



The Culver Citizen

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PHOTOS PROVIDED

A very Culver 4th

We asked readers (via Facebook) to provide some photos of their 4th of July celebrations and choosing just a few was a tough job. From Caitlin Schrimsher came the photo at LEFT, of Culver Academies' 4th of July fireworks display over Lake Maxinkuckee. TOP ROW, FROM LEFT: Summer camp counselors Jenny Lambert and Kylie Hermanson were photographed by Lou Skejskal, enjoying the pre-fireworks pageantry from the viewing stands. Baby Leo Woodward enjoys (as his shirt indicates) his first 4th of July. Caitlin Schrimsher makes a "heart" with a moving sparkler. Neighbors Adam Tompos and Joseph Cavasos enjoy their own display, in Tompos' driveway. BELOW, RIGHT, Tompos' father Rick captured the airborne magic from Adam's hands. LOWER CENTER: Shelly Schrimsher caught the exuberance of her and husband Craig's children (from left) Ches, Eleanor, and Charlie (who is airborne himself) at the family's fireworks fun.

In Brief

'Everglades of the North' programs at CUTPL

The Culver-Union Township Public Library will host a question and answer session and discussion with one of the film producers of "Everglades of the North: The Story of the Grand Kankakee Marsh," a 2012 documentary. The event will be held Monday, July 15 at 6 p.m. in the large meeting room. The program is free and open to the public.

VBS at Wesley through July

Culver Wesley United Methodist Church will have a Vacation Bible School, *Renew your Summer*, every Tuesday evening in July from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Parents can drop off their kids-preschool and up, and then meet with Pastor Jacob to discuss the same topics. If you have any questions, email Tracy Gordon at tracy@culverumc.com or Mary McDaniel at mary.e.mcdaniel@gmail.com.

Upcoming at Lakehouse music series

Kevin McDaniel will perform live this Saturday night, starting around 9 p.m., the latest in the Lakehouse Grille's Saturday night live music series. There is no cover charge. Other upcoming performances include Sum of 3 (July 20), and Half Track (July 27; there will be a cover charge that night). The Lakehouse Grille is located at 620 Lake Shore Drive in Culver.

History of Lake Max boats at AHS annual mtg July 13

The history of the "Launches of Lake Maxinkuckee" will take place Saturday, July 13, as part of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver's annual meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. in the large meeting room of the Culver Public Library, 107 N. Main Street in Culver.

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Pier debate ends in split vote to retain current design

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

After months of debating a solution for problems posed by a pier at the center of longstanding controversy, the Culver park board ended lengthy discussion at its monthly meeting last week with a vote to leave the pier just as it is.

Board and audience members, with input from town attorney Jim Clevenger, spent much of the meeting debating -- sometimes heatedly -- options for the partially stationary, partially floating dock, which was installed in the town park in April and partially under water shortly after installation. Prior debates had centered on why no contract was secured with installed Dave Van Huise, who did repair the pier within a week of its installation, at the town's request.

All but \$8,000 of the more than \$40,000 cost of the pier had been paid Van

Huise, but debates raged as to whether the dock -- which has remained closed to the public in the interim -- is actually safe and stable. Some insisted it is, while others blamed the decision to purchase a partly floating pier of a style allegedly unsuitable for Lake Maxinkuckee's waters. Still others pressed for minor modifications which some claimed would make the pier suitably stable.

Park superintendent Kelly Young reported she had spoken to Van Huise, who in conjunction with Jeff Spence of parts manufacturer Modudock, offered to make the pier stationary out to the wide platform at the end of its initial boardwalk for \$4,000 or to convert the entire pier to a stationary format for \$9,000. Both amounts would be in addition to the \$8,000 still owed Van Huise.

Some discussion took place as to the specifics of

auger posts into the lake bottom to help stabilize the pier, and park board member Rhonda Reinhold said she had discerned no local installer "would touch this or even give a bid to make it stationary."

Some suggested selling the pier and putting the money towards an entirely new dock.

Young and others noted a representative of Culver Marina deemed the pier safe with minor modifications, and other installers have given suggestions of minor modifications to make the pier sufficiently stable, something Clevenger alluded to when it was suggested the matter be taken to litigation.

"So far we haven't found any pier people willing to say (the installation was poor enough to justify withholding Van Huise's payment). Nobody in this industry will say what you are saying. If they did, I'd

say do something different. But you're not going to get anywhere with litigation because you've got what you got."

However, Clevenger acknowledged, "To be honest, I don't know that this guy will get (repairs to the pier) right."

Board member Ed Behnke suggested leaving part of the pier stationary and allowing the public to utilize it as they see fit, knowing the pier will need to be replaced in 10 to 15 years. He also noted several major storms in Culver recently have failed to send all or part of the pier under water again. He suggested adding weight to the floating portion of the pier to help stabilize it.

Audience member Tom Kearns vehemently disagreed, suggesting instead that the board vote to "fix this stupid thing and get it right now so people can use it and trust using it. What

you're advocating tonight is just delaying the decision and putting good money after bad."

Board president Tammy Shaffer noted, particularly in light of a two-week time frame given by Van Huise on his offers, the board needed to make a decision on the matter that night. She also noted, all things considered, not paying Van Huise for the work already done was not an option, regardless of opinions about the pier. Further, she said, members of the public want to use the pier.

Behnke suggested the board could open the pier up, with minor repairs, and re-examine the matter after this year.

"It may be a total disaster," he said. "We own it. We have the option of doing something different next year. In life you will make a few mistakes."

See Park page 2

Movie producer, director meet & greet Friday

Executive producer James Simmons and director Paul Tomborello of Bearfruit Films (www.bearfruitfilms.com) will be on hand this Friday, July 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. for a public "meet and greet" at the Lakehouse Grille, 620 E Lake Shore Drive, in Culver.

The company will shoot "Little Savages," family-oriented film set in Culver, through the month of August at various sites in the Culver area.

The movie's plot centers around the search for a hidden treasure in competition with town bullies. Shooting in Culver had been deemed advantageous due to its easy access to Chicago and Grand Rapids. A date for a Culver casting call will likely be announced later, and filmmakers will inform the public of opportunities for extras in the film, as shooting dates draw nearer. Producers and the director will likely spend at least half of July in Culver, finalizing shooting locales and other aspects of the process. Actors and crew should arrive August 3 for four weeks of shooting.

Superintendent Schuldt to retire



Brad Schuldt

Culver Community Schools superintendent Brad Schuldt has announced to the school board his intention to retire as of Dec. 31 of this year, after 41 years in public education.

Schuldt, who spent 28 years in the Culver Community Schools Corporation -- 18 as superintendent -- told the Citizen, "it is time to spend some time with my wife, who retired last year, and my family including my sixth grandchild due within a few weeks."

Notice was given in April of Schuldt's intention, and the board acted upon his written request at the June 3 school board meeting, during which he reviewed some of the changes in law regarding hiring the next superintendent.

In his letter to the board, Schuldt wrote, "I am very fond of Culver Community and the students that have passed through the walls of the buildings, including five of my own children. I have worked for many outstanding board members who have been supportive of me and the entire corporation.

"I have also worked with many outstanding teachers and administrators. Truly, they are the lifeblood of the educational success of the corporation. Over the years, there have been just too many to single out. However, I would like to especially thank Chuck Kitchell, Julie Berndt, and Albert Hanselman. Being a small school corporation, they are required to handle a wide variety of responsibilities. I feel blessed to have such a high caliber of principals to share the load when it comes to leading

See Schuldt page 6

McKinnis quietly served and cherished Culver



PHOTO PROVIDED
The sign says it all. Essie McKinnis with one of the many scarecrows she created for the Chamber-sponsored annual contest.

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor
When Esther "Essie" McKinnis passed away June 5, Culver lost a quiet but prevalent community servant who helped weave together a variety of aspects of her community -- and earned the endearment and respect of many in the process.

Born in 1932 and a 1950 graduate of Pine Village High School near Lafayette, Indiana, she married the late Robert McKinnis shortly after high school. The two lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa prior to their move to Culver in 1956; in the interim, he attended college and served in the Navy from 1936 to 1945.

Rob, speaking to the Pilot News in 1987 on the occasion of his being chosen as grand marshal of the Lake Fest parade, said he asked Essie if he wanted to look for another home in Cedar Rapids or return to Indiana.

See McKinnis page 7

Preliminary results in extensive Lake Max testing positive, says USGS

Preliminary results have been released from the extensive core samplings of Lake Maxinkuckee taken by the U.S. Geological Survey as part of an unprecedented study of the condition of the lake spearheaded in May by the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council and Fund.

The information was published in the June, 2013 edition of the LMEC newsletter.

LMEC executive director Kathy Clark and board chair Allen Chesser began work on the project last September, Clark wrote in the newsletter, adding the hope was "to duplicate, or even better, a similar core sampling project done in 1982, when LMEC first began. Our search led us to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and a gentleman named Kyle Juracek, a research hydrologist with the Kansas office of USGS. Kyle is the pre-eminent lakes biologist performing this type of work today. He and his team, Eric Looper and Patrick Finnigan, have studied more than thirty lakes and reservoirs across the United States."

The LMEC board, alongside a \$20,000 financial commitment from the Culver Educational Foundation, voted to move forward on the project, with USGS agreeing to contribute \$45,000 using in-kind services, and the Marshall County Community Foundation awarding the LMEF with a \$10,000 Ralph C. Vonnegut, Jr. Fund grant.

From the newsletter: "Prior to collecting sediment samples, USGS took various readings at each of the five sites. They tested for water clarity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen levels, ph, water column temperatures as well as chlorophyll. While these



CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

A US Geological Survey boat takes core samples from Lake Maxinkuckee in May.

results have not yet been reviewed, (Juracek) was willing to share the initial results with me. Below are his 'unofficial' comments. Ph At a depth from 3 to 6 feet, ph was generally in the range of 7.5 to 8.5 - that's a pretty neutral ph, good results. Temperature varied from site to site. They read 15 degrees Celsius at the surface, then decreased with depth to near the bottom, dropping to 9 to 10 degrees. All sites except site 3, which didn't drop at all, site 3 was Academy Bay, in only 35 feet of water.

"Dissolved oxygen was plentiful everywhere in the water, 8 to 12 milligrams per liter. Tests started at the surface, then in 3 to 6 foot increments all the way to the bottom. The deepest site with results in so far was one with a depth of 72 feet, and it ranged in the 8—12 milligrams at 66 feet! The fish have got to love this!

Turbidity was great, less than 2 fmu (measuring units for turbidity) at every site, at every depth - outstandingly clear water! That comment came directly from Kyle Juracek.

"Total chlorophyll was generally low to moderate - no where near eutrophic (or dangerously overly-nutrient-heavy)! Again, straight from Juracek. So far, so good."

Most of the samples collected the week of May 13 were separated into smaller samples, Clark notes, and shipped to the USGS Kansas office, where they were separated into even smaller samples and sent out to six labs across the US for various analysis work.

The LMEC website at www.lakemax.org includes a link to a fairly in-depth WNDU-TV news broadcast of the event.

SL4 Band, Paré on stage this wkd at Culver park



ABOVE: The SL4 Band. BELOW: Beth Paré.

The Culver town park's Concerts in the Park series continues this Saturday, July 13, at 7 p.m. with the SL4 Band, a '60s style band, and Sunday, July 14 at 3 p.m. with Culver-based harpist Beth Paré in concert.

The SL4 Band (www.thesl4.com) attributes its

success to its vocal harmonies and its wide repertoire of songs spanning the 1960s which includes Motown, The Beatles, Van Morrison, Chicago, Eric Clapton, Doo-Brothers, Jimmy Buffett, and many more. Paré is a seasoned musician who performs a wide variety of song selections on the harp, including timeless classics to 80's pop, such as Mozart, Frank Sinatra, Disney classics and movie sound tracks. The concerts are free and open to the public.



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Park from page 1

He added floating piers work "everyplace else in the world."

With regards to the suggestion that the pier be made stationary out to its wide, floating portion, Clevenger pointed out signage should be installed warning pier users of the change in stability, for their safety.

In the end, the board voted to add stabilization as suggested by the Culver Marina and otherwise leave the pier as it is, with the option to reexamine the matter at the end of the summer. Board members Stallings and Reinhold voted against the move, which carried four to two.

The board also voted, at Shaffer's request, to pay the balance of \$8,000 owed Van Huise for his previous work.

In other discussion, Shaffer raised the question considered by Culver's town council at its latest meeting: whether to change the number of park board members from its current roster of six.

Noting that at one time Union Township had an additional representative to the board, Shaffer said the matter was raised in part because of past difficulties in attaining a quorum, when too many park board members are absent or out of town. Further, boards typically operate with an odd number of members to prevent "tie" or stalemate votes, two of which took place on the park board in recent months, resulting in dropped motions. Shaffer polled board members on their opinions of the matter.

Board member Kathy Hart said she felt a seven-member park board might be excessive, and suggested dropping, rather than adding, a member if an odd number is desired.

Board member Leroy Bean suggested voting stalemates are rare, though audience member Kearns noted the board has failed to attain a quorum of members repeatedly in recent months and years.

Stallings expressed concerns about voting stalemates and quorum issues, suggesting adding a new board member, something Reinhold echoed.

Behnke raised concerns over the requirement that the board be partially politically balanced between Republicans and Democrats. At present, he said, the school and library boards each appoint a member with no political affiliation requirements, but the two appointments from the town and the township, respectively, must boil down

to two Democrats and two Republicans. Adding a board member, he said, would upset that balance.

After some discussion, Clevenger affirmed there is legal precedent for dissolving the politically balanced board requirement by ordinance, if the town is struggling to maintain that balance.

Behnke also said board members "just don't normally disagree that much," so voting stalemates have been rare.

Audience member John Helfrey remarked that political affiliation has had no bearing on board members' votes, which he said instead have been oriented towards what the individual thinks is best for the town. He also said a number of residents have written letters wishing to serve on the park board but have been passed over.

It was noted proceeding on the matter would require involving the town council. Shaffer suggested board members revisit the issue at a later meeting.

The board voted, however, to allow Culver's tree commission to work on trees in the town park, in conjunction with an arborist they secured to inventory town-owned trees.

Commission members Tom Kearns and Mike Stallings requested the decision, noting the park board had previously voted not to include the park in the commission's jurisdiction, a decision Behnke said was made when the commission was still fairly new and untested. He added the commission has since proven its longevity in town.

Kearns explained Culver is officially a "Tree City USA," a status which allows the town access to free and reduced services and trees from a variety of entities. He said the commission has planted in excess of 400 trees in Culver to date.

Arborist Gina Darnell, according to Kearns, identified at least five trees in an informal survey of the park, which should be removed. He expressed concerns as to liability and the destruction of historic buildings and other properties, should all or part of those trees come down.

Kearns said if the commission was granted permission by the park board, Darnell would prepare a booklet identifying each tree in the park and its state of health. The cost would be between \$25 and \$65 per hour plus \$2.50 per tree. The commission would come to the park board

for permission to remove any targeted trees before action would be taken, he said.

Some debate also took place concerning \$29,000 encumbered from last year's budget towards the cost of a new storage shed for park equipment, planned to be built in the town-owned lot near the park. Reinhold, suggesting the storage building should be put on hold pending ongoing developments regarding the pier, asked if the encumbered funds had to be spent on the building.

It was noted encumbered funds must either be spent for their earmarked purpose, or the funds revert to the park's general fund and are counted against the budget by the state in determining the department's tax draw, effectively losing the money.

It was agreed the committee tasked with furthering the building project will meet again in the near future to move forward on the project.

In her report, Young said the park has rented 146 out of its 147 available pier slips, the most ever rented. She also said volleyball lines were recently added to the park's sand volleyball court, and that official staff t-shirts have arrived.

Noting the Green family donated a "Gator" maintenance vehicle to the park, Young asked that the funds budgeted for the vehicle instead be used to purchase a "wave rider" seesaw to replace the splintering teeter-totter in the west end of the park (at \$1,042), and the addition of a play item called a "whirligig" at \$1,673, also on the west end. In the east end play area, Young said she had the child's race car equipment replaced and she would like to add a "crazy teacup" to the playground, with a total of \$5,515, which the board approved.

Also approved was Young's request for \$3,490 for five new picnic tables for the park, as well as a request for Bearfruit Films to shoot scenes for their upcoming movie, "Little Savages," in the park, pending proof of liability insurance from the company.

Young also explained several bath mats have been installed in the beach lodge restrooms to increase safety on the sometimes slippery, sandy floors there.

Stallings updated the board that student group CYCO will spearhead creation of a "haunted house" in the lower level of the beach lodge as part of the fall festival planned for the weekend of Oct. 19.

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Obituaries

Betty Medbourn June 11, 1918 - July 2, 2013



POPULAR BLUFF — Betty Caroline Fisher Medbourn born June 11, 1918, in Morehouse, Mo., and died peacefully at St. Francis Hospital in Cape Girardeau at approximately 4 a.m. Tuesday, July 2, 2013. She was 95 years of age.

Mrs. Medbourn graduated from Christian College, Columbia, Mo., with a degree in art, moved to Culver, where she was mentored by Jean Williams. She continued painting and sculpting throughout her life. She was active in Morehouse and Sikeston duplicate bridge groups, the Culver Methodist Church, WSCS, was a life member and a past president of the Tri Kappa sorority.

Mrs. Medbourn was preceded in death by three siblings, Jane Fisher Reed Hendon, Helen Fisher Childs and Roger Powell Fisher, and her parents, Dwight Louis Fisher and Grace Helen Powell Fisher, both of Logansport, and later of Morehouse, Mo. The Fisher family originally came from England in the 1700s and owned and operated the Himmelberger-Harrison Lumber Company in Morehouse for many years. Mrs. Medbourn was the last of her generation in the Himmelberger/Powell/Fisher family.

She was the matriarch of our family and was a moving and loving spirit who loved all of us. We will miss her terribly. Forever.

Mrs. Medbourn was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Marion Medbourn Sr. of Culver, and by her granddaughter, Stacey Caroline Mott of Bowling Green, Ohio.

Mrs. Medbourn is survived by three children, Sally Anne Medbourn Mott of Bowling Green, Ohio, Susan Elizabeth Medbourn McDonough of Poplar Bluff, Mo.; and Samuel Marion Medbourn Jr. of Glen Ellyn, Ill. She is survived by four grandchildren, Eric Charles Mott of Lancaster, Ohio, Samuel Matthew Bernard Medbourn of Glen Ellyn, Ill., Elizabeth Ann Medbourn O'Brien of Chicago, Ill., and Gerard Joseph McDonough III of Chicago, Ill. She has three great-grandchildren, Peyton Stacey Mott and Austin Tanner Mott of Lancaster, Ohio, and Niara Grace O'Brien of Chicago.

Visitation and services were at Fowler-Sullivan Funeral Home in Poplar Bluff 1-3 p.m. Friday, July 5 with Calvin Buhler of New Home Baptist Church officiating.

Burial will be in the Masonic Cemetery in Culver.

Memorial donations may be made to: Paralyzed American Veterans, 801 Eighteenth St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20006-3517 or online at donorservices@pva.org

Death notices

Phillip K. Mallory July 3, 2013

CULVER — Phillip K. Mallory, 76, of Culver died July 3, 2013 in Mishawaka.

He is survived by his wife, Kay Mallory; son, Kevin (Andrea) Mallory of LaPaz; daughter, Kris Kronewitter of South Bend; brother, Michael (Linda) Mallory of Indianapolis; and one grandchild.

Funeral service was at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 6, 2013 at Wesley United Methodist Church, Culver. Burial will be private.

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

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

Smith

Mary C. Smith July 6, 2013

CULVER — Mary C. Smith of Culver died July 6, 2013 in Culver. The Odom Funeral Home of Culver is in charge of arrangements which are pending.

Birth - Coiner



Jim and Michelle Coiner of Rochester joyfully announce the birth of their son born May 15 at 4:33 p.m. at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth.

Elias Andrew Coiner weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

He was welcomed home by big brothers Wyatt, 12, and Logan, 7, and big sister Sarah, 4.

Letters to the editor

Time to address EMS mandates

To the Citizens of Culver:

The State of Indiana in 2011 mandated that the current Basic Advanced Level of certification that the Culver EMS has historically and currently operated under, will cease to exist on July 1, 2014. As we approach the 2014 budget process, we have some very difficult decisions to make on how Culver EMS will operate in 2014 and beyond. I have personally attended several meetings of the state EMS Commission, the governing body of our local EMS service, and it appears evident that these mandates will not be delayed.

The information below has been provided by AccuMed Group, an EMS data capture, billing, and consulting service that the Town of Culver has contracted with since 2008, and Culver EMS uses on a daily basis. It is AccuMed's mission to provide extensive data to assist local governments in their budget process for emergency services. AccuMed obtains their information directly from our EMS organization. In addition, some of the following information has been obtained from the Indiana Department of Local Government (DLGF).

1.) Over the past 5 years, the EMS budget has increased from \$248,000 in 2008, to \$312,000 in 2012, for an increase of almost 26%.

2.) Over the same 5 year period of time, all EMS recorded service calls have averaged 418 runs. This number includes runs in which no fee for service such as patient refusal, fire department standbys, and attendance at athletic events were billed. The AccuMed figures also illustrate that approximately 72% of the billed runs did not require Culver's Basic Advance Level of service.

3.) During that same time period, total expenses have increased from \$233,000 in 2008 to \$269,000 in 2012 or 15%. Also, net income for those years has totaled approximately \$500,000 or \$100,000 per year. As a result, our EMS has an annual negative cash flow of between \$133,000 and \$169,000 over that period of time. Due to the fact that a large percentage of the Culver EMS service area consists of an aging population that is covered by Medicare and Medicaid, our net income is determined by adjustments for Medicare, Medicaid, and someone's inability to pay.

4.) Because Culver EMS operates as a Basic Advanced service, it is required by Indiana law to have on duty a minimum of one basic advanced EMT, and one other individual of any other level of EMS certification 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

5.) Over the past 5 years, Culver EMS has averaged one call every 21 hours. During that same period of time, to maintain the current level of service, it costs Culver EMS \$29.69 per hour or \$712.56 a day to operate. Assuming that each of the 418 calls requires 1 1/2 hours of work, or 627 hours a year, the service is only utilized 8% of the time. In comparing our figures to data provided by J.R. Henry Consulting Inc., a national EMS and Fire Department Consulting firm located in Pittsburgh, PA., Culver's EMS utilization rate of 8% is considered "Poor." J.R. Henry classifies an Utilization Rate of 30% as "Average."

6.) One final point to make is that EMS claims to give back to the town unused monies each year, when in fact in 2012, by comparing their EMS budget (\$316,000) with the amount they actually spent (\$270,000), EMS spent \$46,000 less than their DLGF approved budget. It's misleading to say that EMS returned that money. Budgets are designed to be overstatements of one's real spending in order to give a cushion for emergencies i.e., higher than expected expenses, or lower than expected receipts.

In conclusion, all the figures I have mentioned are available at Town Hall for your review. The problems faced by Culver EMS today are a result of changing times. The service was founded by a group of very dedicated volunteers, but in order to operate according to Indiana law, it has been necessary to hire two full time people, and many paid part-time people. This is due to a diminishing lack of volunteers. As has been suggested in the last several Town Council Meetings, I believe it's time that the direction of our current EMS service needs to be addressed. And what better forum to discuss this issue, than by having a series of town wide meetings to discuss the future direction of Culver EMS.

Bill Githens
Member, Culver Town Council

Memories of Essie McKinnis

On June 5, 2013, my dearest friend Essie McKinnis passed away. We had been close for over 50 years. What a blessing she had been to me!

On June 5, 2013, the Culver Community lost one of its outstanding citizens. Through the years, Essie had been involved in so many activities, they are too numerous to mention.

A few years back, if you had gone into Culver Clothiers, now Fisher & Co., you would have been greeted by a lovely, vivacious, professional woman whose only concern was you, the customer. By the time you left, you'd have felt like she actually cared about your wants. That was Essie.

I could use so many superlatives to describe Essie, but won't feel it is necessary. If you were fortunate enough to know her, you understand.

When my daughters were small, I used to tell them that Essie was an Earth Angel. They were somewhat puzzled by that, but as they grew up they understood.

Yes, in my mind and heart, I believe that Essie was an Earth Angel. She surely had an easy flight to Heaven...her wings were very strong!

Sandra Middleton
Culver

Start your scarecrow now for 1st annual Culver Fall Fest

It may seem a might early to be thinking of autumn and scarecrows, but organizers of the Culver Fall Fest (the weekend of Oct. 19) are encouraging community members to join the excitement and start work on their scarecrows now, while Culver is buzzing with summer fun and creativity.

The entry fee for the contest is \$10, (which includes a wood frame for the scarecrow) and there are \$200 in cash prizes and gifts to be awarded to winners. It is open to everyone and every group including business this year.

Another major difference between this scarecrow contest and the ongoing contests of past years is that the Culver Chamber of Commerce's Retail Merchants Committee is the sponsoring organization of the Fall Fest, will keep the scarecrows in storage once the festival is wrapped up and the scarecrows taken down. Next year, the 2013 scarecrows will be brought out and added to the new entries for 2014, facilitating a much wider array of displays which will grow with each year the contest continues (and will See Fall Fest page 10

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.

Thur., July 11: Italian chicken breast, lima beans, tomato gobbledy gook, fruit, bread and margarine.

Friday, July 12: Tomato soup, tuna salad, bread, macaroni salad, fruit cup, cookie.

Mon., July 15: Cheeseburger, broccoli, festive corn, tropical fruit.

Tues., July 16: Polynesian chicken with tomato and pineapple over rice, oriental veggies, marshmallow fluff.

Wed., July 17: Meatloaf, baby bakers, green beans, bread and margarine, peaches.

Thur., July 18: Hot chicken salad, broccoli salad, dinner roll, hot applesauce, pudding.

Friday, July 19: Penne casserole with sausage, baby carrots, peas, fruit.

Explore Downtown Plymouth

Sidewalk Sales July 11-13

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

"Culver History Corner" is a semi-regular feature sponsored by the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver, whose quarterly newsletter is also sponsored in The Culver Citizen.

If these walls could talk: 415 Lake Shore Drive

By Jeff Kenney

After a long stay in the downtown and center/western portions of Culver, we're finally sauntering up Lake Shore Drive in our ongoing series of "virtual" trips around Culver's notable structures, past and present. This week, we hit the much-discussed 415 Lake Shore Drive, which -- depending on your tenure here -- may be known to readers as City Tavern/Diner, A&R Motors, McKesson Ford... well, the list goes on, but they're all names of the past. Today the property is owned by Scotty Van Hawk of Four Feathers Racing.

Our knowledge of the history of the space is pretty remarkably thorough, starting in the 19th century, when an item in the Culver City Herald in July, 1897, noted Nathaniel Gandy was retiring and had sold out his interests in the barns here to his partner, Abram Hayes of Hayes and Son livery (an article in April noted Hayes had moved his livery operation to the site, or "the barn near the depot")

that month, though Hayes had not actually bought the land yet).

In those days, the address would have been Toner Avenue, where in May, 1897, it was reported that Hayes and Son were building a feed shed behind the building to accommodate at least 75 horses. A farmer could put his team under the shed, it was noted, for "a long time" for 10 or 15 cents (perhaps Scotty should take note of a lucrative business opportunity today!).

A July 26, 1901 article described the livery as "undoubtedly the largest and most modern in Marshall county," the main barn and its annex capable of housing 300 horses and sheltering at least 50 buggies and carriages!

But times would change. By spring of 1909, C. E. Hayes (the son) opened a "first-class auto livery and garage in Culver and will have cars here for demonstration purpose at that time if roads and weather are good. Mr. Hayes has taken the agency for the Auburn car and has already made one sale."

By 1914, D. W. Miller had taken on the livery and feed and oil and gasoline business at 415, though the Sanborn Garage & Livery was also listed as an occupant in 1914.

By the mid-1920s, Domincas "Min" Hatten operated the precursor to his Hatten Motor Sales (located at Lake Shore Drive and Ohio Street) out of 415 Lake Shore, though by then the old wood frame building had been replaced by today's brick structure. Sold by 'Min' were

D. W. Miller -- the grandfather, on his mother's side, of current Culver resident Jim Weirick -- is listed as having run his business up to 1946, running a taxi stand at the site as well.

In May, 1937, an \$8,000 fire damaged the building, ruining the bus belonging to Clifford Losier and damaging a county road truck; there was also loss to a roofing company operated by Frank Young young there at the time.

In July of that year, a Ford agency and garage owned by A.R. McKesson moved from East Jefferson Street to the building; by December, McKesson was installing new equipment in the garage to do fender and body repairs and painting. In Sept., 1955, the agency was taken over by Dick McClure of Winamac, who ran it until 1962, when Ray Wicker of Lowell, Indiana, opened Wicker Ford Sales there (McClure took over Jennings Motor, Inc., of Rochester). Eugene Scott, who had worked under McClure, was replaced by Wally Hyatt as Parts and Service Manager. Homer Kemple, salesman; and Charles Frain and John Cook, mechanics retained their positions under Wicker.

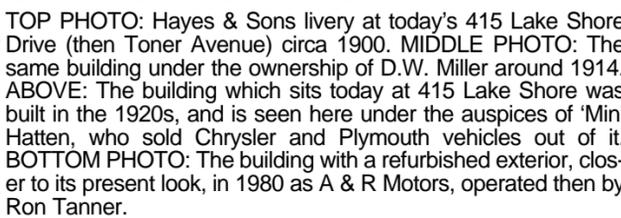
Ron and Connie Van Horn had started working under Wicker in 1964. In Nov., 1969, Van Horn bought the Ford business, his brothers Mike and Jon employed as mechanics (Jon eventually became a salesman). The Van Horns sold the operation in 1976, when it became Marshall Brothers Ford-Mercury Inc., though shortly thereafter, the Marshalls built a new building at the corner of US 31 and State Road 10, just outside of Argos, and transferred the business there.

By 1978, Ron Tanner had moved his A&R Motors dealership (which was listed at 104 Lake Shore Drive the previous year) to 415 Lake Shore Drive, though the business had wound down by the late 1980s.

For a time during the mid-to-late 1990s, the building served as temporary quarters for various entities, including Society National Bank in 1995, Guido's (a sandwich and pizza restaurant), and the Culver Public Library during renovation of its downtown building. Rosline and Donald Robarts were the building owners during this period.

Surely the best-known use of the building in recent years was its tenure, starting in the mid-2000s, under Larry and Jo Surrisi, initially as the City Tavern. A marked transformation of the interior of the building facilitated this change, which saw the return of Surrisi after his departure from the Edgewater Grille he had started in the 1990s. In 2007, the business became the City Diner, though the restaurant shut its doors in early 2011. The western end, of course, housed the main restaurant, while the center portion was home to the restaurant's banquet facilities.

By 2008, the deceptively spacious building also included Mirar Custom Homes & Renovations, east of the other facilities. Gladie's Deli moved from 108 N. Main Street to the far east end of 415 in 2011.



TOP PHOTO: Hayes & Sons livery at today's 415 Lake Shore Drive (then Toner Avenue) circa 1900. MIDDLE PHOTO: The same building under the ownership of D.W. Miller around 1914. ABOVE: The building which sits today at 415 Lake Shore was built in the 1920s, and is seen here under the auspices of 'Min' Hatten, who sold Chrysler and Plymouth vehicles out of it. BOTTOM PHOTO: The building with a refurbished exterior, closer to its present look, in 1980 as A & R Motors, operated then by Ron Tanner.



Chrysler and Plymouth vehicles, though when he first started, Chrysler autos were known as Maxwells (until 1925). Kelly's uncle Clifford Losier ran the Losier Taxi service, which eventually led to a line of transportation and tour buses outside Culver.

Hatten's daughter, Marilyn Kelly, told the Citizen in 2012 that her father had the east half of the building.

Name that Culver 'citizen'

It's not much of a surprise that a number of readers guessed last week's Mystery Citizen, Janette Surrisi. After all, it hasn't been all that long since her high school photo was taken.

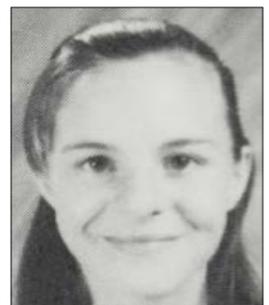
Among those who recognized her were Lora Pinder, Carin Clifton, Jill Neidlinger, Sean Surrisi, Bridget Lowry, Scott Schulz, Todd Shafer, Anna Neher, Stephanie Wentzel, Julie Bess, Bill Githens, Ed Pinder Jr., Jean Triplet, and Patty Stallings.

Returning to last week's mystery, some of the Citizen's Facebook readers brought to the editor's attention the embarrassing realization that, while I described the role played in the community by our prior Mystery

Citizen in announcing who he was, I neglected to actually include his name (though his wife's name was included)! He was Ron Noel; the editor apologizes for assuming the readers have ESP.

This week's Mystery Citizen is a local grad who operates a recently-launched Culver business.

Guesses Janette Surrisi, then may be emailed and now. LEFT: to culvercitizen@gmail.com or call the editor at 574-216-0075. This week's Mystery Citizen.



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Gleason previews new novel, 'The Violent Season,' at Kiwanis meeting

Local author Ray Gleason (www.raygleason.com) was the featured speaker at the June 27 meeting of Culver's Kiwanis Club, where he read excerpts from his new novel, "The Violent Season," which is available in e-book edition from Amazon.com. The novel is a collection of stories of three young men and their families and the effect of the Vietnam War in their lives in various locations across the globe.

Though the novel is not straight autobiography, Gleason acknowledged to his audience that it's "very personal -- it's my story," though he added writing is a discipline, which means a balance must be found between the craft and the feelings inspiring it.

Maj. Ray Gleason, Ph.D., is a retired Army Infantry Major who served as a rifleman and squad leader, and then as a Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) and Hawkeye team leader with the Rangers, during the Vietnam conflict. He teaches writing and leadership ethics at Culver Academies.

Asked how long it took to write the 700-page book (his second, following "A Grunt Speaks: A 'Devil's Dictionary' of Vietnam Infantry Tales And Terms," from 2011), Gleason replied, "Forty years, but I wrote it down in two."

His books, said Gleason, "are not about Culver, but they were certainly written in Culver -- they're part of the Culver experience. I really appreciate the opportunity to be in



this community because its sense of tranquility made it possible to engage in this stuff and write it down in a meaningful way. (Culver Coffee Company owner Dawn Brockey) could put a little brass sign (noting the things written in my booth!"

Gleason also encouraged those with writing inclinations to recognize everyone's experiences can be explored for meaning for the author and audience via writing. "It doesn't matter if you've been in a war or spent your life doing what you do every day," he said.

Both books are available on Amazon, and "A Grunt Speaks" is available in paperback at the Culver Coffee Company.

LEFT: Ray Gleason answers questions posed by Culver Kiwanians at their June 27 meeting at the Culver Public Library.

CCMS students lauded at annual academic awards



LEFT PHOTO: Culver Community Middle School American Legion Award winners, from left, were Brennin Betts, Josh Krsek, Erin Bendy, and Alexandria Harris.

MIDDLE PHOTO: Recognized with the President's Award for Academic Excellence were, from left: Alexandria Harris, Brennin Betts, Brandon Havron, Hailey Jones, Brianna Kinyanjui, Sierra Salerni, Morgan Keen, Josh Krsek(back), and Erin Bendy.

RIGHT PHOTO: President's Achievement Award winners Jordan Wynn (left) and Nichole Cooper.



ABOVE: CCMS students recognized for the top GPA were Jake Rodgers (7th grade, left) and Josh Krsek (8th grade).

Culver Community Middle School held its academic awards presentation May 30.

The school recognized four outstanding 8th graders. The selection of these students was based on scholastic achievement, leadership, patriotism and service in school. Byron Walters and Larry Spiewak of the Monterey American Legion presented certificates and medals on behalf of the Collins and Tasch American Legion, Fleet Post #399, Monterey. The medal winners for Outstanding Achievement were Alexandria Harris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Harris and Josh Krsek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Krsek. The Honorable Mention Awards went to Erin Bendy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bendy and Brennin Betts, son of Destiny Tillman.

The following 8th grade students received the **President's Award for Academic Excellence**, based on 1st

and 2nd semester honor roll in 7th grade and 1st semester honor roll in 8th grade and a Grade Point Average of 3.5 or above. Those students receiving this award were Erin Bendy, Brennin Betts, Alexandria Harris, Brandon Havron, Hailey Jones, Morgan Keen, Josh Krsek, Brianna Kinyanjui, Jackson Rich, Sierra Salerni, Duncan Trau.

8th Grade Top Grade Point Average: Joshua Krsek; 7th grade Top Grade Point Average: Jake Rodgers.

President's Academic Achievement Awards, 8th grade: Anna Cybulski, Kyle Stone, Jordan Wynn. 7th grade: Nichole Cooper, Riley Porter

Awards were given out for 7th and 8th grade **outstanding students** in the following subjects:

8th grade:
Language Arts: Josie Ross; Math: Makayla Felda; Science: Josh Krsek; Social Studies: Erin Bendy; PE/Health: Jack Rich and Courtney Salyer; Computers: Josh Krsek, Brandon Havron, Erin Bendy.

7th grade:
English: Cody Rieckhoff; Math: Jake Rodgers; Science: Jasmynne Fowler; Social Studies : Dylan Lewandowski; PE/Health: Jake Rodgers and Tracey Lindvall.

Outstanding Band Students were recognized. Band Director's Award: Mandy Morrison; Band Award, 8th grade: Brandon Havron and Josh Krsek; 7th grade: Cody Rieckhoff.

Student Council Members, 8th grade: President, Brianna Kinyanjui; Erin Bendy; Madisen Diaz; Sierra Salerni; Courtney Salyer.

7th grade: Collin Knowlton, Vice President; Jasmynne Fowler; Jordan Schrimsher.

Class officers, 8th: Brianna Kinyanjui, Josh Krsek. 7th,

Jordan Schrimsher, Payton Lowry, Paige Good.

Perfect Attendance, 8th: Meagan Bau, Alyssa Conley, Brooke Dekoker, Hailey Jones, Jill Zehner. 7th, Dylan Lewandowski, RT Roberts. Caleb Sheridan, Ethan Shuman

Two-year perfect attendance in Middle School: Hailey Jones, Jill Zehner.

Academic Letters were awarded to 8th grade students who attained honor roll for five out of six in 7th grade: Brennin Betts, Erin Bendy, Makayla Felda, Alexandria Harris, Brandon Havron, Hailey Jones, Morgan Keen, Brianna Kinyanjui, Joshua Krsek, Jack Rich, Sierra Salerni, Duncan Trau.

Distinguished honor roll (all A Honor Roll for quarters 1, 2, 3 and semester): 8th, Brandon Havron, Morgan Keen, Josh Krsek, Sierra Salerni. 7th, Cody Rieckhoff, Jake Rodgers.

A-B honor roll (quarters 1, 2, 3 and semester): 8th, Erin Bendy, Brennin Betts, Katie Garland, Alexandria Harris, Hailey Jones, Brianna Kinyanjui, Jack Rich, Courtney Salyer, Duncan Trau.

7th, Lance Beaver, Pierce Ellert, Jasmynne Fowler, Collin Knowlton, Tracey Lindvall, Ben Myers, Dylan Pitera, RT Roberts, Cody Russell, Dillon Salyer, Jordan Schrimsher, Raymie Shoop, Macee Strycker.

Principal's Award, 8th: Courtney Salyer; 7th : Lance Beaver.

Brett Eastburn Perseverance Award, 8th grade: Matt Suthard.

Cavalier Award, 7th grade: Cody Russell and Macee Strycker.

PHOTOS/LOU STEJSKAL, CULVER SUMMER CAMPS



Woodcraft Camp changing of the guard

LEFT: Heike Spahn, who took the reins as interim director of Culver Academies' Woodcraft Camp, speaks near the start of this summer's camp. Spahn, whose leadership roles at the camp began more than 20 years ago, takes over from previous director Sonny Adkins, director since 2006. During his tenure, Adkins had a leading role in the camp's Ropes Challenge Course as well as establishing successful programs like the Junior Woodcraft Camp and Culver Family Camp. Adkins

who left the Woodcraft program late this past spring, will be a familiar face around Culver in his work for a local company here. In addition to Spahn's position, RIGHT: Barbara Hinkle, long a leader in various capacities in Culver's summer programs, was named director of Junior Woodcraft -- the one-week camp for 7 and 8 year olds which precedes the regular, six-week camp -- and director of Family Camp.

Leadership Marshall County accepting applications for Class XIX

Leadership Marshall County organizers are accepting applications for Class XIX. LMC is a program designed to identify, develop, and connect community leaders through education and skills development, involving sessions taught by currently established leaders in Marshall County government, agriculture, education, economic development, arts, tourism, health and human services and criminal justice. Sessions are generally held one afternoon per month for nine months starting in September. To date over 280 community leaders have participated. For more information, contact the Marshall County Community Foundation office at 574-935-5159 or visit the website at www.marshallcountylmc.org or www.marshallcountycf.org for an application. The program is sponsored by the MCCF and United Way of Marshall County.

Schuldt from page 1

a school corporation and the various buildings." Schuldt also noted in his 18 years as the superintendent here, he has only served for 20 school board members, which he said "is amazing for a seven member board." Schuldt also called attention to the quality of the school's support staff, and expressed his belief in the importance of "a strong public school system like Culver Community Schools." Among changes required in selecting a new superintendent include a public hearing at least seven days before the board votes on the superintendent's contract, which must take place at an open meeting. The hearing notifies the public of the offer presented to fill the vacant position, rather than to identify the new hire at that time. Advertisement of the hearing must take place at least 10 days prior to its occurrence.

Briefs from page 1

audio-visual program will be presented by Jeff Kenney and is free and open to the public. For more information email historyofculver@gmail.com or call 574-842-2941 and ask for the Center for Culver History.

Free computer classes CUTPL

Culver-Union Township Public Library is offering free technology classes for beginners Mondays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m., through July. Classes include Computers for Beginners (July 12), Internet for Beginners (July 15 and 19), Email for Beginners (July 22 and 26). These sessions are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Andrew Baker at abaker@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941.

Community meal at Grace July 15

Grace United Church of Christ will hold its monthly community meal on Monday, July 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.

Coaches needed at CCHS

The following paid coaching positions are in need of filling at Culver Comm. High School for this fall: varsity assistant football, head cross country coach, and head softball coach. Please contact Andy Thomas at 574-842-3391 or thomasa@culver.k12.in.us with questions or interest.

Online input welcome for comp plan

There is still time for Culver residents to provide input and help shape the town comprehensive planning process. The Community Mapper link provided on the project website is a fun and engaging mapping tool that allows residents, business and property owners, and other stakeholders to share their own vision for Culver. Citizens are encouraged to log-on and create their own map today. The Comprehensive Plan project website can be accessed via the Town of Culver's website (www.townofculver.org).

Vonnegut exhibit at museum

The Center for Culver History will host the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library's traveling exhibit as well as local history and memorabilia of the Vonnegut family on the shores of Lake Maxinkuckee. The exhibit will run through July 20, and is free. The Center for Culver History is located in the lower level of the original Carnegie library in downtown Culver. Visit www.culverahs.com for more information.

Quilts on display in July

The Susanna Circle Quilters, a circle of the United Methodist Women, will have a quilt display at the Culver Union Township Library during the month of July. Stop by during the regular hours to see some lovely quilts.

'Life of Pi' at CUTPL book club

Culver-Union Twp. Public Library's book club, Hooked on Books, will meet Wed., July 10 at 1 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room. The book for this month is "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel. For more information, contact Polly

Thompson Wolf at pwolf@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941. The Culver-Union Township Public Library is located at 107 N. Main St. in Culver, Indiana. All programs are free and open to the public.

Apps available for BIRD service help

The student-run community service organization BIRD (Building, Inspiring, Recreating and Discovering) is planning a one-day community service event August 3, which will spread volunteers throughout homes of elderly, disabled and financially unstable to provide at-home services to those who cannot do, or afford it, themselves. Applications for those wishing service may be found at Culver's town hall and public library or they may call 216-280-5065. Residents are asked to request help by July 27 so volunteers can acquire necessary supplies. Volunteers may sign up as far as the day of the event at the same number.

Register for canoe, kayak, SUP poker run

Register Now for the canoe, kayak, SUP poker run July 19 by going to www.culverlakefest.com or www.lakemax.org. Registration is only \$15. Call 574-952-2963 with questions.

Lake Fest here July 19-21

Culver's Lake Fest returns on the weekend of July 19 through 21, with a theme of "A Community That Serves." Returning are food, crafts, and games; the canoe-kayak-SUP poker run; the Miss Maxinkuckee pageant; the "Gong Show"; the Lake Fest Run, L'Max Bike Tour, firemen's waterball tourney, burnout contest, bass fishing tournament, kids' games, Sunfish Regatta, live music, spectacular fireworks over the

lake, and more. Details are available at www.culverlakefest.com.

Town hall Saturday hours

During June, July and August, Culver's town hall will be open Saturday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. in addition to the regular weekday hours. Call 574-842-3140 with questions.

L'Max Bike Tour July 21

The Culver Lake Fest's L'Max Bike Tour will begin with on-site registration Sunday, July 21 7 a.m. Pre-registration is open now, with forms available online at www.culverlakefest.com. Riders may choose between 10 miles, 30 miles, 63 miles, and 100 miles, all starting at the Culver beach lodge.

Purses sought for Great Purse Extravaganza

The "Great Purse Extravaganza" to raise funds for "Hello Gorgeous" in Culver returns this summer, with the purse sale event to take place at the Culver depot during this year's Lake Fest, July 20, 2 to 5 p.m. "Hello Gorgeous," sponsored by Michelle's Headquarters in Culver, creates a special day of hair and spa treatments and a welcome party for women battling cancer. Used purses may be dropped off at Michelle's, Culver Coffee Co., or Fisher & Co., in Culver before June 31. Call 574-842-2662 with questions.

Sci Fi book club July 27

Culver-Union Twp. Public Library's Rita Lawson Sci-Fi Discussion Group will meet Saturday, July 27 at 1:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room. The book for this month is "Neuromancer" by William Gibson.

For more information, contact Polly Thompson Wolf at pwolf@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941. The Culver-Union Township Public Library is located at 107 N. Main St. in Culver, Indiana. All programs are free and open to the public.

Summer Reading activities

Summer Reading activities at the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library in the next few weeks include moon sand making (Fri., July 19, 10:30 a.m.), terrariums to make and take (Mon., July 22, 3 p.m.), wire mummy making (Wed., July 31, 4 p.m.). Summer reading ends Fri., Aug. 2. Ongoing in the library's children's area will be story times -- including stories, songs, and crafts -- on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Free lunches will be served at the library Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. for any child under 18. Lunches are provided by the Culver Community School Corporation. Check www.culver.lib.in.us for more activities.

Culver Farmer's Market open

The Culver Farmer's Market has opened for the season each Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the corner of Jefferson and Ohio Streets (across from CVS Pharmacy). Interested produce and flower vendors are encouraged to call Barb at 574-842-2648.

CUTPL Adult Summer Reading program

Culver-Union Township Public Library's Adult Summer Reading is open to adults of all ages, with programs, prizes, book discussions, and special events. Programs include "Digging for Your Roots: A Beginner's Genealogy Workshop" with genealogist Monty Peden (July 23, 1 to 3 p.m.). The program begins June 3 and will run through August 2.

Lake Max Triathlon Aug. 10

The second annual Lake Max Triathlon will take place August 10 (lakemaxtriathlon.blogspot.com and facebook.com/LakeMaxTriathlon), starting and ending at the Naval Building on the Culver Academies campus. The course is a 400-meter swim around the Naval Pier, 10 miles of biking around the lake, and a five-kilometer run. Register online at active.com or by downloading the registration form at the triathlon website. Anyone registering for the event will be given free triathlon training.

Summer food program

The Culver Community Schools summer food program offers free meals for children 18 years of age and younger and people with disabilities (regardless of age) who participate in special education programs. Adults may eat, but breakfast is \$1.50 and lunch \$3. All meals must be eaten on site. Locations include: Culver High School (enter through middle school doors), through August 9. Breakfast: 7:45 to 9 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Former Monterey Elementary, to July 12. Lunch noon to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Culver Public Library, through Aug. 1, 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. (Tues. and Thurs. storytelling and craft). Aubbeenaubee Twp. Community Bldg., through July 26. Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All sites will be closed July 11. Those with questions may contact Carin Clifton, food service director, at 574-842-3391 ext. 3113.

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| Long and Short Sleeve Designer Wovens | 1/2 Price |
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| Sport Coats | from \$199.99 |
| Suits | from \$299.99 |
| Selected Dress Slacks | \$29.99 |
| Life Khakis | reg. \$65 \$39.99 |
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| Rack of Ties | now \$29.99 |
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All shoes on the sidewalk.....start at **\$19.99**

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PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY AND *CAITLIN SCHRIMSHER

On safari in Culver

RIGHT: Parts of Culver became haunts for wild and wooly creatures in recent weeks due to visits here by two different wildlife education groups oriented towards teaching children via 'hands-on' demonstrations. On June 2, Silly Safaris stopped by the Culver park, where youngsters from the Culver Boys & Girls Club and the community at large met an array of critters ranging from rabbits to an armadillo, with plenty more besides. LEFT PHOTO: Young Collin Hunnicutt, left, braves the hairy legs of a tarantula during Silly Safaris' visit.



CENTER PHOTO: In a humorous twist on the 'Princess and the Frog,' young Chloe Kaneschat, who refused to kiss "Bubba" the giant frog, instead concedes to give him a friendly pet. RIGHT PHOTO: *Summer Rose Good, age 3, greets a young alligator during a visit from Indiana Wild -- who also brought a fun menagerie to town -- to the Culver Public Library July 2.

McKinnis from page 1

"She chose to move back," said Rob, who died in January, 1990, "so I quit my job, just like that, and we moved. I wasn't too upset about quitting my job because at that time I was a sales representative for a pharmaceutical company. I had a wife and a one year-old son at home, but I spent a lot of time on the road."

Many Culver residents may not know that, during the Cedar Rapids days, Essie worked for a CBS affiliated television station, a job sons Scot and P.T. say she enjoyed ("It was very much and constant companion in her latter years. Like the 'Mad Men' environment," says Scot, referring to the popular current TV show).

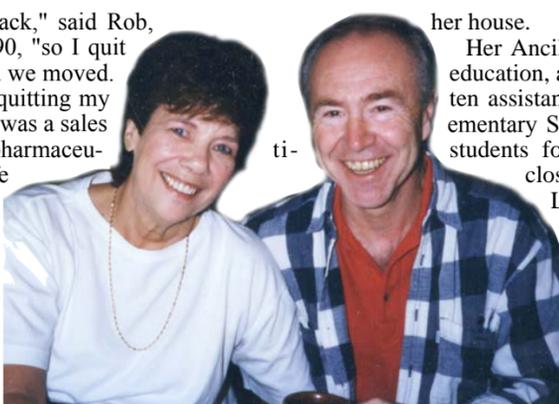
Rob McKinnis' Culver tenure began at Culver City Drugs, on the west side of South Main Street, though he and Essie planned their stay in Culver to just be "a stopover." Culver City Drugs (later Mr. T's) was indeed a stopover, and Rob worked in Plymouth for a year before returning to Culver in 1962 and purchasing the longstanding Rector's Pharmacy, cementing his family's relationship to the community. Scot and P.T. remember their father's work in the pharmacy keeping him from home for long hours.

By the late 1960s, Essie began taking classes at nearby Ancilla College in Donaldson, at first not with a certain intention towards a particular degree.

"She was so smart," says Andy Venum, who worked with Essie for years at his clothing store in Culver, and became an inseparable companion and friend in more recent years. "She loved knowledge."

Attending Ancilla, recalls Scot, "was a turning point for her. So much good came out of that place. She always had a special affinity for it. We went there quite a bit and used to go to Midnight Mass and Christmas bazaars."

While at Ancilla, Essie McKinnis also developed her penchant for art (one of her paintings, in fact, was so well-liked by former Governor Otis Bowen that he purchased it for his home; it was later re-purchased at his auction and hangs in Essie's longtime home just north of Culver today). Essie particularly excelled in calligraphy, and her work -- expressed in quotations and ideas which expressed her own beliefs and sentiments -- also adorns



Essie McKinnis with Andy Venum, employer for decades

her house.

Her Ancilla classes began to lean towards education, and led to her work as a kindergarten assistant for several years at Culver Elementary School, which many of her former students fondly recall. She also developed close friendships with CES teacher Linda Loesch and Priscilla McBeth.

"Part of the fun for her of working over there was those two together," smiles Scot.

By 1968, Clarence Epley had opened Town & Country Package Liquor at a site he developed at the north corner of State Roads 10 and 17 (the site of today's Jamieson's Town & Country Package Liquors), and by 1969, Rob McKinnis had moved his pharmacy to the site, west of the liquor store, which Epley built after inviting him. The notion, says Scot, was that the liquor store's offerings -- since the drug store sold no alcohol, would draw people as would the pharmacy, so both stores benefited each other.

Essie, in fact, worked about a year for Epley at the liquor store.

However, perhaps her best-remembered role would come about due to one of those Providential, unplanned moments.

"We were having lunch at the Corner Tavern," recalls Andy Venum. "She and Robert came in and we exchanged pleasantries. Billy Herman was working for me and getting ready to go to college. She said, 'Well, you'll have to hire me. I said, 'Sure. You're kidding, right?' It was unheard of to put a woman in there; it was a man's haunt. It's funny. I said, 'Come in and let's talk about it.'"

The "man's haunt" in question, of course, was Andy's at 111 South Main, which was continuing a then-50-year old tradition started by Mitchell and Stabenow Clothiers of a quality men's clothiers in Culver (women's clothing has been added and the tradition continues today as Fisher and Co.).

Venum agreed to give Essie a try, but not everyone was as positive about the "liberation" of Andy's as he was.

"The old man who worked for me, Frank Henderson, was there and I said, 'There's our new part-time worker.' He said, 'You'd better find somebody to do these old men's pants. I never worked next to a woman and I won't start now.' I just said, 'She may not like it; let's see how it goes.'"

E.R. wait times now available online

PLYMOUTH — Would it be helpful to know what kind of wait is in store at the local emergency room? St. Joseph Regional Medical Centers are now giving patients that information.

According to a press release, the effort is designed to create a better experience for patients and applies to both the Mishawaka and Plymouth hospitals. The information will be accessible via a live RSS feed directly from inside the ER to the home page of www.sjmed.com and to a display inside the ER waiting areas at each hospital.

Wait time, defined as the time between when a patient walks in the door until the time they see a provider, will update every five minutes. ER wait times are approximate and provided for informational purposes only.

"We understand that a visit to the ER is stressful enough," says Lori Huffman, SJRMC Emergency Department Director at the Plymouth Campus.

The information will also available via a Smartphone application, available for download in July for Android and iPhone.

Essie started in doing light duty, recalls Venum, and Henderson said nothing. When it was time to go home, he finally broke the silence.

"(Henderson) said, 'Well, that skinny flint really does cut a wide swath,'" chuckles Venum, recalling the moment. "I said, 'What does that mean?' He said, 'She's pretty good. She's going to work out just fine.' She had charmed him. He treated her like a queen from that day on!"

The arrival in 1974 of part of the Hook's pharmacy chain to Culver eventually forced a change in how local pharmacies did business. McKinnis partnered with former competitor Ron Tusing, or Mr. T's, and the two opened a joint drug store on Academy Road in 1977. The partnership was not only a commercially beneficial venture, but also gave both pharmacists some much-needed relief in their daily responsibilities, Scot points out.

According to P.T. and Scot, their mother's involvement with civic activities in Culver really took off when she began her work at Andy's. This included, as the years went by, volunteering for Meals on Wheels, REAL Meals, the Culver Chamber of Commerce, Culver's Kiwanis Club (she was named Kiwanian of the Year during the local club's early years), and a host of other efforts.

"Quiet generosity was her way," Scot recalls. "She would take old coats and clothes and sew dog clothes. I didn't know until after her death that she paid for the baptismal font at St. Mary's (Catholic Church). Robbie (Scot's son) was baptized in a salad bowl! She did the food baskets for Kiwanians at Thanksgiving, the Gift of Warmth film festival. She just participated and made sure she got in on everything."

Venum adds that Essie put her creativity to good use in coming up with ideas in the community, and "didn't ever think things were too much of a bother."

She even, at one point, attended clown school!

"She'd say, 'I think I'll try that and this,'" Venum adds. After Robert McKinnis' death in 1990, and the death of Andy Venum's wife Joan, Venum and Essie's children were happy to see their respective parents find companionship in each other. And besides, adds Venum, her work at Andy's was "a career job;" she was there until the business was sold in 1994, and "how can you stop seeing each other after all those days together?"

When Scot's children came along, Essie McKinnis became "an amazing grandmother," he says, including buying the children a pony named Blackjack.

"She wanted them to love horses like she did. With horses you either get the fever or you don't, and none of my kids did. She said she'd finally cancel the subscription to 'Young Rider' magazine! But the creativity she had in the store (Andy's), she transferred to the grandkids."

More recently, says Scot, "She met her health challenges with privacy and dignity and without complaint, and she led a full life."

Essie McKinnis, say her children, loved her family, her horse -- and, says P.T., "She loved Culver."

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CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY

Blue moon of Culver kept on shinin'

Former Culver police chief and Culver Academies security officer Jack Caudill, third from the left, joins in the vocals onstage Sunday at the latest in the Culver's town park's Concert in the Park series. Performing was the J.C. and Company Band, who performed a number of bluegrass and old country songs for an appreciative audience. Two more performances in the series will take place this weekend: the SL4 band and Beth Pare' (see page 2 for details).

Fall Fest from page 3

revive old favorites every autumn as well). Of course, those not wishing their entry to be kept by the committee for installation the following year may remove it between Oct. 27 and 28.

The first annual Culver Fall Fest, besides scarecrows placed around Culver, will include a street fair, pumpkin and face

painting, corn hole tournament, Culver history hayride, haunted house, moonlight kayak and paddleboard ride, local fine art, pet costume parade, community booths, kids activities, and more.

Businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to enter, and may drop off scarecrows now at Cafe Max on Main Street. Entries must be received by October 1 to be on the map.

The scarecrow contest is sponsored by the Culver Chamber of Commerce and Festival Commission.

Scarecrows should be delivered with a photo of the assembled scarecrow, and entrants may also set up their scarecrow by 10 a.m. October 16 to their designated location. Entries will be located along Lakeshore Drive and Main Street (a map will be provided for contest judging).

For more information call 574-842-LAKE or visit: www.culverchamber.com. Questions should be directed to scarecrow chair Susie Mahler at Cafe Max, 574-842-4444 (office).

Entry forms, vendor booths, and scarecrow information can be found on the Chamber website or at the Cafe Max display board. Scarecrow frames are at the Cafe ready for pick up also.

Entry Forms for chili cook off, corn hole tournament and pet costume parade will be posted to the website soon.

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