' school joined present-day Dean of Girls Laura Weaser for an informal discussion at the Culver Academies Museum and Gift Shop in downtown Culver.

Current town council president Ginny Munroe, a professional book editor and writer, and herself a graduate of CGA, joined her mother, Joan Bess, retired as librarian at the school after some three decades of employment, in addition to Weaser, to recall the sometimes-rocky (and presently ongoing) process of compiling the book.

Munroe said Weaser called Bess and her during the summer of 2010 to discuss the writing of the first-ever book-length treatment on the history of CAG-CGA, "Voices of CGA: A History of Culver Girls Academy."

Munroe said one surprising aspect of their research was the shared experience common to those they spoke with, regardless of gender, age, race, or culture.

"We talked to people who said they've had the Culver experience, and although they all said different things, many things remain the same, and that really struck us."

"Whether it was the beautiful campus, the faculty, the teachers, coaches, 'The Culver Song.'"

The book, say its authors will be divided by decade, as each seems to have its own identity.

Both said they were amazed, in retrospect, how quickly the girls' school evolved in its first decade, which they came in after the end of.

"Between 1972 and 1982, the number of sports for women grew exponentially," Munroe cited as one example. "There were only four at first, but within a few years there were 20 and 30...I took it for granted (as a student)."

Weaser concurred that, as a young faculty member during that period, she never thought of the Girls Academy as "young."

Munroe also pointed out many of the staff and faculty women of that era, such as Emily Ryman, Nancy McKinnis, Lynn Rasch, and Weaser herself, chose to stay at Culver over the decades to today, bringing an important sense of continuity to CGA in particular, and the school overall in general.

"Their passion," added Bess, "rubbed off."

Bess also commented on her surprise to learn that some female students prior to the start of CAG in 1971 -- during the era when faculty daughters were the only females allowed to attend the school -- were unhappy with the development of necessary rules governing girls of CAG, which actually restricted pre-CAG faculty daughters from some freedoms they'd been accustomed to.

Much discussion also centered on founding girls, the late Dean Mary Frances England, who before coming to the Academies, taught English at Culver Community High School. England's book, "Culver Daughters Sing Thy Praise" chronicled the role of women -- faculty, staff, and student -- prior to 1971.

Researching those early years reminded Bess and Mun-

roe that CAG grew out of the girls' summer program, established during the mid-1960s at Culver with England's help.

England, known to friends as "Mai-Fan," tried not to force her opinions regarding establishing traditions and other matters shaping the identity of the girls' school, Bess said. Instead, she gave students their own voices.

"She understood that for the girls to have a voice, they needed to have a role (in shaping the school)," added Weaser. "She was adept at getting them to where they needed to be."

The authors acknowledged that, while they had free access to England's notes and correspondence through the girls' school's formative years, the Dean was "very private."

"You wouldn't find anything in the way of a diary," noted Munroe. "She was the consummate professional."

Bess also pointed out England, a former WAVE in the military, had two seemingly paradoxical sides: that of a feminist, fighting for young women at Culver to have their voice, but also an almost Victorian sense of the ladylike in areas of dress, formality, and charm.

"She didn't think (female students) should have their initials on their class ring," noted Munroe, "because someday they would get married and change them!"

All three panelists discussed the importance of employing a coeducational approach which didn't force a completely integrated, single program for incoming girls and the then-dominant culture of boys in the school. Instead, the girls' school was to be a separate entity with its own traditions unique to the identity of its students.

Many male students, in fact, were "extremely supportive" of CAG, said Munroe, in part out of recognition that creating a girls academy would ensure the survival of Culver Academy.

Munroe explained the 1990s were something of a "golden age" of a cooperative vision of leadership developing within both schools, setting the stage for the 2000s, when Culver Academies "went global teaching the servant leadership model to others."

"None of us would have thought of going to Africa or studying a third world country's economic market and commenting on it (prior to that)," she added, noting CGA in those years benefited from smooth, continuous leadership not always mirrored on the Culver Military Academy side, where male students saw a much higher rate of commandant turnover than girls saw with deans.

Also discussed was the evolution of traditions within the girls school, Bess and Munroe pointing out the symbolism they found in CAG's early efforts to establish a graduation tradition akin to the boys' Iron Gate ceremony. Initially, graduating young ladies walked through a "break in the hedge" at commencement.

"The whole 1970s is the story of them kind of making their way," said Bess, "and they ended the year with trying to find their way out, literally forging through the hedge -- it's very symbolic."

In the fall of 1974, the graduation arch was donated, and other grad traditions such as carrying a single rose, wearing a white gown, and a book the girls could sign, were added. In more recent years, Dean England Day has become an annual tradition for girls, as well as the Crest Ceremony, a kind of rite of passage, notes Munroe.

Asked why a history book was written now rather than for the girls' school's 50th anniversary in 2021, Weaser explained, "I think the feeling was, we have people here that knew Mai-Fan, and we need to capture this."



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Dean Laura Weaser (left) joins authors Joan Bess (center) and Ginny Bess Munroe for a discussion of their upcoming book on the history of Culver Girls Academy.