



The Culver Citizen

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CITIZEN PHOTOS AND LAYOUT/JEFF KENNEY

In Brief

Chocolate Jamboree today

A "Chocolate Jamboree" will take place Thursday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Life Care Center of Rochester (827 W. 13th St.). The area's finest chocolate creations will benefit the Alzheimer's Association. This event is free to the community, and a free-will donation allows a vote for your favorite mocha masterpiece. Call 574-223-4331 with questions.

VFW Valentine's dinner Feb. 10

VFW 6919 Ladies Auxilliary 6919, Culver, welcomes you to bring your "Valentine" for a pre-Valentine dinner Friday, February 10. A dinner of stuffed pork chops, baked potato, salad, and dessert will be served from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The cost \$9 per person.

Texas Hold-em at VFW Sunday

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.

Stringfever onstage Feb. 14

Culver Academies' Huffington Concert Series offers the perfect Valentine's Day date Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m., at the Epley Auditorium. Onstage will be Stringfever (www.stringfeverusa.com), "the world's first genetically modified string quartet combine exceptional musical skill with a real talent for involving and engaging audiences to provide you with a night you'll never forget."

Tickets to the performance may be purchased through, and questions directed to Marsha Coven at covenm@culver.org, or 574-842-7058. Tickets are \$20 (orchestra/mezzanine) and \$15 (senior or student), and \$15 for balcony seats (\$10 for seniors or students).

S.B. Chocolate at the library

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and a representative from the South Bend Chocolate Company will visit the Culver-Union Township Public

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www.culvercitizen.com
E-mail:
culvercitizen@gmail.com

Maxinkuckee solitude

This lone kayaker cut the serene waters of Lake Maxinkuckee on an evening last week, when the lake took on a particularly smooth and misty air. The scene is reflective of the unusually mild weather during this winter of no solid ice on the lake's surface. It was, at least, no winter fit for an ice fishing tournament (SEE STORY BELOW), though perhaps a sailing race, instead...

South Bend TV personality and his Culver bride anticipate happy forecast

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

If the new face around town in recent months has that strangely familiar look, you may be a WSBT-TV viewer, and you may have seen Erik Larson, as likely as not alongside his wife (as of New Years Eve) Savanna, formerly Shepard.

It's no surprise Larson, a South Bend native and meteorologist, is recognizable. He certainly logged a great deal of face time over the past year as weather anchor on the CBS affiliate station, thanks to the pregnancies of two regular anchors. The relevance of those pregnancies to his work at the station is all the more poignant to Larson, who with his new wife is expecting his own first child, in July (Savanna's son Jack, who will turn 4 in May, is looking forward to having a baby brother).

Erik Larson, a graduate of Adams High School in South Bend, says his interest in meteorology began in high school, where he made the decision to pursue its study professionally. He undertook that study at Purdue University, where he was also in charge of "the huge bass drum" in the band.

"I got really lucky,"

says Larson, who graduated from Purdue last spring. "I was still in school in April (2011) when I got a call from WSBT. They asked if I wanted a job."

Having already interned the previous summer at the station, Larson was a natural choice to fill in for Cari Peugeot and Abby Wepler, who became pregnant one month apart. Thus, even before graduating from Purdue, Larson had signed a contract and was making trips to the station for training. The weekend after graduation, he took part in his first broadcasts.

Another good reason for Larson's recognizable face: his initial on-air run included 40 continuous days.

"It ended up Cari (deliv-



Savanna and Erik Larson

ered) a day early," he recalls, "so there was no time off between stopping that and the next shift, so I for three months I was doing six out of seven shifts. I had 12 days off in a five-month span."

Since Peugeot's return, Larson's regular shift has been Thursdays through Sundays, plus any additional fill-in work. Usually, he's giving a standard weather report or "light" reporting

See Larson page 2

Ice fishing tournament cancelled, called trial run for great event in '13

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

It will come as no surprise that the hoped-for national-level ice fishing tournament slated for this weekend has been called off, due to the uncooperative ways of Mother Nature this winter season. However, organizers with the Culver Chamber of Commerce are happy to report plans are underway for Culver to host the event in 2013.

"We regret that the weather didn't cooperate this year to bring the NAIFC Ice Fishing Tournament and Kids Camp to Culver," says Chamber president Dawn Brockey. "I appreciate the committee's legwork, the positive feedback from the businesses, the NAIFC for wanting to come to this great community, and the Marshall County Visitors Bureau for allowing financially for this to be a reality. We are beginning now to determine a date for next year and will continue to work towards having a large winter carnival in 2013 that will bring business and fun to the Culver community next winter!"

The event would have been the qualifying tournament for the North American Ice Fishing Conference, a national-level organization which would have seen more than 100 teams competing on Lake Maxinkuckee. Participants and guests -- besides TV crews shooting the event for broadcast on the Verses network -- would have been welcomed to events at local eateries, while family-oriented offerings in the form of a winter carnival, partly the work of the Culver Chamber, were also planned. Those events are expected to take an even more active role in next year's festivities, say local organizers, including Chamber vice president Tony Sellers, who sees the winter carnival as a natural tie-in to the Come Alive Outside initiative he has spearheaded in Culver. In fact, he and other organizers hope the delay will give them a chance to work towards enhancing local offerings all the more.

NAIFC president Jack Baker thanked organizers and contributors in Culver and Marshall County for their efforts this year.

"I appreciate your willingness to help, tremendously, and look at your hard work from the half-full side of the equation: everyone now knows what it takes to get the event off the ground. It was a great practice run...all involved now

See Ice page 2

CES 'Soup for the Soul' returns March 14

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver Elementary School's Soup for the Soul will return for a fourth helping March 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the school cafeteria, which is good news not only for hungry diners in the community and the students who will serve them, but the charities benefiting from the popular event as well.

As in the past, "Soup" will showcase the talents and dedication of CES 6th grade students, which this year for the first time will include former Monterey Elementary students as well. Students have been hard at work creating hand-made bowls, mugs, plates, and other items for use in the meal, which they will

help set up, serve, and clean up after.

For \$5 a person (or \$20 per family), community members receive an "unlimited" mug or bowl of soup donated by a variety of Culver's eateries, as well as bread, drinks, desserts, and assorted trimmings. The hand-made creations, which attendees may choose from a wide array, are for diners to keep, and this year 6th grade teacher Missy Trent says they're "the most creative we've ever seen! Maybe each year (students are) trying to outdo each other."

She and CES art teacher Joyce Lyman point to student creations ranging from a cowboy hat-shaped bowl, to a series of fruit-themed bowls, the work of student

Lance Beaver, a transfer from Monterey who will experience Soup for the Soul for the first time.

"I rolled (the clay) out and it kind of looked like an apple. Mrs. Lyman got me into all the fruits. I'm doing a whole series. I've done eight or nine so far.

"Soup for the Soul is a good cause for something neat," he adds.

Another fund-raising aspect of the event is its recurring silent auction, for which a number of items have already been donated, says Trent. Among them: a football autographed and sent by the Chicago Bears. The Indianapolis Colts have also promised to send something a few weeks be-

See Soup page 2

'Everybody wins' via community emphasis of 2012 Lake Max Triathlon

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver has been no stranger to triathlon events in recent years, but organizers of a new such event slated for August 11 feel "everybody wins" due to a haul of the endeavor, with a much greater emphasis on the entire community -- and two local organizations as beneficiaries.

Dana Neer, a lead organizer of the 2012 Wellness triathlon at Culver Academies (and monthly columnist), notes there were "some difficulties" surrounding the last two Culver triathlons a few years ago, which were led by outside organizations.

"To resurrect it," he says, "we believe it should truly be a community event."

The committee planning this year's triathlon, then, start-

See Triathlon page 3





CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

A feast for the food pantry

Students from both the Culver Community High School and Culver Academies service clubs joined members of Culver's Lions Club and Council of Churches for the club's 5th annual chili supper Friday evening, during which funds were raised for Culver's food pantry via Pinder's recipe chili, sides, and plenty of desserts provided by the Council (which also sponsors the food pantry). Chili, crackers, veggie tray and beverages are donated by the Lions, according to member Don Freese.

Freese also reports over \$1,100 was raised for the pantry from freewill donations at the door, a slight increase from last year. Some 25 students were "exceptional," he said, in their help in serving and cleaning up, and Brenda Sheldon from Culver Community and Nancy McKinnis from Culver Academies were adult coordinators. Pictured from left are Taylor Stuewe, Katrina Willis, Marilyn Kelly (Lions and Council), Dan Adams (Lions and Council), Kalee Miller, Joe Krsek, Robert Back, Marlene Mahler (Council), Erin Bau, Katlyn Cochran, Shaughnessy Lindquist.



PHOTOS/GARY SHAFFER



Culver eagles on the prowl

Gary Shaffer captured these photos of yet another bald eagle sighting in the Lake Maxinkuckee area. The birds were perched 1/8 of a mile from his house on 19th Road. Pictured AT RIGHT, two eagles were perched in the same tree, while a hawk, visible near the bottom of the photo, perched beneath. Shaffer snapped a close-up of one bird, ABOVE. Rumor has it the two are part of a family including two juveniles as well.

According to the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, it's believed a loss of wetland habitat caused the decline of bald eagles in Indiana, while overuse of industrial pesticides in the 1950s and '60s increased the loss. Such chemicals were banned, after which bald eagles began a recovery. "Bald eagles," says in.gov/dnr, "nested in Indiana until the 1890s. A small population still winters in the state from November through March. Wintering eagles are found mostly along major rivers and large, open bodies of water (which) supply ample space for the birds to forage." The birds have been seen in the west and south shore areas in recent winters (as they were between 1899 and 1907, according to Evermann and Clark's survey of the lake).

Soup from page 1



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Displaying just a small sampling of the diverse creativity visible in this year's Soup for the Soul's offerings are Culver Elementary 6th graders (from left) James Fagen, Lance Beaver, Thomas Young, Logon Welsh, and Sierra Craig.

Ellen Degeneres, to whom she sent one of Beaver's fruit-themed bowls.

"I've emailed her almost daily since we started this," Trent smiles. "I'm hoping she'll read my email...I (asked) if she could help us out some way."

She says part of her persistence with Degeneres is to show students that "you just don't give up; you keep on."

Near the start of the school year, all the students wrote letters to celebrities asking for auction items, Trent explains, and some have come in, including an autographed autobiography from Donald Trump. Other offerings include gift certificates and items from local stores, restaurants, and floral shops.

A Facebook page has also been created for this year's event, which will be regularly updated as Soup for the Soul draws near. Trent points out it can be found under "Culver Community Soup for the Soul."

"It's really a community thing (as opposed to only a school event), I think," she says.

Trent says monies raised always go to Culver's food pantry as well as those in the counties feeding into the Culver Community school system, including Starke, Pulaski, and Fulton. Its likely funds will also go to Heminger House women's shelter in

Plymouth as well as area animal shelters.

Trent says she tries to raise the financial goal \$500 each year, so the 2012 event goal is \$4,000.

She also says the \$5 entrance fee has stayed the same in spite of some suggestions it be raised this year.

"This community is not as well off as people think it is," she notes.

Trent and Lyman also encourage anyone in the community with an interest, to stop by the CES art room Thursdays after school until 4:30 p.m., to make a bowl or mug, something opened up to faculty members already."

Anyone with questions, or wishing to donate towards the silent auction, may contact Trent by email at trent@culver.k12.in.us.

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Ice from page 1

have a solid understanding of the event, so the next tournament will be that much easier."

Noting February is often the best period for ice fishing, Baker said the February 8, 2013 weekend will be the target date.

"There was a great deal of buzz in the fishing community about Culver," he adds, "and that was a good thing. Next year's tournament will come out stronger and better for (Culver's) efforts this year."

Larson from page 1

of a meteorological nature, in the field.

Larson says all those days on the public's television screens helped him become well-known in South Bend, and yes, also in Culver, where -- naturally enough -- he's often out and about with his wife.

Those Culverites who don't know Savanna Shepard may well know her mother, Yvonne, who has worked in the Culver Elementary School office for several years now. Savanna and Erik met through a mutual friend at WSBT. The two communicated about a week before they set up a date, and Larson visited Culver, where "we just went walking down by the Academy."

The two chuckle at the first-date memory of seeing a just-married couple exiting Culver Academies' Memorial Chapel. Both thought the same thing:

they hoped to someday be that couple, at that site, themselves.

Wedding plans eventually began to fall together for a small, New Years Eve affair with some 40 close friends and family, at the Culver Cove, with a reception at the Edgewater Banquet Center on Lake Shore Drive. Since then, of course, Erik Larson has been a fixture in the area -- that is, when he's not preparing for, or taking part in, his on-air appearances.

Erik plans to stay in meteorology, though the commute to South Bend will likely prevent his and Savanna's staying here in perpetuity. For the time being, however, the two are relishing their time on Maxinkuckee's shores.

"It's such a family town," says Savanna. "Our hearts will always be in Culver."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Erik and Savanna Larson at their Culver Cove wedding on New Years Eve.

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Letter to the editor

Loving Culver history articles

To the Editor,
I was really excited to read your article on 109 S Main, ("If these walls could talk," Feb. 2, 2012 edition of The Culver Citizen -- editor) because I recognized the people in the band. I then read the photo caption and realized it was right year but wrong band. It is the Jr. High Band. It was not CCHS band because I am in the picture. In case you are interested who the people are: first person left is Kelly Fishburn Robbins, 8th grade, then me, Jorja Jones Musial, 7th grade, Kathleen Jones Davitt, 7th grade, Lori McKinney VanDerWeele, 7th grade.

I am really excited about next weeks article too, because I worked at the Shoe Stable for four years. It was a very special place, with it being the pharmacy I hung out as a kid, and then I got to work in that beautiful store later. They don't have pharmacy stores like that anymore nor do we have service in shoe stores like the Shoe Stable offered. I love getting the *Citizen* with the history!!

Please keep the articles coming!

Jorja Jones Musial
Graduated from CCHS '81



Both assemblies concluded with information Culver Academies student Marin Barnes and Marshall County American Cancer Society representative Trisha Metz. Messick also showed students how to sign up for Relay using their school-issued iPads, before splitting into teams for each grade to begin competition to raise the most money. Teams make and sell their own apparel to sell as fund-raisers for the Relay effort. Pictured above, from left, are Metz, Messick, Mason, and CCHS student Aspen Kitchell.

Center for Culver History hosts traveling exhibit on Indiana political process

The Center for Culver History will welcome *Faces in the Crowd: Indiana and the Political Process*, a traveling exhibition of the Indiana Historical Society, from February 6 through March 6. This exhibition will be on display at the Culver Union Township Public Library, located at 107 N. Main Street.

Candidates for political office have visited Indiana throughout the state's history in an effort to garner support and votes. Since the early years of the electoral political system, Hoosiers have attended rallies, expressed their opinions and participated at the polls. They have supported and opposed candidates, and of course, run for office themselves.

Faces in the Crowd is not the story of the candidates behind the microphone, but of the individual citizens in the crowd—each of whom play a crucial role in ensuring the electoral process works. Without voters' support, enthusi-



FORT WAYNE — F. Vaughn Albert, 82, passed away Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012 at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

Born in Hibbard, Vaughn worked as a group claims manager with Lincoln National Life for 10 years, retiring in 1993. He was a member of Summit City Barbershop Chorus, several Barbershop Quartets (most recently Hoosier Gentry), and the Barbershop Harmony Society since 1948 and served in most of the local chapter officer positions, also a member of International COTS faculty for 12 years and served on the district boards for six years. He was a dedicated member and very active in his churches, holding various offices, and he spent many years directing choirs. He enjoyed fishing, woodworking, oil painting, and jewelry making. Vaughn had a wonder-

ful sense of humor and he never met anyone who did not become a friend.

Surviving are his loving wife, Vivian J. Albert of Fort Wayne, sons, Frederick V. (Debbie) Albert, Jr. of Bloomington, Jeffrey D. (Sue) Albert of Fort Wayne, daughters, Mary A. (Gail Ahumuda) Albert of St. Louis, Mo., Janice L. (Ernest) Beal of Fort Wayne, six grandchildren, five stepgrandchildren, and brother, Virgil Albert of Spokane, Wash. Vaughn was preceded in death by parents, Howard and Lillie Albert, and brother, Vance Albert.

Service was 11 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012 at Peace United Church of Christ, 9123 Aboite Center Road with calling one hour prior, Rev. Christen Pettit Miller officiating. Calling at D.O. McComb and Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Burial in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne. Memorials may be made to the Peace United Church of Christ or Summit City Barbershop Chorus. To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ

Culver Comm. rallies for Relay

Culver Community Middle and High Schools kicked off the 2012 Culver Relay for Life last week with two assemblies which explained the goals of the event.

Rachel Mason, a 25-year old cancer survivor from Union Lake, Michigan and friend of CCMS teacher Cristyn Messick (who is in charge of Relay for Culver Community Schools), shared her story with students. Diagnosed at age 17 with a pear-sized tumor on top of her heart, Mason had to drop out of college for chemotherapy and radiation. She eventually returned to school and earned her Associates degree, later named Michigan's 2011 Volunteer of the Year.

Academies student Marin Barnes and Marshall County American Cancer Society representative Trisha Metz. Messick also showed students how to sign up for Relay using their school-issued iPads, before splitting into teams for each grade to begin competition to raise the most money. Teams make and sell their own apparel to sell as fund-raisers for the Relay effort. Pictured above, from left, are Metz, Messick, Mason, and CCHS student Aspen Kitchell.

Death notice

May

Mabel Alice May

Feb. 2, 2012

MONTEREY — Mabel Alice May, 93, of Monterey died Feb. 2, 2012 in Crown Point.

She is survived by a daughter, Nancy L. Griffiths of Gary; son, Larry H. (Betty) May of Crown Point; 13 grandchildren and many great and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Saturday, Feb. 4 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Pruzin & Little Funeral Service, 811 E. Franciscan Drive, Crown Point. Monday, Feb. 6 there was visitation at Braman & Son Funeral Home, Knox from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with funeral services at 1 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. Burial is at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Condolences may be left at www.pruzinfuneralservice.com.

Triathlon from page 1

ed with four goals, according to Neer:

1. To hold a special wellness event at a superb location.

"Everybody who knows of Culver Academies knows this is a fun place to be," Neer notes, "so that would not be difficult."

2. The event should be a humanitarian effort.

Towards that end, Neer says, "we teamed up with the Culver Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, and both groups enthusiastically got behind starting this up again. We would team up by having the volunteers from each organization come and serve at the event, and serve in three event details. Then all money that comes in after we pay the bills, goes directly to those two organizations. This is not a money-making endeavor for Culver Academies, whatsoever. We're not going to take one penny."

3. Culver's Chamber of Commerce should benefit.

"We looked at the Saturday event and tried to make it a weekend in Culver," explains Neer, "so athletes and their families could come and spend the night and eat meals here...so Friday night we hoped to have a pre-race meal at one of our local establishments (and) have some events that night, like a Ledbetter boat ride and other events to make it a truly fun Friday evening."

"Our local businesses would come be on campus at the event and provide a representative to explain what they do."

4. Invite Culver Academies alums to come back to campus.

"This really is an event that fits so well into our Cul-

ver town and Academy society," Neer says. "They would bring a prospective (student) family and come on the day of this triathlon."

"When everybody wins, it's a great event. So we have been working on hundreds and hundreds of details since that initial meeting a year ago."

On the planning committee have been representatives from not only the aforementioned service clubs and Culver Chamber, but also the Lake Maxinkuckee Association and Culver Academies as well, in addition to consulting with Culver triathlete alumni and marketing experts.

"We have a great logo that will be on decals, shirts, and banners," Neer says, "and we have a catchy little motto: 'The Lake Max Triathlon -- swim in the lake, bike around the lake, run around the lake, and party by the lake.' We called it the Lake Max Triathlon because we do believe the lake brings all of our groups together, town, Academy, and lake."

The event will include a 400 meter swim, a 10 mile bike ride, counterclockwise around the lake, and a 5 kilometer footrace starting on the Academies campus, heading through town, and back.

The biking route, notes Neer, was specifically designed so riders would zip through town first, rather than last, giving them an opportunity to experience the town -- something absent from previous triathlons -- but also allowing the streets to reopen as soon as possible.

Also on hand will be a "great little '80s and '90s band coming in to play" in addition to a post-race meal with awards.

the other exhibits housed at the Center for Culver History. For more information on this exhibition or other programs Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver, please call 574-842-294, email us at historyofculver@gmail.com, or visit culverahs.com

The Center is open Tuesday through Friday from 12pm to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to a variety of permanent and rotating exhibits on subjects ranging from historic town businesses, the history of local Potawatomie Indians, and steamers of Lake Maxinkuckee, we also offer access to our collections of yearbooks, photographs, newspapers, family histories, and other sources. Many of these items are also available online, fully searchable and digitized, at culverahs.com. The Center for Culver History is a project of the Antiquarian & Historical Society of Culver.

"It will be a very flavorful day," Neer adds.

The festivities will officially begin at 8 a.m. on the 11th. And Neer also stresses that this event is not an "iron man" triathlon.

"Many people who are active could probably do this," he insists.

Divisions will begin with age 10, increasing in increments of five years at a time, up to an 80-year-old-plus division. There will also be categories for men's, women's, and co-ed teams, which allows multiple participants to utilize the strengths of each athlete.

"So if you hate swimming," explains Neer, "but are a runner, somebody else can do that part!"

A "fat tire" division for bicycles allows for any style of bike to participate. Pro Form Bike Shop in South Bend is the event's lead sponsor, and will be on-site to provide advice and administer bike repair.

Awards, besides medals with the event logo, include Lake Max Triathlon-adorned decals, t-shirts, chap stick, swim caps, quality bags, and more.

The last Culver-based triathlon, says Neer, had around 150 competitors. Organizers this time around are hoping for 200 to 250.

"We believe we have the capability and we hope this will be a very well-known event (statewide and beyond) within five years. Even if you have no inkling to participate, everybody says, 'It's a perfect place, a perfect fit.'"

A link for the event will soon be added to the culver.org website, and brochures, posters, and banners are on the way. Since the triathlon is certified, readers may go through the USA Triathlon website to find the event as well, and may register online or download the form and mail it to Neer.

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., Feb. 9: Biscuit and gravy, scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, danish, orange juice, and milk.

Fri. Feb. 10: Beef stroganoff, peas, cauliflower, fruit, bread and margarine, and milk.

Mon. Feb. 13: Swedish meatballs, stewed tomatoes, scalloped potatoes, potato roll and margarine, fruit cocktail, and milk.

Tues. Feb. 14: Ham and beans, spinach, corn bread and

margarine, cherry cobbler, and milk.

Weds. Feb. 15: Chopped steak and gravy, vegetable blend, mashed potatoes, deli rye bread and margarine, fruit cup, and milk.

Thurs., Feb. 16: BBQ chicken breast, broccoli, corn, honey wheat bread and margarine, pudding, and milk.

Fri. Feb. 17: Chili with beans, crackers, cauliflower, baby bakers, applesauce, and milk.

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Culver History Corner

The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver
 www.culverahs.com historyofculver@gmail.com

If these walls could talk: 107 S. Main Street

After such an enthusiastic response to last week's "If these walls could talk" as the one appearing in this week's letters to the editor (see page 3), I'd be remiss not to follow up this edition with a new installment, this one covering 107 S. Main Street, which Culverites for most of the 20th century would have associated with medicine and, likely as not, chocolate sodas.

While it hasn't been so for over 30 years, for most of its life, the storefront there housed one of three pharmacies (or, depending on one's definition, two): Slattery's -- named for proprietor Thomas Slattery -- starting as early as 1896 (though a 1968 article notes the building was built around 1889); Culver City Drugs, which technically operated under Slattery's name as well, until it was taken over by Barrett Irvine, who ran it for around two more decades; and Mr. T's, operated under Ron Tusing, who started at the business in 1963.

Slattery, a founding member of Culver's volunteer fire department (in 1903), was heralded in an 1896 article as the "jolly proprietor" of his pharmacy starting in the late 19th century, and one of Culver's more prominent businessmen (owing in part to the fact that he was initially one of the few!). Interestingly, through most of the duration of Slattery's pharmacy, he had direct competition in the form of Rector's Pharmacy, across the street and to the

north one block, though both men seemed to prosper in their endeavors.

As was typical of most drug stores of the day, Slattery's sold a variety of goods, from candy and greeting cards, to books and periodicals, in addition to its ever-popular soda fountain, which would gain special fame for its chocolate syrup, and hence its chocolate sodas. A June 13, 1912 article in the Citizen notes that a new front had been put into Slattery's drug store, which "gives a uniform appearance to the block and enlarged window space for the display of goods." Later renovations would occur in the mid-1960s, giving the storefront an appearance closer to what it is today.

In early April, 1922, a new counter was installed at Slattery and Shilling's soda fountain. Described by the Citizen as "a beautiful piece of furniture," it was 10 feet long with facing of white enameled glass and a service shelf of brown marble in one piece.

Through the early decades of its existence, the building in which Slattery's resided was owned by John Osborn, owner of most buildings along that block (which hence was known as "the Osborn block"). In March, 1924, Slattery and partner Shilling purchased the building.

The entire community was shocked, reported the Citizen of July 24, 1935, at news of the death of "pioneer druggist" Thomas Slattery's at age 73, following surgery. Starting in 1948, J. Barrett Irvine and his wife, Lucille (formerly of the last name Hoesel) owned and operated the store, which by then had for

See Walls page 10



PHOTOS/ANTIQUARIAN AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CULVER
 ABOVE: The interior of the Culver City Drug store, probably circa 1920s. BELOW: The store's exterior in the 1950s.



Where in the world was The Culver Citizen?



PHOTO PROVIDED

As of press time, no readers recognized the location of last week's "Where in the World" photo, which was taken in Moscow (in Red Square in front of the famous Gum Mall - one of the oldest and largest shopping malls in Europe). Pictured is Don Fox (Culver Military Academy class of 1975) and daughter Jody Fox (Culver Girls Academy '10) holding a copy of *The Culver Citizen*. The Fox family divides its time, usually, between Washington, DC, and Culver, and keep up with Culver news year-round by way of the *Citizen*, which they have obviously helped make all the more an international traveler!

Other readers with photos of their local paper in unusual, exotic, or famous locales are encouraged to email them to culvercitizen@gmail.com or call the editor at 574-216-0075, or drop them at our Culver Public Library drop-box.



Bill Taber, Jr. sent this 1949 photo, following up on last week's "If these walls could talk," of the meat counter at Quality Grocers, which his father, Bill Sr. took while a butcher there. "Based on the time displayed on the clock," writes Bill Jr., "and the neat and clean look of the display case, I would guess he took these photos in the morning as he readied the display case for the day's business."

Name that Culver 'citizen'

Our Mystery Citizen last week has been an active Culverite for some five decades, whether in local organizations -- including Wesley United Methodist Church -- or raising her children, also familiar names in the community. No doubt her visibility also increased by virtue of her marriage to one of Culver's best-known, Verl "the Barber" Shaffer. The first name on our list of correct guessers should certainly come as no surprise!

They include Gary Shaffer, Julie Pinder Richter, Marizetta Kenney, Lynn Crist, Shelly Schrimsher, Jeanette Geiselman, Jessica Bean, Kay Tusing, Anna Neher, Judi Burns, Lisa Geiselman, Debra Howard,

Lorna Leoman, and Cynthia Bonine Goss.

This week's Mystery Citizen has been part of the



Culver area for several decades, and continues an active role in a prominent local institution.

Guesses may be emailed to culvercitizen@gmail.com or call the editor at 574-216-0075.



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



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Cavs' Hurford, CMA's McHugh win titles at Rochester Regional

By James Costello
Sports Editor

ROCHESTER — Culver Community's Matt Hurford claimed a dominant 182-pound championship victory by pinfall, and Culver Military Academy's Anthony McHugh stayed unbeaten with a 3-0 win in the 132-pound championship, at Saturday's Rochester Wrestling Regional.

Hurford used a takedown-and-cut strategy against South

it. I'd like to place at state. It'd be nice to place and make my home town proud of me."

Control was the byword of the day for McHugh as the CMA 132-pounder benefited from a pair of penalties against Mishawaka's Tommy Forte to claim a 3-1 championship decision and move to 40-0 on the season.

"I went into the match wanting to wrestle smart, thinking to be in control the whole time and just believing that I could win it," he said. "Just being in control is probably what won me the match because he had a couple cautions that cost him, a locking hands, and I just stayed in control the whole time."

McHugh was one of four Eagles to earn semistate berths as Edmond Hogan placed second at 152, Danny Williams finished third at 170, and Kayla Miracle was fourth in a 106 field stacked with talent.

"Overall we're happy with the day. Four of our kids are going to get to go to semistate and experience that, and it's not an easy thing to accomplish. I'm really proud of the guys and the girl that got through," said Culver Academies head coach Matt Behling.

"It's exciting for Culver wrestling. Four is the most that we've sent through to semistate in any recent year so it's a big step forward for the program."

While Herford topped the podium at 182, John Ahlenius closed his season with a first-round loss at 145, while Ian Randolph lost a first-round bout at 132, Allen Betts was eliminated in his opener at 113, and Austin Brisette took a pinfall loss to eventual 106-pound champ Zach Davis of Penn in his first round match.

"We had some tough losses, some guys we were really hoping could pull off victories and came out on the wrong side of it. In talking to them, they're dedicated to getting better. They're wanting to improve on the season next year," said Culver Community head coach Louis Posa.

"I talked to Ian, our senior, a disappointing loss for him. Not the way he wanted to go out, but he's a good young man, and he put in a lot of work for us, and we're thankful for what he's done for our program. He's looking to wrestle at the next level and carry on in the sport."

Although eliminated from the tourney, Culver's Brisette has a glimmer of hope to move onto the Merrillville Semistate as an alternate.

• INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING REGIONAL
At Rochester



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO

Culver Military Academy's Anthony McHugh, right, clinches with Mishawaka's Tommy Forte during the 152-pound championship at the Rochester Wrestling Regional Saturday.

Bend Riley's Tyler Crain in his title match, going up 15-8 before eventually putting himself in position to finish the pinfall win at the 5:18 stop.

"I felt like that was working for me. When I was on top I couldn't really turn him," said Hurford of his strategy in the championship. "I was trying everything. My coaches were telling me what to try, I tried it and they just ended up telling me to cut him, and it worked out for me."

Hurford moved to 42-1 with the regional title after starting the season at 220, and he's hoping his perfect finish Saturday helps him toward his next goal of a semistate title at Merrillville next weekend.

"It feels good. Getting this championship really helps going into next week because I'll face a four seed. It's really a good thing to win this and see what you've got going on next week," he said.

"I'd love to win semistate. I really need to work hard at



CGA wins first-ever swimming sectional

Culver Girls Academy (the team is pictured here, celebrating) won six events en route to the championship at the Warsaw Girls Swim Sectional Saturday.

The Lady Eagles put up 430 points to beat out host

Warsaw by a convincing 430-375 margin, while Plymouth placed seventh with 163 points at the meet.

Lauryn Robinson led CGA with four state-qualifying swims as she won 50 and 100 freestyles and advanced in the 200 medley and 400 free relays with Eberle Miller, Rory Byrne and Jaclyn Schutjer.

Byren won the 200 IM, and Miller won the backstroke for CGA to advance to Friday's state finals at the IUPUI Natatorium.

• WARSAW SECTIONAL
At Warsaw



PHOTO/JAMES COSTELLO

Culver Military Academy's Javier Bravo swims the butterfly during a three-way boys swim meet at Bremen last week.

CMA clinches perfect dual season

By James Costello
Sports Editor

BREMEN — When Culver Military Academy's weary swim team clinched just the second unbeaten dual meet season in program history, the Eagles didn't celebrate or cheer.

Worn out from a grueling week stretch in which they've swum three meets, CMA's swimmers simply gave a subdued thank you to Bremen for hosting and thanks to both the Lions and Plymouth for the good competition after topping the three-way field with 140 points ahead of Bremen's 102 and the Pilgrims' 79 in the Eagles' regular-season closer at Bremen Tuesday.

"The problem is we've had three very hard meets in seven days. That's unheard of in swimming, and the boys are tired," said CMA head swim coach Major Tom Duckett.

"This meet closes our dual meet season with those boys undefeated. Did you see them jumping up and down? That's how tired they are."

CMA closed out its undefeated regular season run with depth.

The Eagles claimed top honors in just four events as Javier Bravo, Mauricio Cohen, Jingyuan Liang and Sam Curtis won the 200 free relay, Curtis won the 200 free, Bravo won the fly, and Leopoldo Burguete outpaced the 500 free field by more than 13 seconds. But CMA went one-two in the 200 free, two-three in four different events and one-three in the 200 free relay to beat out the host Lions.

"This (undefeated regular season) only happened twice to the boys team in the history of the school. Once in 2007 or 08 and this one now," said Duckett. "The team it happened to earlier had a lot of All American swimmers. We have none of that, so the depth is there."

With just nine swimmers listed on its roster, Bremen had little hope of challenging CMA's depth, but the Lions managed wins in eight different events to keep it competitive.

Nolan Filchak and Joe Zeltwanger each went four-for-four for the home team in wins as Filchak won the IM and backstroke, Zeltwanger won the 100 and 50 freestyle races, and both were members of Bremen's winning 200 medley relay and 400 free relay teams.

Coming off a solid turn at the Northern Lakes Conference meet last Thursday and Saturday, the Pilgrims were also worn out at Tuesday's three-way meet.

Plymouth's highest individual finishes were put in by Elliott Eads with a third place in both the 50 free and the butterfly, while the Pilgrims' 200 free relay squad of Clayton Maddox, Cody Poczick, Brady Ruffing and Jordan Wendel placed second in their event.

• CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 140, BREMEN 102, PLYMOUTH 79
At Bremen

More sports on page 10

Briefs from page 1

Library Tuesday, February 7 at 11 a.m. Delicious samples are highly likely!

For more information contact Cindy Good at 574-842-2941 or cgood@culver.lib.in.us. All CUTPL programs are open to the public and free of charge.

Plan Commission seeks members

The Plan Commission for the Town of Culver is seeking members. Letters of interest should be sent or delivered to Karen Heim at the Town Hall, 200 E. Washington St, Culver IN 4651. The Town Hall is open from 8--4 Monday thru Friday. The deadline for letters of interest is 4 pm on Tuesday, February 14.

Culver historical film at REAL Meals

On Weds., Feb. 22, following the noon meal at REAL Meals, at the Culver Beach Lodge on Lake Shore Drive, Jeff Kenney of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver will screen a 1937 silent film of Culver's business district, then-new beach lodge, the Burr Oak area, and Culver Academies, with commentary about the film. To share a meal, call the nutrition site before 11 a.m. the day before for reservations, at 574-842-8878. A donation is suggested for each meal.

Free computer classes at CUTPL

Culver-Union Township Public Library will continue its session of free computer classes, held Monday evenings at 6 p.m. and Friday mornings at 10 a.m., and will last two hours. Sessions for February and the first two weeks of March include: Internet for Beginners (Feb. 10), Email for Beginners (Feb. 13 and 17), Microsoft Office Overview Part I (Feb. 27, March 2), Microsoft Office Overview Part II (March 5 and 9). These are hands-on classes and the library will provide computers. If you have your own laptop

computer, feel free to bring it to the classes.

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 pm. 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.

Early Culver religion display at Museum

The Center for Culver History, located in the lower level of the Culver Public Library, downtown Culver, is featuring an exhibit on Culver's religious history featuring photographs, documents, and artifacts from Culver's churches, past and present. The museum is open from Tuesday to Friday, noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Adult basketball at CCMS gym

The Culver adult winter basketball program continues from 1 to 3 p.m. EST, at the Culver Middle School gym, Sundays until March 18. The cost is \$2 per Sunday, or \$15 for the entire season. 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.

New *Citizen* email address

A reminder that the *Culver Citizen* is transitioning its email address to culvercitizen@gmail.com. Please update your address books.

Also, "friend" the *Culver Citizen* on Facebook -- and visit culvercitizen.com -- for the most current updates and information.

'Green' tech on tap at Thursday Tech Time

Culver Union Twp. Public Library's Thursday Tech Time will focus on "green" tech and energy conservation, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. Learn about what you can do now to save money and energy over time. Everything from computers to lighting and more.

Thursday Tech Time is an open discussion group for anyone interested in computers and technology. Come and talk, share, listen and ask questions! Sessions are held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. All sessions are free and open to the public.

Marshall County unemployment rate declining

According to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Marshall County's unemployment rate declined in 2011 to 9.4 percent from 10.7 percent in 2010. This compares to an unemployment rate of 10.7 percent in Starke County and 9.6 percent in St. Joseph County. Although the improvement is small, it's a start — and nothing to be sneezed at, according to Marshall County Economic Development Center (MCEDC) director Jennifer Laurent.

Part of the MCEDC's goal this year is to find the "skills gap" between what employers need and what potential employees are lacking. With this information, MCEDC staff hopes to educate school representatives and other groups about how to better prepare students for the workforce.

In 2011, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development listed the Marshall County labor force as a little more than 21,000 strong. Of those laborers, about 2,000 were unemployed at the end of 2011.

Dance, other CES 6th grade projects benefit community, teach service lessons

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

For the third year in a row, Culver Elementary 6th grade teacher Missy Trent's reading students are fulfilling requirements to serve their community, and for the third year in a row, they're coming up with some unusual, and notable, projects.

Trent -- co-ordinator of the annual "Soup for the Soul" event profiled in this week's paper -- is unabashed about her belief in the value of community service as an important activity for young people. It's something her students will confirm she impresses upon them daily, even as she stresses that just one person, even a young person, can make a great difference in the lives of others, locally, nationally, and even globally.

One particularly visible project is the brainchild of student Peyton Lowry, who was impressed enough with one project last year (which raised funds for Culver's Make a Wish youngsters) that he organized a school dance to collect items for the Culver food pantry.

Since Lowry didn't want to center his dance around anything as mushy as Valentine's Day, smiles Trent, the event, scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the elementary gymnasium, will be a Leap Day dance.

Entrance fee is two non-perishable food or toiletry items for the food pantry. In addition, Lowry remembered 5th grade teacher Raeanne Stevens' "Books for Babies" campaign, and so initiated an option for attendees to donate one new book (with hard pages) for babies recently born in area hospitals, for which they may receive popcorn, candy, or a drink.

Lowry says he was already familiar with Culver's food pantry and its needs.

"I went to the dance last year and enjoyed it," he says. "My goal is to collect 2,012 items, since it's 2012."

As has been the case in the past, students' service projects have impressed Trent. Besides a project initiated by Reilly Reinhold to hold a "pajama day" at the school to collect funds to fight the disease afflicting her father (as reported in The Citizen), student Dylan Pitera packed boxes for children needing food and toiletries through his South Bend-based hockey team/ Cody Russell collected money to fill stockings for service men and women serving overseas at Christmastime -- the list goes on.

And so it will continue, if Missy Trent has her way, with the community -- and perhaps even moreso, the students -- as beneficiary.

CITIZEN PHOTO/
JEFF KENNEY

Culver Elementary 6th grader Peyton Lowry holds a flyer for the food pantry-supporting dance he's organizing for Feb. 29.



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Sports briefs

Girls basketball

CGA halts skid: Culver Girls Academy snapped a four-game skid with a 49-31 victory over visiting Clay Tuesday. Victoria Christlieb led all scorers with 17 for CGA, while Andrea Lin finished with nine and Lindsay Haller had eight. Andrijana Cvitkovic finished with game-highs of seven rebounds and six assists to go with six points.

The Lady Eagles close out their regular season Thursday with a game against Pioneer at home at 7:30 p.m.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 49, SOUTH BEND CLAY 31
At Culver

Wrestling

CMA closes team season at Jimtown Regional: The Eagles managed just three wins, and Culver Military Academy fell out of contention for a team regional championship in the first round of the Jimtown Wrestling Regional Wednesday.

CMA gave up five forfeits at the meet and lost 58-17 to East Noble, which went on to fall to meet champion Penn in a competitive final, 38-30.

Anthony McHugh pinned his opponent in just 18 seconds at 132 pounds, while Edmond Hogan claimed a dominant 18-1 tech fall over his opponent at 152 pounds,

Walls from page 4

some time been known simply as Culver City Drugs. The Irvines ran the store for nearly two more decades, bringing Ron Tusing, who moved to Culver from Warsaw with wife Kay and daughters Cindy and Michelle, into the business.

In November, 1968, Tusing made the “grand announcement” to the Citizen of his purchase of the store a month earlier from Irvine. He redubbed it Mr. T’s Culver Rexall Drugs. It was noted the building had undergone remodeling the last few years, and that Tusing “plans to continue remodeling to give his customers an attractive as well as an efficient store.”

The store, besides Rexall products, carried Coty and Revlon cosmetics, Russell Stover box chocolates, and Hallmark cards and party supplies, according to the Citi-

zen. Customer services such as phone bill payments and money orders would continue, it was added, under Tusing’s ownership. The homemade chocolate recipe “in use for over 30 years” would remain a fixture at Mr. Ts as well.

Tusing’s daughter Michelle (now Allyn) recalls working with her sister in Mr. Ts after school during elementary years. By age 12, she was on the schedule at the store, just like older sister Cindy and brothers Ryan and the late Todd would be as well. She worked the cash register by then.

The downtown store, both Kay and Michelle told the Citizen in 2009, still had the “big stone counter that had to have been there forever,” with a shining soda fountain and four tables set up for eating and drinking, and Mr. Ts downtown was a high school hangout for many Culverites.

Michelle also vividly recalled the pharmacy’s Main Street sidewalk sales, for which she and her family sat outside for hours. Her father, she said, was adamant about employees’ dress when at work, only allowing male employees (or children) to wear jeans when cleaning, a luxury not afforded to female employees at the time. One year during sidewalk sales, Michelle protested.

“I wore a sign that said, ‘Mr. T is unfair to women!’ He got a kick out of it; he liked the attention. It didn’t get me real far.”

When news hit town in 1974 that the Hook’s drug chain was headed to Culver to open a pharmacy, Tusing went so far as visiting corporate headquarters in Indianapolis to ask the owners to desist with the plan, but to no avail. By 1977, feeling the pinch of Hooks’ presence, Tusing partnered with former rival druggist Rob McKinnis -- who by then operated the former Rector’s up the street -- to open a new, combined facility (still under the Mr. T’s moniker) at 806 Academy Road.

That same year, Andy Venum -- proprietor of Andy’s Clothiers a few doors south on Main Street -- gambled that Culver could support its own shoe store, even though industry experts suggested 6,000 residents would be needed to keep such a venture afloat. Culver’s Shoe Stable was thus born in 1977, which allowed Venum to expand his

footwear offerings to Culver, to fill an empty storefront, and to add more clothing items at Andy’s, where shoes had previously been. As it turned out, the Shoe Stable -- whose signature bright orange bags many in town will recall -- “worked out pretty well” and stayed open 14 years, though it was never, Venum said, a financial blockbuster.

By 1991, the Shoe Stable was gone and Fred and Judy Karst, who had purchased the Culver Citizen newspaper and the building itself, had taken over the storefront. Various entities shared the spot with the Citizen at times, including a UPS shipping office and the Maxinkuckee Environmental Fund, during the 1990s.

By the early 2000s, Coldwell Banker Realty Abad & Epley had taken over, occupying the space until October, 2008. The space stayed empty for some months until Sue McInturff asked still-owner Fred Karst’s permission in 2010 to knock a hole in the wall between her next-door (to the south) boutique, Diva, and 107 S. Main.

Today, of course, the former house of a thousand ice cream sodas -- and a million cherished memories -- offers new generations an expanded array of gifts and other merchandise from what has become one of the staples of a still-active downtown Culver.

with seven points.

• F.W. CANTERBURY 49, CULVER MILITARY 43
At Fort Wayne

Eagles lose: Culver Military Academy’s basketball team remained winless with a 64-54 loss to Traders Point at Fleet Gymnasium Friday. Dante Scott scored a team-best 17 points to lead the Eagles. Willie Strong chipped in 12 points for CMA.

• TRADERS POINT 64,
CULVER MILITARY 54

At Culver

Girls basketball

Falcons slip past Cavs: Culver Community lost to John Glenn 49-47 at the Northern State Conference at The Aerie Friday. Culver’s Tatum Schultz led all scorers with 19 points. Kayla Shaffer pitched in 16 points for the Cavs.

• JOHN GLENN 49,
CULVER COMMUNITY 47

At Culver

CGA closes with win: Culver Girls Academy jumped out to a 15-5 first quarter lead en route to a 58-40 regular season-closing win over visiting Pioneer Thursday.



PHOTO/ANTIQUARIAN AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CULVER

107 S. Main during the 1970s, when Mr. Ts occupied the site. Note Culver Clothiers sign in the foreground.