

# The Culver Citizen

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Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



CITIZEN PHOTOS AND LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

## In Brief

### Spring soccer sign-up

Culver spring soccer registration is Sat., Jan. 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Culver Public Library. Registration deadline is Jan. 31. Contact Herb Newman (574-250-3367), Lisa James (574-933-4822), or Bruce Snyder (574-842-2576) with questions, or visit [culveryouthsoccer.com](http://culveryouthsoccer.com) (website is under construction).

### CBC hosts 'Courageous' screenings

The Culver Bible Church will host two free showings of the movie "Courageous." Sun., Jan. 29, and Sat., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. The two-hour film brings hope to families who have no hope, and centers on five men's need to be the spiritual leaders in their home that God requires them to be. CBC is located at 718 S. Main St. Call Pastor Dan at 574-842-3056 with questions.

### Community meal at St. Mary's Jan. 30

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church's monthly community meal will take place Monday, January 30. On the 30th day of each month, a community meal will be provided for anyone interested in attending. St. Mary of the Lake is located at 124 College Avenue in Culver. Questions may be directed to 574-842-2522.

### Texas Hold-em tournament at VFW

Culver's VFW Post 6919, located at 108 E. Washington St. in Culver, will host a Texas Hold-em tournament Sunday, Feb. 12. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the tournament begins at 1 p.m. There is a \$45 buy-in (no re-buys) with 10,000 chips. 25 percent goes to the house and 75 percent to the pot. Those with questions may call 574-842-3886.

### TOPS meets Wednesdays

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at the Culver Grace United Church of Christ, 307 Plymouth St., Culver Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Weigh in from 3:30 to 4 p.m.; meeting is 4 to 4:30 p.m. Use the main door to the east and go down stairs.

### CCHS financial aid night

Culver Community High School will host a financial aid night Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. It is highly recommended that

## A-coasting we will go...

The Culver area hasn't seen a great many days suitable to hit the hills with sled in hand, but the past few weeks have given anxious youngsters (and adults) a few chances. At UPPER RIGHT, one of Culver's longtime favorite slopes is "Archery Hill," or "Baby's Backbone," at Culver Academies' Woodcraft Camp. A bit less daunting for the younger set is the hill at LOWER RIGHT, part of the same property, where adults (from left) Jason Hinton, Leslie Shepard, and Larry Saunders look on as Ellen and Lucy Shepard, (nieces of Hinton), Eve Hinton (Jason Hinton's daughter, in pink coat), Todd Shepard and son Lincoln in the same sled, and Maria Saunders take off. With the exception of Saunders, the children are grandchildren of Culver Elementary teacher Leslie Shepard. The photo at LOWER LEFT gives an indication of how much fun Ellen and Lucy (Todd Shepard's daughters) are having, if faces are any indication.

## Party affiliation at issue in park board appointment

By Jeff Kenney  
Citizen editor

Debate ensued last Tuesday concerning the newly-reorganized Culver town council's appointment to the Culver parks and recreation board, to which the council ultimately re-appointed current board member Patty Stallings, rather than applicant Rhonda Reinhold.

With Ed Pinder replacing Ginny Munroe as council president, and newest member Bill Githens on hand for his first meeting, members discussed the status of Stallings, a Republican who agreed to change party affiliation to fill a vacancy on the politically balanced board. Reinhold is a lifelong Democrat.

During discussion, audience member Russ Mason objected to Stallings' staying on the board.

"She was very active in the Republican election," he said. "She voted Republican."

Munroe asked how Mason could know how a citizen voted. Githens suggested Stallings be allowed to stay on, with council member Sally Ricciardi adding that Stallings had "stepped up last year when nobody would."

Pinder countered that

Stallings voted in last year's Republican caucus.

"I was in the Republican caucus," Ricciardi retorted. "I saw about seven Democrats there."

Audience member and Republican precinct chair Bill Cleavenger challenged Stallings' party registration.

In the end, majority votes by Githens, Ricciardi, and Munroe kept Stallings on the park board.

Acknowledging she has "a vested interest" (presumably a reference to Reinhold being her granddaughter), audience member Bobbie Ruhnow protested the council's decision.

"I think it's incorrect to appoint somebody to a politically balanced board when it's very obvious where their party affiliation lies. You can find out how they vote, through a primary. You have unbalanced your park board. A cow is a cow. Just because they stand up and say, 'I'm a pig,' doesn't make it so. I think that was an incorrect decision."

Other appointments included Ron Cole to replace outgoing Wayne Bean on the plan commission; Pete Peterson filling the employment requirement on the plan commission; and Ralph

Winters filling a Democrat vacancy on the same board. Brandon Cooper and Bobbie Ruhnow will remain as plan commission members.

Pinder reappointed Dan Adams to the board of zoning appeals, and appointed Brandon Cooper as the plan commission representative to the BZA.

With no members of the Culver Redevelopment Committee wishing to stay on, the council agreed to wait for letters of interest in the positions.

At Munroe's suggestion, the council agreed to advertise for a new wastewater plant operator. Former plant operator Joe Shepard had resigned at an executive session of the council earlier that evening.

After Pinder pressed for the need to hire a new town manager for Culver, the council agreed to a work session just prior to its next meeting.

He reviewed the lengthy search process which began last April following the departure of town manager Michael Doss, noting the council had narrowed its choices to three during the first round of resume-gathering, none of whom worked out in the end. Pinder explained he still has six resumes set aside from

36 received when the position was re-advertised last fall, suggesting those six should be contacted and the position advertised once again should none of them work out.

In other discussion, council member Lynn Overmyer, while reiterating her disappointment in the controversies surrounding last November's town clerk election, emphasized the need to support the new clerk.

"I was disappointed and very vocal," she said, "but we are elected to serve for the betterment of Culver. I feel we need to move forward, put the past behind us, and work together, and I hope the public will do same. I don't think (the election) will be forgotten, ever, but we need to move on."

An "Amen" resounded from the audience.

During her clerk's report, new town clerk Karen Heim told council she'd discovered town employees were being paid ahead of time, rather than after their allotted hours had been worked. Heim noted this was not the case with department heads, town clerk, or council members. She said that according to the State Board of Accounts, employees may not be paid in advance.

"We have a year to figure that out and correct that," she said. "We could wait until tax time to adjust things for people who are counting on that money."

The council also approved filing Heim's bond with the county recorder's

See Council page 4

## Mining marl, dodging rattlesnakes, and Weaver the 'Renaissance man'

### Part 2 of 2

*Editor's note: In last week's edition, we explored the unusual characteristics of land today owned in part by The Nature Conservancy, west of Thorn Road and north of State Road 10, as well as the legacy of the Allen Weaver family in mining the area for marl, used in the past as a farm fertilizer, but also giving evidence to the area's glacial past.*

#### "Marl" Weaver and Calci-Carbo

Allen Weaver's company was officially Calci-Carbo, and his nickname of "Marl" Weaver was prevalent enough that many in the area thought "Marl" was his actual first name. His business was part of a consortium of marl dealers made up of some 25 to 30 others, though his operation was one of the largest.

And the business had various other uses. Besides his family cooling their soft drinks in marl wells' 55-degree water, wet marl could be used as a seal, and some even used dry, powdery marl as an antacid.

"It has calcium carbonate, same as in Tums or Rolaids," Allen's son Dan Weaver smiles. "It's quite effective from what I've understood. I've tasted it -- it's not something I'd have for dessert!"

Clams caught in Moore Lake could be wrapped in mud and cooked in a fire for "really pretty good" eating, according to Dan Weaver's father. Dan was also told his father once found the remains of a horse with a collar on it, sunk down into the marl.

The general area, of course, included Houghton Lake, the much larger of the two bodies, and one some Culverites may recall swimming in. Dan Weaver remembers paw-paw hunting in the woods east of Houghton Lake, and also recalls a wooded area east of Moore Lake he'd always been told had been a quarantine camp for smallpox victims in the Culver area.

"There were remnants of cooking facilities (when I was a boy)," he says. "There had been four or five buildings, just cabin-sized, which would hold maybe 40 to 60 people."

See Weaver page 2

PHOTO/DOUG HABERLAND, CULVER ACADEMIES COMMUNICATIONS

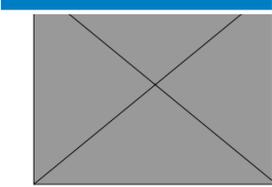
## MLK's legacy explored at Culver

LEFT: Prof. Richard Pierce Ph.D., chair of the Africana (cq) Studies Department at University of Notre Dame addresses students at Culver Academies Memorial Chapel last Monday as part of the school's annual observation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday. Pierce and Sue Roth, director of Alumni Operations (RIGHT) were the two featured speakers at the event.



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## Modern dance group impresses at Culver Academies



PHOTO/LEWIS KOPP, CULVER ACADEMIES COMMUNICATIONS

BodyVox performs last week at Culver Academies.

By Lydia Beers, Staff Writer

CULVER — Six-member modern dance group Body Vox, based in Portland, Oregon, wowed their audience Tuesday evening at Culver Academies as they performed acrobatic feats, surprising dance moves, and spunky steps riddled with personality.

“We are a unique blend of all different kinds of physical movements and theatrical effects,” said Body Vox choreographer Ashley Roland. “If you’ve never seen dance before we are a good group to see.”

The group — made up of four male and two female dancers — acted out mini “stories” to music — combining different dance styles to create something unique. Each scene — from the opening act of one dancer shaking his body to the notes to a complicated sequence involving a trapeze — was flawless. Although the audience started the show laughing at the sometimes humorous movements and expressions of the dancers, by the intermission most of the attendees had fallen into a state of amazement at what the dancers were able to do with their bodies.

One especially fascinating scene showed a couple in bed sleeping until they are lured out of bed by dancing “Sandmen.” The couple is guided through a dance — while still asleep — and then eventually kidnapped by the Sandmen. The kidnappers gleefully took over the couple’s vacated bed, to the amusement of the audience.

Sprinkled between scenes were short films, also made by the Body Vox crew. Roland said that their short films combining dance and comedy have won more than 60 film festival awards.

The first, “Deere John” depicts a man falling in love with his tractor and engaging in a sentimental dance with it — before the tractor leaves, breaking the man’s heart.

“That goes over really well in Indiana,” said Roland, laughing. Another film showed normal people discovering through a sleep study that they were actually dancing in their sleep — with comedic twists.

“It’s a very entertaining show,” said Roland. “We hope that the audience leaves with a great feeling.”

Body Vox was a guest at Culver Academies for the 2011-12 Huffington Concert Series. Other performances this season include Stringfever, Feb. 14, and National Players — Of Mice and Men, March 15. For more information about the concert series, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.culver.org](http://www.culver.org).

## Weaver from page 1

Such camps were not unheard of, and outbreaks of the dreaded illness took place in Indiana in the 1870s and again around 1900.

### Rattlesnakes galore

Another unusual attribute of the land is the presence of massasauga rattlesnakes there -- in fact, it’s been said the area is a protected habitat for those, the only poisonous snakes found in this part of northern Indiana. The rattlers, it should be noted, tend to nest solitarily and are far less aggressive than their western cousins.

“I used to go through there barefooted,” laughs Weaver. “I really didn’t like meeting them, but as long as they introduced themselves, I didn’t mind. Somewhere in that area they used to weed onions and I heard a couple stories of people getting bitten. They got quite sick, but I don’t know of anyone dying.”

Weaver remembers a man from a Pennsylvania college harvesting the snakes for the school’s biology department, and he says his father killed over 100 of the reptiles in one particularly active year for them.

Allen Weaver, says his son, once told fellow customers in Verl Shaffer’s barber shop that his swollen arm was the result of a rattlesnake bite. Weaver’s recent troubles with vandalism in the marl pit area ceased as word spread (though the swelling, says Dan, was more likely a much milder bite than a rattler’s). Dan himself remembers catching some himself, while some neighboring children kept them as pets.

### Fish hatchery fun

The past life of Culver’s fish hatchery -- property the town of Culver owns today -- really merits a separate article of its own.

Located south of Allen Weaver’s Moore Lake marl pit, the hatchery area was its own, separate property, and was actually the second location for a Lake Maxinkuckee-related hatchery.

The first was a series of three ponds on the east end of today’s “Indian trails” between the town park and Culver Academies, the three joined by the small stream which still runs in the area today (that operation was launched through the Academy in 1930).

The operation was moved to the area west of town in the late 1930s, and by 1940 the Maxinkuckee Fish and Game Club, which started the hatchery operation there, according to the Culver Citizen, had generated a site among “the most outstanding in the state,” complete with picnic grounds, shooting area, pheasant raising, a club house, and even a home for the superintendent of the operation. A special area was turned over to the Boy Scouts for camping, hiking, and nature study, though Dan Weaver recalls Scouts in his day weren’t terribly comfortable with the mosquito-laden area for overnight campouts.

Allen Weaver, says his son, dug those ponds gratis, shortly after high school. In all, there are nine ponds in the area, including four on the west side of the ditch, explains Dan, though his father dug a few other ponds nearby, not connected to the hatchery.

The hatchery area saw steady, heavy use from the community between 1940 and the late 1960s. A search of the

1960s-era Culver Citizens (on the Antiquarian and Historical Society website at [culverahs.com](http://culverahs.com)), shows any number of church picnics and fishing tournaments scheduled there.

The American Legion building, a separate facility east of the hatchery’s superintendent’s house and separated by a row of pines, was also a very busy place during those decades.

### Latter years

Allen Weaver suffered a stroke at age 74, which ended his hauling of marl, the doctors giving him six months to live. He continued to do crane work for another four years, however, and lived another 11, passing away in 2005.

Allen’s beloved wife Rosemary helped care for him in those later years. The two had met when Rosemary was attending Culver High School and Allen -- not many years her senior -- driving her to school as a bus driver. They were married in 1945, the same year they bought the house they would spend the rest of their lives in, a cottage moved off the west shore of Lake Maxinkuckee, where its mate still sits. Besides digging the basement to his home, Allen also put his crane skills to work helping dig Venetian Village and Lake Latonka.

Weaver’s son Dan’s full name is Daniel Boone Weaver, and his brother brother is Mark Twain. Roberta was named for opera singer Roberta Peters, and there’s sister Martha.

In an August, 2009 letter to the Culver Citizen, Allen’s daughter Roberta “Bobbie” Schrimsher recalled “much simpler times” as a child playing in the marl pit area, noting such activities “fulfilled a very important need in our childhood education that many children today lack: to learn to love and respect Nature in all its glory. Maybe if today’s kids had the opportunity to get outside and embrace the world around them...there would be less pollution and lack of respect and understanding of the Earth we share.”

In a 2000 article on Weaver for the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver newsletter, Harvey Firari called Weaver “a Renaissance man: a living almanac of local history, an opera buff, a perennial scholar,” besides being “the Huck Finn of Thorn Road” in his childhood.

The elder Weaver’s love of music, Firari wrote, came from Culver piano teacher Elizabeth Hubbell as well as Weaver’s own father, a close associate of the founder of Marshall Fields who

facilitated young Allen’s attendance at Chicago opera performances.

“His father knew Caruso and they visited Enrico Caruso, Jr. when Enrico was enrolled at CMA,” noted Firari.

Dan says longtime Culver teacher Evert Hoesel once remarked Allen could easily have succeeded in college and a professional career.

“For a while I wondered why he didn’t,” muses Dan. “It would have been an easier living (than digging marl), but I realized he really enjoyed what he

was doing.

“(As a child), he was given the opportunity to go back there anytime he wanted. It was considered a waste ground and largely ignored by most people. From his childhood on, he wanted to be out there.”

Allen Weaver’s favorite quote, according to Firari’s article, is an entirely appropriate one, then, from Elizabeth Akers Allen: “Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight, Make me a Boy again--just for tonight.”



PHOTO PROVIDED Allen Weaver in later years.



PHOTOS/RACHEL MEADE AND \*CITIZEN FILE PHOTO ABOVE: Houghton Lake is still and serene in this recent photo. BELOW: The remains of a picnic table in the fish hatchery area give testimony merrier days at the site, where surely countless carefree hours were spent by many a Culver family. BOTTOM: \*A 1940 photo of the Conservation Club custodian’s house, at the fish hatchery.



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The Knox-Winamac Community Health Centers have been granted the Federally Qualified Health Center status in 2011. This designation allows the centers to offer a complete continuum of medical care to low income and a medically underserved area.

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## Library news

### "Conagher" on tap at book-movie group

The Culver Union Twp. Public Library's book and movie club will meet Weds., Feb. 1 at noon in the library's large meeting room. The book discussed will be "Conagher" by Louis L'Amour, which tells the story of an aging cowboy whose sense of fair play and reputation as a gunman make it difficult for him to be left alone. The film stars Sam Elliott and Katherine Ross.

Copies of the selection are available at the circulation desk and may be reserved by contacting the library at 574-842-2941. Patrons are encouraged to bring their lunch to eat while they enjoy the movie and the discussion afterwards. The Culver-Union Township Public Library is located at 107 N. Main Street in Culver. All programs are free and open to the public.

### CUTPL Club Fair Feb 4

The theme of the Culver-Union Township Public Library's winter reading program is isolation, and the 'cabin fever' that aloneness can cause. A great way to prevent those negative feelings is to become more active and socially involved. To that end, the library invites all to attend its annual Club Fair Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You'll be able to meet with representatives of 16 local clubs and organizations from the Culver area as a "one-stop-shop" for contacting almost every club or group you could ever want to join or know more about, and a great way to beat those winter doldrums! Clubs and groups ranging from the V.F.W., the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver, the Culver Chamber of Commerce, Heartland Artist Gallery and Moon Tree Studios to 4-H clubs, Culver Soccer, Boy and Girl Scouts, the library's own book clubs and many more will participate. For more information, contact Cindy Good at 574-842-2941 or cgood@culver.lib.in.us.

### Pianist Drake at library Wednesdays

The Culver-Union Township Public Library is pleased to announce that Jarrod Drake, pianist, will perform from 4 to 5 p.m. every other Wednesday afternoon in the library atrium beginning February 1. Plan on stopping in for some wonderful entertainment while browsing for your next book. For more information, contact Cindy Good at 574-842-2941 or cgood@culver.lib.in.us.

### Culverites on Purdue North Central honor roll

WESTVILLE -- Kyle P. Allyn, Marc A. Brown of Culver have been named to the Purdue University North Central fall honor roll.

## Letter to the editor

### Hometown pride? You betcha

Dear Editor,  
Just when you think Culver couldn't do much more to instill love, courage, and pride, it did. For such a small community this area encompasses the true spirit of small-town America. Just last week Marlene Mahler thanked the community for sharing and giving at Christmastime for those in need.

Now, the Reinhold Benefit again proves that Culver has no end to the heart, soul, and generosity of its citizens.

There are more functions and philanthropic deeds done in this small town than in many large cities. To name a few: Relay for Life; the Gift of Warmth; the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs; Wesley United Methodist Church thrift shop for burn-out victims and the list goes on.

I've stated many times how fortunate and proud we should all be to be a part of it.

Thank you Culver for all you've done and all you do.

Blessings,  
**Charles "Mick" Henley**  
Culver

## REAL Meals menu

To share a meal at REAL Meals, call Ruth Walker at the nutrition site (the Culver beach lodge) before 11 a.m. the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. A donation is suggested for each meal.

**Thurs., Jan. 26:** Sloppy Joe, hamburger bun, cheesy potatoes, stewed tomatoes, tropical fruit, and milk.

**Fri. Jan. 27:** Turkey tetrazzini, mixed vegetables, Brisels sprouts, dinner roll and margarine, pears, and milk.

**Mon. Jan. 30:** Italian sausage and beef, hoagie bun, carrot coin salad, spudsters, cobbler, and milk.

**Tuess. Jan. 31:** Sliced ham, macaroni and cheese, butternut squash, pears, bread and margarine, and milk.

**Weds. Feb. 1:** Meatloaf, baby bakers, sour cream, green beans, rye bread and margarine, pineapple, and milk.

**Thurs., Feb. 2:** Grilled chicken patty, multigrain bun, red potatoes, mayo packet, broccoli, applesauce, and milk.

**Fri. Feb. 3:** BBQ pork, onion bun, mashed sweet potatoes, baked beans, pineapple, and milk.

## Death notices

### Ditmire

**Fred Ditmire**  
**Jan. 16, 2012**

LEITER'S FORD — Fred Ditmire of 9889-W 600-N died Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 at 9 a.m. from complications due to a neurological disease.

He is survived by his wife, Millie; son, Jeffrey (Darla) Ditmire of Leiter's Ford; daughters, Coleen Watwood of Culver, and Melanie (JayC) Pitts of Rochester; seven grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren and two stepgreat-grandchildren; sisters, Ruth Thomas, Doris (Gus) Brenner all of South Bend, Jean Triplet of Culver, Jane Hartle of Argos; brothers, Norman (Janet) Ditmire of South Bend and Lee Ditmire of Culver.

Service was 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20, 2012 at the Good Family Funeral Home. Visitation was from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday and an hour prior to services Friday. Burial is at Leiter's Ford IOOF Cemetery. Preferred memorial gifts may be made to Hope Hospice or the Leiter's Ford United Methodist Church. You may sign Fred's guestbook or light a candle at www.goodfamilyfh.com.

### Willhite

**Henry Lee Willhite Sr.**  
**Jan. 15, 2012**

CULVER — Henry Lee Willhite Sr., 79, of Culver died Monday, Jan. 15, 2012 at his residence.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys Willhite of Culver; sons, Michael Lee Willhite of Culver, Henry Lee Willhite Jr. of Culver; brothers, Lawrence Willhite of Milwaukee, Wis., Roosevelt Willhite of Eldorado, Ark.; sister, Pearl Mae Price of Milwaukee, Wis.; and one grandchild.

Visitation was Friday, Jan. 20, 2012 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Culver Academy Memorial Chapel.

A private graveside service took place. Burial is at Culver Masonic Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to the Henry & Gladys Willhite Minority Scholarship Fund in care of Ancilla College.

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

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

### Scott

**Myles Robert-Clifford Scott**  
**Jan. 20, 2012**

DELONG — Myles Robert-Clifford Scott was stillborn Jan. 20, 2012 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth.

He is survived by his parents, Tony and Julie Scott of Delong; maternal grandparents, Robert and Sandy Thompson of Delong; paternal grandmother, Donna Longbons of Rochester; paternal grandfather, Ronald Scott of Argos; and paternal great-grandmothers, Elsie Weaver of Rochester and Janet Scott of Monticello.

Private graveside service was Monday, Jan. 23, 2012.

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

Condolences may be sent to the family via the obituary page at www.odomfuneralhome.com.

## Culver Academies wins 6th straight Quizbowl championship

Over one hundred students from various schools, including Culver Academies, competed on three Wednesdays in November, December, and January to determine the Tippecanoe Valley Quizbowl Conference Champions.

The Culver Academies Varsity A team went 13-0 in conference play to claim a sixth straight championship, finishing three games clear of the field. However, things were not as straightforward when it came to second place, as four teams pushed hard for the runners-up spot, with the final result not being determined until the final round of play.

In the end, Culver's Varsity B team went 10-3 in Conference to tie for second with North Miami, North White, and Pioneer. Both Culver A and Culver B have therefore qualified for the NAQT National Championship which will be held May 26-27 in Atlanta, GA.

Culver's Team Captain Andrew Van Duyn, Class of 2012, earned Conference MVP honors as the overall top scorer with 138.5 points per game. Culver's overall season record improved to 38 wins and eight losses. Complete conference results and stats can be accessed at naqt.com/stats/tournament-teams.jsp?tournament\_id=3928&playoffs=1.



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## The Barn

Regular readers of this column know that a good deal of its business has taken place in one local restaurant notable for its walls of historical information; but the awesome burden of being the Citizen's

senior columnist carries with it some sense of civic responsibilities, and so a person does try to dine in more than just the one place. So it was that one Monday evening this summer found me sitting, not all that far from the edge of the lake, more or less in the shadow of a suspended scow, talking with Cutter Washburn about an older restaurant, The Barn. I had written about the Barn before, as part of a more general column, but this was an opportunity to get a better picture of the old School Street malt shop, which closed when I was about five.

We're used to going into the gas station these days for any number of things, from milk to the local paper. Sixty or seventy years ago, I don't think service stations were quite

so likely to have the function of a grocery or general store, but many of them did seem to have a sideline in candy and tobacco. When I was in school—particularly in junior high—the cool kids went south, just across Lake Shore Drive, to Hatten's Garage to stock up on jaw breakers and chocolate bars. (Of course, neither the school building nor the garage is there any more, the one being mostly an empty lot and the other a car wash.)

According to Cutter, his parents' interest in the care and feeding of teenagers had its start in that sort of gas-station candy sales, at a Phillips 66 service station on the north-west corner of Lake Shore Drive and State Street, currently the site of the fire station. The elder Washburns had moved here from Fort Wayne (where they were already operating a gas station) around 1941, and the Phillips station quickly became a teen hang-out—beyond the snacks for sale, the place had board and card games on hand to make it, as we would say today, user-friendly.

After about four years of this, around 1945, the Washburns converted what had until then been an actual barn on the east side of School Street into a restaurant. There was a kitchen in the back with tables out front (these were later replaced by booths obtained from a bar that had gone out of business). Eventually, the walls were covered with photographs (some of them now on the walls of the downtown cafe I mentioned earlier), and the entertainment options

were increased by the purchase of Culver's seventh television set (though there was as yet little to watch). When the restaurant was first opened, though, such basic elements as meat were still being rationed, and candy was in short supply. Everett Hoesel, proprietor of the El Rancho Theater, now the Uptown Cinema, drove to Chicago each week, in order to pick up directly from the distributors films which would otherwise have become available only months later as they went around the circuit of small town movie houses. On the same trip, Mr. Hoesel would obtain a supply of sweets from the Brach's candy company in Chicago (I discover from Wikipedia that the old Brach's factory was used to represent Gotham Hospital in one of the recent Batman movies).

Business at the restaurant seems to have been pretty casual. Many people stopped in just for a Coke or a cup of coffee, and more than a few didn't order anything at all,

but simply came by to see what was going on. In the morning, when the Barn wasn't even open, kids would stop by the Washburns' home (which was next door to the restaurant). The Washburns liked to give local students their first jobs—lunch was typically served by a high schooler who had a study hall in the late morning, and this person's salary was often just a meal of his or her own (or, in some cases, teenagers being teenagers, two meals, one before everyone else and one after). Cutter himself had a job in the restaurant from the time he was in 3rd or 4th grade; when he was on JV athletic teams (which had late practices), he could come home, help with the after-school rush, and then go back for sports. The Washburns sometimes provided a home for local kids whose parents had had to move out of town, and these members of the extended family were occasionally employed at the Barn, as well. In all the time the restaurant was in business, the Washburns never had to fire anyone, and received only one bad check, for two dollars.

The Barn's phone number was 86 (a source of confusion, as the Methodist parsonage across the street was 68). In those pre-internet, pre-cellphone, days, when the nearest commercial radio station was in South Bend, the phone came in handy after home basketball games: Cutter would run home from the gym and phone the operator to pass on the score. People who hadn't made it to the contest would then just call in to ask for the results.

The Washburns also operated the Beach Lodge for several years, generally closing the Barn while they did so. Cutter says that, even though the apartment atop the lodge was uninsulated (much less air-conditioned), the lake breeze (and the late hours) made it more practical to just stay there than to go home to School Street every night. Indeed, some of the Lodge workers, after closing up, taking a late-night swim (not always with suits), and having a final snack, would simply go over and sleep on the benches of Capt. Amond's Maxinkuckee, tied up at the park pier. Generally, Cutter says, it was easy to make the switch to sleeping at the park—though on one early-summer occasion, he suddenly awoke from a nightmare about a tidal wave, only to discover that a train had stopped on the tracks through the park with the engine running only a few feet away from his bedroom window.

-30-



*Its still the lake water*

By John Wm. Houghton



ABOVE: An undated photo of The Barn on School Street, provided by Mimi Miller, in a typically jubilant scene of local youth enjoying the locale.

LEFT: Providing some visual context is this image from the 1955 Culver High School yearbook, with elementary students (at play on teeter-totters) north of the school building. Visible to the right of The Barn is the former Washburn home at 446 School -- that house was torn down a few years ago.



### Council from page 1

office, as required by law.

During the citizen input portion of the meeting, Bobbie Ruhnow commended outgoing plan commission members Wayne Bean and Chuck Dilts for their years of service, with Sally Ricciardi concurring.

Ruhnow also commended Cooper as "an excellent addition to the plan commission," as well as Pete Peterson for his willingness, as an employee, to serve on a board.

In light of Ruhnow's comments, Muroe suggested that council consider a stipend be paid to those serving on boards in the community, in light of struggles to fill various vacancies and meet quorums. Audience member Bill Cleavenger also noted alternates could be appointed to serve if a primary appointee were absent.

Mark Sullivan of Commonwealth Engineers detailed the final steps needed to fund the nearly completed renovations of Culver's wastewater treatment plant. Council approved an engineering invoice for the project, at \$11,769.23, as well as a change order for several modifications in the design.

Sullivan projected the project could be complete as early as Jan. 23.

Council also approved signing a new electric service contract for various town-owned facilities, due to increases in electric rates, which were not spelled out in the contract itself.

Culver fire chief Mike Grover reported several firemen will journey to Terre Haute Jan. 28 to pick up a new hovercraft purchased for ice rescues and the like, on the lake.

Closing out the meeting, Pinder thanked outgoing council president Ginny Munroe "for her hard work" as president, noting the position was particularly difficult in light of the absence of a town manager here.

*Editing assistance/Rachel Meade.*

### Name that Culver 'citizen'

Our Mystery Citizen last week stumped many readers, though not everyone.

She was Gail Craft (whose mom, Edna Mae, we featured as Mystery Citizen a few weeks ago), who has been part of the Culver Marina's behind-the-scenes crew for many years now.

Kay Tusing, Glennie Cooper, Lisa Geiselman, Lisa Hartman, Michelle Allyn, Tammie Womack, Jeanette Geiselman, and Cynthia Bonine Goss all recognized her.

This week's Mystery Citizen has played such a prominent role in various community endeavors here, it would be difficult to scratch the surface, but be-



sides his involvement in a successful local business, he's likely most associated with a few volunteer efforts.

G u e s s e s may be emailed to culvercitizen@gmail.com or call the editor at 574-216-0075.



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

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## Lady Cavs advance to Bi-County championship

By Dee Grenert  
Staff Writer

LAKEVILLE — Class A No. 4 Oregon-Davis rode an outstanding defensive effort to a 54-35 semifinal-round victory Saturday morning in LaVille, while defending tourney champion Culver made a quick start stand up in a 55-43 win over the host Lancers in the second semifinal.

The Cavs, with an entirely new starting lineup from last season's squad that halted OD's four-year Bi-County reign, look to defend their title tonight at 6 p.m. at LaVille. Meanwhile, the Lady Cats, making their sixth straight title-game appearance, seek their fifth crown in six seasons.



PHOTO/ALAN HALL

Culver's Kayla Schaffer, left, guards LaVille's Hannah Herbster during Bi-County Tournament semifinals at LaVille Saturday.

Culver head coach Tony Scheub said he stressed the importance of a good start.

His team delivered with a game-opening 12-2 spree and led from the opening possession, keeping alive its quest for a second straight tourney championship.

"It was very important," Scheub said of his team's strong opening. "We talked about in the locker room before the game that we're not used to these morning games, and we can't start off slow. I really liked our energy and intensity to start the game."

"It means a lot to make it to the championship game," he said. "We've had an up-and-down season, and hopefully we're hitting our stride. (OD) has a little bit more experience than we do. We'll find out what we're made of Monday night."

Freshman guard Tatum Schultz filled up the stat sheet with a team-leading 17 points, six assists, six steals — leading to three breakaway layups — and four rebounds for the Cavs.

"(Schultz) played a very good game on both ends of the floor," Scheub said. "I would have liked her to take care of the ball a little better, but she did a great job defensively and she did it with smart choices; she took chances without getting out of position."

LaVille, which trailed 27-15 at halftime, thrice cut Culver's advantage to six points in the second half. However, Schultz scored on a rebound basket and then contributed a steal and bucket to repel each of the Lancers' first two runs.

See Lady Cavs page 8

## Trojans top Cavaliers, 46-33

By James Costello  
Sports Editor

BOURBON — After a mere one-point decision to Triton Saturday, Culver head coach Kyle Elliott expected his players to start with some confidence Tuesday.

Instead, Culver put up just two points in the first quarter as the Class A No. 7 Trojans jumped out to an 8-2 lead at the break. The two teams went back and forth the rest of the night, but Culver was never able to get out in front, and Triton polished off 12 of 17 freebies in the final frame as the Cavs tried to stretch the clock, handing the challengers a 46-33 loss in a boys Bi-County opener at The Trojan Trench.



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO

Culver's Alan Biggers (20) guards Triton's Zak Shively, front, while Culver's Micah Budzinski, back left, and Triton's Seth Gingle, back right, stand ready last week.

turnovers as well, give their defense credit — but they didn't throw anything at us tonight we weren't prepared for. We just didn't execute early on."

Culver was paced by senior guard Allen Biggers' 10 points. The 6-1 guard was limited to just 18:11 of playing time in intermittent foul trouble, and was whistled for his fifth infraction with 2:16 left to play.

"Allen has given us some good offense. The problem he runs into is on the defensive end, getting in foul trouble and getting on the bench," said Elliott. "That hurts us at both ends. When he's not on the offensive end, it takes away some of our dribble penetration and ability to break down a defense, but then it also puts us in a bind defensively when he's not on the floor. That's something he's got to work on."

Culver played a consolation game with the host Lancers in the consolation gym at LaVille at 8 p.m. Friday. In the JV tourney, Triton beat Culver 49-29.

• TRITON 46, CULVER 33  
At Bourbon (Bi-County 1st round)

## Lady Cavs avenge loss to Triton at Bi-County opener

By James Costello  
Sports Editor

BOURBON — The Class A No. 6 Triton Lady Trojans coughed up 15 first half turnovers to surrender a 10-point lead Jan. 17 at the intermission, and the defending tourney champion Lady Cavaliers held off their hosts down the stretch for a 45-40 win at The Trojan Trench.

The Cavs jumped out to a 9-6 lead at the first quarter break. An 8-0 second-quarter ending run by Culver, all off Triton turnovers, put the defending champs in the driver's seat for good as they avenged a 45-36 Northern State Conference loss to the Trojans Friday.



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO

Culver's Mickella Hardy, back right, and Angella Lewellen (21) guard Triton's Taylor Hatfield last week.

"We really struggled the other night when we played them, and we were doing things that we don't normally do so we spent all practice on Saturday and Monday working on our defense and what we needed to fix tonight," said Culver head coach Tony Scheub.

"We were relying way too much on our help and giving their shooters open looks. We were getting beat baseline, and that's something that we practice everyday is not getting beat baseline and they killed us on the baseline the first time. I thought we did a tremendous

job on the ball, so we didn't need to use our help and we didn't give their shooters open looks."

Culver was led by a game-high 14 points from Kayla Shaffer, who buried three 3s and scored all her points in the first half as the Cavs took their decisive lead. Mickella Hardy tallied 10, including eight after the break to help keep Culver on top.

"I thought Kayla did a really good job of taking good shots," Scheub said. "She caught in rhythm, didn't force anything, let the game kind of come to her, and when she's feeling it she's a really good shooter. In the second half I was really proud of her that she didn't force shots, she let the offense come to her and distributed more, and I think that was a big key that we got good shots."

In the JV girls tourney Monday, meanwhile, Triton beat Culver 36-6 to advance to play LaVille at the JV semis tonight at the LaVille main gym at 6:30 p.m.

• CULVER 45, TRITON 40  
At Bourbon (Bi-County 1st round)

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