



For the love of Lake Fest...

PHOTOS/KAREN LEE PHOTOGRAPHY

ABOVE: Always an uber-popular facet of Culver's Lake Fest, the Saturday night fireworks once again didn't disappoint, as capacity crowds filled the town park and surrounding area to enjoy the show. Festival fun was breaking out all over throughout the weekend, from the kids' turtle race in the east end of the park, to a host of other activities visible throughout this edition of the *Citizen*.

## In Brief

**Sidewalk days July this weekend**  
 Culver's annual sidewalk days will take place Fri., July 25 and Sat., July 26, outside participating retail outlets in the downtown Culver area, during normal business hours.

## Corn roast, firemen's fest Saturday

The annual Culver Lions Club corn roast and Culver firemen's festival will take place Saturday, July 26, at or adjacent to the town park on Lake Shore Drive. The corn roast -- centered around the Lions Club's train station - depot -- kicks off at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 26 in the west end of the park, running to 7:30 p.m. Each meal includes hamburger, drink, and all the corn you can eat, for a donation of \$8 per adult and \$4 for children 12 and under. Carry outs are available. The firemen's festival is located across Lake Shore Drive from the park, in the firemen's lot at the northeast corner of State Street and Lake Shore Drive. A variety of games and prizes -- as well as the children's bounce house -- will be offered throughout.

## Game Truck at CUTPL July 30

Game Truck is coming to the Culver Union Township Public Library on Wednesday July 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. Those age 18 and under are invited to play all the latest PlayStation and Xbox games with their friends. All library programs are free and open to the public.

For more information about Game Truck go to their website are [www.gametruckparty.com](http://www.gametruckparty.com). Those with questions please contact Jill Gavlick at 574-842-2941 or [jgavlick@culver.lib.in.us](mailto:jgavlick@culver.lib.in.us). Culver-Union Township Public Library is located at 107 N. Main St. Culver, IN 46511.

## New preschool director sought at Wesley

Wesley United Methodist Church is looking for a responsible and energetic

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# Culver's Croy is international auctioning champ

2014 CCHS grad on volunteering in Culver and overcoming tragedy



PHOTO PROVIDED

Justin Croy of Culver in Louisville earlier this month, following the victory which made him World Champion Junior Auctioneer at the annual championships in that city.

That the winner of the International Junior Auctioneer Championship (which took place July 11 in Louisville, Kentucky) is from Culver is big news. But add to that the fact that winner Justin Croy just graduated from Culver Community High School (and has been auctioneering for years, starting out playing with his first public address system at age 4), and that Croy had already been a regular face in service to the Culver community not only through his high school service club but also at every Culver Lions Club event he could -- and it all adds up to a pretty remarkable story.

And while it may be remarkable, those who know more of Croy's story likely won't find it all that surprising.

That's partly because his story begins with the impact of his parents, Michele Trusty and the late Jim Croy, an antiques dealer who had a special affinity for the Culver community and even collected historical items related to it, something Justin inherited from his father.

Jim Croy died, with no warning, while walking the family's dog in Culver on the morning of October 12, 2009, at just 39 years of age, devastating his close-knit family and leaving Justin with 14 years of treasured memories.

"My dad and I were very close," he says.

"He was a big inspiration, and I hope that somebody else who has gone through that (the unexpected passing of a parent at a young age) could be able to overcome and have my success, as an auctioneer and person.

"He was a big Culver fan, too. I think that's where my love of the town of Culver stems from. I'm a Culver aficionado like him."

In the years since his father's passing, Justin and his mother have been strong supporters of one another.

"She's been my biggest supporter and motivator," he says, adding that she encouraged him to pursue his interests and passions, including auctioneering.

But along the way, Justin has been anything but passive in his appreciation of the Culver community, being active for several years with the

See Croy page 5

# Rakich adds name to town council ballot

By Jeff Kenney

Citizen editor

One more candidate has thrown her hat into the ring for Culver's town council race this fall.

Jean Rakich of Culver filed as a Republican to run for one of the vacant seats on the council recently, adding a new possibility to the several changes awaiting the board come January. Rakich is a former business owner in Culver and a frequent participant -- as audience member -- in council and other municipal board meetings here.

As announced last month, Dave Beggs, owner of Main Street Manor in downtown Culver, also filed as a Republican for a council position in this November's election.

Two council members' terms are up this fall (those of Lynn Overmyer and Sally Ricciardi, both Republicans), and a third Republican seat will be vacated when current councilman Bill Githens takes office in January as a member of the Marshall County council. Githens' post will be filled by an appointment from Republican chair David Holmes.

That leaves two vacancies to be filled by community vote. Ricciardi has already announced her plans to run for re-election in November, while Overmyer told the Citizen she plans not to run again this year, primarily because she will spend a significant amount

of time away from Culver during. See Council page 3

# St. Joseph E.R. 'vital' to Culver, says board chair Zeglis

By Lois Tomaszewski

PLYMOUTH -- St. Joseph Regional Medical Center held its annual Catch the Spirit Gala July 11 at Swan Lake Resort to talk about plans for a new and expanded emergency room for the Plymouth hospital.

The project, funded by Trinity Healthcare, will cost \$8.5 million and will take a year to complete. Work has already started. But it was also about celebrating the work done by those who work in the hospital, said John Zeglis, Chairman of the SJRMC Plymouth Board of Directors and a Culver resident.

"This is for those who care us in the community. These people give so much to celebrate," he said.

Zeglis told the Culver Citizen that Culver residents made up

See Hospital page 3

# 'Little Savages' - the Culver Citizen movie review

By Jeff Kenney

Citizen editor

Much of the Culver community (and beyond) has been waiting eagerly since last summer to get a look at "Little Savages," the family-oriented comedy-drama filmed here last August under the auspices of Bear Fruit Films, for whom "Savages" is the second production to date (one more is in post-production, another being shot this summer in Grand Rapids, and more on the slate).

As reported in last week's Citizen, "Savages" producer James Simmons

and his family are in Culver this summer for a variety of reasons, though one is to do at least a bit of follow-up regarding the film. And also as reported last week, post-production on the film (sound, editing, and the like) has finally wrapped up, though there's still room for some minor editing changes, which Simmons says may yet take place.

It's expected many in Culver will get a chance to see the finished movie this summer, at least (hopefully) by the L'Max Film Festival over Labor Day week-

end, if not sooner.

I was given a screener of the movie last week, with the intent that a review in the pages of the Citizen would follow, which I appreciate.

So the first order of business is that "Little Savages" is, for all intents and purposes, finished...and having seen it, I can attest that it's the real deal. Those who watched, or even took part in (as extras or assistants) the shooting of the movie at various locations around Culver know that filming is a meticulous, time-consuming, and cer-

tainly not glamorous process (editing even less so, I'm led to understand!). But the finished product is professional in look, sound, and flow (for lack of a better term); in other words, it's a big-screen feature film in production value and quality, as opposed to an amateur-appearing production. I think Culver -- and other audiences -- will be quite pleased with it on that level.

Beyond that, there are really two ways to review the film, and only one of them most readers will consider me qualified to handle.

First there's the "Culver" angle (which is my forte): how does Culver look in the film, and will local audiences recognize their community in it? The second centers on the question of the movie as a movie: if it were shot someplace else and we as a local audience had no vested interest in it, how does it hold up? My opinion on the latter question may or may not matter to readers -- I'm not a professional film reviewer, after all.

That said, the movie

See Savages page 6



ABOVE, LEFT: Parade marshals in this year's Lake Fest parade Saturday morning were families associated with Culver's iconic root beer stand (today's Original Root Beer Stand), including (in the photo at left) Carl and Myrna Eby, who ran the stand from 1957 to 1982, and their son Jan Eby and wife Sandi Eby (1982 to 2003). Present owner (since then) Mark Damore is visible in the photo AT RIGHT.

CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY Presenting a swath of color in the form of flags of countries represented at the Culver Academies Upper Camps are young men and women of the camps, which were also represented in the parade by members of the Woodcraft Camp and its band, the Summer Troop (boys and girls) and the boys and girls drill units



ABOVE, LEFT: Pastor Annemarie Kneebone (on red scooter) of Grace United Church of Christ in Culver led a contingency of two-wheeled church members (some motorized and some pedal-powered) during the parade. Kneebone is known for riding the scooter (when weather permits) between Grace and her other post at First UCC, Plymouth.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Some parade float entries, like the one above, by Sellers Landscaping of Culver, utilized the "past and present" theme of the festival to good effect. The front portion of Sellers' float depicted a Native American tepee and girl in front of a campfire, contrasted with a modern fire pit scene at the rear.



ABOVE, LEFT: Owen Johnston, left, of Culver (accompanied by dad Jack, right, and family dog) was among the many youngsters taking advantage of the proliferation of candy being thrown by parade participants.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Another float focusing on this year's Lake Fest theme of "past and present" was the above entry by Quality Comfort in Culver, which featured period costumes and Lions Club historic train depot visuals.



RIGHT: Providing the "tail end" of our photographic parade coverage are these two pooches, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the ride along the parade route.

MORE LAKE FEST PHOTOS APPEAR ON PAGE 10.

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## Obituaries

### Marilyn Joyce Bickel

April 3, 1937 - July 15, 2014



CULVER — Marilyn Bickel, age 77, passed away peacefully at 1:50 p.m., with family at her side, on July 15, 2014 at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

Marilyn was born on April 3, 1937 to Martin and Adeline Verburg in Chicago, Ill. Her happy childhood was spent in Chicago with her brother, Martin Verburg. The family lived in California briefly before moving to Plymouth

where she met her husband, Warren Eldon Bickel. Warren and Marilyn married on June 20, 1959. They made their beautiful home in Culver and celebrated their 55th anniversary this year.

Marilyn enjoyed her participation in The Golden Key Homemakers Club for many years, and her card club called, Pretty Important Girls' Society (PIGS) for over 40 years. She was the long-time club secretary for Power from the Past. More recently, she was an active member of the Culver Walkers, enjoying morning walks, creating fabulous scarecrows, playing games and sharing in friendship for the past two decades. Marilyn owned and operated Bick's Flicks, Culver's video store, from 1986 to 2006. Remember the free salt water taffy?

She was an active community member and business woman, but her greatest passion was being a loving mother and grandmother. She was the proud mother of her three sons: Dan, Paul and John. She is also the exceedingly proud grandmother of Carly Sherbert and Julie Bickel, and she has spent this year enjoying her life as the great-grandmother of her precious great-grandson, Owen.

She was exceptionally artistic, which can be witnessed in her beautiful garden, fine drawings and photography. She meticulously chronicled her family's lives through scrapbooking and photo albums. All of her sons and granddaughters have been specifically touched by her appreciation of art and the beauty of nature. She has impacted so many people's lives with her positive spirit and warmth. She will be deeply missed.

A reception was held on Saturday, July 19 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the family home with a memorial ceremony at 2 p.m.. 521 N. State St., Culver, IN 46511. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Culver Lions Club. P.O. BOX 330, Culver, IN 46511.

Notes of condolence may be sent to the family through the website: [www.johnson-danielson.com](http://www.johnson-danielson.com)

### Lillian Marshall

March 2, 1919 - July 18, 2014

ROCKFORD, Ill. — Lillian Marshall, 95, Rockford, Ill. died at 11:25 p.m. Friday, July 18, 2014, at her residence in Rockford, Ill. Born March 2, 1919, in Chicago, Ill., daughter of Michael and Katherine Zachery Janikowski. Married to John Michael Marshall Sr. in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 10, 1945 while he was stationed there in the military. She worked as a secretary in a U.S. Navy office while they were in Hawaii. She enjoyed playing pinocle with her sister, her husband and her nephew, Larry and also enjoyed entertaining her granddaughters at their home at the Lake of The Four Seasons in Crown Point. Survivors include her son, Dr. John M (Candy) Marshall Jr., her sister, Anne Kaminski of La Porte and her granddaughters; Lisa Marshall of Rockford and Kristin (Robert) Marshall-Schill of Plainfield, Ill. and her great-granddaughter, Lisa Schill. Several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, her parents and her granddaughter, Lisa Marshall. Mass of Resurrection will be at St. Mary of The Lake Catholic Church in Culver at 10 a.m. EDT on Friday, July 25, 2014. Fr. Jeffery Largent will officiate. Visitation from 9:30 a.m. until service time at the church. Burial will be in the Masonic Cemetery at Culver next to her husband John. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Disabled American Veterans, Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH. 45250-0301. For online register, visit [weltefuneral.com](http://weltefuneral.com).

### Elizabeth R. Helphrey

March 6, 1918 – July 17, 2014

FRANKFORT — Elizabeth R Helphrey, 96, of Frankfort, formerly of Culver, passed away at 6:25 p.m. on July 17, 2014 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

Elizabeth was born to William F. and Freida A. (Witt) Walkup on March 6, 1918 in Indianapolis. On May 13, 1939 she married Edward W. Helphrey. Together they raised four children. Edward preceded her in death on June 25, 2000.

At age 40, Elizabeth started college and graduated from Chicago Teacher's College. She taught third and fourth grade for almost 20 years in the Chicago School System. She also taught in the Literacy program for many years.

Elizabeth was a member of the Culver City Club and Lions Club. She taught Sunday School for many years. She loved canning and swimming at Ancilla College.

Elizabeth was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to many. She taught first grade for 17 years and was able to be retired for twice that time. She tried to teach us all those things that all mothers try to teach their children...respect for others, love for learning, helping others when possible, laugh often and stand up for your own rights, sometimes to our chagrin and embarrassment. Though there were many times we butted heads and lost patience with her. But we loved her and she loved us...all of us, no matter what.

Joyce said, "While sitting with her on the day she died, I found that 'peace that passes understanding' and was

granted the patience that I so desperately needed to see her through her transition into her next life. We laughed; we cried; we sang hymns (well I sang, but she mouthed all the words by heart); we remembered; we faced what was happening together. I'm not going to say 'rest in peace.' As I told her, there are a lot of souls who loved her that are now all having a big party now that she's with them again. Thanks, Mom."

Elizabeth is survived by her sons: John (Mary) Helphrey of Culver and David (Betty) Helphrey of Palm Harbor, Fla.; daughter Joyce (Craig) Pyles of Berea, Ky.; son-in-law Rich Kelso of Culver; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Edward, parents, daughter Lois Kelso, two brothers, one sister, and four grandchildren.

A time of sharing memories with the family will be held at the Odom Funeral Home, Culver, on Friday, July 25, 2014 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Rev. Annemarie Kneebone will officiate funeral services at 12 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given in Elizabeth's name to the Salvation Army.

Condolences may be sent to the family via the obituary page at [www.odomfuneralhome.com](http://www.odomfuneralhome.com).

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

### Council from page 1

the winter and doesn't feel it appropriate for an elected official not to be available to attend meetings.

Thus, November's election will boil down to a contest

between three Republican candidates -- Beggs, Rakich, and Ricciardi -- for two vacancies.

### Hospital from page 1

1,280 of the visits to the hospital's emergency room last year (patients from Plymouth, not surprisingly, were the majority, at 8,160 visits), which translates to roughly four visits per day (on average) from the Culver area. Those stats include both the town of Culver and Culver Academies, which is not only the largest employer in Marshall County but is home to 800 to 1,400 students (depending on the time of year) who sometimes need the emergency room.

"Nobody would argue it's important to have a modern emergency room for those trips," says Zeglis.

"The Academy does a very good job with its onsite health care, with a top-notch infirmiry and clinic. And thanks to Doctors Deery and Reiss, their practice and the hospital have been mutually supportive."

Culver Academies, notes Zeglis, is at the top level of donating (\$100,000 or more) designated as the "Circle of Love," which "is very kind of them," he adds.

The biggest change the new emergency room will facilitate for patients, Zeglis explains, is that it will double in size, expanding its bays from two to 11. Waiting will be more tolerable, he adds, with "kid friendly zones," mental health and bereavement counseling. There will also be an imaging room built into the E.R. so patients won't have to be transported to the hospital's X-ray department.

The good news, says Zeglis, is that Trinity Health is making \$8.5 million of the total cost of the renovation available, leaving \$1 million to be raised by those served by the emergency room. He adds that more than half of that commitment has already been raised, thanks to local physicians, the City of Plymouth and Culver Academies.

"That's not to say we haven't been investing in the hospital already," Zeglis says, pointing to the recent addition of 3D mammography equipment as one example. "It's not like we've been standing still, but (the emergency room) is too old and cramped for today's volume."

Ground has been broken on the project, which has a fall, 2015 projected completion date.

In her remarks, Loretta Schmidt, President of SJRMC Plymouth, talked about all the accomplishments and awards the hospital earned last year that touched on patient care, management efficiency and other factors that add up to an award-winning hospital and staff that is ranked in the

top 15 percent of the nation.

But, the hospital is not just about winning awards. Schmidt said the Plymouth hospital has contributed more than \$50,000 to local organizations, clubs and programs and has provided \$4 million in community benefit in response to the health care needs of the poor and underserved.

There have been changes in Plymouth, including the relocation of the health center to the Community Services Building so patients could be referred to other assistance agencies also housed there as well as providing more space for patients. A CT Scanner was added to hospital operations, which at a cost of \$1 million is able to provide much more detailed diagnostics for doctors to review.

The new ER will also honor the caring legacy of Daisy and John Oliver, the parents of John Oliver, who lives in Marshall County now. Daisy, went to nursing school in the middle of her life and became a devoted healthcare professional who cared for patients for many years.

Plymouth's new emergency room will be named in honor of Daisy and John Oliver.

Even though a significant portion of the added \$1 million community contribution has been raised, Zeglis said more support is needed.

"I know this is not about bricks and mortar and money that is our special sauce," he said. "Our special sauce is caring people. Everyone wins with great health care in the region and our hospital and our ER are at the center of it."

Another highlight of the gala was the presentation of the annual Community Spirit Award. This year the honors went to the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The order of nuns played an instrumental role in bringing hospital care to the people of the region. Combining efforts with the Sisters of the Holy Cross, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center was founded. It took \$8,000 to build a hospital in South Bend in 1910, Albert Gutierrez, President and CEO of SJRMC said.

*Citizen editor Jeff Kenney contributed to this article.*

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PHOTOS/CLARE NOWALK

## 'Bye Bye Birdie' this wknd

The Maxinkuckee Players' rendition of "Bye Bye Birdie," directed by Kathy Overmyer, launches this weekend. With Brad Foster in the title role, and pictured in the photo at LEFT are Thomas Boys (left), as Albert Peterson; and Wendy Wise, as Rose Alvarez. In the photo at RIGHT are (from left) Becky Liechty, as Mrs. MacAfee; Sarah Talley, as Kim MacAfee; Luke Shafer, as Randolph MacAfee; Brian Liechty, as Mr. MacAfee. All six performances will be held in the Culver Community High School auditorium and performances are: Friday, July 25 - 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, July 27 - 4 p.m.; Weds., July 30 - 7:30 p.m.; Friday, August 1 - 7:30 p.m.; Sat., August 2 - 7:30 p.m.; Sunday August 3- 4:00 p.m.

## Marilyn, Bick's Flicks, and the faces of Culver business

A line caught my eye in Marilyn Bickel's obituary in this week's Culver Citizen (and Pilot News, for that matter): "Remember the free salt water taffy (at Bick's Flicks)?"

Of course, a great many of us do remember the salt water taffy at what had been Culver's only video rental store for much of its 20 years of existence (yes, there were others, but none with Bick's longevity). And while Marilyn Bickel's life was certainly about so much more than free candy, the line in her obit pointed to some of the significance of her life in Culver, and that of her family's.

Most everyone, I think, was shocked to learn of the passing of Marilyn Bickel, a ubiquitous presence in town with her husband Warren. There are those pillars of Culver whose death doesn't come as such a surprise (due to lingering health problems or age), even though it's a great loss, but Marilyn wasn't on that list. She seemed omnipresent with the well-known 'Walking Ladies' of town, and in her golf cart with Warren, himself visible in town or even at the back of one of those hayride tractors at Yellow River Farms every autumn.

The impact of the Bickel family in Culver, too, extends to the couple's sons, particularly artist John (whose work is probably most visible in the vintage-like Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee signs he creates, besides that Park N Shop mural), and Dan, who -- perhaps most visibly -- worked to revitalize Culver's movie theater (and there's a conversation on, at least, as to the possibility of a sort of collective effort to revive the theater -- more on that to come).

I had long had it in mind to sit down with the Bickels one day and talk about their years running Bick's Flicks. It might sound strange to eulogize something like a video rental store with such nostalgia, but let's put it in context.

Most readers of this newspaper don't need a lesson in the significance of home video to American life, particularly in the 1980s and '90s (Bick's was open, according to Marilyn's obit, from 1986 to 2006, perhaps perfectly mirroring the heyday of such operations).

Frankly, on the whole I'm usually one to lament the proliferation of home entertainment and its impact on American life. In years past, after all, communities were much more likely to gather for collective activities -- concerts, gatherings, and so forth -- and children much more likely to venture outside for entertainment, though I'm not sure home video has been the main culprit in changing the latter.

But that aside, we're back to the importance of context. Let's be honest: Culver, all 1,300 (or so) residents worth, is always a bit lacking in entertainment options, especially outside of summer. And besides, how many older readers recall fondly the power of going to the local movie theater, in years past, to be transported to other times and places, or perhaps moved by the great art that film can sometimes be? Most of us remember the very first movie we saw in the theater, and many can recall pivotal, almost life-changing films we saw on the big screen, especially in younger years.

Home video, of course, put all of that into the hands of the consumer in a manner no one could have previously anticipated, even bypassing the previously all-powerful medium of television, which once dictated to all of us our viewing options.

I remember well the revolution that was home video,



## View from Main Street

By Jeff Kenney  
Editor

whose transition took place smack in the middle of my childhood. Folks of my generation will recall waiting excitedly for the annual television broadcast of a "Wizard of Oz" or "The Sound of Music," or even the first airing of that must-see movie you missed in the theater (I remember the excitement of "The Empire Strikes Back" actually beaming into my own living room, having missed it on the big screen). If you were otherwise occupied that night, you waited a year or so!

Home video, of course, gave us all the freedom to take home and replay those classics (however each of us define the term) at our leisure, something whose impact younger folk today may not truly grasp (my mother frustrated me as a youngster by assuring me that whatever movie was playing at Culver's theater that I missed, would likely come back to the theater another year -- something that actually happened in her own childhood, but was no longer likely by the time of my own!).

Bick's Flicks, then, helped a generation or two of Culverites gain access to those other worlds, those favorite scenes and memories from beloved movies, again and again...and all for a few dollars at a time.

But I, like so many others (and at least the eldest of my own children) remember Bick's for its human component as much as the movies themselves (let's face it, some -- perhaps many -- of those films were best left forgotten anyway -- such is Hollywood).

I can't speak for everyone, but I recall our patronage of Bick's Flicks being primarily in the non-summer months -- the days of increased boredom in little Culver, Indiana. I remember the sense of coming in from the dark chill of evening to the warmth and pleasant smells of the store, and the warmth and pleasantness of its proprietors, most often Marilyn.

My now-teenage daughter remembers fondly the many visits we made to the store, and the care Marilyn showed her as a young child. We often took long walks together, my daughter and I, and Bick's was a great place to stop

and take the chill out of our bones, enjoy the box of toys Marilyn always pulled out when we got there, and enjoy a piece or two of that salt water taffy. She was always there with friendly words and patient offerings to my daughter, who usually succeeded in convincing me to rent a cartoon to take home that night (in the years since



Bick's closed, she continued to make a fuss over the latest heir to the Kenney fortune, right down to our now six-month old baby, the last time we saw Marilyn).

I suppose that's the real nostalgia many of us, regardless of age or generation, feel for the many fellow Culverites who operated that variety of businesses we recall fondly, whether restaurants or grocery stores, hardwares or bowling alleys. Most of these folks didn't run into burning buildings and save orphans, or even rescue us from fates worse than death. Instead, they were friendly, helpful faces behind the providing of services we valued, during periods in our lives when those services seemed especially helpful or useful...slow and steady, day after day and year after year.

I know, Bick's Flicks was only a dinky video rental joint in a dinky Midwestern town, but -- like the names and faces of our favorite local eateries and shops of yore -- I'll always think of Marilyn Bickel, among others in the Culver of our past and present, as the smiling face in a warm, clean little haven from the occasional chill and twilight of life.

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### 2014 Music in the Park Events

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 (5 & 6 purchased at Ticket Outlet)  
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CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

## Miss Max winners

First place winners in Friday night's Miss Maxinkuckee pageant included (from left) Princess Miss Maci Reinhold, Little Miss Lucy Overmyer, Junior Miss Joselyn Bennett, and Miss Maxinkuckee Breanna Cooper.

Other winners included: Princess Miss Congeniality Kali Loehmer; Best Theme and Top Sponsor Maci Reinhold; First Runner-Up Kali Loehmer.

Little Miss Congeniality and Best Theme Haley Wieringa; Top Sponsor Lucy Overmyer; Second Runner-Up Tyra King; First Runner-Up Haley Wieringa.

Junior Miss Congeniality Abigail Johnson; Best Theme Madison Reeder; Top Sponsor and Second Runner-Up Paige Good; First Runner-Up Madison Reeder.

Miss Maxinkuckee Miss Congeniality Victoria Shank; Best Theme and Top Sponsor Breanna Cooper; Second Runner-Up Jade Overmyer; First Runner-Up Cheyanne Durbin.



## Croy from page 1

CCHS Cavs Service Club as well as CYCO, the joint service initiative of Culver Academies and CCHS students. It was via those organizations that he first became active with the Culver Lions Club, an organization he was finally able to formally join recently, now that he's 18. He may have been the most active non-member of the club in some time, however, in the years prior.

"I did everything they offered or needed," he notes, from corn roasting to assisting at community children's parties and other events. And the club embraced him as well, something then-Lions president Don Freese noted at the club's annual senior banquet at the high school this past spring. During that event, Freese expressed appreciation for Croy's many hours of service to the club, and also awarded him the club's annual scholarship, which will go towards Croy's pursuit of studies in Business and Communications at Holy Cross College this fall.

Both areas of study are natural fits. Croy's auctioneering (more on that in a moment) is evidence that he's neither shy nor lacking in robust verbal skills. Those were also on display earlier this year, when WKVI radio sportscaster Harold Welter got wind of Croy's spot-on impersonation of his coverage of high school sports, something Walker "ran with," inviting Croy into the radio studio so Welter could "interview himself" (actually Croy, of course, in full impersonation voice) in a humorous spot which also allowed the broadcaster to delve a bit into Croy's accomplishments.

In the area of sports, these include four years playing on the Cavaliers' football team and four years as manager of the boys basketball team, besides being a member of the school's baseball and track teams.

As for Croy's auctioneering, it was a natural outgrowth of multiple generations of family members in the wholesale business, he says, which varied "from antiques to horse traders...so auctions have been a big part of my family for generations. My dad owned a car business in Plymouth, so I'd go with him to auto auctions."

Croy says he attended his first auction when he was just two days old, and he's been around the business ever since, with Beaver's auction in Culver an especially frequent stop. That P.A. system he acquired at age four was the precursor to a childhood interest in growing up to be an auctioneer, and Croy's first job was at Kankakee Valley Auctions in Walkerton, as a ticket runner.

"It's exciting," he says of the roots of the "auction bug" in his own life. "You get to see the stuff (for sale). It's the job of the auctioneer to create excitement and to generate money."

He would also help his father by setting up consignment items and "working the ring" to help sell merchandise (that is, holding up items for potential bidders to see as the auction

proceeded). As he grew older and gained more experience, Croy volunteer auctioned just for fun, he adds.

All of that changed when Jim Croy passed away. After that, says Justin, he didn't attend any auctions for three or four years.

"That was the connection I felt with my dad; that's a lot of what we did. When I did finally go back it was in Lakeville. I have a friend, Darrell Hartman, who's an auctioneer out of Plymouth. He knew I could bid call for a very long time and was okay at it. So we were at the auction and he handed me the microphone and said, 'Sell this.'"

Still unlicensed at that point, Croy was just volunteering, but the owner of the auction company, Sam Goble, heard Croy "crying the sale" (auction speak -- along with "bid calling" -- for the process of vocal leading of the interactions between bidder and seller) and offered him a job working the ring for his company, which Croy did for the next six months.

In July, 2013, Croy entered the International Auctioneer Championship in Indianapolis and earned First Runner Up status. From there, he says, he attended auction school at the Worldwide College of Auctioneering in Mason City, Iowa, afterwards returning to work for Oak Crest Auctions as a ring man.

Justin Croy and his grandfather braved one of the brutal snowstorms of this past January -- while area schools remained closed -- to travel out of town to take, and pass, his auctioneering license test, earning his license shortly thereafter. He began working as a contract auctioneer and, since he graduated from high school in June, as a full-time auctioneer with Oak Crest.

The week of July 6, Croy traveled -- this time to Louisville, Kentucky -- for the 65th annual National Auctioneers Association Conference and Show (the world's largest), which is also home to the international adult and junior championships.

Croy made the top three on July 9, competing in the finals on the 11th, when he won the contest and became the current world champion junior auctioneer.

"There was stiff competition (at the contest)," he says. "It was one of the most difficult years they've had. There were a lot of good young guys from all over the country."

Since his victory, Croy has been fielding an array of interviews and press requests about the championships.

"I'm happy to be one of the three people (counting the other divisions, based on age and gender, of the championships) to represent the industry over the next year," he says.

Even before winning the championship, Croy's status as a just-graduated auctioneer is unusual (he knows of only one other auctioneer who fits that description). And of course he

became known around Culver Comm. High School for his auctioneering interest and talent.

"People would call me 'Colonel,'" he says, noting the "Colonel" prefix attached to auctioneers' names actually began during the Civil War, when the colonel of a given division was the only one allowed to sell excess military supplies to the public.

Also notable about Croy in the world of auctioneering is that he's a first-generation auctioneer, meaning he didn't inherit the skill -- or an established auction business -- from a parent.

"That's a big thing," he explains. "It's hard to make it by yourself in the auction business. I've been lucky to have a lot of success quickly, especially in the National Auctioneers Association. There are a lot more second-generation auctioneers than first. So that's very notable."

And attaining a recognized status in the world of auctioneering, Croy points out, amounts to a great deal more than "just fast talking."

"That's the number one thing people ask. 'Oh, you're an auctioneer. So you talk fast?' It's not entirely a misconception because it's kind of true, but you're also coordinating a lot of simultaneous auction."

In fact, he notes, many auctioneers describe the ability as "a God-given talent and an art."

Auctioneering is not, Croy acknowledges, as much on the radar today as it may have been in years past, but "the auction business is still very much alive and well."

The online auction site Ebay may have had some impact on the business, he adds, but live auctions remain vibrant and extremely popular.

The company for which Croy works, he says, handles anywhere from eight to ten live auctions per month, covering anything from land to personal property to equipment.

The auction business, he explains, dates back to at least 500 BC in ancient Greece (and in those days, people were often up for auction alongside goods, he notes), and the pilgrims first brought auctions to the Americas, selling crops and wares.

As for advice for the newcomer to the world of live auctions, Croy emphasizes being an informed buyer ("Know what you're bidding on!") and learning to listen to, and follow the auctioneer.

Croy will no doubt continue auctioneering as he pursues his degree from Holy Cross, with his ultimate goal being the eventual start of his own auction business, one he intends to be located in Culver.

"Culver's given so much to me, and I want to give back to Culver," he says. "I'm a Culver guy. I like watching the town succeed."



## Water ball winners

LEFT: Winners in the 2014 Culver Lake Fest water ball contest (held on State Street outside the Culver fire station Saturday afternoon) included, from left to right, Andy Zehner, second place; Scott Zehner, first place; and Tim McCarthy, third place, all shooting for the Monterey Fire Department.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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## Savages from page 1

passes with flying colors the Culver test. It's a Culver film. As promised by the producers (and made clear in the script, which some of us read last summer), "Little Savages" was not only shot in Culver but actually SET in Culver, which means "Culver, Indiana" is frequently referenced throughout the film, not only verbally in character dialog but in signage and location of a host of (often fictionalized) facets of the story.

I'm assuming most readers won't object to the fact that the Culver of "Little Savages" is indeed at least somewhat a fictionalized Culver. We don't have a mayor or a television station (or even the radio station whose broadcast opens the movie, in the only scene shot outside Culver, in this case at Yellow River Farms on State Road 8, northwest of town). Some of the businesses are given generic names ("the Marina"), though they're very much there to see as they are, and again, are integral parts of the film. Tragically, the local newspaper is "The Culver Courier" rather than "The Culver Citizen," though we'll try to forgive that faux pas, particularly since a standout moment is the visibility of the Citizen editor as a random reporter with camera on steps of city hall, an unforgettable moment in the movie (that's a bit of humor, lest I be taken seriously).

Interestingly (given that three Hollywood films were shot here in the 1920s and '30s and either set or filmed at Culver Military Academy), Culver Academies is not, I believe, mentioned by name in the production, though several scenes (the infirmary/hospital, Mr. Whitmore's office, and the Woodcraft Camp, which in the movie is the backdrop for part of the Lake Fest) were filmed there.

And Culver -- all of it -- looks good in the movie. Not only is this so aesthetically (the streets and businesses reflect their real-life charm and beauty, and of course the lake is lovely), but in tone as well. The leadership and citizenry of the town -- including one of the lead characters, "Aunt Jackie," as played by Leigh Allyn Baker of Disney Channel fame -- come across as diverse but close-knit, at times eccentric but loveable, and overall welcoming -- especially the titular Savage family, of whom the audience meets only the children.

The plot: we first meet young science nerd Albie Peterson (Noah Lomax, of several major movies and television programs) and his social-status obsessed teen sister Tiffany (Katherine McNamara, best known for her prominence on the Disney Channel), as they're being dropped off in Culver by their mother, who with the children's father must travel out of country on business. The two will stay with their warm but oddball Aunt Jackie, whose home is set at the former Barnes cottage off Plymouth Street in Culver. Albie in particular plays straight man foil to Jackie's verbal and physical comedy.

Albie encounters the Savage family while enduring the harassment of bully Bill Bronson (Adam Hicks, of "How to Eat Fried Worms") and his cronies. Much audience attention is directed to Connor Del Rio's "Harley" crony character, whose "dumb kid" routine is one of the recurring comedic bits in "Savages."



PHOTO/CHRISTINE WORDEN  
ABOVE: "Little Savages" stars Adam Hicks (left) and Kenton Duty in a scene shot on Lake Maxinkuckee from the Culver-based movie.

The Savages are quirky but good-hearted local kids whose hangout is a junkyard-esque back lot of the actual Culver Marina, and the youngsters attempt to draw the somewhat hypochondriatic Albie out of his shell, breaking him into bicycle racing and swimming in the lake, largely against his will.

Albie's relationship to the Savage kids, by the way, is the catalyst for one of the major themes of the film: everyone has something to contribute, everyone is worthy of love and acceptance, and life's most valuable "treasures" lie in human relationships. Theirs and Albie's relationship is contrasted to that of Billy and his entourage (which at first includes Albie's own, initially misguided sister) and especially Billy and his father Fritz, played by comedian

Jamie Kennedy (Kennedy's performance, though brief, is one of the more memorable in his effectiveness as an in-sufferable -- but undeniably funny -- jerk). In fact, we may find bad Billy's boorishness almost forgivable in light of his dad's textbook failure as a healthy father.

Much of the movie's conflict centers on the search for a treasure hidden by a deceased town father, Mr. Whitmore, who fired embezzling Fritz a few years prior. Naturally, Fritz and his son (and posse) hope to find the treasure, even if it means lying, cheating, and stealing, and especially if it means outdoing the Savages and company (for Billy it's made all the more personal as Todd Savage, played by Disney star Kenton Duty, is a competitor for the affections of Tiffany; the two boys are -- perhaps predictably -- consistent contrasts in every way that counts, relationship-wise).

The various sorts of abstract competition in the movie culminate in an actual competition between the warring groups, with the treasure at stake. I won't give away the ending, of course, and the movie gets much of its entertainment mileage out of the "how" things are resolved, rather than the question (which is never really much of a question) of whether they'll be resolved in satisfactory fashion.

And the above gets to a relevant point about "Little Savages": it's not really breaking any new ground, either in plot or style, and nor is it trying to.

In fact, someone the other day asked me, as I was describing the plot of the movie, if it's set in the present or the not-so-distant past, and it struck me that it would have been a perfect film to have been set anywhere from the 1950s through the 1980s (I seem to recall that topic arising last summer in one of the public gatherings at which the movie's producers and director spoke, and it was noted that trying to recreate past eras is challenging and expensive for movie crews). Simmons, on many occasions, likened "Little Savages" to 1980s movies like "Goonies," (in some ways 1980s movie "Stand by Me" also comes to mind), but he noted that, as a parent, he was surprised how child-inappropriate "Goonies" was and remains, in terms of language, themes, and content.

"Savages" is free of such content, to the point that Simmons -- last week, in fact -- may have best described the film as a children's cartoon, but with live actors.

I'm reminded of the late Roger Ebert's review of a favorite of my own young children, the animated movie,

"Curious George." Ebert noted that the movie is "NOT a family film," but instead is a film for children and the people who love them and want to share it with them.

I wouldn't go quite so far with regards to "Savages," but in our cynical era of art seeking to be "real" by wearing of its sleeve its darkness, violence, and nihilism, "Little Savages" makes no apologies for its sweetness, right down to an almost over-the-top touching ending.

"Savages" is nostalgic, too, in that it not only clearly decries children's over-reliance on technology as social reality (Tiffany's constant fixation with her phone and social networking status is played for laughs, but clearly mocked and eventually shown up as vapid and moot by the end of the film), but also allows the Savages to be children of the recent past: fort-building, bicycle riding, risk-taking adventures. "Who doesn't own a bike?" asks one Savage child rhetorically in the movie -- in 2014, plenty of kids, but how many don't own video gaming systems, which are absent in the hands of the Savages?

Recent studies have shown that society's current fixation with hyper-safety for children is actually detrimental to them on a number of levels, and in that sense, the antics of the characters in "Savages" could act as a prescription for what ails the modern child (who may be typified in Albie, obsessed as he is with allergies and avoiding danger).

"Savages" is a throwback also in that it doesn't attempt to be "edgy" or groundbreaking in its reliance on familiar types and situations to lead the audience to humor, emotion, drama, romance, and conflict. I'm sure most (non-local) reviews may point out that we've seen much of this before, though "Savages" gives familiar tropes their own uniqueness, and some of the characters and situations are hard to resist. Youngsters Aubrey Miller and Buddy Handerson, as twin Savage children who anticipate each other's thoughts and words, come to mind as bringing stand-out charm and humor to the film via their performances.

The nostalgia is present, too, even in the way "adventure" confronts the characters. In an age of CGI and other special effects, and summer popcorn thrillers aiming to outdo one another in the area of spectacle, danger, and action, the characters in "Savages" don't even face the danger confronting characters in movies like "Goonies."

Certainly some of that is just a practical reality: filming spectacular stunts is expensive, time consuming, and difficult. But whether by intention or concession, the filmmakers ended with a product whose conflict and adventure is akin to the sorts of kid-featured movies which entertained child audiences in the 1960s and 1970s: no scenes of nail-biting plunges from hundred-foot precipices or confrontations with world-devouring villains...in stead, the movie relies on the sort of adventures most kids might actually face: bullies, spills on bicycles, potential trouble with authority figures.

I'd add that the proliferation of Disney Channel actors in the production may be an indication to audiences familiar with the genre, of the style of plotting, humor, and -- in the case of a song McNamara sings during the film, which I believe is exclusive to the movie -- even music in "Savages." I wasn't really familiar with the Disney Channel genre before "Savages" began shooting (and I was curious to see some of its stars' television work).

At the end of the day, it seems inconceivable that "Little Savages" could be anything but very good for Culver, whether it gains worldwide, highly visible distribution (which of course filmmakers and locals alike would prefer) or a smaller run in only a few theaters and on DVD. Reception of it as a movie will vary by taste from person to person, but it's certainly an overwhelmingly positive, lighthearted film in tone, whose score (which was overseen by a highly regarded professional in the Hollywood world) and production values are strong.

It would be easy to be cynical about a movie like this one, but in one sense it's a good match overall for Culver, which, despite the real-world problems all communities have, is a pretty optimistic place itself...perhaps just the sort of place the Savage family children might hold court

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## Briefs from page 1

preschooler teacher and aide from 8:00-11:30, Monday through Friday. Please send resume to Pastor Tom Harzula at Wesley United Methodist church, 511 School Street, Culver Indiana 46511.

### July book study at Wesley UMC

Discussion about the book, "When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself," will be held each Thursday, July 24 through 26, at 7 p.m. in Wesley UMC Fellowship Hall. Summaries and discussion questions of each chapter will be provided by Mary McDaniel, Wesley United Methodist Church pastor intern, and reading the book is optional. Light refreshments will be provided.

### Computer classes in July

Culver-Union Township Public Library is offering free a free computer class on Cloud Storage Friday, July 25 at 10 a.m. Bring your own computer or use one of ours. This session is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Andrew Baker at [abaker@culver.lib.in.us](mailto:abaker@culver.lib.in.us) or 574-842-2941.

### Garrison parades Saturdays, 7 p.m.

The Garrison Parade for Culver Summer Schools & Camps is being moved to Saturdays at 7 p.m. EDT for the 2014 summer. The parades are held on the Henderson Parade Field south of the Vaughn Equestrian Center. The traditional Woodcraft Council Fire is also on Saturday and will now begin at 9:30 p.m.

### Carillon recitals every Saturday

Carillon recitals at Culver Academies' Memorial Chapel take place each Saturday through July 26 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome to attend these free event.

### CBGC Kidstop pro gram

Kidstop, the Culver Boys & Girls Club-sponsored child care program, runs weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch is provided every day as well as activities such as park, beach, and library visits, and field trips. Kidstop pricing for full lunch rate members is \$12 per day (\$6 for the second child) and free/reduced lunch rate is \$6 per day (\$3 for the second child). For more information visit [www.bgcculver.org](http://www.bgcculver.org) or call 574-250-0103. The CBGC is located in the Culver Community Elementary School.

### Lions seek backpack donations

The Culver Lions will again collect monies and supplies for the Culver Elementary School systems, to make sure all students have the needed supplies. To give, you may contact any Lion, or call Jim Harper at 574-842-2962.

### Applicants sought for school board

Culver Community Schools Corporation is seeking applicants to be considered by the remain-

der of the board to serve as a replacement following the resignation of a board member. The applicant must reside within the boundaries of District 5 - Culver. Interested individuals should address a letter by Monday, July 14 to Superintendent Dr. Vicki McGuire or Board President Mr. Jack Jones, Culver Community Schools Corporation, 700 School Street (location), P.O. Box 231 (mailing address), Culver, Indiana 46511-0231. Any questions can be directed to Superintendent McGuire at 574-842-3364.

### Quilts of Valor display at CUTPL

Now on display at the Culver-Union Township Public Library are Quilts of Valor pieced by Barb Stryker, Marshall County resident. This beautiful, patriotic display will be available through mid-August in the Culver-Union Township Public Library lobby. If you are interested in exhibiting your collection, artwork, or crafts at the Culver-Union Township Public Library please contact Reference/Adult Services Librarian Laura Jones at 574-842-2941 or [ljones@culver.lib.in.us](mailto:ljones@culver.lib.in.us)

### Lake Max Triathlon Aug. 9

The Lake Max Triathlon launches Sat., Aug. 9, from Culver Academies campus. The USAT-certified triathlon is a 400-meter swim, 12 miles of biking around the lake, and a 5K run. Teams are welcome New this year will be the Lake Max Kids Triathlon with reduced distances. All proceeds collected are donated to the local Lions, Kiwanis and Culver clubs to help with their humanitarian causes. Register online at [culver.org/lakemaxtriathlon](http://culver.org/lakemaxtriathlon). Those wishing to spend the weekend can check here for accommodations.

### International exchange students seeking local host families

Visiting students, ages 15 to 18, from around the world are seeking host families in and around Culver for the upcoming 2014-2015 academic school year. Host families are needed for the fall semester and full school year. iE-USA, the sponsoring program, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting education and understanding through intercultural and academic exchange. To learn more, contact Indiana representative Emily Rolin at [e.rolin@international-experience.net](mailto:e.rolin@international-experience.net) 269-625-4662. Host families may review prospective student profiles online at [iE-USA.org](http://iE-USA.org). Families interested in hosting this year must apply by August 15, 2014.

### Friends offer weekly book sales

As a new offering this summer, the Friends of the Culver Union Township Public Library will hold a book sale every Saturday starting May 17 and ending August 30. Hours are from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The book sales will be in the Carnegie Room, in the lower level of the library. To donate books, bring them to the the library during library hours.

### Farmer's Market open

The Culver Farmer's Market is open Saturdays at the northwest corner of Main and Ohio Streets, across from CVS. The market will have new hours this year, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Interested vendors please call at 574-842-2648 (ask for Barb).

### Schools seek input on Eastern Pulaski bus route

Culver Comm. Schools Corp. is considering running a bus route for any student(s) in the Eastern Pulaski area who would be interested in attending Culver Community Schools in the fall. This would be transportation and tuition free services to the students that enroll for the 2014-2015 school year. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Administration office at 574-842-3364.

### CRC offers match to local donors' STEM dollars

The Culver Redevelopment Commission is offering to match any individual or entity wishing to support Culver Community Schools' efforts to facilitate the new STEM-based program to better meet nationwide standards in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, until they reach a total of \$10,000. Expenses may include new computers, software, or other equipment needed in support of implementing Project Lead the Way's program, which are not covered by grant funds. For more information, or to set up a donation, contact Kathy Clark or the CRC at 574-952-2963 or [k.clark6094@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.clark6094@sbcglobal.net).



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CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY  
 Culver Lake Fest 2014 has come and gone, but – partly with the cooperation of the weather, which provided sunny skies and near-perfect temperatures – by all accounts it seems to have been a hit. One change in this year's event was the replacement of the "Gong Show" of the past with a straight-ahead talent show, during which attendees voted by text message for their choice of winners. Top vote-getter was Shelby Pratt of Plymouth (UPPER LEFT PHOTO), with her acoustic guitar rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

Second place went to Harvey Podvin of Culver (SECOND ROW, SECOND FROM LEFT), who channeled Frank Sinatra with his rendition of "New York, New York." Third place went to Hannah and Zoe Krull of Brownsburg with their gymnastics routine (SECOND ROW, FAR LEFT).

In the UPPER RIGHT PHOTO, Frank Elizondo was among those directing traffic on Lake Shore Drive, and assisting attendees in making it safely to the festival, another new innovation this year.



ABOVE: Among new entries to the booths at this year's festival were members of the Culver Beard Club, who had some tongue-in-cheek (or in beard) fun offering "beard painting" (think face painting...but limited to painted-on beards) as well as specialty items like chocolate mustaches on a stick. The recently-formed club engages in service and charitable endeavors in the Culver area. Seated are Anna Neher, left, and Joel Samuelson.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Making for a perfect match with this year's Lake Fest theme of "past and present" was an extensive re-enactors' camp depicting life for American G.I.s during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, respectively (TWO PHOTOS ABOVE). Detailed tents, uniforms, rations, and weapons joined historical vehicles which in previous years might have participated in the festival's parade. The encampment, according to co-organizer Jon Schmidt of Culver, allowed people more time to see the vehicles, and provided an opportunity to help educate people as to recent US military history. An exhibit in the park gazebo also detailed the service of local veterans.