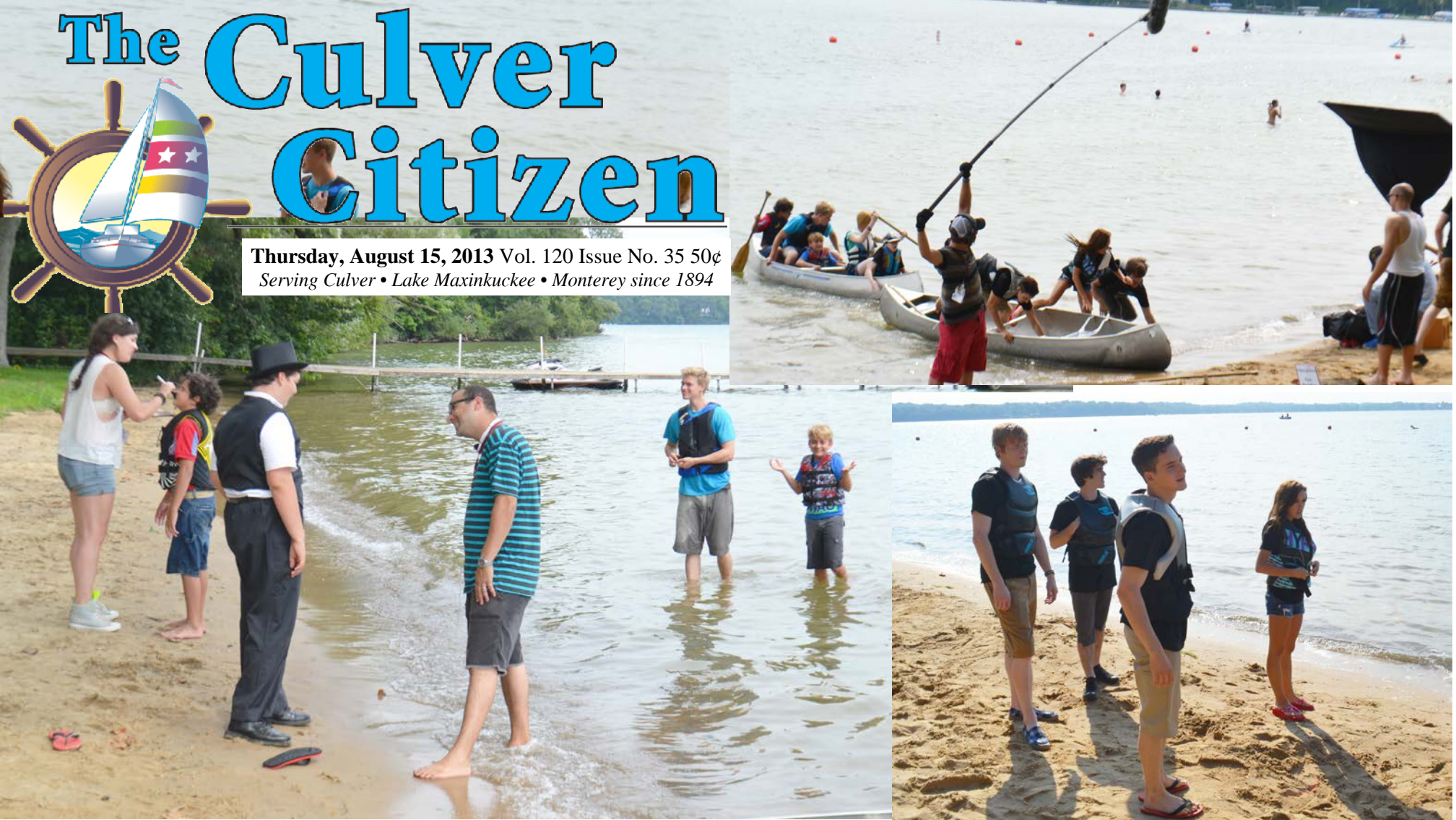


The Culver Citizen

Thursday, August 15, 2013 Vol. 120 Issue No. 35 50¢
Serving Culver • Lake Maxinkuckee • Monterey since 1894



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

Culver cameras rolling...

ABOVE: Culverites joined the cast and crew of "Little Savages" at various local shoots over the past week, with more to come in the next few weeks. Pictured ABOVE, LEFT, During a shoot on the town beach Monday, Disney star Noah Lomax (left) has a makeup touchup applied while star Aiden Mincks (in hat) chats with producer Phillip Glasser. At right, fellow stars Kenton Duty Buddy Handleman look on. LOWER RIGHT: Playing bully Billy Bronson is Adam Hicks (left), joined by "cronies" Connor Del Rio, Austin Mincks, and Leah Bateman. TOP RIGHT: The Savages and Billy's cronies team race to the finish in a climactic scene Monday afternoon. MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 2. SEE ARTICLE BELOW.

In Brief

Community meal at Grace tonight

Grace United Church of Christ will hold its monthly community meal on Thursday, Aug. 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.

Cemeteries of Marshall County Friday

John Benedict will present a program on the cemeteries of Marshall County Saturday, August 17 at 10 a.m. as part of the Culver Antiquarian and Historical Society's August meeting. The event in the large meeting room of the Culver Public Library, 107 N. Main Street in downtown Culver.

Culver Hollywood History Aug. 24

The Culver Academies Museum & Gift Shop will celebrate the legacy of Culver as the site of several Hollywood movies in years past, as well as the extraordinary number of Culver Academies graduates to become involved in Hollywood, with a special exhibit. "Lights...Camera...Culver!" will launch Sat., Aug. 17. A special audio-visual program elaborating on the topic will take place the following Saturday, Aug. 24 at 10 a.m., with ongoing exhibits into this fall.

Free computer classes in August

Culver-Union Township Public Library's free technology classes in August take place Mondays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. They include, Mobile Devices for Beginners (Aug. 16), Technology Training (Aug. 19 and 23). Sessions are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Andrew Baker at abaker@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941.

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www.culvercitizen.com

E-mail: culvercitizen@gmail.com

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Swimming pier voted to return in 2014 during contentious park meeting

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

After all the sound and fury preceding the August 7 concerning the recent removal of the public beach swimming pier, discussion and action regarding the removal actually passed fairly quickly. Verbal altercations between various board members, and audience and board members, however, dominated the meeting virtually throughout.

Park board president Tammy Shaffer, apparently prepared for an expected verbal firestorm in the packed town hall meeting room (attendees spilled out into the hallway), had a small bell in front of her, which she rang occasionally throughout the meeting to enforce her strict rule that all citizens' input would be limited to the portion of the meeting designated for such, something one audience member criticized later. Citizens' input was held at the end of the meeting.

The matter of the pier removal came up well into the meeting, and was sparked by board member Rhonda Reinhold's expression of concern that a large Hobie Cat boat was sailed through the swimming area and onto a beach crowded with young children. Park superintendent Kelly Young said space on the beach to park the boat had been rented for \$30, and the craft was allowed within the buoys since it's not a motorized vehicle. She said she told Reinhold at the time that she would discontinue the practice.

"We have a superintendent who wants to take a pier out because it's unsafe for children," said board member Patty Stallings, "but lets a great big Hobie Cat that's not that easy to steer (onto the beach) -- it just is unbelievable."

A protest march took place at the town park July 28 in response to a decision by Young -- with approval of Shaffer -- to remove the swimming pier due to what Young described as an ongoing pattern of bad behavior by some patrons.

At the park board meeting, Stallings read out loud a letter to the editor criticizing the decision, which was printed in the Aug. 1 edition of *The Culver Citizen*. She also said Young "overreached her power and authority and usurped (the board's)" in removing the pier.

Reinhold added there had been no precedent forewarning the board See Park page 5 of danger at the pier.

Lake Maxinkuckee Film Festival returns Aug. 30 to give 'Gift of Warmth'

The 6th annual Lake Maxinkuckee Film Festival, "A Gift of Warmth," will feature two nights of films and fun, beginning with a Friday night reception Aug. 30 for sponsors of the event at Eppley Auditorium on Culver Academies' campus, with live music, dinner, and a film

competition featuring Purdue University student film-makers, who will be introducing their creations.

Saturday, August 31 at 6 p.m., festivities begin at the Culver town park, where live entertainment, carriage rides, clowns, and a picnic dinner will be available to all.

The Culver Academies band will open the festivities, followed by Sentimental Journey swing band, soprano Kathy Overmyer and '50s rock singer Quentin Flag. The feature film of the evening begins at dusk with the musical, "South Pacific," shown on a two story outdoor screen.

Admission to these events is a donation of new or lightly worn, clean items of winter wear for school age children, which will then be provided to children within the four county Culver Community School district. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted and will be used

to help families with their winter heating bills. If you are unable to attend the festival, volunteers will be accepting contributions of clothing and money, anytime after 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 31st at the Lions Club Depot.

Culver's Girard latest in long local literary legacy with new novel

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

It's no secret that Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee have a surprisingly robust literary history which extends right up to the present, as authors seem continually inspired to dive into their imaginations in search of fictional vision. Add to that list David Girard of Culver, whose new novel, "Passing Through the Gate," is available now on Amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com in electronic versions.

Girard, now in his 25th year at Culver Academies (he's been a residential counselor and worked in Admissions, with the past eight or nine years spent in College Advising), describes the book as "a coming of age story about two boys and the relationships that can be forged at a boarding school."

The novel is not technically set at Culver Academies, but instead the fictional Marmont Military Academy, though local history buffs will recognize the Marmont as the name of the town of Culver immediately prior to its decision to change its name in



David Girard

affiliated with Harvard Press, in fact compares the book to novels like "Father Sky" and "A Separate Peace," and films such as

See Girard page 2

'Little Savages,' big response to local filming, stars' presence in Culver

By Jeff Kenney
Culver editor

What may have started as inquisitive curiosity about the prospect of a big-screen feature movie being shot in Culver this summer turned last week into something akin to "Little Savages" fever here, as faces from internationally known television shows and movies began turning up in restaurants and on the streets of Culver, and residents -- especially the "under 20" set -- began flooding social media networks with photos of themselves with the movie's stars.

Filmmakers behind the family-friendly movie "Little Savages," the work of faith-based movie studio Bearfruit Films (www.bearfruitfilms.com), arrived in Culver -- See Movie page 9

Jamie Kennedy live at Culver Marina

One star of "Little Savages" yet to arrive in Culver by press time is Jamie Kennedy, best known for his show, The Jamie Kennedy Experiment, and numerous movies, TV appearances, and documentaries.

On a nationwide stand-up comedy tour, Kennedy will appear live for a private performance by special arrangement with "Little Savages" filmmakers, this Sunday, Aug. 18, starting at 7 p.m., at the Culver Marina on East Shore Drive. The show is for those 21 and over, and tickets are \$25 each, and may be purchased by calling 574-842-3375. Seating is limited and tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Maxinkuckee writers' group website launched

Drawing on the rich literary and cultural legacy of the Culver - Lake Maxinkuckee area, several local writers are pooling their resources and have formed a writer's group for those inspired by or in proximity to Maxinkuckee's waters.

Booking Culver, at www.bookingculver.com, is described by the most recent of its authors to publish, David Girard, as "a work in progress," but will eventually become a venue to promote and discuss local

See Writers page 3



CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

More 'Savages' scenes

The Lakehouse Grille on Lake Shore Drive was transformed last Thursday evening into a comedy club for a scene from "Little Savages" (see page 1). LEFT: Cinematographer Gerry Lively, right, chats with co-stars Katherine McNamara (left) and Kenton Duty (center) following shooting of a scene which employed a number of local extras. CENTER: Leigh Allyn Baker, who plays "Aunt Jackie" in the movie, performs a comedy routine while the cameras roll. RIGHT: Samantha Basham of Culver, left, gets an autograph from McNamara outside the Lakehouse following the shoot.

Girard from page 1

"Dead Poets Society."

"In hindsight," Girard explains, "the two main characters probably both possess a great deal of my own traits. (The lead character) comes hesitantly to Marmont Military Academy and is quickly befriended by a very daring, bold, popular boy who helps him in his transition there. They end up spending their school career getting into a good amount of trouble, but then they fall into an old campus mystery. Unbeknownst to them, it places them in danger. The end of the book comes with resolution of that mystery and the boys graduate.

"I wanted readers to see the transition from age 14 or 15 to 17 or 18, and a boy who arrives and is rather hesitant and surly, but we see him graduate a much more confident young man. At the beginning, one boy has the upper hand in the relationship, but by the end they're equals I would say."

As to the genesis of the book itself, Girard says he's always written, though "not always for a specific purpose beyond myself. I've processed a lot of events in my life through writing."

Five or six years ago, he notes, Girard got together during a Culver Academies reunion weekend with several

alums in their late 30s or early 40s, and a lot of past memories and conversations planted the seed for the novel.

"Passing Through the Gate" was written during five summers in the Academies' Huffington Library, with some 10 or 11 months' worth of actual writing accrued.

Rather than opting to self-publish the book, Girard sought acceptance of the novel by a publisher, going through what he describes as "the typical process of rejection letters, and then there was that one surprise where someone says, 'We would like to publish it.' Then it was a whirlwind; it was far quicker than I thought, and suddenly I'm editing it for Kindle and Nook."

Unlimited Publishing's forte, he adds, is to publish a small number of annual books of first-time authors in addition to reprinting out of copyright classics.

And while electronic versions are ready to purchase online, Girard hopes a print edition will be available in Culver this fall.

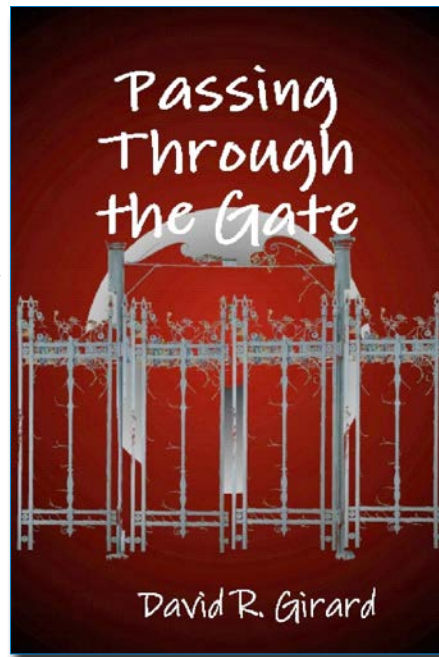
"Gate" is actually Girard's second attempt at a novel; the first one he began 20 years ago but didn't finish, though he hopes one day to return to it.

Meantime, he says he's around 100 pages into a second novel with a similar setting but different time-frame. It will begin in 1939 and follow a boy through his experience at a military school and into World War II.

"There's so much to draw upon in terms of the traditions, the structure, and the relationships forged when boys and girls are in that sort of setting," says Girard of boarding schools in general, and of course Culver specifically.

One of the reasons he's stayed at the school as long as he has, he notes, are the multiple opportunities he's had there to try new things and new positions. Girard, whose father is Canadian and mother a native Pennsylvanian, says he spent most of his previous life in western New York or southern Ontario.

"Culver is the longest I've lived anywhere in my life,"



he says.

And aside from the setting of the novel itself, David Girard also muses upon the atmosphere of the many facets of the Culver area -- the Academy, lake, and town -- as inspirational for generations of creatives.

"I don't know if I've ever been to a campus or lakefront that's this beautiful," he says. "I can't think of another school in the country where the opportunities are so vast, from aviation to horsemanship to sailing. I honestly can't think of a reason why you couldn't find a niche here."

"In terms of the Academy itself, I think the physical plant and lake are amazing. To walk from uptown Culver to the council fire ring at Woodcraft is one of the most amazing pieces of real estate."

Of course, "Through the Gate" is the latest addition to a pantheon of

Culver and Maxinkuckee-related literature dating back to the 19th and early 20th century works of Hoosier luminaries like James Whitcomb Riley, Booth Tarkington, Lew Wallace, and Meredith Nicholson, all of whose writings were inspired by the lake; 20th century literary legend Kurt Vonnegut Jr.; composer Cole Porter, who honed his craft on Maxinkuckee steamboats; and more recent novelists like John Houghton, Richard Davies, Marcia Adams, and Ray Gleason, to name a few.

Girard might invoke late, legendary Hoosier journalist Bob Kyle, who wrote a regular column for The Culver Citizen for more than a decade titled, "It Must be the Lake Water."

"There must be something in the water that's inspirational," Girard suggests. "And anyone inspired by history knows of the tremendous music and literature that's been created on this lake's shores. It has almost a chautauqua feel in it; people here are inspired by the setting and choose to write."

Letters to the editor

Thanks to Kelly Young, beach staff

As a client of the Golden Agers, and occasional Site Director when Ruth Walker is unable to work, I want to thank Kelly Young for the great job she is doing. Have been going to the Beach Lodge for lunch five days a week since my retirement in 1996--with time out for vacations, etc. We try to leave the room neat after lunch in case she has it rented out later in the day or week, and if there is something like Lake Fest going on, the meals are canceled for that day. In return, the Golden Agers allows the renters to use the nice tables and chairs that were donated to us. There are times we have out of town speakers/program and usually--after making all the curves to get to Culver--they say it is so beautiful they want to bring their friends/family down to enjoy the town and lake.

Lots of changes have occurred since I started eating

Proud of BIRD and CYCO

This letter is a public thank you for all the hard work the members of CYCO and BIRD put in, last Saturday when they had teams of teens helping out others in the community. This teens did an outstanding job, and certainly helped me a lot with things I could not physically accomplish myself (like climbing on the roof and fixing shingles!) They also gave an extra hand to get an arduous job taken care of (trimming overgrown hedges) and with time consuming painting of a couple of rooms in my home. I am proud of what these kids accomplished; proud

Disappointed in condition of park

I recently took advantage of the Park Board of Directors Walking Work Shop Tour of our Park that was open to the Public.

The tour consisted of seeing the Building, the Green Space and Storage Areas.

My disappointment in viewing the park came from the maintenance of what is in the Park now.

The main building is old and out dated. The upper level is a cold, dreary room without a single update being done to it. They talked about an architect looking at what could be done. My question is why have they waited this long to do something? The storage area on that level had Christmas Decorations that must have been added year by year uncovered and dusty. In the second storage room had many items but in brown cardboard boxes on the floor because the room was without the benefit of shelving.

In the lower level gaming machines lined the walls. The newly modernized bathroom is something that has pleased the Superintendent as the new rugs on the floor and automatic flushing has helped maintain that area. It was freshly painted and clean.

The storage areas in the lower level were wasted space. There are no shelves for any sort of organization. There are cardboard boxes on floor for storage of toilet paper. The second storage room the walls are streaked with water marks from a window leak that has been there for years. It is a room filled with clutter. I heard the Superintendent say that when it rains the floor gets wet.

We then were led outside to the East portion (children's area) of the park where the conversation led to putting in a new sidewalk on the green space to allow access to the East Pavilion. It seemed to me that the park spends money on things that they want new, without a thought to keeping the grass green for the enjoyment of all ages that use the children's area. When I questioned the Superintendent that once again she was cementing green space, I was told by the President that this was a Work Shop open to the public but I was not allowed to talk.

We were told that are benches built for the Handicap Floating Pier, and they are not going to be installed on the pier. I heard them say they were ready, in storage, and eventually will be put in the East park as the colors "match the children's area". Colorful or not, why are they not in the park for this summer? Built and paid for, but not there. When is this going to take place?

Now we were ushered through the park. The Superintendent pointed out the trees that were to be removed as they are dead or dying. As I walked, I saw broken benches with slats missing so that you are literally sitting on two thin slats of wood. They were an absolute disgrace 5 years ago and the park Board does not even apologize for the sad state of their condition. I heard that new benches were ordered but not ready as yet. Why did it take the Board so long to give approval for the badly needed new benches?

There are permanent benches that were privately donated by families. The Superintendent pointed to the worn out holes in front of these new benches. She said she planned to eventually fill these holes with tiles she had in storage room so as to allow one's feet to touch the ground. This is nonsense. Fill the holes now not later. I am talking about a bench that is used every day and foot wear caused the erosion. If this was a thought-out process something should have been done when installed.

Now we were on to the West pavilion and a discussion began on the new proposed bathroom. I was looking at

Show Vikie Dearth community appreciation

Dear friends,

Longtime (retired) Culver French teacher Vickie Dearth is having numerous medical problems right now and would enjoy hearing from friends and students. You can send your thoughts to her at Miller's Merry Manor, 730 School St., Culver, IN 46511.

there, the Park seems to get prettier, and a lot of that is due to Kelly being a Master Gardner. I have never swam in the lake since I never learned how to swim, but my children (in their 50's) learned how there and learned early on to obey the rules of the lake--especially the one about swimming under the pier so the life guard could not see them (since it isn't a glass pier), and I'm very thankful that rule was enforced as I couldn't be there with them all the time watching and knew they were in good hands.

So, Kelly, thank you and your staff for all you do to keep the Beach and the Lodge in good order.

**Jeanette Geiselman
Culver**

they're part of Culver, and very thankful that they came to help me out. I appreciate that there are still kids in local communities willing to lend a helping hand, cheerfully. Their efforts help renew the faith we adults sometimes lose in "the next generation"-- With young leaders like this at the helm, we can have hope in the future.

**Dianne Johnson, CAPT, USN Retired
Culver**

the broken boards and poor repair of the structure. After a lengthy discussion about keys we were finally shown the inside of the storage area that will be the "bathroom of the near future". It certainly looked large enough to house the lawn equipment used to care for the park. I am not in favor of a bathroom at that section of the pavilion, but I know there is a need to accommodate folks in that well used end of the West park. I feel with better professional input and an open mind, the Board can keep the cost down by choosing a more economical approach.

As we walked toward the Gazebo I looked up and was flabbergasted to see that the Octagon outside was chipped, parts are missing, and edges warping. I was stunned and said out loud "Don't we have a routine maintenance on these building"? One of the Board Members took great exception to my comment and said "Why would you say that? Of course we have maintenance. It was stained a few years ago and when we had vandalism it was fixed." What I saw was not vandalism it was a building that was not maintained. Since I was observing bad repair, I pointed out specific things and at that point, the Board member said no more and walked away.

Next came the inspection of the forth storage area on the west end near the water. This shed I did not look inside as the others on the tour did. I observed two black garbage bags filled with recycle waste piled just inside the door. I was told that there were 10 large bags in the shed. It will be stored there until pick up day. I walked away in disgust.

The group then gathered at the Town Hall to hear about the proposed Budget Workshop. At the end of the proposed budget review a member of the audience pointed out that the budget had a deficit. The town manager explained it was OK to present a deficit budget as it was harder to get money out later. I was totally lost on that thinking and my mind decided it was 'politics as usual'.

I hope the Board, and the Superintendent can see through the eyes of a citizen that we want our park in pristine condition and spending money on new storage is not what we want. We want maintained buildings, picnic tables and benches on green space. We want a Park building that holds activities for young and old. We want the Park Board not to waste our money... it does not matter if it comes from taxes, or rental of pier space, fee for parking, entrance fee, gaming machines, or sale of candy bars. It is our park and we want to use the park as a family place. There seems to be more interest in collecting money than there is on doing what is good for the community.

Rather than wait for the Superintendent to choose the priorities I think the Park Board should form a separate Maintenance Committee to yearly supervise, and recommend to the Board, the priorities rather than the Superintendent choosing what is important. Listening to the ideas that were in the Superintendent's budget I heard about proposals for spending money on a new storage shed, wash rooms, changes in parking lot, and a possible rehabbing the main building in a 'little at a time' approach. I did not hear of any urgency in fixing what is in disrepair in the park. I have been here for 30 years and during that time I have seen the Board vote and approve all of the Superintendents ideas. The Board should now be held accountable for those very bad decisions.

Sincerely,

**Pauline Bunny Esposito
Culver**

She has helped many in our community; here is an opportunity to show her how appreciated she is.

**Sharon Coffee,
Culver**

Obituaries

John David Hoesel

May 7, 1929 - Aug. 6, 2013

MISHAWAKA — John David Hoesel, 84, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013 at Kindred Hospital in Mishawaka.

John was born in Culver on May 7, 1929 to Evert and Sadie (Carter) Hoesel. He is survived by his wife; one daughter, Sara Elizabeth (John) Bean of Lebanon; two sons, David Graham Hoesel of South Bend and Frederick Allen Hoesel of Culver; a daughter-in-law, Mary (James) Hoesel of Bass Lake; and a sister, Sandra (John) Middleton of Culver; two granddaughters, Megan Bean of Waterloo, Canada and Justine Hoesel of Bass Lake; four grandsons, Edward Lewis of New Albany, Andrew (Jade) Hoesel of Bass Lake and Brian, and Richard Bean of Lebanon; and two great-grandchildren, Maddie and Destin Hoesel of Bass Lake.

John was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Richard Hoesel and a son James Hoesel.

Memorials may be given to Culver Food Pantry in John's memory.

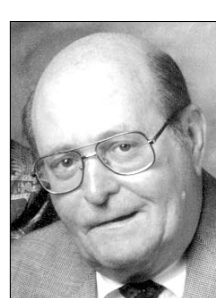
Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

The Odom Funeral Home of Culver is assisting the family with arrangements.

Lloyd A. Williams

Aug. 3, 2013



ELWOOD, Ill. — Lloyd A. Williams, 74, of Elwood, Ill., formerly of Culver, passed away peacefully in his sleep Saturday, Aug. 3, 2013 at Silver Cross Hospital, New Lenox, Ill., after a three year battle with cancer. Lloyd was a 1956 graduate of Culver H.S. and attended Indiana University. He is survived by his wife Barbara (nee Bargholz), his children, Laura (Randy) Everts, Marcia (David) Blansett,

Deborah (Ron) Albertson, Kenneth (Kerry) Williams, and Michael Williams, 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his father Kenneth Williams.

To honor Lloyd's wishes, neither a funeral service nor a wake will be held. Burial will be private. Donations can be made in his name to the Joliet Area Hospice (www.joliethospice.org) or the American Cancer Society (www.donatecancer.org).

Writers from page 1

writers' work, area readings and book signings, and more. The group also has a Facebook page.

"Award winning actors, columnists, composers, novelists, and playwrights," notes the website, "have all touched, and been touched by, Lake Maxinkuckee. And the allure still holds true today, for it is not uncommon to encounter someone in one of the town's distinctive libraries, or sitting on a park bench, or eating in one of Culver's inspired restaurants and have them reveal they're 'working on a story.'"

Keep up with the latest Culver news
online at www.culvercitizen.com
and
facebook.com/culvercitizen

Self-Propel



Heartbeats and Footprints

BY DANA NEER

Research from the American Heart Association shows that physical activity improves quality

of life. Cardio vascular health, overall strength, flexibility, endurance, balance and coordination each contribute to our overall health and ability to enjoy a productive, fun and active lifestyle.

The following information will provide a well-balanced approach to your ongoing health:

Obtain and attain a healthy weight. You can achieve weight reduction and management, shaping, toning and body fat reduction with the guidance of a qualified trainer. A qualified trainer will help you set personal goals that are specific, measureable and attainable.

Address individual health concerns: set up an appointment with a doctor or health care provider who will help you write an efficient program, specifically designed with your help care needs in mind. This will enable you to reach your goals in a healthy fashion, or perhaps speed your recovery from previous injuries or health issues.

Commit to your goals. Write down your personal goals and place them in a prominent location. Joining a sports club or training with a partner will help keep you accountable.

Practice correct technique. By learning correct form, technique and appropriate exercises for your specific training program, you will have a much greater chance of reaching your goals in a timely manner.

Maximize your schedule. Get maximum results in a reasonable timeframe with a program designed specifically for your needs and schedule. You can effectively train in as little as 30 to 45 minute sessions and see dramatic results.

Gain new skills. Try new activities with a wide array of people. Many fitness and sports clubs exist to teach and advance specific skills. Try something new and keep learning.

Enhance your mind, body and spirit. There is a direct correlation between exercise, lower stress and overall happiness. People who exercise are generally more pleasant, possess a young, vibrant spirit and seem to be deeply connected to their surroundings. Challenge yourself and enjoy a new perspective.

Dedicate yourself to a daily ritual of daily exercise. Deborah Norville stated, "There is comfort in rituals, and rituals provide the framework for stability when you are trying to find answers." Be self-motivated. Self-propel through life. Instead of only relying on a speed boat to get you through life, try canoeing too. Instead of relying solely on a car to get you from point A to point B, ride a bike or walk. Living a self-propelled life is amazingly energizing. Make up your mind today, set goals and keep moving!

Dana Neer serves as Wellness Coordinator and Counselor at The Culver Academies. He can be contacted at Dana.Neer@culver.org.

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., Aug. 15: Pasta primavera, salad and dressing, garlic bread, green beans, fruited Jell-o.

Friday, Aug. 16: Stuffed peppers, mashed potatoes, succotash dinner, roll, fruit.

Mon., Aug. 19: BBQ pork chop, hot three-bean salad, macaroni and cheese, bread, peaches.

Tues., Aug. 20: Taco salad with all the trimmings, black beans and corn, corn chips, fruit cup.

Wed., Aug. 21: White chicken chili, cold beets, corn bread, fruit cobbler.

Thur., Aug. 22: Italian chicken breast, lima beans, tomato gobbledy-gook, bread, and oranges.

Friday, Aug. 23: Tomato soup, tuna salad, bread, macaroni salad, fruit, and cookie

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'Little Savages' taming initial reservations

The past week in Culver has been particularly interesting, perhaps surpassing what even the folks behind the feature film being shot in Culver this month might have originally expected for their movie. That, of course, is because no less than eight major stars of television and/or the big screen not only signed on to star in "Little Savages," produced by Bearfruit Films, but have been making Culver their temporary home since arriving nearly two weeks ago.

This has led to a spate of unplanned run-ins with the stars for a number of Culverites, to the point that the streets are buzzing with either, "I met so-and-so last night," or "I haven't met any of them but I hope to," or even, "I don't really know much about them, but it would be interesting to run into one."

A number of Culver area residents have also either stumbled into on-location shoots or been extras in them.

All of the above is partly to say that I think the arrival of "name" actors here has helped silence concerns expressed by a handful of those in the area. However, I've received a few more expressions of concern -- admittedly all from folks living far out of Culver and thus enough removed from the situation so as to miss the "on the street" details of what's been happening.

These concerns manifested themselves most overtly when I responded to a request from movie producer James Simmons for help in sharing information via Facebook and any other avenues which seemed appropriate, in securing some needed items for the project. One or two Facebook readers of The Culver Citizen suggested it seemed "fishy," for lack of a better term, that movie-makers would be asking for community assistance at this level. And I understand where they're coming from. The fact is, if Bearfruit Films were, say, Universal Studios, I would be hard pressed to sympathize with pleas for various items from the community.

But Bearfruit isn't Universal, or any other major, billion-dollar Hollywood entity. And what I think some readers missed were a run of articles leading up to those specific requests, explaining the reasoning behind Bearfruit's approach.

Here's what I wrote in reply, on Facebook last week: "I think it's worth clarifying how the film producers have presented the project: they've made it clear it's a 'low budget' film, and the way they work, according to them, to compensate for the budget constraints is to appeal to the communities in which they shoot by making the community more or less a 'character' in the movie, thus promoting tourism, interest in the community, visibility to the broader world, etc.

"They've been fairly up-front from the get-go that the trade-off for thousands in free publicity for Culver is for those who wish to, to support the project by way of housing, meals, and other aids. Many businesses and individuals have seen that as a worthy trade-off, while some of course have chosen not to. So in that sense, I think we're all free to buy in to the model they've proposed or not, but they've been pretty up front about it."

I added that it looks like there's a chance Disney could (and that's a definite "could," not "is") pick the movie up for distribution, meaning Culver, Indiana, will be showcased on a worldwide stage, which is arguably the kind of publicity few of us could ever pay enough to generate.

Some readers expressed appreciation for the clarification, and again I think the arrival in Culver of undeniably well-known names and faces has allayed a number of fears, but here and there a few voices are complaining that the whole thing will just bring more 'strangers' to town. Which brings us back to the ever-popular topic of finding a balance between Culver retaining its historic identity (and even that is somewhat up for grabs...who determines what that identity is, and from whose perspective: town? Lake? Academy? All of those communities have been here an awfully long time!), and also remaining viable economically and in other ways.

As I've said before in these pages, Culver would almost certainly be in a similar state to any number of our nearby neighboring communities with populations under 10,000: with the "Wal-martization" of America and explosion of Internet and digital media, our commerce, recreation, and even social lives have shifted from our local communities largely to "virtual" communities or the closest strip mall, leaving too many small Midwestern towns all but blight-



View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney
Editor

ed, with scores of empty storefronts, deteriorating housing and infrastructure, and little hope of future economic growth.

That being so, there's a case to be made that commerce derived from visitors, part-timers, Academies-related activities, and the like, makes up the critical difference in the economic viability of our local businesses -- and not just restaurants, but the hardware, grocery, and any number of others. Would the absence of tourists to Culver simply mean that more locals would shop at these stores and keep them afloat? Sadly, no. Most of us -- especially when our wallets are squeezed -- go for the bottom line bargain, and that often means we go to the next city to the north, or the Internet to supply our needs.

And of those raising concerns over the possible influx of 'strangers' to town, I've heard none as yet suggest they're unhappy to see Disney stars like Katherine McNamara or Kenton Duty on the streets of Culver!

So I join the businesses, community organizations, churches, and others in suggesting "Little Savages" will be good for the community, and has been, in fact, already.

And it's certainly been interesting for Culver. A number of locals have turned out for the movie's calls for extras to be included in the filming, and we've all gotten some insight into how "un-glamorous" and sometimes grinding the process of film-making can be. My oldest son Peter and youngest daughters Esme' and Felicity joined me Monday in the endeavor to be extras in a scene in the film in which the villainous characters and youthful heroes of the film start a climactic race -- launched from the beach in Culver's town park.

My kids were particularly interested to take a look, since we'd been reading the movie's script -- which the filmmakers were kind enough to let some in the community preview to be sure the film cast Culver in a positive light -- as more or less a bedtime story. This was their idea, and each night for two or three nights I had to cut short the reading, against vocal pleas to "read just a little bit more, dad!" so they could get to sleep, so engrossed in the story were they.

So for them, seeing the characters in costume during shooting was something like seeing a novel you've greatly enjoyed come to life on stage or screen, though in this instance they had an opportunity to play a role in the process.

I don't think they were quite prepared for the tedium of the process: waiting in queue to be called to the set...waiting at the set (in the hot sun) while details are arranged...doing the same things repeatedly so multiple "takes" can be shot. It certainly wasn't a bad experience, but it was an educational one! I think we all (other extras included) came away from the experience with a new sense of the actual labor involved on the part of the crew and actors, in making a story come to celluloid (okay, nowadays digital) life.

I would add, having read the script, that it certainly does not cast Culver in a negative light, and co-star Katherine McNamara, who I interviewed in last week's Citizen, didn't exaggerate that it's chock full of positive messages kids need to hear.

That's no surprise, really. Either the filmmakers behind the movie are stunningly accomplished liars who have gone to an immense amount of trouble just to get some reduced lodging in Culver (and such), or they're sincerely interested in seeing what they feel is an alternative to much Hollywood material, in the form of what they have termed a "redemptive" film undergirded by transcendent messages they feel embody their own Christian faith.

As an aside, your editor did enjoy learning that the main actor in the film, young Noah Lomax, apparently "Tweeted" (that's techspeak for a short message on the social networking website Twitter) a photo of the front cover of last week's *Culver Citizen*, with a message along the lines of, "I made the front page!"

I'm not sure how his fans feel about his making the cover of our little weekly newspaper, but we appreciate the "shout out," were happy to have him there, and -- as someone who's placed the faces of some wonderfully giving and serving members of this community on page 1 -- I'd say he and they are in good company, too.

Name that Culver 'citizen'

Last week's Mystery Citizen, Sandy Master, has been an integral part of Culver Comm. High School, where she is guidance secretary, for decades. Not surprisingly (partly since she's hardly changed since the original photo was taken!), a host of readers recognized her, including Dorothy Kissell, Jennifer Luttrell, Patty King, Judi Burns, Teri Baker, Terry and Carin Clifton, Lora Pinder, Heather Voter, Jackie McManaway, Kristy Busse, Cynthia Bonine Goss, Judi Currens, Susan Danielson, Jeanette Geisel-



LEFT: Last week's man, Kay Mystery Citizen, Tusing, Sandy Master, then Marizetta and now. RIGHT: Kenney, This week's Mystery and Marilyn Kelly.

Catching up on some older news, somehow the editor missed the fact that Taylor Simpson correctly identified our previous week's Mystery Citizen, Walt Hanselman. He joins the previous list of names as recipient of free parking in downtown Culver.



This week's Mystery Citizen is another longtime familiar face in Culver, involved through the years in various endeavors.

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

Park from page 1

Board member Leroy Bean, acknowledging taking out the pier "might not have been a good idea," added the "aftermath was...tacky," presumably a reference to the protest march, in which Stallings took part.

Shaffer said the pier removal process "was not as smooth as it should have been" and noted she later received a "chain of command flow chart" which helped shed light on what had seemed to her the unclear question of who Young answers to.

"When Kelly asked me (about removing the pier), what ran through my mind was safety, safety, safety, because at every meeting we've had, the public and park board members have focused on safety."

She said she later researched the matter and learned no laws were broken in how the decision making was handled, but that she herself nonetheless didn't have the right to make the decision to remove on her own.

"I'll admit to making a mistake," Shaffer said. "I'm all about accountability."

Reinhold added that "nobody ever died on that pier and it's needed for the lifeguards to get out deep (quickly)."

The board unanimously voted to put the pier back in, but not until May, 2014 -- since school starts shortly and beach use will drop dramatically -- and not without added safety precautions, which Bean suggested.

Board makeup – a change in number?

The previously-debated question of whether to add or subtract a park board member in order to break the even number of six members, led to Reinhold moving to add another member.

She noted the board had "tied" on "several important occasions," resulting in no action on a proposed decision. Board member Ed Behnke responded that he could only remember one tie in 22 years, though Reinhold said ties took place regarding a proposed beer festival earlier this year, and a floating pier last year.

Reinhold also suggested a seventh board member might facilitate more time and energy put into board matters, and could also help achieve a quorum, something the board failed to meet on a number of occasions, especially in the winter, in recent years. Behnke noted the park board is not required to meet monthly. Bean also said he felt the board has been "getting along just fine" with its current numbers.

Bean's remark to Reinhold that, "If the chair wants you to talk, she'll tell you," prompted Stallings to call his words, "a hostile (and personal) remark," one of many instances of board members openly sparring during the meeting.

Board member Kathy Hart suggested reducing, rather than enlarging, the number of board members to attain an odd number.

In the end, only Reinhold and Stallings voted in favor of adding a member, causing the motion to fail.

During the citizens' input portion of the meeting, audience member Ginny Munroe, a member of the town council, pointed out the decision to add or subtract a park board member doesn't lie with the park board, but instead with the town council, something Shaffer said the park board understood.

Budgeting errors

Tabled after some discussion was any decision on quote packets for a new storage shed proposed to be built on the town-owned municipal lot near the park.

Reinhold announced to the board that she and Stallings discovered, through research on state code, that money for the project was improperly encumbered. Stallings said she spoke to the State Board of Accounts and Dept. of Local Government and Finance, and learned that \$55,000 for four various items or projects encumbered in December, 2012, were illegitimate since they lacked legal purchase orders or contracts with specifications and bids. She read a quote from town clerk Karen Heim explaining that superintendent Young had obtained quotes for the projects or items, but not purchase orders or contracts.

The designated park funds, Heim's letter continued, will return to the park rather than be lost to the general fund, and could potentially still be used for their designated purposes this year, but only by way of the additional appropriation process and permission from the state DLGF.

The largest amount of money was set aside for a 2 by 30 foot block building with a concrete pad, Stallings said, adding the lack of bid requests or contract invalidated the pur-

chase order for the building. Legal and valid, she said, was the purchase order for the second half of the cost of a partial floating, partial stationary public pier installed in April at just over \$22,000.

Reinhold also said the amounts on purchase orders and budgeted amounts didn't match.

Behnke suggested the town itself had had no problem with the way the matter was handled, but it was Stallings and Reinhold who are "upset." Reinhold responded that the town council won't approve of the encumbrances once it's informed of their status.

Behnke suggested board members are not to engage in park business unless a board meeting is in session, with the exception of the secretary and president.

"What are you talking about?" asked Reinhold. "I asked a question in an open meeting and was told there was a P.O. I hadn't recalled a vote or bid and I wanted to learn more about encumbrances...that's my job as a board member. If something is wrong, I need to go ask questions."

Behnke, acknowledging the encumbrances may not have been done correctly, asked, "What are you trying to do?"

"I was trying to make sure things were done correctly," Reinhold replied.

Shaffer also acknowledged the matter wasn't handled legally, but emphasized it wasn't done so intentionally. She suggested waiting to consult the town attorney, and expressed appreciation that the matter was brought up. The board agreed to table the issue pending the attorney's availability.

Lengthy discussion followed concerning the park's budget, currently in process. Stallings suggested forming a finance committee made up of two park board members and three citizens. Reinhold, appointed to sit on the park board by way of her role on the library board, concurred, noting the library board "runs extremely smoothly" and handles its budget by way of a finance committee.

Relocation of records, heated exchanges

Reinhold, citing Indiana code, also said all park board related books and records are property of the board, and suggested storage of those items in the superintendent's purview at the beach lodge prevents them from being regularly accessed by board members, due to Young's inability at certain times of the week. Instead, Reinhold suggested the items be stored at the town hall.

Behnke noted staff limitations should be taken into account regarding requests for documents.

"We've tried to get into (Young's) apartment, that the taxpayers own, for a year," Reinhold said, prompting Shaffer to ring the bell and interject that the discussion was "getting way too personal...I am hearing a lot of distrust and accusations, and I don't want any part of that...this town needs to work together, not against each other."

Stallings insisted the request was "not personal."

Heated debate also ensued concerning proper meeting procedures, with audience member Jim Hahn insisting the board had to vote once a motion had been made and seconded, and Hart and others insisting otherwise. In the end, Reinhold and Stallings voted in favor of moving the documents, with other board members voting against.

Reinhold also questioned whether the board has an active enough role in the budget process, rather than allowing Young to create and push through the budget. Shaffer and Behnke noted the board reviews and approves the budget before it's ratified.

Reinhold and Stallings also raised concerns that some areas of the budget weren't detailed enough, such as the "Miscellaneous" category, which lacks line items for various specific areas of spending. Reinhold asked for deeper documentation of money spent within the budget as well. Asked if she had approached Young with her questions, Reinhold said she feared Young wouldn't take questions "the right way...I'm afraid she's going to get mad at me. The hostility (on the board) is so bad I have to go outside to learn. If I ask here, I'm attacked."

The board did vote -- with Bean the lone "nay" -- in favor of creating a finance committee, with the same scenario repeated (including Bean's lone vote against) in response to Stallings' motion to create a similar standing policy committee to establish policy and create a policy manual.

Superintendent's report

During her report, Young said specialized Lake Max benches fabricated by local businessman Tim Yuhas would be installed in the park in the next few weeks. She also said the beach lodge would be closed during the week starting August 12, with no lifeguards posted. The lodge and lifeguards will be open and working on weekends but with reduced lifeguard hours of 9 to 5, and building hours of 9 to 6.

Young further said she is working to set up meetings at the middle and high school to discuss with students there how the park can better meet the needs of local teens.

Stallings brought up a recent tour the board took of the park and its grounds, suggesting the buildings there are deteriorated and the beach lodge in particular showing leakage through lower level windows. She said the lodge's meeting room needs updating and improvements in the kitchen and bathrooms, adding that improving those areas would be money better spent than on a new restroom in the west pavilion of the park. She also said the circa 1884 west picnic pavilion and nearby storage building are in need of repairs.

Audience input

Shaffer read a letter sent to the board by Kay Davis, who wrote she was responding to coverage of the protest march in the Culver Citizen, as well as Stallings' letter to the editor in the same edition. Davis defended Young's handling of the pier situation, adding "most beaches on lakes and oceans don't have swimming piers" and adding the view is "more spectacular and it's certainly much safer" without the pier.

Davis' letter also suggested "at least one park (board) member is out on a vendetta against the park superintendent (and) the vendetta style of tactics are not needed. I sure hope the good people of Culver will see through this fog of reasoning."

Reinhold questioned characterization of any park board member's actions as a "vendetta" and said information suggests "it would be more of a safety issue to have the pier taken out."

Citizen input included encouragement from audience member Tom Kearns to Reinhold and Stallings to continue "bringing points up that people care about." He also corrected Young on a comment she made during a tour of the park with the Culver tree commission and its arborist, that budgeting for trees in the park is confidential, which he said is untrue.

Ginny Munroe asked which board members had reviewed state statutes and encouraged the board to be more transparent. She also emphasized the board is ultimately responsible for decisions and spending, rather than a committee, the town clerk, or the superintendent.

"Learn your budget," she said, citing town marshal Wayne Bean as an example of a town department leader who keeps a tight and very specific budget. "Don't attack someone because they've studied the statute and have questions. Transparency is important to what you're doing. Read the statute... get with the lawyer or someone who understands."

Audience member Ed Pinder pressed to remind the board of the importance of the planned-for public restroom on the west end of the park, which he noted must be predicated by a new storage building.

Reinhold agreed a restroom is "a great idea," but countered that "spending \$55,000 to house a donated Gator (utility vehicle) is fiscally irresponsible." She also suggested housing pier sections which have been "littered along the walkway" in the park throughout each winter, marring the public's only view of the lakefront "eight months of the year."

Audience member Jean Rakich, encouraging the large crowd to attend more board meetings, called the present meeting "a disgrace," adding many board members attached one another.

John Helpfrey, in the audience, attributed some of the "animosity" cited to the conduct of the board itself. He listed several past controversies, ending with the lack of action on the board-approved purchase of Point of Sale computerized cash register equipment, which he said some in the public had been advocating for three years.

Shaffer said she took responsibility for not following up on the purchase, which the board approved earlier this year, and said she would do so.

Audience member Tracy Derovic criticized the de-

See Park page

Park from page 5

cision to remove the swimming pier and asked why more lifeguards weren't on duty at the beach. Applause followed her admonition that safety is more important "than a wristband," an allusion to her suggestion that less staff members are needed applying wristbands at the gate and more on active lifeguard duty.

Several audience members countered the claim that the evening's debates represented a "vendetta" or were personal

attacks.

"Sitting in that chair," said Munroe, referring to her own role as a council member, "sometimes you wish so and so would shut up, but it's our job and they're paying their money. There are good reasons to have more frequent meetings, so you don't have three-hour agendas."

Tim Yuhas, also in the audience, suggested Young or the board create a "map" of the specially-installed parts of the

public fishing pier, since several out-of-the-ordinary adjustments had to be made to stabilize it, and the installer next spring may have trouble putting all the parts in the right places.

The board also noted a safety work session would take place at the beach lodge meeting room Aug. 29 at 7 p.m.

Briefs from page 1

Fire Dept. golf scramble Aug. 24

The Culver-Union Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept's Bill Snyder Memorial four-man golf scramble will take place Sat., Aug. 24, with tee-off at 8 a.m., at Mystic Hills golf course. Contact any firefighter for more information.

Community meal at St. Mary's Aug. 30

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

Monterey Days Labor Day wknd.

The annual Monterey Days Festival returns over Labor Day weekend, daily from Aug. 30 through Sept. 2. Activities include crafts and food booths, Mr. and Miss Monterey Days pageant, townwide yard sales and library booksale, pedal tractor pull, parade (Sat. at 5 p.m.), ice cream social, car show, live music, American Legion ox roast and bingo.

St. Marys - St. Michaels bus driver needed

A part-time driver is needed for the school bus route for students from Culver attending St. Michael's Catholic School in Plymouth. The route runs from St. Mary of the Lake Church in Culver to St. Michael School each weekday morning and the reverse trip each weekday

afternoon during the school year. The requirements are a Class B-CDL License with a school bus endorsement, plus a background check. Please contact Kathy Grimes at 574-936-4935, weekdays for further information.

History, ecology of LMEC, Lake Max at museum

The community is invited to learn about the biology and ecology of Lake Maxinkuckee as well as the people who have worked diligently to protect the lake and its watershed via an collaborative Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council and Center for Culver History exhibit on display now. Exhibits include magnifying boxes for bug identification, an animal tracks game, instruction on fishing pole assembly and an Enviroscape. The exhibit may be viewed during museum hours at the Center for Culver History, in the lower level of the Culver library.

Meal assistance sought for movie production

Assistance is being sought from those interested in supporting the shooting of a feature movie in Culver this summer, by way of preparing meals for the cast and crew of the movie. "Little Savages" will be shot through August here by faith-based company Bearfruit Films. Kathie Huhn of the Culver Bible Church is coordinating the effort to provide meals. She may be reached at 574-842-3056 or dan.huhn@sbcglobal.net.

Kiwanis raffle underway

The Culver Kiwanis Club's annual summer raffle is underway. This year's items include a new golf cart, SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard), his and hers Electra cruiser bikes, and kayak. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25, and are available at Osborn's Mini-Mart, Park N Shop, or any Kiwanis Club member. A drawing for winners (to be drawn in order of the monetary value of the item in question) will be held Sat., Sept. 21 at the depot in the town park. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit local children's programs and scholarships.

Attention visual artists in the Culver

area

If creating art is your adult vocation or avocation and you would like to get together with other artists to talk about creating a joint exhibition this fall, please contact Bob Nowalk at bob.nowalk@gmail.com for more information.

Community Cab in Culver each Wednesday

Marshall County Public Transit, a service of the Marshall County Council on Aging, offers transportation throughout Culver via the Culver Community Cab for a Day, each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per boarding, with no pre-scheduling required. Those wishing a ride may call toll-free 866-936-9904. The Council on Aging is represented Online at www.marshallcountycouncilonaging.org.

Upcoming at Lakehouse music series

Country and pop musicians Playne Jayne will perform live this Saturday night, Aug. 17, starting around 9 p.m., the latest in the Lakehouse Grille's Saturday night live music series. Other upcoming performances include Matt Miller (Aug. 24), Joey Garcia (Aug. 31), and Kevin McDaniel (Sept. 7). The Lakehouse Grille is located at 620 Lake Shore Drive in Culver.

Start your scarecrow now for Fall Fest

Organizers of the Culver Fall Fest (the weekend of Oct. 19) are encouraging community members to 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. The Culver Chamber of Commerce's Retail Merchants Committee will keep the scarecrows in storage to be added annually to the 'parade' of scarecrows on the streets. 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. 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. 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).

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-

Movie from page 1

ver in June explaining they hoped to compensate for the film's lower budget by soliciting community support in the way of housing, use of local locales for shooting, and other assistance, with the promise of Culver, Indiana as a prominent part of the story in return.

The result of endeavors to include "name" stars -- particularly from family-friendly Disney Channel television programs -- seemed to surpass the expectations even of producers themselves. Lead roles have been filled by Noah Lomax (from the films "Safe Haven" and "Playing for Keeps"), Jamie Kennedy (numerous shows and films), Adam Hicks (Disney's "Lemonade Mouth"), Leigh-Allyn Baker (Disney's "Good Luck Charlie"), Aiden Mincks (Disney's "Ant Farm" and the film "Hangover 2"), Katherine McNamara (numerous shows and films), Aubrey K. Miller (from Disney's "Austin and Ally"), and Kenton Duty (from Disney's "Shake it Up").

In fact, shooting of the film became hard to miss in the area.

Last Thursday it was the large equipment trucks outside Lakehouse Grille, whose interior had been converted into a fictional comedy club. Local extras were given a look-over by wardrobe staff, stationed at Wesley United Methodist Church on School Street, before being whisked away to the restaurant. There, surrounded by fog machines and camera, lighting, and sound equipment, they were instructed to bring forth various degrees of laughter, after which one of the stars, Leigh Allyn Baker performed a scripted comedy routine, part of the final sequence in the film (which is being shot out of order to accommodate schedules of stars and locations).

As lead actors exited the building, they were surrounded by small groups of excited fans, whose autograph and photo requests they patiently and cheerfully granted.

Friday it was scenes at Culver Academies -- an office

and "hospital" (actually the Academies' health center), and Yellow River Farms on State Road 8, converted into a country gas station for the shoot.

Monday was a particularly visible shooting day for the Culver community. The call went out for a large number of extras of all ages, in "fun" festival and summer attire, to play a crowd watching both the start and conclusion of a competition central to the climax of the film. The crew was set up on the town beach well before the scheduled arrival of local extras at 8 a.m., at the park's gazebo. After several crowd shots -- from various angles and in multiple takes -- extras were dismissed for several hours while the crew shot the stars in canoes. Extras were called back later in the day to cheer on the "teams" of stars as they paddled back to the beach.

During shooting, the beach was closed east of the life-guard chair, and the east area of the park reserved for cast and crew.

As of press time, another day of shooting was planned at the park and beach for Tuesday. Various other locations and businesses are slated for shooting over the next two weeks, with filmmakers scheduled to wrap up by the end of August. The finished movie is hoped to hit theaters by next spring, with a DVD release for summer.

"Little Savages" takes its name from a fictional family of youngsters from Culver, Indiana, who befriend quiet but brilliant young "Albie," spending the summer in Culver alongside his sister Tiffany, at the home of their Aunt Jackie, also in Culver. The youngsters encounter bully Billy Bronson and his "cronies," against whom they will later compete to gain the missing components needed to find a treasure buried in Culver by a late local leader. Along the way, the film weaves in several positive messages ranging from seeing others' gifts beneath the surface, to forgiveness, to the importance of authentic friendship.

Academies grad Donnelly recognized by Kohl's

A 2013 Culver Girls Academy graduate is one of 200 students selected by Kohl's Department Stores to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. Kennedy Donnelly (Denver) was selected from more than 35,000 nominees nationwide.

Donnelly raised more than \$25,000 for Pencils of Promise, with the signature event being her 53-day cross-country bike ride. Pencils of Promise is a nonprofit dedicated to building schools in the developing world. Donnelly's \$25,000 is enough to build one school.

LEFT: Kennedy Donnelly



During her bike trip during the summer of 2012, Pencils of Promise named Donnelly an "Impossible One," students who take on a seemingly impossible task to benefit the organization. She was featured in several magazines and a promotional video was done while she was riding near Bozeman, Mont.

Donnelly was honored during a New York benefit for PoP in October. At the time, she had raised \$10,000 and Scooter Braun, Justin Bieber's manager and a PoP board member, matched her total. She later raised the remaining amount to build the entire school, which will be located in NicaKennedy Donnragua or Guatemala.

Obama talks about 1998 Culver Academies grad

During his speech at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Wednesday, President Barack Obama told everyone assembled about the sacrifice made by a 1998 Culver graduate to rejoin his unit after being severely wounded in Afghanistan.

Obama talked about the rehabilitation efforts of Marine Capt. Matthew Lampert to rejoin his unit after losing both his legs in an explosion in 2010. Lampert's rehabilitation took 18 months. He rejoined his unit in 2012 in the role of company executive officer and is still with the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

Lampert's wife, Capt. Camille Lampert, is in training to become a test pilot. Both met with Obama after his speech. Read the story and be sure to watch the video that is embedded in the article. It was done earlier for the MARSOC Foundation.

Mobile food pantry in Culver a success

The Culver Council of Churches-sponsored Mobile Food Truck from Northern Indiana Food Bank, which offered food to one and all at the train depot in Culver's town park last Friday was a huge success, according to Judi Currens of the council.

The truck served 124 households which feed 519 family members. The event included 19 volunteers and four teenagers who lent their muscles.

Council president Jean Rakich expressed thanks all the volunteers for their service.

Another Mobile Truck delivery will take place this Oct. 18, also at the depot, from 10 a.m. to noon.