

Thursday, October 23, 2014 Vol. 121 Issue No. 42 50¢
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CITIZEN PHOTOS/JEFF KENNEY

In Brief

VFW Friday dinner

The Culver VFW Ladies Auxiliary will serve roast pork and dressing, potatoes, gravy, vegetable, salad, and dessert for \$9. Fish, shrimp or chicken dinners are available for \$9. Open menu available. The dinner will take place Friday, Oct. 24, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The public is welcome.

Haunted house at beach lodge Fridays only

Last year's popular haunted house at the Culver beach lodge, once again due to the efforts of the Damore family of Culver, with staffing from volunteers with the Culver Community High School CAVS Club Culver Beard Club, returns not only this weekend but Fridays through Halloween (omitting Saturdays as had originally been planned). The event, in the beach lodge's lower level, is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24 and on Halloween night, Friday, Oct. 31.

Balanced calendar mtg Nov. 3

A meeting regarding the possibility of adopting a "balanced calendar" schedule at Culver Comm. Schools will be held Monday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m., in the Culver Comm. High School auditorium. The public is invited to attend, listen, and give input.

Unity Day against bullying is Oct. 22

Culver area businesses are encouraged to join Culver Community Schools in observing October 22 as national Unity Day (as launched by the National Bullying Prevention Center), part of a national campaign to fight bullying. Students, faculty, and staff within the school corporation are encouraged to wear orange that day, and local entities are asked to encourage their staff to do the same. For more information, contact the Culver Community Middle School at 574-842-5690.

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Fall Fest fun

ABOVE: Saturday's weather challenges undeniably put the damper on Culver Fall Fest activities of the day, but many events and offerings persisted in spite of it. At LOWER LEFT, Friday night's Moonlight Paddle drew some 60-plus participants, and the Culver History Hayride at UPPER LEFT managed four excursions (driven by Dan Schaller, pictured here) in defiance of the chill and damp. The "Three headed witch" scarecrow by Elizabeth's Garden took first place in the "Businesses" category of the scarecrow contest (see article this page for complete scarecrow results and more coverage).

Fall Fest pushes forth despite bad weather woes

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Despite hopeful weather forecasts as late as Friday night that the rain would subside by afternoon Saturday, the chill and precipitation took a heavy toll on Culver's sophomore Fall Fest last weekend.

Friday evening's events were a success, including the art opening at the former hardware store on South Main (at which the photography and paintings of several local artists were on exhibit), the haunted house at the Culver beach lodge, a bounce house and straw pyramid in the town park, and the well-attended "Moonlight Paddle" and Culver ghost story from the town park to the Jim and Donna Wierick property near Long Point, and back.

By late morning Saturday, however, there was no end in sight to the rainfall, which pushed the marionette puppet show into the Culver Library (where it was enjoyed by a number of youngsters) and several originally street-based options such as the chili tasting contest into local eateries indoors. Many vendors held out as long as they could, though crowds were thin and several closed up shop early. The pet parade managed to squeeze in between heavier showers, with winners announced under the large tent on Main and Jefferson, where pumpkin and face painting also persisted. Some other planned events, such as the golf cart rodeo on Jefferson Street, braved the weather, though attendance was undoubtedly hampered.



By Saturday evening, the Culver history hayride was mostly chilly rather than wet, and took four trips to Culver Academies' campus, explaining the history of sites along the way. The popular haunted house also continued Saturday night.

Sunday morning saw far better weather for the Culver Kiwanis Club's cyclo-cross event (more coverage of it will appear in next week's Citizen), located on Academies-owned property on Queen Road.



Any disappointment in the event isn't attributable to the planning committee, which this year strived to add more events and tighten up organizing and scheduling efforts, besides the much-ballyhooed array of fall decor and scarecrow contest participants making the entire town a memorable autumn landscape.

Winners of the scarecrow contest were announced Saturday as well, including the Individuals category, which saw Kelly Lynch once again take first place for her "Chief Aubeenaubee" creation on Main and Lake Shore

See Fall page 4

CITIZEN PHOTO/JEFF KENNEY
TOP: Krista Furry, left, and Charlotte Hahn of Culver discuss some of the art on exhibit at Culver's former hardware store at the local art exhibition opening as part of Fall Fest Friday evening. ABOVE: Dan Raynor of Stevens Puppets speaks to children who attended Saturday's show, "backstage" on Saturday afternoon.

Town receives \$500k grant towards new water plant

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

Call it an early Christmas present for the town of Culver, or a farewell gift for just-departed town manager Dave Schoeff. The town received news late last week through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) that its bid for a grant for \$500,000 to go toward the town's water plant project, was successful.

The amount, says town council president Ginny Munroe, is estimated to be just shy of a third of the cost of the project.

The town applied for the grant in late spring and hoped to receive \$400,000 this past summer. And while the town didn't receive funding in the first round of applications, OCRA then announced that an additional \$2 million

See Grant page 4

Legislators laud groundbreaking effort to address future of Culver public schools

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

If there was one theme from Indiana Senator Randy Head (R- Logansport) and State Representative Tim Harman (R - Bremen) during their meeting with the Culver Community School board and school administrators last week, it's that the school took the right, and proactive, approach: facts, not vitriol, and direct dialog over mailings.

The meeting, held last Wednesday evening at the school's administration building, was aimed at addressing what might be considered a growing crisis for Culver Community and for small, rural schools as a whole, as presented primarily by superintendent Dr. Vicki McGuire, corporation treasurer Sherie Breitenbach, and director of operations (in charge of curriculum) Chuck Kitchell.

Head in particular expressed appreciation for the volume of hard numbers -- rather than rhetoric -- presented at the meeting, which was attended by some, though not all school board members.

The crux of the issue was funding, though school representatives made the case that legislative decisions in recent years have helped facilitate what they portrayed as something of a runaway train of financial loss to small

See School page 3

Water, sewer rate details explained during eventful council meeting

By Jeff Kenney
Citizen editor

During an eventful Oct. 14 meeting, Culver's town council took its first formal steps to ratify a significant hike in water and sewer rates, untangled the previous meeting's issues regarding new street lights and holiday lighting in Culver, made final approval of its 2015 budget, and debat-

ed details of a yard-stored pontoon boat with a local property owner.

Ahead of a Nov. 11 public hearing, the council passed on first reading amendments to two ordinances, one regarding its water rates and one its sewer. The vote came following the previous meeting's announcement that the two rates together would in-

crease by a total of 60 percent in phases over the next three years.

Eric Walsh of accounting firm Umbaugh and Associates explained that the first phase of sewer increase would take effect Dec. 1, with the average residential customer seeing about a \$2 per month increase on their bill. The second phase related to sewer will hit Dec.

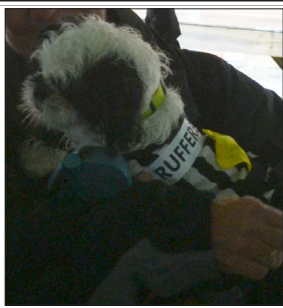
1 of 2015, and will bring an additional \$2.30 increase, for a total of \$4.33 within the next year, per month increase.

He stressed that the average is determined, in Indiana, based on 4,000 gallons of monthly usage, though he said that number may be closer to 4,500 or even 5,000 gallons in Culver due to the size of the town. Each

person's bill, of course, will differ based on their own monthly usage.

The water rate change will also begin on Dec. 1 of this year, with a jump of around \$4.20 per average household per month. A May 1, 2015 increase will add another \$5 to that amount, bringing the total

See Council page 2



Fall Fest winners

Winners of Saturday's Fall Fest pet parade (AT LEFT) included, from left, "Oscar the Grouch" (1st place), "Rufferee" (2nd.), and "Hot Dog" (3rd). Several scarecrow contest winners (see article on page 1 for details) were pictured in last week's edition, though the Culver Cub Scouts' "campfire" crows, ABOVE, can be added to that list.

Council from page 1

by next summer to \$9.24 additional cost to the average customer's water bill.

Walsh explained the numbers are related primarily to the necessity of a major renovation project at the town water plant, slated for next spring or summer.

Council president Ginny Munroe noted the town applied for a \$500,000 grant to offset the \$1.5 million water plant project (since that meeting, it has been announced that the town was approved for that grant).

Munroe affirmed, following a query by audience member Fred Kowalinski, that members of Southwest Conservancy District, on the south and west shores of Lake Maxinkuckee will also see the increase. She said the increases will also affect Culver Academies rates.

Street lights and holiday decor

The council also brought some resolution to a somewhat contentious issue from its previous meeting, when it was announced that the same company -- Hap Industries -- that was in the process of bidding for a contract with the town of Culver to provide holiday decorations around town this year, had already signed a contract with the Culver Redevelopment Commission, which is effectively a subsidiary of the town, to do the same thing.

Munroe affirmed that Hap was the lowest bidder, by far, on the project anyway, and that the company had been notified it couldn't enter into the CRC contract while bidding on the same or a similar project. CRC, said Munroe, is prepared to pay the fee for the two-year contract, which includes installation of holiday decorations on poles in Culver's major business districts, and their removal following the holidays (the same company has handled that work for the past three years).

Audience member Kathy Clark, representing the CRC, described briefly the decorations chosen, and explained the commission would investigate individual and business sponsorships of the decorations in the future.

Clark also detailed the street light installation project the CRC has launched for this fall, which will add more of the "vintage" style street lights already placed in Culver's downtown and on several surrounding streets. The poles will be placed at intervals starting at the Collins Building on South Main Street and running down Main towards the Evil Czech Brewery to the south. She noted consistent lighting in Culver's commercial districts had been identified as a priority, and part of the goal in locating the lights where they are is to help make visitors aware of Evil Czech, which could otherwise be missed due to its location outside the main business thoroughfares.

A similar, intervalled distribution of poles will head east and north along Lake Shore Drive through its business district starting at State Street, she said, and moving towards Park N' Shop. It was acknowledged, during discussion, that the town's electric bill will see some increase once the project is completed.

Budget and 'problem' property activity

Finalized was the town's 2015 budget, totaling \$2,109,313. Munroe thanked town clerk Karen Heim for her efforts regarding the budget, and Heim expressed appreciation to town manager Dave Schoeff, as well as the town's department heads, for bringing the budget to fruition and keeping it reasonable in size.

Approved by council, at the request of town attorney Jim Clevenger, was permission to proceed with a process the town hopes will result in cleanup and making safe of

nine properties -- most on the south side of town -- identified as problematic in Culver. Clevenger noted the town's property ordinance does provide basis for the action.

Boat removal debate

A notable portion of the meeting was spent in detailed discussion with property owner Clyde Poppe, who attended the meeting to contest town requests regarding a pontoon boat stored in his yard, and the foliage surrounding it.

Poppe distributed a multi-page document explaining his position, with photographs, and said the town's requirement that he remove what had been identified as a nuisance within 14 days were "inappropriate and unwarranted."

Explaining he intentionally let some plant life grow up around the boat in order to provide screening so his neighbor wouldn't have to look at the boat, Poppe -- who said he spends most of his time at his primary residence in Fort Wayne -- acknowledged the boat had not been moved in six or seven years, since his mother's health deteriorated to the point that he wasn't able to take her for rides on the lake in it any longer.

Munroe said the plants surrounding the boat "look like weeds, to be honest. They look terrible."

Some discussion ensued as to whether the boat was "seaworthy" or not, after sitting idle as long as it has (Poppe said its engine and seats were stored in his garage). He also noted he visited occasionally and planned to use the property -- and the boat -- as a kind of "retreat" in the future.

Poppe questioned the subjectivity of the council's judgment that the boat appears "dilapidated," noting many area residents leave boats parked in yards or driveways for some period of time. He added he's kept the boat there for 58 years.

Council member Lynn Overmyer may have summed up the council's position in her comment that, "A yard is not a place to store a boat, especially for seven years, unused."

Ultimately the council gave Poppe 30 days to move both the boat and an accompanying lift sitting adjacent to it.

Other discussion, actions

During a town manager's report it was noted would be his very last, as he announced his resignation the previous week, manager Dave Schoeff discussed an engineering contract, at \$93,800 towards sidewalk installation as part of a Safe Routes to School program centering on Culver's north side. The council approved the contract and discussed authorizing utility manager Bob Porter to take on the project, in light of Schoeff's departure.

The council also approved \$700 for an engineer with the St. Joseph County highway department to assist in a state-required road sign inventory.

E & B Paving was approved to handle several paving and patching jobs in town, at \$117,000. Milling and resurfacing of full sections of street will take place within the coming weeks on Lake Shore Drive at Main, College and School Street, Academy Road, and Clover Street, said Schoeff.

Porter announced the resignation of town employee Chester Singleton, and the council approved advertising to fill the position.

Tree commission representative Mike Stallings discussed the planned removal of 23 trees in town parkways, representing a priority removal list assembled by arborist

Gina Darnell, as well as ash trees affected by the emerald ash borer bug. Removal is expected in November.

In cooperation with the park board, seven priority trees -- including three Stallings described as "huge" -- will also be removed from the town park, once Fall Fest is over, added Stallings.

Claims requested for approval -- and granted -- via clerk Heim included \$3,974 to Umbaugh and Associates for budget preparation assistance; \$1,470 for a claim submitted by the Culver Visitor Center, and \$23,000 for salt purchase for this winter.

Also approved was \$2,500 for procedural training for members of the town's council, boards and commissions, which will take place in December.

The council also approved a plan submitted by Evil Czech Brewery for a beer garden and seating area on Main Street during Fall Fest, a correction to the plan previously approved by the council, which Munroe said was not the plan town marshal Wayne Bean had signed. Munroe suggested that, in the future, the council only approve plans actually signed by Bean, rather than verbal notation that he had approved them.

Schoeff emphasized, as a matter of procedure, that the town does not approve the function itself or the accompanying consumption of alcohol -- which is all handled by the county excise board -- but instead validates use of a town right of way and suspension of its prohibition of alcohol use in such an area.

Affirmed by council vote was the redesign of the town's website by Whatsup 24-7, which will also create a community calendar for Culver.

Heim noted the cost for the calendar is \$25 per year, with the same cost for any other company that wishes to join. She described it as "a community calendar (online) that everybody takes ownership of," noting that service clubs, churches, the Chamber, schools, and the like would be responsible for posting their events on the calendar.

Also approved was a new insurance plan for Culver employees whose 3.5 percent health insurance increase should be largely offset, said Heim, by prescription plan benefits. Gift cards will also be available to employees who take part in own-approved or sponsored wellness activities, and stress management and smoking cessation programs will also be offered.

During the council issues portion of the meeting, council member Ed Pinder expressed concern that some candidates running for town council in the November election will not be in town all winter, potentially endangering the council's ability to function in lieu of a quorum.

"We have two meetings a month," said Pinder, "but I guarantee we have more than two meetings a month! We probably have five or six (and) people running for council need to be aware of that, and the voters need to take that into consideration. See if you think (the candidates will) be here for the council meetings. We can't have people going to Florida for four or five months and not be here."

Pinder added he'd been a council member for 11 years and could recall only one meeting at which two few members attended to establish a quorum.

Two council seats will be open for the election, for which three candidates are running.

Heim, Clevenger, and each council member also bid Schoeff fond farewells.

"You have a big heart, you're kind, and you're easy to work with," said Munroe of the exiting town manager.

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'Christmas in Culver' returns Nov. 7-9

The annual "Christmas in Culver," which encourages shopping at local businesses prior to "Black Friday's" rush at non-local retailers (besides offering an array of activities and discounts) is slated for Friday through Sunday, Nov. 7 through 9.

Participating Culver merchants will hold special "open house" hours and offerings from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (3 p.m. on Sunday) during those days. Special events Saturday include the annual "By the Lake" holiday bazaar offering area artisans, crafts, foods, and more, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the train station-depot on Lake Shore Drive; and Mystic Hills' holiday bazaar, also from 9 to 4, at Mystic Hills golf course on the south shore of Lake Maxinkuckee.

Fall from page 1

Drive. Also on Lake Shore were the second place (Culver Community High School Cheerleaders' "cheer crow") and third place (Cub Scouts Pack 290 "camp fire") winners.

Winners in the Businesses category included: first place, Elizabeths Garden's "three headed witch;" second place, Max's Playhouse; and third place, Culver Cove's "Frozen" scarecrow on Main Street. Honorable mention went to Corn Dance Cafe's "Children of the Corn" at Lake Shore and Academy.

Grant from page 1

would be granted in a second round, so Culver was given the chance to apply again, but this time for the higher amount of \$500,000.

"I know I can speak for the town council, the clerk Karen Heim, our Utility Manager Bob Porter, and outgoing Town Manager Dave Scheff, when I say that we are thrilled beyond words to have been awarded this grant," said Munroe. "We just didn't think it would be possible to get another grant, as fortunate as we have been in the past."

Munroe explained that the town hired Shannon McLeod of Priority Project Resources, Inc. a few years ago to help with its grant-writing process.

"She has worked with our team at town hall to write grant applications that are absolutely stellar," Munroe adds. "I believe we are now batting six for six on the major grants we've applied for here in Culver. The result of that is well over \$3 million dollars in grant money to fund major projects that would have otherwise taxed all of us."

"Our sewer plant was fully funded via tax dollars coupled with the money we collected from the Southwest

Briefs from page 1

Fire safety program with music, dogs Oct. 25

Coming to Culver-Union Twp. Public Library on Saturday, October 25, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. will be "Saving Lives through Training an Education." Retired fire fighter Jeff Owens, with the use of black Labrador Retrievers and guitar-playing, teaches fire safety tips and lifesaving skills.

Culver leaf pick-up underway

Leaf pick-up in Culver is scheduled to begin the week of October 20. Leaves should be raked to the curb for pick up, NOT into the street as this may cause issues with the storm water drains. Also, please do not mix sticks and branches in the leaves and do not include pumpkins, rocks, etc. Pick-up will continue through December. Please direct any questions to Town Hall, 574-842-3140, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Monterey Halloween party Oct. 25

The second annual Monterey Halloween party and haunted trail will take place Sat., Oct. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Monterey firehouse. A costume parade ride through town will kick off the event at 5, with costume judging at 5:30 and haunted trail starting at 7. Coloring pages for a coloring contest are available at the First National Bank of Monterey. Adults must accompany children to the event.

Lions Halloween party Oct. 27

The Culver Lions Club's annual children's Halloween party will return Monday, Oct. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. (registration starts at 5 p.m.), at the Culver Elementary School gym. Registration is from 5 to 5:45 p.m. Costume judging starts at 6 p.m. and awards are presented at 6:35 p.m. Games start around 7 p.m., with assistance from the Cul-

Corrections

In last week's (Oct. 16) edition of The Culver Citizen, the caption under the "A Culver fall tradition" photograph of Marilyn Kelly's ketchup-making incorrectly identified one participant as Carol Minarik. The person pictured was actually Mary Louise Krieg.

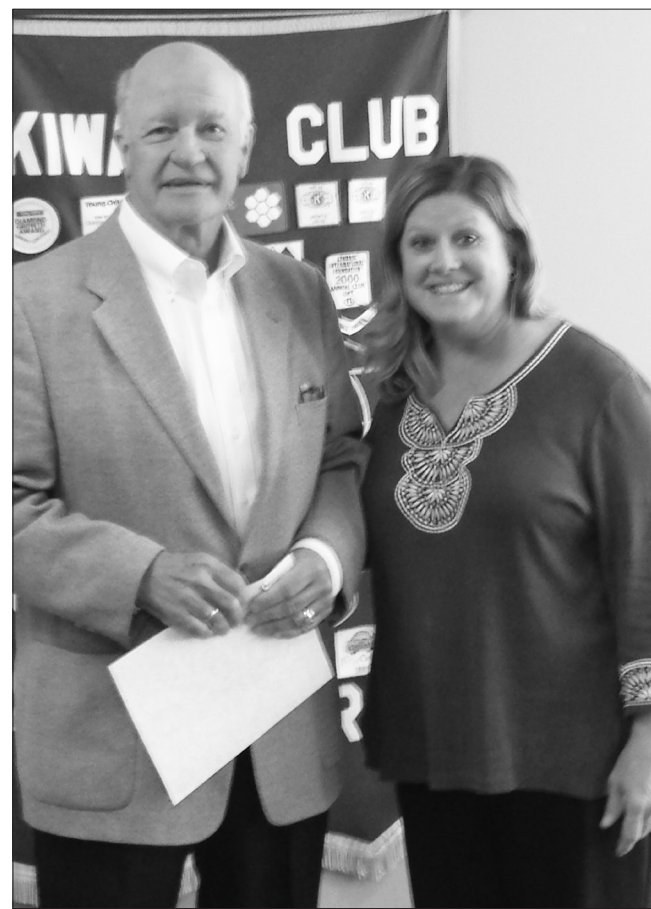
In the same edition's "If these walls could talk" article, it was incorrectly reported that Suzanne Easterday, daughter of Culver dentist Greg Easterday, married the son of the Pugh family who had operated the Culver Dental Clinic at Lake Shore Drive and Academy Road. Instead, Suzanne is married to Josh Pugh, son of Becky Pugh and Steven Pugh.

The Citizen regrets the errors.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Newest Kiwanian

RIGHT: Tony Mayfield, a Culver resident who retired last year as the director of Culver Summer Schools and Camps, is the newest member of Culver's Kiwanis Club, which meets each Thursday at noon at the Culver Public Library. Pictured at right is recently-installed Kiwanis president Julie Bess, welcoming him to the club.



Conservancy district, which means we could do a \$1.3 million plant without having to increase the rate or bond the project. This half a million will have a huge impact on the water plant project. As many know, we have to raise the water rates to fully fund the project, but this half a million is money we won't have to borrow against our state revolving loan or through a bond, and we won't have to raise the rates even more."

As reported in this week's Culver Citizen coverage of the Oct. 14 town council meeting, Culver's water rates will increase by around 40 percent in the next year (the first water rate increase for the town of Culver in nine years, Munroe notes), partly towards the water plant overhaul. The grant award, however, will decrease the amount of any further potential increases.

"The percentage of the rate increases may sound high," Munroe acknowledges, "but we looked at what the average household would have to take on to get this water plant done and it seemed doable to all five of us. We also know that what we are asking we must ask of ourselves. We are tax-paying citizens, too, so we don't take lightly

a rate increase. It's why we've worked so hard to get the grant dollars. All of us have worried about whether we'd get this grant, as we knew the potential for further rate increases if we didn't get it. I know we'll all sleep better because of it."

Munroe points out Culver's water plant is "10 year past due for this project. Before it, our sewer plant was years past due for a major rehab. We are fortunate to be in the position we are in. Can you imagine the utility rates in Culver if we had to borrow all of those dollars? You can see why we are giddy about receiving this grant and those that came before it."

She adds accolades to the present council (as well as its previous incarnation, which she notes includes Ralph Winters) for its commitment to seeking grant dollars first and foremost to fund needed projects, which she says "will save our friends, family members, and neighbors from the burden of paying for projects that are critical to this community."

ver Youth Community Organization (CYCO).

Free computer classes at CUTPL

Culver-Union Township Public Library is offering free computer classes in October on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Classes include Technology Training classes (Oct. 24, 27, and 31) offer training in all things technology related. Bring in your laptop, smartphone, tablet or other device to learn and ask questions. Classes are held in cooperation with People's University through Marshall County Council on Aging. See their website for more information: www.marshallcountycouncilonaging.org/Peoples_University.htm

These sessions are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Andrew Baker at abaker@culver.lib.in.us or 574-842-2941.

Texas Hold-Em at VFW

The Culver VFW Post 6919 holds Texas Hold-Em tournaments on the second Sunday of each month, with tournaments scheduled for Nov. 9, Dec. 14, and Jan. 11. The Post is located at 108 E. Washington St. in Culver (contact 574-842-3886). Doors open at 11 a.m. and the tournament begins at 1 p.m. There is a \$50 buy-in (no re-buys) and \$12,000 in chips (25 percent to the house, 75 in the pot). License #129586. The public is welcome.

Community meal at St. Mary's Oct. 30

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church's monthly community meal will take place Thursday, Oct. 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.

Trick-of-Treating Oct. 31

The Town of Culver's Halloween Trick-or-Treating is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. The town of Monterey's trick-of-treating will also take place Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

VFW Halloween party Oct. 31

Culver VFW Post 6919, at 108 E. Washington St., will host a Halloween party on Friday, Oct. 31, with dinner served from 5:30 to 8 p.m. (consisting of prime rib, pota-

to, salad, and rolls). Dinner is \$15, and the party begins afterwards. Included will be a DJ, karaoke, and a "Best Costume" contest with prizes. The public is welcome.

Beyond Glory' onstage here Nov. 18

"Beyond Glory," starring Stephen Lang, will perform at Culver Academies' Eppley Auditorium on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. The one-man show presents the stories of eight veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. For tickets and additional information, call 574-842-7058.

Property tax calls are scams

Several Culver residents have received phone calls that they owe taxes (property or otherwise) and the police are on their way to serve a warrant, according to town clerk Karen Heim. These calls are a scam. Residents are instructed to not provide any personal information, and instead hang up.

Euchre, pinochle club now on Fridays

The public is welcome to take part in a new euchre and pinochle club meeting Fridays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Culver Park Beach Lodge, 819 Lake Shore Drive. Have fun playing cards, make new friends, enjoy beautiful Lake Maxinkuckee and our fine restaurants and city.

Fire dept. seeking new firemen

The Culver fire department is seeking individuals interested in serving their community as volunteer firemen. Those interested should contact Culver town hall at 574-842-3140.

Exercise for seniors at CUTPL

Culver-Union Township Public Library is offering Exercise for Seniors. This free exercise class will meet three times a week and offer easy, seated exercises. The program is scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10 a.m. and will meet downstairs in the large meeting room. For more information, call the Culver-Union Township Public Library at 574-842-2941 or e-mail dthomas@culver.lib.in.us. The library's street address is 107 N. Main St.

Turnovers cost Cavs in loss to LaVille

By James Costello
Sports Editor



PHOTO/KAREN LEE PHOTOGRAPHY

Culver Community's Everett Krueger (no. 10) barrels downfield with ball in hand during Friday night's game against LaVille.

CULVER — Up 6-0 midway through the third quarter, Culver Community seemed to have all the momentum in the world. Three straight turnovers later, and the Cavs' regular season-finale with LaVille had taken on a whole different complexion.

The Lancers capitalized on three consecutive turnovers by Culver in the third quarter with three quick touchdowns, then held on as the Cavs tried to rally in the fourth for a 21-6 Senior Night spoiler in Culver Friday.

"Talking to the guys,

Culver is not a bad football team by any means," said LaVille head coach Will Hostrawser. "They're very disciplined and they do some really good things. This is their Senior Night, and I thought they did a great job coming out ready to play. We were flat, and that's something that we really haven't seen a lot this year is coming out flat. The nice thing is — I hate it as a coach — but you learn about your team and you've got to find a way to rebound from that. We had a couple big plays on defense there that created some turnovers, and we were able to capitalize on them."

Culver's first turnover of the night came at the 5:55 mark of the third as quarterback Preston Hansel was hit behind the line and turned it over at the Cavs' own 10. LaVille capitalized on the short field with a quick three-play scoring drive capped off by Caleb Dudeck's 3-yard touchdown scamper at the 5:09 stop of the clock, which gave the Lancers a narrow 7-6 lead following the first of three successful PATs by Mason Leed.

Culver coughed up its second fumble on the center-quarterback exchange on the very first play of the Cavs' next possession, and this time the Lancers recovered at the Culver 30. Six plays and just under two minutes later, Dudeck punched it in from the 1-yard line for his second TD of the night to give his team a 14-6 cushion with 3:05 on the clock.

Things went from bad to worse for the home team when they failed to cover a squib kick by the Lancers on the ensuing kickoff, and LaVille recovered the onside kick at the Culver 36. The visitors needed just five plays to convert the miscue into points as Ethan Kertai — who led his team's four-back attack with 131 yards on 14 rushes — ran one in from 13 yards out to give the Lancers a 21-6 advantage with 11:53 still left to play.

"That was a huge momentum shift," said Culver head coach Darren Rodriguez of his team's three straight turnovers in the third frame. "One, you think you can get away with and maybe overcome, but then to have another one right away. To be honest it was just silly mistakes and bad turnovers. It's not even the fact that they had to earn something. They really didn't even have to do anything."

With Culver now trailing by 15, the Cavs began moving the ball again two possessions later. But LaVille freshman Dakota Figg came down with a big interception on a deep pass from Hansel at the 5-minute mark, effectively sealing Culver's fate. Bryant Hunsberger intercepted another long pass with 34.4 seconds on the clock, and LaVille set up in the victory formation to close out the season at 6-3 with a 4-3 NSC mark.

That record represents the Lancers' first back-to-back winning regular seasons since 2002-03. It's also a notch better than last year's 5-4 regular season mark in Hostrawser's second year at the helm after taking over following LaVille's 1-9 finish in 2012.

LaVille and Culver Community could meet again in Sectional 41 play, although it wouldn't be until the championship of the tournament. The Lancers open tourney play at home versus Lake Station next Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Culver closes out the year at 2-7 and 1-6 in the NSC with the team's sixth straight defeat, meanwhile. To make matters worse, two of Culver's offensive linemen went down with leg injuries in Friday's loss.

"Sam Castaneda went to the hospital. He had a knee, and the trainer wasn't sure, she thinks it's cruciate or something with his knee," said Rodriguez. "The other one was the ankle, and he kind of got it landed on. She kind of held him out, and that was probably the best thing because if he kept going on it something could have been hurt more. So we're kind of hoping we'll get him back.

On an offense, when you're down to your fourth guard — our starting guard got

See Cavs page 8

Eagles suffer 27-0 loss to Guerin Catholic

By Kyle Hilliard
Correspondent

CULVER — The Culver Military Eagles took a loss against the Guerin Catholic Golden Eagles, 27-0, in a game where mistakes killed the Eagles' drives before they got started Friday.

Culver averaged only 2 yards per play for the game, which put them in a lot of third and long situations that stalled their drives.

On the opening drive of the game, Culver lost 15 yards in three plays and had to punt from their own 5. Guerin took over at the Culver 31 and scored in just four plays on a 16-yard pass.

Culver was unable to move the ball much on their next two possessions with a dropped pass on third down on their second drive and a dropped pass on second down on their third drive. Guerin then took over on the Culver 41 and took the ball down and scored on the first play of the second quarter, giving them a 14-0 lead.

The Eagles were finally able to sustain a drive to close out the first half. CMA drove the ball down to the 5-yard line and then were held out of the end zone on four straight plays, turning the ball over on downs back to Guerin Catholic on their own 6-inch line. That's the way the half would end with the score 14-0.

In the second half, Guerin took the opening drive of the third quarter and marched it down the field and scored again, making the score 20-0. They scored their last touchdown on the next possession on a long pass with 0:53 left in the third.

The Culver defense settled down after that and forced a couple of turnovers, but they weren't able to turn those into points. Despite the score, CMA coach Andy Dorrel was pleased with his team's effort.

"Tonight, it felt like a football game for the first time in a long time. Guerin Catholic is a fine football team. I think they are the best team we played all year," said Dorrel. "We can't afford to make mistakes like that. We had too many negative plays and a few dropped balls. Unless you make those plays, you are not going to be competitive against a team like this. It felt like, with the way we have been playing lately, this is the best football game we've played. Unfortunately we made it difficult on ourselves on a few opportunities."

With the loss, CMA drops to 3-6 on the season and will host Tippecanoe Valley in the sectional opener next week. The Eagles opened the season with a 36-13 victory at Tippecanoe Valley and will be looking to duplicate that success. Guerin Catholic is now 6-3.

• GUERIN CATHOLIC 27,
CULVER MILITARY 0
At Culver

Culver Academies teams, Lady Pilgrims advance at CC regional

CULVER — Culver Academies earned dual second-place regional finishes behind Warsaw, and the Eagles earned semistate berths in both the boys and girls races at the Culver Academies Cross Country Regional Saturday. Plymouth's girls team advanced in the last spot out to next week's New Prairie race with a fifth-place finish at Saturday's meet.

The Eagles were led by Landrum Neer in 11th place, while Justin Matei finished 13th, Zach Dunlap was 16th, Alejandro Tumoine was 17th, and Shane Pursch finished 39th.

The Lady Eagles were paced by Mary Terhune in 13th, followed by Annie Shea in 18th and Stephanie Ma in 19th. Olivia Martinez placed 23rd, and Saga Brismar was 32nd.

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A visit from Bishop Little

ABOVE: Bishop Ed Little of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana paid a visit to St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church at 515 State Street in Culver earlier this month, during one of the church's weekly Sunday services, which are held at 6 p.m. Bishop Little, pictured in the front row at center, is seen here with several local members of the congregation, as well as Fr. Clark Miller (upper right), Priest-in-Charge at St. Elizabeth's.

Cavs from page 5

suspended for the rest of the season and then we get two injuries with two kids we've been giving reps to — you're behind the eight ball. So everyone can sit there and question what we're doing and we're maybe not executing right, but there's not many times you put a fourth string kid in there and you look good. That was something we had some issues with too, just getting those blocks made."
• LAvILLE 21, CULVER COMMUNITY 6
At Culver

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