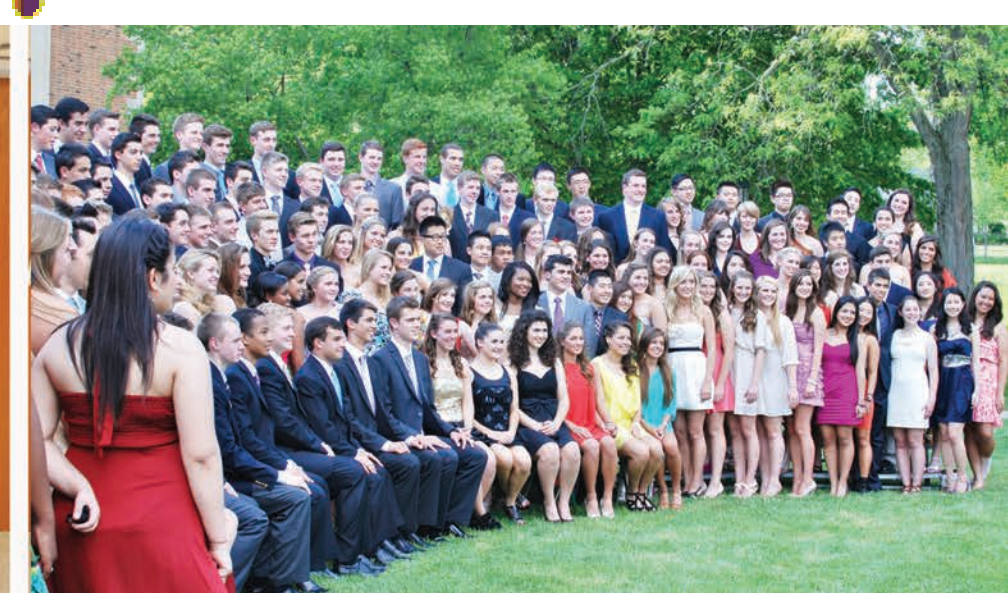




The Culver Citizen

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In Brief

'Town hall' meeting for museum's future Saturday

The Antiquarian and Historical Society (AHS) will host a "town hall" type event at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12 to bring Culver-wide residents together to save its heritage as preserved and shared at the Center for Culver History museum, which will be evicted from the Culver Public Library next year. The meeting will be moderated by Jeff Harris, Director of Local History Services at the Indiana Historical Society, and is open to the public. Anyone with an interest in preserving local history is strongly encouraged to attend and make their voice heard. The AHS requests that organizations send a representative to the meeting.

VFW dinner Friday

The Culver VFW Ladies Auxiliary will serve an 8-ounce ribeye steak with breaded shrimp dinner for \$12.50, or a seafood platter dinner for \$9, Friday, May 11, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. All dinners include a choice of potato, salad, and dessert.

Benefit luau May 12

PLYMOUTH — Goals and Dreams, Inc. is presenting a luau-style benefit for Victor Carnegie, who has cancer, Saturday, May 12 at the VFW at 606 Lake Ave., Plymouth. Starting the day at 8 a.m. with a rummage sale, vendor booths, bake sale and kids games, until 4 p.m. At 6 p.m., there will be a hog roast dinner for \$15, including entertainment. Music by Hatchet Man Productions, dancing with special guests from LDA, and comedian Sean Shank will perform at 6:30 p.m. There will also be a silent auction. For advance tickets call 574-936-8302 or stop by A-1 Recovery Carnegie Towing at 14717 Lincoln Highway, Plymouth at 574-936-9484.

Community meal at Grace May 15

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

MCJFL sign-up dates

Culver's Marshall Coun-

See Briefs page 11

www.culvercitizen.com
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Out and about

Some scenes from the area this past week. UPPER LEFT: Culver First Farmer's Bank branch manager Chad Van Herk, center, raised over \$3,000 for a terminally ill child's family at a concert in Plymouth Saturday. He's flanked here by Mike Maddox (left) and son Clint Maddox (right), all part of Celtic band the Scallywaggers. LOWER LEFT: Members of Culver Comm. High School's BPA group who attended nationals in Chicago recently (SEE STORY BELOW) include (front row, from left) Mitchell Maes and Joe Krsek, and (back row) Justin Croy, Kellie Bonine, Cameron Tourney, Serena Hughes, Chloe Broeker, and teacher/sponsor Eugene Baker. LOWER RIGHT: A relatively recent tradition, Culver Academies seniors prepare to depart Friday evening for the senior dinner dance, starting with a meal taking place at The Feast in Lakeville.

BPA victory, paddleboarding, other news detailed at Chamber mtg

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Several Culver entities updated Culver Chamber of Commerce members last week on a myriad of upcoming events and initiatives, during the organization's monthly meeting, held May 1 at the Culver Coffee Company on Lake Shore Drive.

Among the speakers was Culver Comm. High School business teacher and **Business Professionals of America** advisor **Gene Baker**, who discussed taking over the program from the late Mike Schwartz, who he said did "a tremendous job" with the program, which has existed some 20 years locally.

Baker said there are some 2,700 BPA members across Indiana and 38,000 across the U.S., with schools competing initially in regional contests, meaning Culver competes against large schools such as Mishawaka-Penn, "so the competition is definitely stringent."

BPA students at CCHS learn workplace skills, leadership, public speaking, community involvement, technology skills and computers, and entrepreneurship. BPA competitions include a variety of business-related projects and endeavors, said Baker, with the top two teams and top four individuals moving on to the state competition in Indianapolis.

Culver's BPA has aver-

aged just over 30 students in the past five years, Baker explained, noting that figure is around 10 percent of the student population.

"There are more students in BPA (at CCHS) than most athletic teams have on their team," he noted,



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Dana Keller of Sail22 discusses next month's paddleboarding event on Lake Maxinkuckee.

adding that in the last nine years, at least one student -- and often several -- has made it to the national competition to compete against the best of those 38,000 students from across the country. In those same past nine years, ten CCHS students have placed in the top ten at nationals.

Over the past seven years, the school has had at least one student in a regional or statewide leadership position, such as the Culver students last year who held district president

and state officer titles.

This year, senior Cameron Tourney, who also works at the Culver Public Library, Baker said, headed to nationals (which she's done the past four years) as district president. He said the Torch awards are another area of BPA in which students may make their way to nationals, regardless of their placing in competitions. The awards require points earned in several areas including patriotism, love and friendship, knowledge, hope, and faith.

The national competition this year was held in Chicago, and five seniors just returned from the senior trip attended.

"We had a rough time in Chicago (partly as a result)," Baker added. "They got wore down!"

Baker introduced sophomore Justin Croy, who qualified for nationals in the area of computer modeling, placing third in the state competition and 11th in nationals (Baker noted the nationals only recognizes the top 10 students, so Croy narrowly missed that honor). Also introduced was senior Kellie Bonine, a four-year BPA member, who attended nationals for a Torch award.

"All the community involvement...she's done at school was recognized at the national conference," Baker said. "She's helped us out a lot of different

See Chamber page 2

Parks board fields concerns over pier installation, accounting system

By Rachel Meade

Last Tuesday's Culver Parks and Recreation board meeting included a nearly 90 minute public input section. The 15-person audience voiced concerns about the safety and stability of the recently installed pier, the possibility of switching to a more modern accounting system, and the practicality of adding a bathroom to the historic railroad pavilion on the west end of the park.

Park pier

Tim Yuhas and his father Thomas questioned the board about way the park pier had been installed.

"It looks smaller than it did last year, and some of those entryways are steeper or on an angle," said Thomas Yuhas. He added that some poles seem to be in the wrong positions.

Tim, who fabricates piers at his company, West Shore Fabrication, commented, "It has a drop of almost 10 inches over 10 feet. It needs to be drawn out...so it's easier for people to walk up dragging a baby or a cooler."

For the past five years while working at Portside Marina, Tim helped install piers at the locale. This December, his independent bid to install the pier was rejected, along with Portside's, in favor of Davidson's Piers.

Tim and several other citizens first brought up concerns

See Park page 7

Local student talent shines at Tri Kappa art show

Culver area students' visual arts talents were on display over the April 28 weekend as part of Culver Tri Kappa's 10th annual Student Art show, held at the Culver Cove. The show this year included a total of 108 entries (Culver Academies 40, Culver Community High School 51, and Culver Community Middle School 17), according to Karen Blocker of Culver's Tri Kappa chapter, Epsilon Nu.

Judges this year included Joyce Lyman (Culver Elementary School art teacher), John Bickel (local artist), and Sean Surrisi (local artist and attorney for the city of Plymouth), all three of whom have judged the contest for years "and have art degrees and extensive experience with art," notes Blocker.

Culver Academies art instructor Bob Nowalk and Culver Comm. High and Middle School art instructor Shane Lowry are "excellent art teachers who make the show possible," she adds. "Tri Kappa is honored to provide this opportunity for the entire community to share and experience art."

This year's Best of Show award (from the judges) was given to Wei Wei Huang of Culver Academies, for her drawing entry titled, "Serious Self-Portrait."

The coveted People's Choice award was given to Kacie Hermanson, Culver Academies, for her sculpture entry titled, "Young Girl."

"The judges have enjoyed these two young ladies each year with their entries," says Blocker, "and seeing their artistic talent develop."

Below is a complete list of winners and awards from the show.

Best in Show: "Serious Self-Portrait," Wei Wei Huang, Culver Academies.

People's Choice: "Young Girl," Kacie Hermanson, Culver Academies.

Drawing category: First place: "Sleeper," Wei Wei

See Art page 5



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Rhonda Anderson (left) and Mitchell Anderson Jr. examine sculptures created by Culver Comm. High School students at the annual Tri Kappa Art Show at the Culver Cove.

Chamber from page 1

ways."

Not present at the Chamber meeting, but present at nationals for her role as district president was Cameron Turney as well as four-year BPA member Serena Hughes. Hughes earned a 4th place ranking at state for presentation management, and 13th place at nationals.

Mitch Maes and Joe Krsek attended nationals for Torch awards, and last year's district president Chloe Broeker was recognized at nationals for the Ambassador award.

Baker pointed out that students "pay for everything they do," adding district and state conferences cost each student about \$180, most of which is paid through fundraising endeavors. When hotel costs are factored in, students pay between \$500 and \$1,000 each to attend nationals. This year's trip cost very little, however, since students took the train from Chesterton to attend. Next year's competition will take place in Orlando, so money will need to be raised for flights and hotels.

"I came in tonight to make sure our community knows about BPA, and that these students do a great job of representing our community and school."

He added the program is always looking for donations to offset costs, and that a Facebook page has been set up (Culver Community BPA) and students are preparing to launch a static website as well in the near future, part of the school's site at www.culver.k12.in.us.

Discussing the June 30 **Lake Max Challenge** paddleboard competition was **Dana Keller**, an employee of Ed and Becky Furry's **Sail22** company.

Keller explained after Sail22 organized the sea scow nationals last year, requests came in from participants who enjoyed Culver, to host another event.

"We chose a stand-up paddleboard event because of our interest in it," Keller explained. "It's also used as cross-

training for sailing, and it's one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S."

The sport, which involves standing on a surfboard and propelling oneself with a paddle, originated in Hawaii in the 1960s, according to Keller, who said it's "much easier than surfing and is a great core workout." Numerous celebrities have lately become involved in the sport, she added.

Sail22 went through the World Paddle Association to be sure the Culver event is sanctioned and can be set up as a long-term event. WPA members will travel from out of state to participate and thus earn World points, she noted, with the accumulator of the most points at the end of the circuit winning a trip to Kabul.

The Lake Max Challenge will center around Culver's beach lodge.

"We wanted a central area in town," Keller said. "(Park Superintendent) Kelly Young is extremely enthusiastic!"

The June 30 schedule includes a 7:15 a.m. yoga session led by Shania Lampton of Bottom Line Fitness in Culver, followed by an hour of registration. A kids' event for 18 and under commences at 9 a.m., followed by a recreational single lap event of 3.5 miles. A two-lap race for "elites," which earns World points, follows, concluding with the Lake Max Challenge completely around the lake.

Registration costs range from \$20-50, she added.

Demo boards will be on the beach to try out on Friday evening, Keller said, and some board companies will offer demonstrations between races on Saturday as well.

The races are insured, she added, and the Lake Max-kuckee Association will have two patrol boards on the lake monitoring the event, in addition to two lifeguards on jet skis.

"We're working with a lot of local businesses," she said, "and proceeds from t-shirt sales go to the Lake Max-kuckee Environmental Council, to which a portion of all proceeds will be donated as well."

While several local entities are co-sponsoring the event, Keller said more sponsors and volunteers are being sought.

"This is a great little community and we love showcasing it," she concluded. "We wanted the whole

town on the same page; we're not here to make money. We just really want a good annual event."

Dana Neer, of the August 11 **Lake Max Triathlon** (lakemaxtriathlon.blogspot.com), discussed that event, which he said involves a 400-meter sprint in the water, 10 mile bike ride around the lake, and 5k run alongside the lake, all starting at Culver Academies Naval Building. Neer added a "great 80s band" is coming in, and "lots of good food."

Neer said planning for the event began 16 months ago with four goals to ensure the entire community would benefit from it:

First, to "hold a great wellness event at a special location, and Culver is that location."

Second, to provide funding for "two great humanitarian agencies," the Culver Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, both of which Neer said "have been great...after the bills are paid, every penny goes to those organizations." He added a number of event volunteers will come from those clubs as well.

Third, that the Chamber of Commerce and Culver community prosper from the event. Neer said organizers have a vision of Culver "being a mini triathlon village" in five years, with up to 500 participants (this year, between 150 and 200 are expected).

And finally, that Culver Academies alums might return to the area and bring a prospective family member or friend potentially interested in the Academies.

The event is broken into age and gender categories starting at ages 10 to 14 and increasing in five-year increments up to ages 80 and up.

Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver representatives **Rachel Meade** and **Jeff Kenney** also discussed a May 12, 10 a.m. meeting at the Culver Elementary gymnasium, at which the community is encouraged to attend and become involved, voicing opinions as to the future of the Center for Culver History, the museum and research center the AHS launched in 2006, which must exit its current home at the Culver Public Library in 16 months.

Meade discussed statistics as to the value of museums nationwide and locally -- including their tourism, economic, and civic value -- and Kenney explained that Jeff Harris of the Indiana Historical Society will moderate the "town hall" style event on the 12th.

Meade also invited the community to visit the museum to view an on-loan exhibit on Indiana maps (with Culver maps featured as well), and one on Culver's contribution

to the Civil War. She also thanked the Marshall County Community Foundation for funding of digitization equipment for use with the AHS' collection, and a short film on the history of Culver.

Also discussed was the upcoming **Taste of Culver festival**, slated for June 16, and a **Second Century** meeting planned for May 22 at the Culver library. Town councilman Bill Githens discussed the summer-long celebration of Culver's **Woodcraft Camp's centennial**, starting in June.

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Culver businesses hope to enhance shopping local with 3/50 initiative

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Several local Culver business owners gathered at the Culver Coffee Company last week to discuss -- and hopefully plan for formal launch of -- a nationwide initiative to enhance, support, and strengthen small, local businesses, many of which are the backbone of the Culver community.

Julie Brooks, co-owner (with Julie Workman) of Civvies on Main Street, said she first learned of the "3/50 Project" (the350project.net) while researching best practices for a small business, during the planning stages of Civvies.

The 3/50 idea, said Brooks, began when 3/50 founder and president Cinda Baxter heard a guest on Oprah Winfrey's TV program suggest the best solution to the nation's economic downturn was for consumers to hold tight to their money. The next day, however, Baxter saw a CBS news report that, "Consumer spending drives 70% of the economy. When consumers put their wallets away, the economy has trouble making a U-turn."

The crux of the movement, said Brooks, is that individuals identify three businesses in their community they would miss greatly if the business closed. Those individuals are then encouraged to spend \$50 per month among

any of those three businesses collectively.

"When you spend \$100 in your local community," said Brooks, "\$68 goes back in. When you spend \$100 in a nationwide (chain) store, \$43 comes back into the community. When you spend money online, nothing goes into your community."

Brooks said she began discussing the initiative with Bottom Line Fitness owner Shaina Lampton, a block south of Civvies, Diva boutique owner Sue McInturff, across the street, and Culver Coffee Company owner Dawn Brockey.

Brooks noted Baxter's 3/50 movement has had "tons of success" and her website allows users to become supporters and download an app for their phone which points shoppers to locally owned businesses in whatever community they're visiting.

"When I pull up Indiana, it has Civvies in one-mile radius," Brooks said. "It only pulls up people registered as small, independent businesses. You can (choose to) eat, stay, or play; there are services and all kinds of stuff."

The \$68 returned to the Culver community from shopping locally means sales tax revenues which will benefit local schools, roads, and other improvements, Brooks explained. Some communities have found various ways to

implement the idea, including one in Alabama called "20 on the 20th," which encouraged the community to spend \$20 on the 20th of each month in a local business, which led to "a big improvement," she said.

Brooks added a business needn't be a Culver Chamber of Commerce member to participate, though Coffee Company owner and Chamber president Dawn Brockey said she hopes Chamber support of such initiatives will encourage businesses to join the Chamber.

McInturff discussed a "Locals Love You More" initiative with similar attributes to a Fort Wayne program where shoppers have cards marked when they shop locally, and turn in the cards when they have spent \$50 at three local businesses to be included in a drawing for a prize provided by the merchants. Plymouth's "Rock of Gold" local business initiative was also discussed.

Any interested business, she said, is encouraged to log onto www.the350project.net, register the business, and print off copies of flyers available to post or print out and give to customers.

"From a retail merchants' standpoint," added McInturff, "we want to look at what we can do to bring in customers on a daily and weekend basis."

Culver Tool and Engineering growing in Plymouth

PLYMOUTH – Culver Tool & Engineering, Inc. has announced plans to add on to its existing production facility in Plymouth, investing approximately \$1,000,000 in new construction and new manufacturing equipment and creating at least 6 new jobs in 2012.

Founded in 1963 as a broach tool builder, Culver Tool began production of medical devices in 1992. Today Culver Tool is the leading U.S. producer of orthopedic spinal implants, including all forms of spinal rods, hooks, connectors and instruments, as well as prototypes, customs and specials for the medical industry. The company currently employs 53 people.

"We have been blessed with 33 percent growth in subsequent years," said Wade Berger, President of Culver Tool. "With this investment we are increasing our capabilities while remaining focused on the stringent quality standards this company was founded upon."

The City of Plymouth granted Culver Tool a three year real property abatement and five year personal property tax abatement to facilitate the company's expansion.

"This mission-driven company is poised for continued exponential growth and success," said Plymouth Mayor Mark Senter. "The City is pleased to be able to help encourage Culver Tool advance new R&D and add production capacity."

The City of Plymouth offers real and personal property tax phase-in as an incentive to help new and expanding businesses improve facilities or add new equipment. Tax abatement provides tax relief to the owner while supporting new development which would not otherwise occur without public support.

Culver Tool will add \$700,000 in new machinery and reconfigure production space by combining two existing buildings. The project commenced May 1.

Mitzell receives Morehead-Cain Scholarship



Channing "Jack" Mitzell

Culver Academies senior Channing "Jack" Mitzell has been awarded a Morehead-Cain Scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall. Mitzell is Culver's 46th recipient and the first since 2006. He is the son of Channing and Sallie Jo Mitzell, of Westfield, Ind.

Mitzell served as Culver Military Academy regimental commander during the first semester, the highest rank for a cadet; and currently serves as the aide to administration. He also served as one of Culver's representatives to the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference and as an Indiana representative to the HOBY World Leadership Conference. He was a member of the tennis team, crew, swimming, Campus Activities Board, Student Council, Community Service Council, and The Ron Rubin School for the Entrepreneur. Mitzell has also been nominated for the Academies' Cum Laude Society and will be inducted at the end of the school year.

The Morehead Scholarship pays all expenses for four years of undergraduate study, including a laptop computer and four summer enrichment experiences. Fifty-three seniors were named Morehead Scholars from among 1,600 who were nominated or applied. Conferred solely on merit, Morehead selections are based on capacity to lead and motivate fellow students, scholastic ability, extracurricular attainments, moral force of character, and physical vigor.

The Morehead-Cain was the first merit scholarship program established in the United States, beginning in 1945. Culver became the first Indiana school, and one of the first outside of North Carolina, to be associated with the program in 1963.

Members-only tickets for Cole Porter concert, event available now

The Cole Porter Revue, live in concert, and follow-on wine and cheese reception with the performers, will be held Sat., June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Academies Legion Building.

Tickets for members of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver are \$25 each and are now available for purchase by current Society members. It is recommended tickets be purchased as soon as possible.

Tickets at \$35 each will be available to non-members beginning May 21. Seating is limited, so there are currently only about 100 tickets available.

rently only about 100 tickets available.

Tickets may be purchased at the Center for Culver History museum, located in the Culver Public Library, from noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. They may also be purchased by calling Ginny Gibson at 574-635-0635. Orders without payment cannot be accepted.

More information on this event will appear in next week's *Culver Citizen*.

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[facebook.com/culvercitizen](https://www.facebook.com/culvercitizen)

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., May 10: Pulled pork, yellow kaiser bun, macaroni and cheese, zucchini and tomatoes, pears, milk.

Fri., May 11: Taco salad: meat, lettuce, salsa, shredded cheese, corn chips, ranch dressing, black bean and corn salad, hot cinnamon apples, milk.

Mon., May 14: Smoked sausage and bun, sauerkraut, potato wedges, cauliflower, mixed fruit, milk.

Tues., May 15: Oven fried chicken, mashed sweet potatoes, green beans, buttermilk bread and margarine, apple-sauce, milk.

Weds., May 16: Chili mac, shredded cheddar, Italian bread, pea salad, birthday treat, milk.

Thurs., May 17: Pork loin, broccoli, black eyed peas, cornbread and margarine, cherry ambrosia, milk.

Fri., May 18: Sub sandwich, turkey and ham, lettuce, tomato, cheese, mayo, carrot coin salad, cobbler, milk.

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Making a day of it with your kids or grandkids -- Culver and beyond

As alluded to in a previous column, Culver is headed full-bore into its "summer-ish" schedule, even if that time period really kicks off in late April, and that of course means warm weather. It goes without saying that Culver is a sort of outdoor paradise (or I hope it does), and while we could do a lot better about it, our family has always tried to take advantage of that -- heck, it's a big part of why we choose to live here!

A year or so ago, a reader was discussing with me some of the things she does with her grandkids, and we began to chat about some "regular" activities with my own children, some of which she was unaware existed. She suggested I put together a little list, sometime, in the paper, which is something I've been meaning to do, but like so many things haven't gotten to. In her case, the discussion centered around easy "day trips" with younger children, though it only makes sense to start in Culver proper, for what I assume are obvious reasons.

Unfortunately, the number of children residing within Culver proper has dwindled radically in recent decades, but more fortunately, A) Not all our readers live in Culver proper, and I'm happy to say a number of children do continue to dwell in the surrounding area -- that's been confirmed by multiple sightings! And B) Many of our Culver-dwelling readers have grandchildren who visit at least occasionally, and conveniently enough for purposes of this column, some of those readers are somewhat newer to the community. So maybe what follows will be of some small service.

I'd add that these are cheap or free things to do. Obviously you could instead grab a flight to Disneyworld, but not only do costs add up quickly, I'd like to suggest that most younger children are just as thrilled to hike in the woods as fly across the country. In other words, they haven't yet had their natural delight in the small, simpler joys of life bred out of them as many of us have, and haven't yet learned that they're supposed to be bored unless something is flashing at them, making lots of noise at them, or made of shiny plastic. They will soon learn this lesson, never fear. In the meantime, take advantage of the fact that turning over a log in the forest may be just as fascinating to them as what's on the Disney Channel. Maybe even more so.

Things to do with children around Culver -- outdoor Some of these are no-brainers, such as the town park and beach. We also spend a fair amount of time on the school playground (though not, of course, when school is in session).

We like to hike, so exploring the **Indian trails**, east of the town park proper, is always a hit. The more adventurous sort can attempt the "lower" trails along the lakeshore, which has always delighted our son and most other boys along for the ride. If you're hiking towards the trails, by the way, detour by the fire station and give the kids a "boost" to look in the windows and see the trucks (see -- it's the little things!). If there's a fireman around and he has time, I bet anything he'd even open the door and let your kids sit in the front seat.

The **Culver Academics campus** is one of the great treasures of northern Indiana, if not the Midwest, and it always amazes me how many people have lived around here



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor

for years but not set foot. If you're polite and respect appropriate boundaries, the Academy welcomes people to walk along the lakeshore and even to check out some of the "public friendly" buildings. Your children need to do this! There are multiple opportunities for "fun" and also for some interesting learning about architecture, history, and other things.

If you haven't seen the lake from the huge windows of the second floor of the Huffington Library, you need to. If your child hasn't walked through the main floor of the Legion Memorial Building, which he or she will swear is a European castle (and it was modeled after one), they need to. The Memorial Chapel is another "must," and if you come on a summer Saturday afternoon, attend one of John Gouwens' carillon recitals and for Heaven's sake, take your kids up the winding, circular stairs to his tour of the bell tower.

Stop by the Riding Hall and pet a horse (again, politely), and let them run around the parade field a while (and when they occur, take them to parades there!).

Again, if you're polite (and it's not hunting season), hike the **Bird Sanctuary**. If it's a summer Saturday evening, you must attend a **Council Fire Indian dance** there. Your children will love it -- again, if they haven't had too many trips to Disney and too many hours in front of media, in which case it may bore them.

I could ramble on about Culver outdoor sites longer, but moving on...

Things to do with children outside of Culver

Your editor loves his community, but when a free Saturday arises and we've saved our pennies enough weeks to buy a few gallons of gas (half-joking here), our family sometimes takes short "day" trips. I could write several columns on the subject in elaboration, but a quick tour of some...

Now, we've become connoisseurs of area playgrounds. Generally we're not going to drive 20-40 minutes just to take our kids to a playground, but if you're on the way anyway, some standouts include Rochester's community-built Manitou Mountain, which may be our kids' favorite in the area. Rochester also has a "rails-to-trails" bicycle trail which is excellent, and while in town, stop in at the public library there (my first public library job). You may even run into Culver's own Jon Gaskill, but even if you don't, it's a nice library for kids and you can borrow items with your Culver Public Library Evergreen card and return them in Culver, for free.

Plymouth's community-built playground at Centennial Park is also excellent, as is the entire park, including the nice walking paths down by the Yellow River, the sledding hill (which in warm weather is great for rolling down, no matter your age), and the older playground east of the main one. In more recent years, Plymouth's great Riverwalk Trail has been a fantastic addition, and we've enjoyed hiking it a great deal.

Have you been to Magnetic Park in Plymouth? It's a tiny, modest playground, but my kids were fascinated to learn a bit about the flowing well there, which has mineral elements such that people once drank the water for medicinal purposes (it was dubbed "magnetic" water, and hence the park's name). I'd add that we've enjoyed some of the playgrounds, with the kids, of Plymouth's elementary schools, especially Washington on the south side.

Here's a weird one, but for adventurous kids, drive the 10 minutes or so southeast of Culver to **Dead Man's Col-**

lege, the late 19th century, one-room schoolhouse built alongside a family cemetery (and of course rumored to be haunted by the ghosts of the children) in Fulton County. Lots of history lessons, and almost every kid enjoys some spookiness!

Last Saturday we had to be near Winamac and took the children to its park, which has a grand, historic suspension bridge over the Tippecanoe River. Similar to Knox's public park, Winamac's is a bit of a playground history lesson (where's the PhD program in that subject?), and I confess I get a kick out of saying things like, "Those spring-based riding animals -- we used to have those in the Culver park. And those two merry-go-rounds are exactly like the kind at the Culver Elementary playground when I was a kid." It's all about the kid memories.

As does Knox, Winamac's park has some very modern equipment, too, which is a hit, but the old stuff is just fun for nostalgic purposes. Near Winamac, of course, is the Tippecanoe State Forest, which includes the ever-popular fire tower, sure to make your palms sweat if you're nervous of heights and deign to climb it.

Other day-trips include the **Hoosier Valley Rail museum** in North Judson (which has some Culver connections I haven't the space to discuss here). You can take a ride, on scheduled days, on a real train there, but even if you don't, you're able to wander through several train engines, cars, and cabooses. While you're there, you can hike or bike the old railroad bed turned paved trail, all the way to Winamac. I happen to enjoy strolling through small, old Midwestern towns, and while Judson has had some economic blows in past decades, it's still fun to wander. I particularly like their WPA-built amphitheater park and the art and architecture of the beautiful old Catholic church, which is usually unlocked I believe.

Lots to do in LaPorte, but with kids, the **Heston Steam Museum** is great, complete with "mini" train you can ride (and trestle!), as well as a number of other steam-driven antiques, most of them outdoors. Lots of historic buildings and antique/junk shops to browse in LaPorte, too.

Argos has an excellent park/playground, with a very nice little hiking trail. Keep driving east and you can check out the **Potawatomi Wildlife Park**, which is another great hike, peppered with various types of landscapes and some historical niceties as well. And it's free!

In the fall, there's no place within such a short distance to compare to **Yellow River Farms**, with its free hay maze, hayride to the pumpkin patch, corn box, animals to see, and (for pay) giant tunnel slide, corn maze, and barrel train rides. That's west on State Road 8 just 10 minutes or so from Culver.

A bit further is Logansport, but well worth it. One could easily spend a day hiking **France Park**, the old limestone quarry turned very deep swimming lake (with SCUBA diving, for a fee) and real, live, 70-foot cliffs, an unusual sight north of Indianapolis and sure to delight the kids. Look for the huge sturgeon fish just below the surface. There are miles of hiking trails including remnants of the old (largely immigrant-based) quarry camp, abandoned national canal project, and more.

If you're in Logansport, it only makes sense to head downtown and take a spin on the 1890s **carousel**, trying for a chance to grab the brass ring for a free ride. Our kids are huge fans of Hap's, just down the street, an old-fashioned ice cream soda shop with over 100 flavors of sundaes, vintage style drinks like phosphates and sodas, and much more.

Most parents of young children in Culver likely already know about **Bremen Bounce**, a former factory populated with an array of inflatable "bouncing" toys -- castles, slides, and more, among other offerings. Your child or grandchild should sleep well after an afternoon there!

Heading west, you can't go wrong with the Indiana Dunes, or just the one, huge (100 foot-plus) dune, **Mount Baldy**, near Michigan City. Not five minutes down the road from Baldy is **Washington Zoo**, which still has its own 1930s WPA landscaping as well as some great renovations and animals -- a nice, affordable, small zoo for families.

Speaking of **zoos**, Fort Wayne's is one of the top-rated in the country for children. If you have kids at your disposal, they need to visit at least once in their lives. Obviously Ft. Wayne has a lot for kids, but other highlights include **Johnny Appleseed's grave** -- yes, that Johnny Appleseed, the real guy! Another kid highlight is the **Science Central museum**, as are the **Botanical Gardens**.

Speaking of gardens, stop while on the way to Ft. Wayne in Warsaw, where you can walk through the **Biblical Gardens**. Besides being a beautiful garden, its populated by plants and vegetation mentioned in the Bible. Adjacent is a nifty park by the lake, and of course the Village at Winona is charming on many levels.

If you're headed north, there are many options. We sometimes head to the **River Walk** in downtown Mishawaka, an excellent project they undertook there a few years back. While in downtown Mishawaka, there's the eclectic toy store, **"Imagine That!"** Besides selling interesting education-oriented toys

See View page 8

Name that Culver 'citizen'

Last week's Mystery Citizen was admittedly a stumper -- as online reader Jack Houghton commented, we *all* looked like that as babies! Well, maybe not quite like that. Readers Leo Watson, Ginny Munroe, and Mary Anna Swennumson wrote in to identify Culver town councilman Bill Githens, which is remarkable given that they wouldn't have known him,



LEFT: Last week's Mystery Citizen, Bill Githens, then and now. ABOVE: This week's Mystery Citizen.

growing up in Texas as he did, back in those years. So their free parking was earned entirely by recognizing "then and now" features (and he's pictured below, "then and now"!).

This week's Mystery Citizen has been part of the Culver community much of his life and is quite involved in one local institution, where he impacts a number of lives.

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



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Sports briefs

Baseball

CMA loses pitchers' duel

St. Joe pitcher Jake Stone held visiting Culver Military to five hits for a single run, and the Eagles lost a 3-1 pitchers' duel in South Bend.

Trent Kolden doubled twice and Anthony McHugh doubled once for the Eagles, who plated their only run in the top of the sixth. Colt Vessels took the loss on the mound.

• ST. JOSEPH'S 3, CULVER MILITARY 1
At South Bend

Culver earns 1st win vs Bremen

Culver plated two runs in the bottom of the seventh, and the Cavaliers earned their first win of the season 7-6 over Northern State Conference foe Bremen Friday night at home.

Randy Cline got the win on the mound relieving Kyle Vlach in the fifth as Bremen jumped out to a 5-4 lead in the first five frames.

Lions closer Nate Leeper took the loss taking over for Jacob Bennitt in the seventh.

Sean Knepper homered for Bremen, while Tyler Coffel, Ben Coxey and Eric Knepper all doubled for the visitors.

Nick Pritz tripled, and Sam Hissong, Nick Zehner and Chris Zehner all doubled for the Cavs.

• CULVER 7, BREMEN 6
At Culver

Bettcher powers Lancers over Culver

Five different LaVille players finished with two RBI each, and the Lancers beat Culver 12-8 in a Northern State Conference game Thursday at Culver.

Ryan Bettcher went 4-for-5 at the plate with three stolen bases and three runs. He was one of five different Lancers who doubled, along with Quentin Herbster, Dalton Sauer, Anthony Singleton and Jason Duerring.

Culver fell behind 9-2 in the first two frames and never fully recovered. George Alvarado doubled and Collin Stevens took the loss on the mound.

• LaVILLE 12, CULVER 8
At Culver

Softball

LaVille shells Culver

LaVille jumped out to a 10-run start in the bottom of the first en route to an eventual 22-1, five-inning defeat of visiting Northern State Conference foe Culver Thursday.

Hannah Herbster got the win on the mound and tripled for LaVille, as did Tiffany Craft and Kendra Borton, while Brittany Norton doubled twice for the Lady Lancers, who collected 12 hits against Culver.

Madelyn Strycker got the start and the loss for the Lady Cavaliers before being replaced inside the circle by Janelle VanDePutte in the first.

• LaVILLE 22, CULVER 1 (5 inn.)
At Lakeville

Boys track

Culver beats Knox

Culver won 10 different events, including the 400 relay and 1600 relay, and went one-two in the 200 on its way to a 76-56 win over host Knox in a dual Northern State Conference meet Friday at Knox.

Bradley Beaver won the long jump, high jump, 400 and was a winner on Culver's winning 1600 relay to lead the Cavs in points, while Cole Flora won the 100 and 200 and ran the second leg on the Cavs' winning 4X400 team, and Micah Budzinski won the 110 hurdles and ran legs on the Cavs' winning 400 and 1600 relays.

Tyler Keeton won both throwing events, while Travis Amor won the 1600, Elliott Coad won the 800, and Adam Sobieck won the 3200 for the Redskins.

• CULVER 76, KNOX 56
At Knox

Culver beats CMA

Culver Community's boys track team beat crosstown rival Culver Military Academy 71-61 Wednesday.

Bradley Beaver won the high jump, the long jump and was a winner on Culver Community's 1600 relay squad with Micah Budzinski, Matt Hurford and Preston Hansel. Budzinski won the 110 hurdles and was a winner on his team's 400 relay squad with Kevin Hogan, Keith Back and Cole Flora, who also won the 200, while Hurford won the shot put.

CMA had no multiple-even winners, but Aramonti Phillips won the 100 and finished second in both the long jump and the shot put.

• CULVER COMMUNITY 71, CULVER MILITARY ACADEMY 61
At Culver

Girls track

CGA takes Goshen Relays

Bremen won three relays, and the Lady Lions finished second behind meet champion Fairfield with 84 points, while Plymouth finished third 10 points back, and Culver Girls Academy was seventh with 50 points at the Goshen Relays Saturday.

CGA was led by Leah Heckaman's top finish in the discus and second-place result in the shot put, while Olivia Martinez placed third in the 1600.

• GOSHEN RELAYS
At Goshen

Knox tops Culver

Knox won all three relays, the middle distance and distance races and three of five field events in a 71-53 win over Northern State Conference foe Culver Friday.

Natalie Shepherd won the 1600, 800 and 3200 for the Lady Redskins, while Brooke Bennett won the pole vault, Alisha White won the discus, and Hannah Folkers won the long jump for Knox.

Tatum Schultz won both hurdles races and the high jump, Kayla Shaffer won the 100 and the 200, Donna Zehner won the shot put, and Tristan Littleton won the 400-meter dash for Culver.

• KNOX 71, CULVER 53
At Knox

CGA bests Culver

Culver Girls Academy posted wins in 11 events, and the Lady Eagles beat Culver Community 83-43 in a dual girls track meet Wednesday.

Amber Cowell won both hurdles races, Leah Heckaman won both throwing events, and Jasmin Solola was a dual winner on CGA's winning 400 and 1600 relay teams, while Kennedy Thompson won the 800 and was a winner

on her team's 3200 relay squad.

Kayla Shaffer won the 100, 200 and 400 for Culver Community, while Tatum Schultz won the high jump for the Lady Cavs.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 83, CULVER COMMUNITY 43
At Culver

Boys golf

Culver earns 1st dual meet win

Plymouth's boys golf team beat out four teams to move to 9-3 on the season, while LaVille earned wins over Culver and LaLumiere, and the Cavs claimed their first dual meet victory with a five-stroke win over LaLumiere Wednesday at the Plymouth Country Club.

Trent Elliott led Culver with a 43, Luke Dunfee shot a 45, Zach Duplay shot a 47, and Cody Peterson shot a 56.

• PLYMOUTH 165, LaVILLE 185, CULVER 191, LaLUMIERE 196
At Plymouth Country Club (Par 36)

Girls tennis

CGA goes 0-3

Culver Girls Academy went 0-3 with losses to Penn, Munster and Fairfield against a loaded field at its home invite Saturday.

Paulina Cano and Natalia Lopez-Yanez earned wins at 2 singles for the Lady Eagles, while Nancy Wu won at 3 singles, and Regina Padilla and Rachel Simon earned a win at 2 doubles.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY INVITATIONAL
At Culver

CGA beats Plymouth 4-1 in makeup match

Culver Girls Academy beat visiting Plymouth 4-1 in a makeup of a rain-out at the Gable Tennis Complex at Culver Academies Friday.

The Lady Eagles won at all three singles flights and at 2 doubles. Natalia Lopez-Yanez overcame a tiebreaker loss in the opening set to beat Allie Berger 6-7(7-5), 6-4, 6-3 at 2 singles, and Regina Padilla handed Ellen Smith a 7-3 tiebreaker loss in their opener en route to a 7-6(3), 6-2 win at 3 singles.

The Lady Pilgrims' lone win against their regional rivals came at 1 doubles, where Marissa German and Andria Shook battled back from a 7-3 tiebreaker loss in the opening set to trump Pita Navarro and Maria Solis in three, 6-7(3), 6-3, 6-1.

• CULVER GIRLS ACADEMY 4, PLYMOUTH 1
At Culver

Boys lacrosse

CMA wins 2

Culver Military Academy's prep team beat Cathedral 17-4 Sunday following a 19-6 rout of Carmel Saturday at home.

Kyle Trolley scored four goals in each game, while Pierre Byrne notched seven goals over the weekend, and Dean Ferris and Joel Tinney each recorded five.

Micahel Calvello recorded nine saves in the win over Cathedral.

CMA improves to 14-3 on the season.

• CULVER MILITARY (Prep) 17, CATHEDRAL 4
At Culver

Art from page 1

Huang, Culver Academies. Second place: "Double Portrait," Kacie Hermanson, Culver Academies. Third place: "Baby KK," Kaelah Selby, Culver Academies.

Painting category. First place: "Still Life Studies," Alina Badalich, Culver Academies. Second place: "Untitled," Gaby Jurado, Culver Comm. High School. Third place: "Self Portrait," Kacie Hermanson, Culver Academies. Fourth place: "Silhouette of Flight," Cole Flora, Culver Comm. High School. Fifth place: "Cadet," Paula de La Vega, Culver Academies.

Color photography category. First place: "LLC Backyard," Jordan Berger, Culver Academies. "Pretty Poison,"

Corydon Martin, Culver Academies. "Antique Treasures," Emily Rich, Culver Academies.

Black and white photography category. First place: "The Lesson," Sarah Rakich, Culver Academies. Second place: "Wetland Marsh," Eric Amling, Culver Academies. Third place: "Scarry," Christopher Gisler, Culver Academies.

Sulpture category. First place: "Cat," Matt Shott, Culver Comm. High School. Second place: "Losing Yourself in Technology," Leannza Shipley/Malici Shaffer, Culver Comm. High School. Third place: "Sharpie," Bohdi Farquhar/John White, Culver Comm. High School.

Marker category. First place: "Elephant," Stevie Clingler, Culver Comm. High School.

Mixed media category. "Live Love Music," Clare Hartman, Culver Comm. High School. Second place: "Hearts," Kacie Smith, Culver Comm. High School. Third place: "Orange Puma Print," Michael Skiles, Culver Comm. High School.

Middle school category. First place: "Awesomer," Anna Tompos, Culver Comm. Middle School. Second place: "Circles," Cecilia Kenney, Culver Comm. Middle School. Third place: "Doty," Jeremiah Carpenter, Culver Comm. Middle School.

Park from page 5



CITIZEN PHOTO/RACHEL MEADE
Culver Parks Superintendent Kelly Young, left, addresses concerns from audience member Tim Yuhus (far right) about the installation of the town pier as park board members Patty Stallings (center) and Ed Behnke (right) look on.

about the pier at last month's board meeting, which took place four days after Davidson's Piers first began work. Tim told the board he'd witnessed the workers putting pieces in the wrong places: "I tried to explain to the park board that if one piece is in the wrong place it has a domino effect."

Following up on these previous concerns, Parks Superintendent Kelly Young explained that she'd discussed them with Davidson. She reported he'd emphasized the company is not yet finished, and realizes that the job will not be paid until the park board is satisfied.

One of these concerns was that the poles did not seem to be of a uniform length. Young said his crew would look into the problem, although she commented, "I'm not sure they ever were [uniform]."

"In the end I feel like they have been very good to work with," said Young. "Very hard working. Always willing address any and all concerns."

She promised that she would bring the additional comments to his attention as well.

Tim said he's not satisfied with the board's response. "The average person sees [only] that a pier is in and that it looks all put together," he said, noting concern the pier is improperly installed, and may be a potential liability.

"There's parts that are liable to fall apart. Bolts that aren't tightened. Parts that aren't tied in where they should be, that move out from under you."

Tim said a section moved about a foot under him when he walked it the night prior to the board meeting (May 1).

Young said she'd also walked the pier May 1 and found it stable. Former parks board member and current town council member Ed Pinder commented that though he has only one good eye, the pier looks good to him.

Young updated the board on the pier installation costs, explaining that they'd had to spend \$2,067.97 on hardware replacement.

"We were missing quite a bit of hardware," she said.

At the end of the season, explained Young, Portside was supposed to bring all the hardware to the beach lodge in bins. When Davidson discovered some equipment was missing, the parks department purchased replacements. Young later discovered a portion of the missing equipment sitting on the floor of the beach lodge.

Board member Patty Stallings asked whether she'd called Portside to ask about the missing equipment, and Young said she had not. Young added that Davidson had

provided some other equipment free of charge. She also said he is going to make an additional 35 braces to keep the pier from wobbling.

Tim commented that braces would not need to be made if they had been put in the right places in the first place: "You're paying for his screw-ups."

Accounting system

Audience and board members also debated the feasibility and necessity of purchasing new accounting software which would allow for increased oversight and itemization of funds.

"I brought this subject up two years ago to the board,"

said audience member Tom Kearns, who, like the Yuhas family, is a regular attendee at Park board meetings.

"I basically said, 'This park district should be run as a business.' And a business today is run by a computer or by a cash register... And if you polled the bulk of people in this town, that's how they'd want it run."

He added that every transaction the park board undertakes, including pier rentals for boats, should be entered into the same system.

Mike Stallings, who owns a construction business along with wife Patty, agrees.

"You have a rather substantial budget. It should be beyond reproach, accounted for by a separate system that keeps you from being in question at any time," he said, noting that on all the boards he's sat on, that was the practice.

"The library put one in and it works like a charm," he added.

Library board president Jim Hahn said he would support the purchase of an accounting system: "I would echo the desire to see every single candy bar accounted for."

Ed Pinder disagreed, saying he believed the costs involved would not be worth the benefit.

"It's spending your money when we don't need to," he said.

In response to concerns about the current system, Young explained that all expenditures and profits are properly accounted for, and in accordance with the State Board of Accounts.

"Everything I do has to be receipted (and) there is a paper trail," she said. "As far as the cash register, every day I cash out. Everything's accounted; everything's itemized."

Board member Patty Stallings argued in favor of the new accounting system.

"Do you realize how old fashioned we are sounding here?" she asked the board. "This is a \$265,000 budget. It's a small business and we need to move ahead and do something that is within this century at least. It's available, inexpensive (and) will make us all accountable."

The system she recommends is a point-of-sale cash register, which unlike the current cash register, will allow for increased itemization and comes with software for accounting.

Board member Ed Behnke questioned the necessity of purchasing a new system.

"I can't even imagine that we have a problem to solve at this point," he said. "Our budgets add up every year. The State Board of Accounts goes through penny by penny."

Stallings commented, "This seems to me such a struggle for a very inexpensive item. The opinion seems to be that whatever [Superintendent] Kelly wants to do will be

done."

Board member Leroy Bean seemed to take exception to this statement, speaking up for the first time: "Just because we sit here and don't say anything doesn't mean we don't know anything. I don't like to fix something that's not broke."

Behnke said he'd only support a new accounting system if it dovetailed into the system currently being used by the town clerk, and suggested that Stallings talk to the clerk to coordinate the effort.

Theresa Yuhas said in the three or four years she's been coming to park board meetings, the budget is not discussed by the board, and it is not made available to those in attendance. She questioned whether the board knows how much money they currently have.

Pavilion bathroom

Like the issue of whether to update the accounting system, the board's decision to add a bathroom to the 1880's railroad pavilion on the west end of the park has been an ongoing topic of controversy. Stallings is the project's staunchest opponent on the board.

"I think the cost is prohibitive considering how few people will really use it. With so many people struggling to make ends meet, why are we spending money unnecessarily?" she questioned.

She added she fears teens will use the bathrooms to "smoke in, sell drugs in, and perform all kinds of interesting tasks... this will be a prime target for vandalism."

"These are valuable historical structures that we board members have a duty to preserve. Right now those teens that play up in that area shy away from there. They don't need to go over there."

As a compromise, she suggested the proposed bathroom be located elsewhere, such as by the parking lot, where it could be more easily policed.

Jim Hahn agreed with Stallings, stating, "If we really feel we need to have another potty, I think putting it on the west end of that pavilion is a poor place."

Leroy Bean said he would not like to see the bathroom by the parking lot: "That'll look bad."

Behnke said there might be a better location for the bathroom, but added the project would not happen in the near future; it's not in the 2012 budget.

Responding to Stallings' comments, Ed Pinder said, "Who are the people asking? Here's two of them," referring to himself and his wife. "You make it sound like we got a bunch of juvenile delinquents in this town," he added.

Public input

As board members struggled to wrap up the lengthy public input section of the meeting, Tim Yuhas suggested that the board might save time by moving the input section to the end of the agenda.

Pinder said the town council's placement of public input at the end of meetings is better.

Tom Kearns said he preferred the current system: "What if there's a resolution and the citizen input comes after the vote?" he asked.

In a later interview, Tim Yuhas explained that he and his parents have been attending board meetings since 2009, when he said controversy over the way a park playground was being built and paid for drew in large crowds. Tim said a number of citizens, including his family and Tom Kearns, began to question how the board made decisions and managed its money.

"There's no transparency. I understand people being resistant to change. But, if you're not doing anything wrong, why is there resistance?" said Tim, referring to the board's reluctance to update its accounting system.

"They're defensive," he added. "They're not open to what the public is asking for. They don't want to listen."

Tim said his parents were instrumental in the recent decision by the board to tape record their meetings. His parents pressed the board to tape record meetings after noting official minutes didn't always reflect what had been said.

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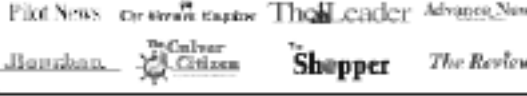
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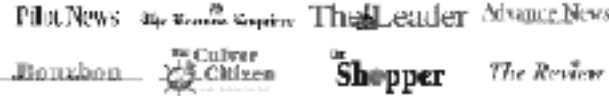
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Pilot News

CCHS students learn importance of good choices as prom preparation



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY
Westview High School student Luke Pamer discusses consequences of bad choices with Culver Comm. High School students last Thursday morning.

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

As in years past, Culver Comm. High School juniors and seniors gathered in the school auditorium to consider the importance of safety at their prom that weekend, with one difference: this time, the featured speaker was someone their own age.

Luke Pamer, a junior from Westview High School in Topeka, Indiana, began talking to fellow students last January about the death of his cousin and role model, Greg Chupp, who was killed instantly in February, 2006, in a car driven by Chupp's best friend.

"I'm not going to lecture you," said Pamer, who Culver town marshal Wayne Bean worked to bring to the event, according to CCHS principal Albert Hanselman, who introduced Pamer. "Everybody knows not to be an idiot, but we forget sometimes."

Pamer showed a video slideshow, set to music, of Chupp's baby and childhood years, interrupting it for a Power Point presen-

tation which displayed statistics, such as in 37 percent of teen driving deaths, speed is a factor; 81 percent of teen car accident death victims are passengers ("So if you're driving," noted Pamer, "you're killing your best friend."); 60 percent of teens have texted while driving; and vehicle deaths are the leading cause of death among teens, 5,000 to 6,000 of whom are killed that way each year.

Pamer discussed the impact he felt from a movement called The Buried Life, in which several teens made a list of things they wanted to do before they died, but insisted that for every one accomplished, they would do something for someone else. Pamer said doing ten presentations on his cousin's death is one of the things on his own list.

He also lauded "To Write Love on Her Arms," a movement centered around helping emotionally troubled teens, launched after two teens took an emotionally unstable girl to their church until she was well enough to enter rehab.

"You should never do anything too drastic," Pamer said, referring to teen suicide. "There are always people out there who will help you, who want you to succeed. I'm a firm believer that anything is possible."

Pamer also challenged the students to make a difference and "let everyone know it's okay to be themselves."

After the video was re-started, the voice of Chupp's best friend, driver of the vehicle which ramped a hill at 120 mph, killing Chupp instantly upon impact

(alcohol, in this case, was not a factor).

The driver, in a video voice-over, described the incident, after which he and two other friends received minor injuries, left to contemplate Chupp's death. Moreover, the driver had to cope with the anguish of Chupp's family and friends, and discussed the importance of considering consequences before making decisions.

"The driver has always dealt with the guilt of losing his best friend," noted Pamer. "When you guys are out having a good time, make good decisions."

"If somebody's with you (who has been drinking), and that's your ride, everybody has a cell phone," added Hanselman, after Pamer's presentation. "Just pick up the phone and call your parents. Or call one of the (Culver police) officers; they'll come and get you."

Bean, accompanied at the event by Culver police officer Bill Strong, told the students he's been at his job for almost 30 years.

"And I've seen a lot of death in my time, (including) some kids your age in that vehicle. A life was taken, and it's short. I went to school with maybe some of your parents, and Albert went to school here, too. I sat in one of the seats right up in this section. One of the most popular girls in school made a wrong decision and was in an accident, and had physical complications from then on. She passed away several years ago from complications from an accident."

Bean also emphasized that Plymouth police are aware of Culver's prom activity, which will take place in the Plymouth area.

Library news

Beggs' unusual baskets exhibited

A unique method of basket-weaving is on display at Culver-Union Township Public Library throughout the month of May. Dave Beggs, owner and operator of Main Street Manor with his wife Sue, create distinctive baskets from slash pine tree needles found in Florida. Durable and useful, the baskets are of different sizes and shapes. The baskets are available for purchase by contacting Dave Beggs at Main Street Manor in Culver at 574-842-2746 or www.mainstreetmanor.net.

Yoder to present gardening talks

Bob Yoder of Plymouth's Purdue Extension Office will present a multi-part lecture on gardening at the Culver-Union Township Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22 will cover "Managing Unwanted Visitors," including animals, insects and pests. Tuesday, May 29 will cover "Being Creative with Your Landscape," including theme gardening and ideas

you can incorporate into your own landscape.

All classes are free and open to the public. For more information, contact cgood@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941.

Stampin' Up card making classes

CUTPL is Stampin'-Up once again! Card making will take place Tuesday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Tuesday, May 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Made will be three "masculine theme" cards for \$5. Pre-registration is requested. For more information contact Cindy Good at (574) 842-2941 or e-mail at cgood@culver.lib.in.us

Home networking at Thursday Tech Time

Thursday Tech Time, May 17 at 6 p.m., will focus on home networking. Discover how to install and configure network devices. Wire up the house for improved connectivity or go wireless!

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. on the third Thursday of each month. Each session may have a speaker and topic or may simply be an open discussion. All sessions are free and open to the public.

Computer classes on tap for May

Culver-Union Township Public Library will start a new session of free computer classes in May. Classes are held Monday evenings at 6 p.m. and Friday mornings at 10 a.m., and last two hours.

Sessions for May include: Microsoft Office Overview Part I (May 7 and 11), Microsoft Office Overview Part II (May 14 and 18), Microsoft Word (May 21 and 25).

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.

Students confirmed

Culver area students receiving the sacrament of Confirmation April 28 at Culver Academies Memorial Chapel included (front row, left to right): Emma Sexton, Anne Nowalk, Anna Tompos, and Shannon Deery. Second row, Lili Sankey, Olivia Martinez, Margaret McKinnis, Clare Nowalk, Justine Dexter, Arielle Paré. Third row, Matthew Moody, Mitchell Abrell, Cole Payne, Caitlyn Cowell, Addyson Allyn, Joshua Vela, and Sabrina Bradley. Back row, Ryan Walsh, Colin Dean, John Zrelak.

The confirmandi were a combined group from St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Culver, and Culver Academies. Rev. John D'Arcy, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of South Bend-Fort Wayne, celebrated the Confirmation Mass and addressed and confirmed the students.



PHOTO/PAUL PARÉ



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

A brush with the bard

A longtime Monterey Elementary School tradition continued recently at Culver Elementary School when students performed in William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" onstage in the gymnasium. Directed by 6th grade teacher Todd Shafer, in his first year at Culver Elementary from MES, the play continued the annual pattern of an "updated" and shortened version of the play, punctuated by humor and narration explaining the story.

Crowd favorites, says Shafer, included Cody Rieckhoff as Sir Toby Belch, Caleb Sheridan as Malvolio, and Payton Lowry as the jester, Feste.

"The audience really loved Toby Belch and Malvolio and the comedy (and) acting they did," he adds.

Pictured ABOVE, from left, are Cody Russell (as Sir Andrew Aguecheek), Cody Rieckhoff (as Sir Toby Belch), and Paige Good as Valentine/narrator. At RIGHT, Jarrod Shepherd (as Curio), above, and Pierce Ellert (as Duke Orsino), below.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Arbor Day at Culver Elementary

As in years past, Culver's Rosalie Bonine was on hand at Culver Elementary School to discuss Arbor Day, celebrated the last Friday in April Indiana, and to distribute 90 evergreen seedlings to kindergarten students and staff. Bonine has taken part in the project for 23 years now, in conjunction with Culver's status as a "Tree City USA" community.

Norway spruce trees were given this year, says Bonine, "in hopes the small needles will prick the deers' noses and they will not eat them."

Students were instructed as to how important trees are to people and the environment, and to take their baby tree home to plant and care for.

ABOVE, Kyler Caldwell (right) of Amy Bonine's kindergarten class receives a tree from Bonine (seated).



View from page 4

and featuring a fun play room, there are multiple rooms full of dollhouses and the insane volume of paraphernalia produced to fill them -- yes, almost anything you can imagine has been made in miniature for doll houses. And looking at them, at least, isn't just for girls (buying and at-home play is probably a different matter, though!). Most any child will be fascinated at the tiny worlds they've set up at that store.

Down Lincolnway to the east is not only a great outdoor "splash pad" free water park for the summer months, but if you drive a couple of miles, one of the oddest McDonald's -- in a good way -- I've encountered. Decorated in a wood-based, rustic log cabin theme, the place has a nice-sized and well-kept Play Place for kids, should you run into rain while there and need some kid steam blown off.

Besides Potawatomi Zoo, another South Bend-area outdoor spot for us is actually Notre Dame. Yes, there's more to the campus than football games, though those are nice, too. The whole campus is a great walk for kids, including the stunning architecture and artistry of the golden dome and the Sacred Heart Basilica church, which must be seen to be believed. The famous grotto and twin lakes (bring bread to feed the ducks and swans) are great for walking, and you can see the replica log cabin chapel under which is buried the French priest who died while accompanying Culver's Potawatomi Indians on the Trail of Death. Take the elevator as high as you can at the N.D. library and check out the view of the whole city.

While more indoor than outdoor activities, up the road to the north is the Curious Kids museum, houses in a Vic-

torian style house off Lake Michigan in St. Joseph. Much smaller and more manageable (and affordable) than the Indianapolis Children's Museum, it's a favorite of our kids. In the winter, the Niles area boasts its annual ice festival, which is a great day of kid-friendly fun, and Five Pines, to the north, is a great spot for kid-safe snow-tubing and cross country skiing.

A few miles east of South Bend is the only superhero memorabilia museum in America (or so says the promotion), the Hall of Heroes. Former kids will likely enjoy the building exterior, modeled after the Hall of Justice from all those "Super Friends" cartoons of my youth, and the place is chock full of superhero-related memorabilia of all sorts, and even has a working "Bat pole" from level two to the ground floor.

I could go on, from Fair Oaks Dairy to the sand hill cranes at the Jasper-Pulaski Park, to the Grissom Air Force museum near Peru, Indiana, but I'm out of room here.

I'll end on a local note with a plug for our two local historical museums, one of which is 16 months or so from homelessness. I hope readers will consider attending this Saturday's "town hall" meeting to discuss the future of that museum (the Center for Culver History), which is a hit with local children as well.



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Culver Comm. High School band director Jason Crittendon holds a sample of new band uniforms on order for CCHS.

Crittendon updates Kiwanians on band uniforms

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Culver Comm. High School band director Jason Crittendon stopped by Culver's Kiwanis Club recently to update members on his efforts to secure funding for a mass replacement of band uniforms currently a quarter-century old.

Crittendon, director at the school since 2007, and the former band director in Logansport -- where the winter drum line made it to state-level competition ten times under his leadership -- noted band uniforms are typically replaced after 15 years.

He showed Club members a sample of the new uniform, which will remove the pants-stripes currently on CCHS uniforms, and will "modernize" their look, involving more school colors. In addition, the present dickey, chain, and cummerbund will be omitted, and pants will be "bibbers."

Demoulin, "about the best uniform company in the country," will handle manufacture of the new uniforms in the United States, Crittendon said, and a few of the old ones will be donated to local entities such as Cafe Max, the Culver history museum, and the school's drama department.

If more money is donated than the cost of the 40 uniforms, excess funds will be set aside for dry cleaning, he noted.

Since an article in The Culver Citizen in March, Crittendon said, there's been a "huge outpouring" of donations and support from the community, to which the Kiwanis Club added in the form of a \$500 check. Since his Kiwanis appearance, Crittendon has updated the Citizen that the needed funds are secured, and the uniforms ordered.

He also emphasized the school corporation is paying for a large portion of the uniform costs, and superintendent Brad Schuldt pledged the school would match funds raised by the band, "dollar for dollar." Students also raised funds towards the endeavor through fund drives such as candy sales.

Crittendon says he hopes the uniforms can be available for band members by football season.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Hanselman talks iPads at Apple California

Culver Comm. High School principal Albert Hanselman was invited by the Apple company to its world headquarters in Cupertino, California, from April 10 through 12, to present to the company as well as educators from Illinois and Minnesota about the school's work with the iPad 2 computer device.

"Albert was very excited about the opportunity for this experience," notes CCHS secretary Sandy Thomas. "He presented on Tuesday evening, our time, and again Thursday morning before returning home." Hanselman also attended an Apple briefing that Wednesday and had a chance to shop at the Apple store while there.



Briefs from page 1

ty Junior Football League youth football sign-ups will take place May 15 (5 to 7 p.m.), June 16 (9 a.m. to noon), and June 23 (9 a.m. to noon). Please sign up at the open garage doors on the west side of the Culver Community High School. We are also looking for volunteer coaches as well as event volunteers. Please contact the following if interested: commissioner Chris Stevens (stevensc@culver.k12.in.us, 574-216-5007) or co-commissioner Van Hissong (vhisssong@hotmail.com, 574-225-0712).

Note: players must be 7 years old by July 31 and weigh at least 45 pounds.

Poplar Grove sale Memorial Day wknd.

Poplar Grove United Methodist Church will hold its annual rummage sale Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26, Memorial Day weekend, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. As in the past, items will be available both inside and outside, so rain will not cancel the sale. To donate to the sale, please call Susan Shaffer at 574-952-2688 for pick-up of those donations.

Kiwanis raffle tickets available

Tickets are available for the Culver Kiwanis Club's annual raffle to benefit local charities. Prizes include \$35,000 towards the choice of a vehicle from Oliver Ford Lincoln of Plymouth, or \$25,000 cash. Tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50, and are available at Osborne's Mini-Mart and Park N' Shop in Culver, or from members of Culver

Kiwanis Club. The drawing will be held Sat., July 21 after the Lake Fest fireworks in Culver's town park. Inquiries may be directed to culverkiwanis@gmail.com or 317-363-6681.

Volunteers needed

Culver-Union Township EMS Volunteers, INC., are looking for men and women willing to help out the community. Volunteers are needed to drive the ambulance, and become Basic and Advanced EMT's. Culver-Union Township EMS is an Advanced Organization certified by the Department of Homeland Security-EMS Commission. Training is provided in-house as well as EMT classes are held in the area at different times of the year. Interested persons may call or email 574-842-2773, cutems@culcom.net, or at 200 E Washington St., Culver, In 46511.

State-wide exhibit to include Culver maps

Through May 22, the Center for Culver History will host "Indiana through the Mapmakers Eye," which examines ways people have used maps through the years and features local and state-wide maps.

Sidewalk program

Applications for the 2012 Sidewalk Program will be available at town hall. Completed application for the program will be reviewed in the order they are received.

CBGC auction will 'Build Brighter Futures'

Organizers of the Culver Boys and Girls Club (CBGC) annual fundraising event encourage everyone to "save the date" for the "Building Brighter Futures" event to be held Friday, June 15 at the Culver Academies Lay Dining Center from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the magical transformation act, "Quick Change." The silent auction will culminate with a premium live auction. Admission to the event is \$65 per person or \$125 per couple and is by reservation only.

Lake Max Challenge paddleboard event June 30

Culver will host Indiana's first-ever World Paddle Board Association sanctioned Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) race Saturday, June 30 via the the Lake Max Challenge. The Lake Max Challenge will start at the beach lodge at Culver's town park, 819 E. Lake Shore Drive. Parking and launching will be off the east end of the town beach. Learn more or register at lakemaxchallenge.com and facebook.com/lakemaxchallenge. Or contact 574.889.0022.



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