

'Peace, love and LLCC'

6th homecoming includes dance, sports and more

By Steven Hoskins
Lamp staff writer

SPRINGFIELD -- War has come to LLCC, but peace is on the horizon. It's a war between student clubs. The winners will get free pizza. It's the Penny Wars, the first event of

LLCC's homecoming.

As for peace, that's all part of this year's Homecoming theme: Peace, Love and LLCC.

Student Life has planned a series of events in the coming weeks, including a 1970s trivia game, tie-dye shirt making, a magician, turtle apples and free throw contest with Chad Jones. Jones is LLCC's men's head basketball team.

All of this takes place on Saturday, Feb. 14, Valentines Day. Burger said the date aligned with a the basketball schedule.

To participate in the Penny Wars, all

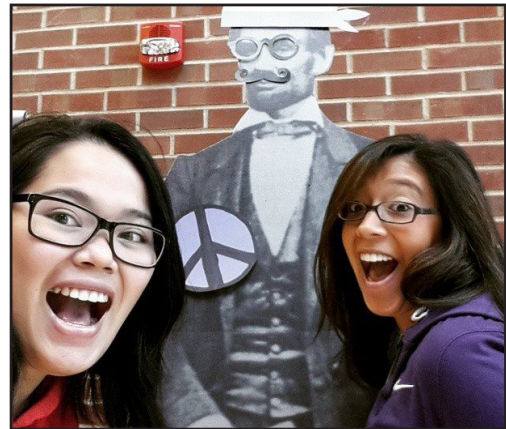
one needs is some loose change.

A student can deposit a penny into a club's container for positive points. But, Burger said, it is war.

One can attack another club by depositing silver coins or paper bills into their container.

The club with the most positive points on Feb. 6 will win a pizza party, Burger said. Any coin worth more than a penny will be for negative points. Dollar bills deduct points by its amount.

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Jarely Ventura and Anabella Lochman pose with a 'groovy Lincoln' cutout in the A. Lincoln Commons. The five selfies voted as the best at facebook.com/LLCCStudentLife will win a prize.



Ryan Mazrim/Lamp staff photo

Police Chief Brad Gentry stands in front of a barricaded door as he talks to participants about how to respond to an active-shooter on Lincoln Land's campus. As part of the training, participants do what they would be expected to do in the real situation, including blocking the door.

Preparing for the worst

Police train LLCC community how to react to a shooter on campus

By Ryan Mazrim
Lamp staff writer

SPRINGFIELD — The staff barricaded themselves inside Sangamon Hall 1104 on Dec. 12.

The people inside were preparing for a worst-case scenario: a gunman on Lincoln Land Community College's campus.

The LLCC Police Department held its "Practical Response to Active Shooters." Faculty, staff and students were learning what to do if a gunman started shooting here on campus.

The class was created to give people the tools to defend oneself in the event of a school shooting.

One of the most important steps is breaking the complacency that you couldn't ever be a target at school. Although a terrible truth, school shootings are more common place than we care to admit.

The LLCC police say there have been about 70 active shooter events in the United States during the last four years. About a quarter of those were in schools.

School shootings are an increasingly significant problem that needs to be addressed head on by learning institutions and by implementing plans to increase survivability of anyone that walks through their doors.

Campus police officers talked to the audience about some of the sounds associated with a shooting and the importance of not second-guessing yourself if you hear them.

One of the first steps that should be made is to make yourself a difficult target of opportunity.

Officers said school shooters know they only have a few minutes. They are looking to shoot as many people as possible. Running or barring doors can be the most effective tools.

Shooters are looking for easy targets.

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Upcoming training

The LLCC Police Department is offering three Practical Response to Active Shooters training sessions this spring. Training is open to all LLCC faculty, staff or students. Training sessions are scheduled the following dates:

■ Friday, Feb. 20 • 1:30-3:30 p.m., Sangamon Hall, room 1104

■ Wednesday, March 18 • 1:30-3:30 p.m., Menard Hall, room 1177

■ Thursday, April 30 • 9-11 a.m., Millennium Center, room 1104

Pre-registration is required (max of 25 participants per session). Please email heather.voyles@llcc.edu to register.

Sounds of change in music

Certificate being developed in audio production

By Nathanael Herbert
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — "Audio touches everything. If you want to be in any kind of entertainment you should know it, because there is sound in everything," said John Sabbath, a Lincoln Land student.

Sabbath is taking Digital Audio and Sound Design I. This is part of a series of new classes at Lincoln Land being developed with the goal of offering a certificate in audio production.

Lincoln Land Community College is currently working on getting the certificate approved by the Illinois Community College Board.

"As a community college, we are offering something unique," Waddell said. "We are one of the few community colleges with a music program."

Jason Waddell, assistant professor of music, has led the way in trying to bring this new certificate to Lincoln Land.

Waddell teaches all five classes that would be required to earn the certificate.

Students would complete five classes to achieve the certificate. The classes include: MUS 299-HY1: Intro to Music Technology, MUS 299-HY2: Intermediate Music Technology, MUS 299-HY3: Digital Audio & Sound Design I, MUS 299-HY4: Digital Audio & Sound Design II and MUS 100: Fundamentals of Music.

"I think our world is in times of change," Waddell said. "If we don't have creative thinkers, we'll be in trouble. We have to cultivate creativity and creative thinkers to solve all kinds of problems."

Music, continued on Page 3

This newspaper is dedicated to the students, faculty and staff of Lincoln Land Community College.

Editor
Ryan Wilson

Assistant Editor/
Visual Editor
Jordan Minder

Writers
Tyler Cameron
Shannon Connolly
Nathanael Herbert
Steven Hoskins
Benjamin Johnson
Ryan Mazrim
Rhonda Leonard
Michael Sauer
Mike Whitlaw
Ryan Wilson

Photographers
Ryan Mazrim
Jordan Minder

Coordinator
Tim McKenzie

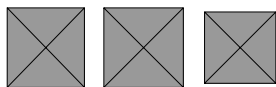
Contact Us:
The Lamp
Menard Hall, LLCC
5250 Shepherd Road
Springfield, IL 62794
Lamp@llcc.edu
(217) 786.2311

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Grand juries rarely indict officers

Reactions vary after no indictment returned in death of Michael Brown

By Tyler Cameron
Staff writer

ST. LOUIS — Riots and fires, threats so severe that the Missouri National Guard was called in, news reporters getting tear-gassed. That is the scene in Ferguson, Mo, after a grand jury decided not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting of Mike Brown.

Whether you're white or black, conservative or liberal, this case has made an impact nationwide. The ensuing riots have kept it in the national spotlight, highlighting questions of racism and excessive police force. So, it makes sense to take an unbiased look back at what is known and what has transpired.

Before the grand jury announced its decision, public demonstrations were taking place. Ferguson saw multiple speakers come to the community in the wake of the shooting, but as the hearings progressed, the demonstrators expanded their outreach.

Kirk Gower, a junior at St. Louis University, says protestors came his campus, though for an unrelated reason.

"They (protestors) came and sat or marched around the clock tower, right in the middle of campus, where everyone walks by," Gower said. "Most people tried to ignore them, but some people would sit with them for awhile. And others would actually stand there and argue with them."

Clearly the impact of this trial was reaching across the area, but how widespread has the aftermath of the decision been? The media has played up the rioting, stating it has occurred across the region and to travel with caution. People are steering clear of St. Louis to avoid danger and conflict. But is it necessary?

At St Louis University, senior Erin Milhelm's said there is no danger in St. Louis.

"Since the demonstrators vacated the clock tower, there really hasn't been anything going on in the area," said Milhelm, who has lived in St. Louis for four years. "I never notice anything on my drive to work, and nobody I know has seen or dealt with any kind of violence in the city. Ferguson is obviously messed up right now, but it's not reaching into the city."

Let's examine now the cause of the rioting: The decision not to indict Officer Wilson for shooting and killing of 18-year-old Mike Brown.

The issue being called into question is the impact of racism in both the shooting and the decision not to indict. Since we cannot be there when the shooting occurred, we cannot see what role race might have played.

However, we can look at the role it had in the decision of the grand jury. Surprisingly, the decision might not be race related at all, but instead be due to the fact that it involved a police officer.

Rob Cameron, a third-year law student at Northwestern University, had these statistics to share, "Between 2008 and 2012, Dallas grand juries have reviewed 81 police shootings and returned only one indictment," says Rob Cameron, a third-year law student at Northwestern University. But, he says, 162,000 of those case were brought to grand juries nationwide.

This brings to light the fact that grand juries almost always inevitably decide to indict, with the only exception being if it is in regards to a police officer.

"Any case involving an officer typically generates some amount of press," said Brian Dees, a practicing attorney in Springfield. "This pressures the attorney to bring the case before a grand jury, even if the evidence is weak."

So is the failure to indict Officer Wilson due to racism, or due to the national spotlight that race brought to this case, forcing a trial without a substantial amount of evidence?

The race matter was widely publicized, with almost every article and story related to the shooting prefacing Officer Wilson with the word "white" and Mike Brown with either "African-American" or "black."

Although the rioting may not have spread to any of the areas surrounding Ferguson, peaceful protests have indeed been seen both across the nation and the world. London has seen both marches and speeches.

Major cities have had gatherings and protests. Even Springfield has had citizens gather downtown to make their voices heard in defense of Mike Brown.

"An unarmed teenage boy being shot and killed is just wrong," said Pam Jadzak, a local resident. "I have three sons, and I can't even begin to think how I would feel if that happened to them." When asked if she believed race played a factor, Jadzak had this to say, "I really do. It just doesn't make any sense why he would shoot him if it wasn't, because he was black. It's awful to see, we need things to change."

Unfortunately for Mike Brown, Officer Wilson and the city of Ferguson, that fateful night is gone and will not ever come back. So we have no way of knowing exactly what transpired, and why it did. What we can do, whether in support of the decision or not, is to peacefully and intellectually work to make sure instances like this never happen again.

Tyler Cameron can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311

Homecoming

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The proceeds will go to the LLCC Foundation's Grow Beyond Fund, Burger said.

Another activity is a "selfie" contest with Abraham Lincoln.

Students can wear a "groovy" outfit in a selfie with a cardboard cutout of the former president.

Send the picture to Student Life at studentlife@llcc.edu in which the top five photos will be placed on Student Life's Facebook page. Burger said

Students can do more than one selfie, but they are limited to one per day.

Students, faculty and alumni are encouraged watch Lincoln Land's women's and men's basketball teams take on the Lincoln College Lynx at 2 p.m. in Cass

Gym. The men's game will follow.

At 8 p.m., there will be a DJ, snacks and a casino. Prizes will be given to those who win the most money.

There will also be a photo booth and "mock-tails." "Burger said a "mock-tails" is a non-alcoholic drink, but it's similar to a daiquiris.

The event is free to attend.

Alumni and students are allowed two tickets. Burger is encouraging students to stop by Student Life to get their tickets early.

Tickets can also be bought at the event.

Burger said Student Life hopes 400 people will attend the dance, tying their record from a couple years ago.

This is the sixth year that LLCC has organized a Homecoming dance.

Steven Hoskins can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.



Unidentified students pose for a selfie with a 'groovy Abe' cutout in the A.Lincoln Commons as part of a homecoming contest.

Homecoming schedule

Through Friday, Feb. 6

Penny Wars: Each penny is a vote for the club. Each cent of a silver coin or paper money is a vote against the other group. The winning club wins a pizza party. All money benefits the LLCC Foundations Grow Beyond Fund. Containers will be on display in the A.Lincoln Commons.

Abe Selfie Contest: Take a photo with a "groovy Abe," decked out in '70's style. Email your photo to studentlife@llcc.edu, and your selfie will be posted at www.facebook.com/LLCCStudentLife. The top five selfies, determined by "likes" on Facebook, will win a prize.

Through, Saturday, Feb. 14

Homecoming Court Voting: Select your favorite LLCC King and Queen.

Monday, Feb. 9

'70s Trivia Game: 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in A.Lincoln Commons.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Tie-dye Homecoming Shirts: 10:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. in A. Lincoln Commons. Get one of 200 free T-shirt and tie-dye your own Homecoming souvenir.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Magician Edd Fairman: Noon to

2 p.m. in A. Lincoln Commons.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Express Your Peace, Love and Appreciation card-making event: Noon to 2 p.m in A. Lincoln Commons. Decorate a card and make a goodie bag for your favorite LLCC staff or faculty member.

Friday, Feb. 13

Free Turtle Apples: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union. A make-your-own apple treat event.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Beat the Coach Shootout: Noon

to 1 p.m. in Cass Gymnasium. Challenge your basketball skills against Coach Chad Jones and win one of five cool prizes.

Women's Basketball Game: Loggers take on the Lincoln College Lynx at 2 p.m. in Cass Gymnasium.

Men's Basketball Game: Loggers take on the Lincoln College Lynx at 2 p.m. in Cass Gymnasium.

Homecoming Dance: 8 to 11 p.m. in the Student Union. Includes a DJ, snacks, "mock-tails," photo booth, prizes and casino.

Homecoming King and Queen Coronation: 9 p.m. in the Student Union.



Jordan Minder/The Lamp staff photo

Jason Waddell creates audio sounds through computer technology. The music professor is hoping to develop and receive approval to offer a certificate in digital audio production.

Music department looks to enhance program

Music

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“This (certificate) will give them the tools they need to not only be creative, but to create something that they will have with them the rest of their lives.”

Waddell also teaches music composition, music appreciation, improvisation jazz ensemble and private lessons for guitar, bass and percussion.

The hybrid classes must be taken in sequence. Students must take section one before taking section two. Section three is also a prerequisite for section four. Students, however, can take sections one and three simultaneously.

In Intro to Music Technology, students will learn how to write music for real-world projects, how to use MIDI and basic acoustics knowledge.

Mixing, creating loops, arranging songs, basics of mastering and building wave forms will be the

main topics in Intermediate Music Technology.

Digital Audio & Sound Design I is focused on song writing. Students will learn how to take popular elements in music to create their own songs. Acoustics and introduction to mixing will also be taught.

In the final section, Digital Audio & Sound Design II, students will learn sound design for video games and other media outlets. For the final project, students will take a one-minute video game trailer and add all the music, dialogue and background noise.

The class may attend a live performance to listen to the mixing techniques done by the sound person. Students will even have opportunities to apply the skills they’ve learned by running a sound system at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield.

Students will have hands-on experience with interfaces, microphones, cables and recording software in class.

Waddell, who is working toward

his doctorate, has been heavily involved in audio technology.

In a recent class, a student brought her recording equipment and asked questions on how to use it. The class gathered around.

Waddell sat down beside the student and began asking questions about the problem.

The student plugged in the cables, and the rest of the class watched as Waddell made suggestions and corrected mistakes. Before long, the student was recording her penny whistle in the classroom.

When listening back to the recording, the student laughed with joy after finally figuring out the issue. Waddell reviewed the steps taken, and students asked follow-up questions to ensure comprehension.

Theresa O’Hare, the student who needed help with her equipment, happens to be a part-time adjunct faculty member at Lincoln Land who teaches music classes and lessons.

O’Hare has always been on the performance side of music. To further her abilities in music, she has taken

Intro to Music Technology.

“I’ve started recording everybody,” O’Hare said. “I’m recording my students all the time. For my students, they are learning how to listen to themselves in a completely different way. This is where the industry is moving. We are able to create every type of music on this.”

Melinda Kaye, another music teacher at Lincoln Land who is taking audio classes, expands on the importance of gaining this knowledge. Kaye said that when she graduated, music majors were expected to go into an orchestra or opera house and work there for life. But, because times have changed, she believes that learning audio technology is necessary in succeeding in the music industry.

Brian Leach, a traditional student at Lincoln Land, took Intro to Music Technology in hopes of working in live sound. Leach is pursuing a major in music business.

“It’s fun,” Leach said. “You get to learn a different side of music.”

Waddell said he believes that all his

students should be able to find jobs in the market.

Some of his previous students have recently finished music for a film in France and are now creating music for a film in the U.S. Two current students have jobs for live sound gigs. Other students are submitting jingle music for online licensing purposes.

“Even one course is getting students jobs,” Waddell said excitedly.

What needs to happen next to get this certificate?

A survey will need to be taken by local businesses and students to see if the certificate will benefit the community. The state will then decide to approve it or not. “These courses are not going to train you from the beginning to the end,” said Waddell. “It’s always going to be a learning process. It gives you basic skills for real-world, hands-on projects in jobs.”

Nathanael Herbert can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

Shooter

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If those aren’t options, the seminar went step by step through some disarming techniques to possibly minimize injury and effectively strip the firearm away from the shooter should that worst case scenario arise.

The officers emphasized that it doesn’t matter so much the size of the assailant. By learning body mechanics, one can improve one’s chances.

An armed society is a polite

society. This seminar does not aim to arm people with firearms, but to arm them with the knowledge, training and the general refusal to be a victim any longer.

Some shooters believe that by going into classrooms they find victims at their most vulnerable. With training opportunities like this and the will to fight back, this could mean the difference between being another statistic and going home for dinner.

Ryan Mazrim can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

What to do if there is an active shooter?

1. Don’t be an easy victim: Run, hide, lock or bar the door.
2. If in a room, shut off the lights. Throw doors and chairs in front of the door to block entry. Hide out of view of the shooter. Gather objects to use as weapons.
3. Call 911.
4. Run away from the sound of gunfire.
5. If no other option, fight back. Surprise is the best option. Create a distraction by throwing books or papers to distract shooter before engaging.
6. Use techniques taught to disarm firearm.
7. Bystanders should assist in disarming and restraining gunman.
8. Remember, this person tried to kill you. You should use anger against person (and to your advantage in fight).
9. Kick the weapon away from shooter. Do not pick up gun or hold it. Police may mistake you for the gunman.
10. When officers arrive, listen to their commands and let them control the situation.



Ryan Mazrim/The Lamp staff photos

A member of the Veterans Club works to serve food at St. John's Breadline. Club leaders hope to take a more visible role on campus by serving the community.

Veterans Club has high hopes

By Ryan Mazrim
Staff writer

SPRINGFIELD — Veterans Club members said Lincoln Land Community College should see a more prominent role for the club, thanks to new leadership and advisers.

The club currently has 10 members, but it aims to spread interest and increase the activities its involved with, said Chelsea Vance, the club's president. She said she's very excited and optimistic about the fresh direction the club is taking.

"Some of our short term goals include participating in more community service oriented events and projects," Vance said.

In November, the club volunteered at the St. John's Breadline. The much needed help was openly welcomed and certainly appreciated by our local community.

Service activities make the club more relevant and build camaraderie among members. Club leaders see that attracting new members while helping the greater good.

Some of the longer-term goals include fundraising events to allow the members to attend next year's Student Veterans of America annual conference.

The SVA is a group dedicated to providing a network of support for veteran student's nationwide.

The students who compose the club are both veterans and nonveteran students. This mixture helps bridge a gap between military and civilian students while simultaneously benefitting the community.

For the veteran students, an opportu-



Chelsea Vance, at left, and other Veterans Club member volunteer at St. John's Breadline.

nity to be a part of the group dynamic working together towards a common goal; for the civilian students, an opportunity to support the troops in a unique and equally helpful way.

"I think the main benefit of the Veterans Club is the opportunity to meet other students who can provide support for one another while creating and building great friendships," Vance said.

If anyone has any questions about the Veterans Club, please visit the Veterans Affairs desk in the Financial Aid department for more information. The club meets at 5 p.m. on the second Friday of every month. Locations vary.

Ryan Mazrim can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

Film prof finds passion

Robert Fletcher worked 23 years for state police

By Michael Sauer
Lamp staff writer

SPRINGFIELD — Some professors at Lincoln Land say their job is a big achievements.

For Robert Fletcher, an adjunct film professor, it's been a series of fantastic events that managed to culminate in his dream job.

Fletcher worked at the Illinois State Police Department for 23 years before he became a professor. "I loved it," Fletcher said of his time with the state police. "It was the most fun job you could have ever imagined."

Fletcher said he helped the police department write speeches, prepare advertising campaign and even films.

Fletcher worked with the producers of the "Missing Children" and "Drunken Driving."

"When I joined the State Police, Lincoln Land put out a report for adjunct professors, which interested me," Fletcher said. "I started out part-time, teaching English

Composition and others. But with my previous experience with film, I got the job as a film instructor. I've been doing this for about 15 years now."

Fletcher said the best thing about teaching is the chance to learn new things.

"I love it," he spoke gleefully, "I have a great time doing what I'm doing. I get a lot of exercise from falling on my knees, thanking God for my job here. Lincoln Land is a great place to teach, with the talented students and kind faculty members, so, yeah, I really enjoy my time here."

Fletcher said he thinks that all students to consider a film class.

"I've always been interested in movies," Fletcher said. "I grew up in the '60s, which was a great time for experimentation in films. I experienced what people now call the 'Golden Age' in cinema. Illinois has a very active film office. We went out of our way to find producers who were making movies in the state. The first film I got involved in was Tom Cruise's 'Risky Business.' They needed some of our squad cars for that movie. Then, there was 'Weeds,' where some of our riot police got involved as extras. Then, there was 'Stories of Highway Pa-

trols.' I learned a lot about camera techniques, and I even acted in a few episodes. I picked up a lot practical experience."

"He (Fletcher) is a good friend," Jane Hartmann, who taught Fletcher piano lessons 20 years ago. "A fascinating conversationalist, is what I'd call him. He has a lot of life stories, and quite the dangerous wit."

Fletcher grew up in Chicago, where earned degrees from Loyola, Northwestern and Delaware universities.

Fletcher has a daughter, who is an attorney and married to a physicist. He also has two sisters in similar lines of work as himself: one is a homicide detective and the other is a professor.

"There is nothing I would change about now, or my past," Fletcher said. "I've been amazingly lucky so far. The police department gave me a unique outlook on life that is hard to get. To see these officers do those amazing things is great. I admired almost everyone I worked with. I wanted to be a professor since my own college years, something that didn't change, and never will."

Michael Sauer can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

The Debate: Movies or Books?

Film is popular among young adults

By Shannon Connolly
Staff Writer

Which do you like better: movies or books?

Both can be very entertaining, but the debate over which is better can be contentious.

"Movies can be better than some books if they are done correctly," said Erika Conrady, who enjoys reading books. "Also, movies bring to life the book for those who don't enjoy reading."

A major downside to reading a book, though, is that some may say they are very time-consuming.

"I enjoy reading more, but I am lazy, so its easier to watch movies," said Ocean Boggs

A book may take weeks, while a movie takes only a couple of hours. It might appear the popularity of film is cutting into book sales.

According to Association of American Publishers (AAP) trade paperback sales fell 9.3 percent, to \$1.36 billion between 2012 and 2013. .

"I enjoy movies just as much as books," said Hailey Buhnerkemper. She usually likes to "read the book first, so I know what is missing in the movie".

Some may choose movies because

of the actor or actress playing the lead role.

"Movies are great. They are even better when there's cute actors," Boggs said.

Crystal Howard said prefers, because they have "more detail, and it helps my imagination expand." She also said, "Books are much better, because ... we are opening new doors for our creativeness and building up theories of the story as to where movies, we just shut our brains off."

Shannon Connolly can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

Retailers mixed on threat from Amazon

By Benjamin Johnson
Staff writer

SPRINGFIELD — Online retailer Amazon.com continues to lure shoppers away from big-box retailers, such as Wal-Mart, Target and Best Buy. Now, these retailers are beginning to take notice.

"They're not really a threat right now, but they will be if they continue to expand," said Ernie Ayers, a manager at the Springfield's Sam's Club. "They're about to open up a distribution center up in Chicago, so we'll see".

Ayers' comments came on the heels of Amazon's announcement with Chicago city officials to open Amazon's first Illinois distribution warehouse.

Amazon plans to open up the distribution center by the end of the year, and the facility promises to create 1,000 jobs during the next three years, said to Amazon's Vice President Paul Visener.

That facility would have forced Amazon to charge sales tax in Illinois, but the online retailer recently announced it would begin collecting

taxes on all sales in Illinois.

For many traditional retailers, they see this leveling the playing field.

"I prefer to buy (a product) in store," said Phil Hart, a shopper at a local Wal-Mart store. "I'm big on looking at the box to make sure its not damaged."

"I've received packages, from orders I had placed online, and they've been damaged and I had to send them back," Hart said. "But the only time I buy online is if there is a deal you just can't beat."

Hart's words echo the worry of many consumers' concerns: receiving damaged packages in the post.

"I just prefer going to a store and buying what I need," said Chris Quick. "It allows me convenience that I can't get with purchasing a product online."

Amazon knows that many consumers value convenience above all else, besides the quality of the product that they purchased. That is why Amazon now offers a membership titled, 'Amazon Prime.'

With Prime, Amazon shoppers are treated to a free two-day shipping and access to more than 1,000 movies and

TV shows on Amazon's streaming service.

Customers can get this for \$100 per year. With a service as robust as Amazon's, is it really worth the price tag?

Audrey Johnson, a student, is able to take advantage of this Prime membership. Current students receive a free six-month trial and then offered to upgrade for \$50 at the end of the trial.

"Yeah, I just love it," Johnson said. "I can find off the wall type things on Amazon that I can't find at stores. It's also great that my packages come in two days or less. It's awesome!"

Retailers may start to wonder how they could possibly match Amazon's offer. As of right now, retailers aren't too worried about the presence of Amazon.

"Store sales have not seen a dip just yet," Ayers said.

Ayers said Sam's may feel a little pressure from Amazon in online sales, but it's main concern is other wholesale clubs, such as Costco.

Benjamin Johnson can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

Aviation boosts student careers

Program certifies plane mechanics in 18 months

By Rhonda Leonard
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – A little over five years ago, Jack Stewart was a student at Lincoln Land Community College. But he sees it as a testament to the aviation program's tight-knit, family atmosphere that led him to come back to teaching.

"This is not just a job; it is an adventure, as well," said Stewart, who teaches welding and rebuilding engines.

Stewart graduated five years ago, but he has been teaching at Lincoln Land for four years.

Not located on the main campus, many people don't even know about the Lincoln Land's Airframe and Powerplant Aviation Mechanics program.

The small group trains at LLCC's facility at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, where in a year and a half, students can attain the certification needed to find jobs in a career with soaring opportunities.

"LLCC's Airframe and Powerplant Aviation Mechanics program is a fast start in this highly sought after career," said David Pietrzak, the Aviation program director.

About 35 percent of the airframe

More info

Visit the aviation website www.llcc.edu/academics/business-tech/nologies/aviation/

and power-plant (A&P) workforce is set to retire soon. This industry is dominated by people in their 50s and 60s.

Without a huge number of women in the industry, and a high demand for diversity in the work place, women can excel in this industry. Basically, this career can take you anywhere in the world.

The aviation program consists of 18 required academic and related courses at the LLCC campus (English, Political Science, Math, etc.). Then, the students follow the general aviation section that requires 17 credit hours of classes, followed by the 25 credit hours for the Airframe certification. Finally, the students take 24 credit hours to obtain their Powerplant certification.

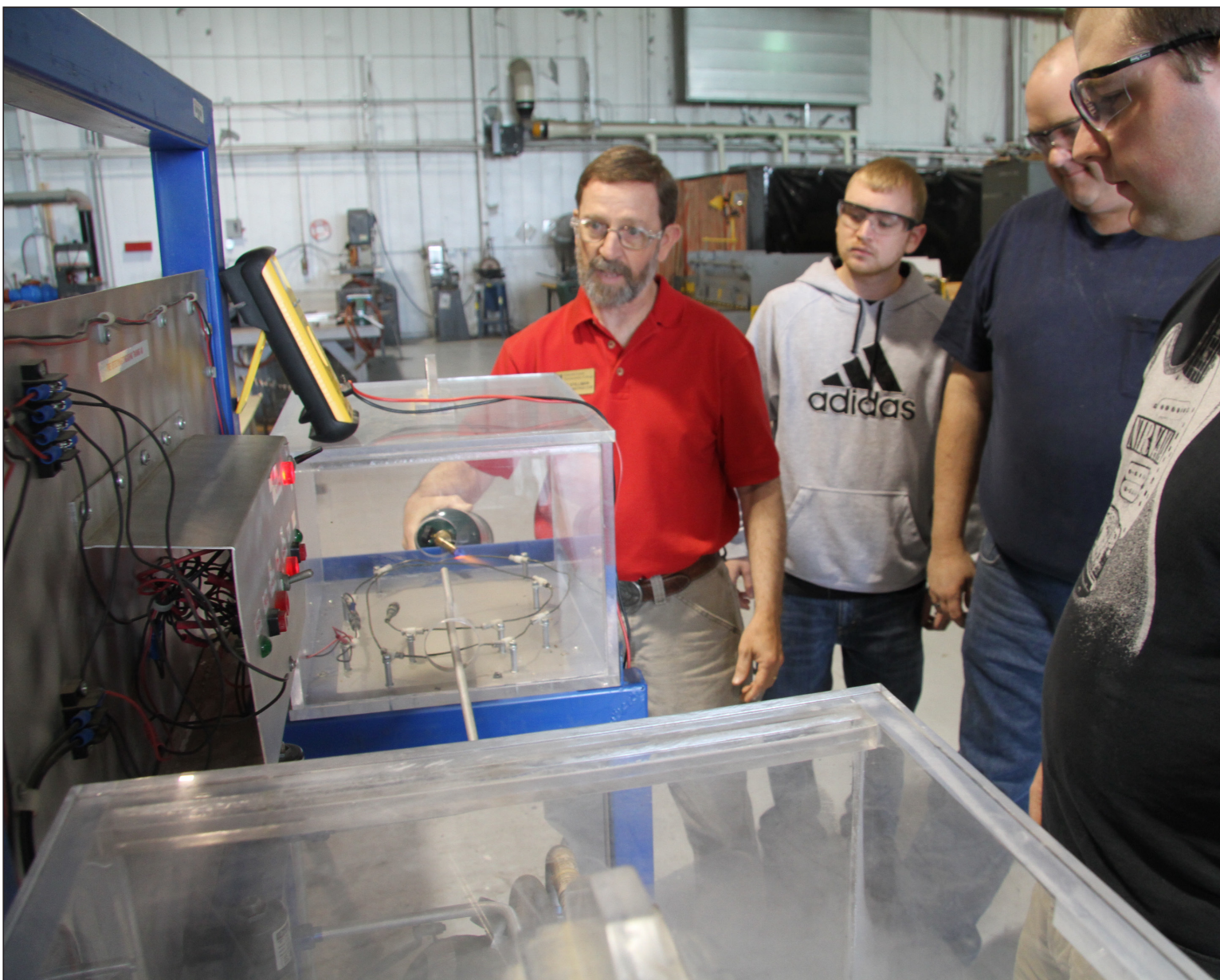
"After completing the required courses, students must take a written test for each section: general, airframe and powerplant – in addition to the oral and practice test with an FAA designated mechanic examiner to receive their FAA certification," the Aviation brochure explains.

Students who finish all of these classes will obtain their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airframe and Powerplant Certification, as well as their Associate in Applied Science degree in Aviation Mechanics.

The overall cost of the program is just over \$15,000.

Other schools in Illinois offer similar programs, however none finish in a year, and a half and the other programs cost more.

"We're small compared to other universities, and now we're the only one located directly in central Illinois," Pietrzak said. "This



Submitted photos

Students get hands-on experience with aircraft owned by Lincoln Land Community College as part of the Airframe and Powerplant Aviation Mechanics program.

becomes an advantage to the student with less students and lots of instructor time; student to instructor ratio."

Student Andrea Swinford was interested in the Aviation program at Lincoln Land because it was close to home. She has always been mechanically inclined and found it natural to put the two together.

"Lincoln Land's aviation program offers small class sizes that allow for more personalized help from the instructors," Swinford said. "You don't always get that personal treatment elsewhere."

Swinford now works for a company at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport. That job allows her access to gain valuable knowledge from a mentor who has 27 years' experience in the aviation industry.

"This is a very good stepping stone to get into the aviation world quickly."

— Andrea Swinford

"This is a very good stepping stone to get into the aviation world quickly," Swinford said.

She plans to walk in the graduation ceremony in May 2015. While many opportunities will be available to these students upon graduation, St. Louis and Seattle are cities where Boeing has a huge employment presence.

"Because of the demand for workers in the aviation field, a person with

many years of experience is a way to quickly move around and increase pay in this industry," Pietrzak said. "There is a lot of overtime in this business that people can cash in on."

The Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport has a variety of employers where graduating students can work: StandardAero, Horizon Aviation and Temp Aircraft LLC. But students can also take their newfound careers to other cities in Illinois or worldwide for that matter.

"There are so many opportunities in this field that can keep a student employed with a nice salary for the rest of your life," Pietrzak said.

The Aviation program offers a hands-on way to learn, and the students take field trips to learn about career opportunities, he said.

"This is a profession that most people don't even know exists," Pietrzak said. "There is availability in this career that is satisfying and in high demand and will keep you employed for years."

Everyone involved in this program from the assistant in the office to the instructor's and students in the classrooms to regard this tight-knit group as "family." They work together and play together.

It's not uncommon in the warmer months for the smell of barbecue and cookouts to fill your nostrils.

"We're a family here and enjoy having cookouts once a month," said Christina Courier, program assistant.

Rhonda Leonard can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or (217) 786-2311.

Black History Month

Photo by
Jordan Minder
Lamp Assistant Editor

Tejumola 'Teju' Ologboni, a storyteller, folklorist, oral historian and accomplished percussionist, spoke to students gathered in A.Lincoln Commons on Monday, Feb. 2. Ologboni helped kickoff Black History Month.



Ag has played innovative role

Lincoln Land has deep roots in farming

By Mike Whitlaw
Lamp staff writer

SPRINGFIELD — In 1967, the first Lincoln Land Community College board, a visionary group whose majority membership were farmers, was motivated to create a secondary learning institution that would springboard the district's students toward a college experience.

Their interest was the professional growth of the agricultural community of Central Illinois. Therefore, the LLCC Agriculture Department's agribusiness management program and a credit transfer agriculture degree option were important initial offerings at the school.

The Business and Technologies' Agriculture Department curriculum of Lincoln Land Community College provides and supports a robust agricultural learning experience. The Ag Department program now offers four degree options: agriculture business management, precision agriculture, turf & landscape management or an agriculture transfer option. Instruction includes the science, marketing and introduction to business services of the ag community as well.

Bill Harmon, program director, stated, "Many of the 170 students enrolled in the Ag Program will work in peripheral industries, which support the producing farm community. These students will fill the employment needs of the chemical-producing, seed-developing, equipment-manufacturing and financial companies supplying goods and services necessary for the farmer

to be successful."

While the classroom work for the science, marketing, land management, and business concerns of farming are very important. The practical application of farming is taught by working the 50 acres of tillable soil set aside for research plots and student activities.

Professor Harmon cited statistics revealing only 2 percent of the nation's working population actively farm, but the employment population working to produce and distribute the farmers' output is nearly 20 percent of the nation's total employment.

Below is a 2013 bullet list of labor statistics from The Voice of Agriculture webpage.

- 2.2 million farms dot America's rural landscape. About 97 percent of U.S. farms are operated by families — individuals, family partnerships or family corporations.

- Farm and ranch families comprise just 2 percent of the U.S. population.

- More than 21 million American workers (15 percent of the total U.S. workforce) produce, process and sell the nation's food and fiber.

- Today's farmers produce 262 percent more food with 2 percent fewer inputs (labor, seeds, feed, fertilizer, etc.), compared with 1950.

- In 2010, \$115 billion worth of American agricultural products were exported around the world. The United States sells more food and fiber to world markets than we import, creating a positive agricultural trade balance.

- One in three U.S. farm acres is planted for export.

- 31 percent of U.S. gross farm income comes directly from exports.

- About 23 percent of raw U.S. farm products are exported each

Commentary: LLCC should consider Aquaponics

By Mike Whitlaw
Lamp staff writer

SPRINGFIELD — There is an Ag endeavor, small but growing, versatile enough to meet the food needs of our disadvantaged population and can be conducted in an urban setting. This farming system does not require the earth, temperate climate or the acreage typical food growing enterprises must have.

If you can picture yourself under a tree by a babbling brook with a line in the water, and you are familiar with the hydroponics of spacefaring science fiction, you are well aware of the Aquaponic concept. Aquaponic is a man-made, self-contained, and minimally supplemented environment which provides the necessary elements to raise fish while growing and harvesting plants for food.

An Aquaponic system may be small enough to be merged with the home fish tank and its residents. A system just right for growing herbs and spices, while you are enjoying the antiques of your aquatic friends.

It can also be large enough for an entire community.

So, some might think Lincoln Land should consider an Aquaponic training program.

To be suitable for a college curriculum, Ag Program Director Bill Harmon said it must be able to facilitate and meet two rigorous requirements: provide valuable knowledge and offer employment opportunities for students

Nelson & Pade Aquaponics of Wisconsin has a storied background of managing, educating, and promoting Aquaponic farming while constructing commercial grade facilities for their customers and students.

The company enjoys a robust academic relationship with the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, University of the Virgin Islands, and has contracted with the University of Hawaii, Maui, to plan and build facilities for a workforce development project.

Troy Curtin, commercial sales representative for Nelson & Pade, said the company ideally needs 300 square feet to provide an appropriate college-level Aquaponics teaching platform.

"Nelson & Pade is expanding its relationship with the University of Wisconsin — Stevens Point by building a commercial installation on Nelson & Pade's property to be used by the college for research and instruction," Curtin said. "The course has continued to expand since it was first offered in 2012 and now has a student population of 50 striving for certification degrees."

While a fledgling area of agriculture, Aquaponics might be something worth considering at Lincoln Land. Cooperative agreements with community gardens might be beneficial. And Aquaponics might offer opportunities both within the city of Springfield, as well as rural areas.

Mike Whitlaw can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

year.

Yet, as impressive as these statistical economic summations are for our agricultural community, there is another list that is more troubling: Food insecurity and very low food security

- In 2013, 49.1 million Americans lived in food insecure households, including 33.3 million adults and 15.8 million children.

- In 2013, 14 percent of households (17.5 million households) were food insecure.

- In 2013, 6 percent of households (6.8 million households) experienced very low food security.

- In 2013, households with children reported food insecurity at a significantly higher rate than those without children, 20 percent compared to 12 percent.

- In 2013, households that had higher rates of food insecurity than the national average included households with children (20 percent), especially households with children headed by single women (34 percent) or single men (23 percent), Black non-Hispanic households (26 percent) and Hispanic households (24 percent).

- In 2011, 4.8 million seniors (over age 60), or 8 percent of all

seniors were food insecure.

- Food insecurity exists in every county in America, ranging from a low of 4 percent in Slope County, ND to a high of 33 percent in Humphreys County, MS.

The Economic Research Service of the USDA defines food insecurity as an erratic and undependable food supply during an annual time period. During this time period individuals within the household may suffer interrupted or even no food intake because of income shortfalls.

Mike Whitlaw can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

Men hold 13-9 record

Although the Lincoln Land Loggers have a winning season, conference play has dinged them in recent weeks.

The men's basketball team started conference play Jan. 24 against the Lincoln College Lynx with a loss. They have an 0-3 record in the Mid-West Athletic Conference. Overall, the team's season is 13-9.

Here's a look back at the record since the last edition of The Lamp in December:

Vs. Southeastern Illinois College (Dec. 10)

Lincoln Land remained hot as they defeated the Division 1 team 69-66. "Tonight showed the team we can be when we turn it up on defense and knock down some shots," said Coach Chad Jones.

Vs. Prairie State College (Dec. 13)

The Loggers started off slow, but the second half was strong for a 73-47 victory.

In the second half, Eddie Longmeyer scored all of his points for a team high 16 points.

Vs. University of Wisconsin — Rock County (Dec. 20)

The loggers won their first game in the Lincoln Land Classic 84-65.

Lincoln Land raced to a 13-3 lead and widened it to 17 in the first half, but the Ramblers came back to lead 47-45 in the second half. But at 10:45, the Loggers took off with a 30-9 run.

Vs. Carl Sandburg College (Dec. 21)

Lincoln Land lost its second game 56-67 in the LLCC Classic.

Edin Mehmudovic led the Loggers with 16 points.

Vs. North Central Missouri College (Jan. 7)

The Loggers started the spring semester with a loss, 54-74.

"For the second game in a row we did not come out of halftime ready to play. We got hit in the mouth and gave up. We have to get tougher,

that's all it is," Jones said.

At St. Louis Community College (Jan. 12)

The Loggers' St. Louis players helped them beat these St. Louis foes, 70-57.

Three St. Louis-area natives scored double-digits for LLCC. Edin Mehmudovic scored a career-high 17 points, Justin Thomas has 16 and Eddie Longmeyer had 13.

At Rend Lake College (Jan. 14)

Despite an early lead, Lincoln Land's struggles in the field cost them this game 52-71.

The team made only one of 14 3-point attempts.

At MacMurray College (Jan. 16)

The Loggers recorded an 81-51 victory over MacMurray.

Vs. Greenville College (Jan. 19)

The Loggers jumped out to an early lead, but the Panthers came back within 2 points.

But the Loggers pulled together its defense and won 75-47.

At Lincoln College (Jan. 24)

Shooting and rebounding plagued the Loggers in their first conference game, losing 49-78.

"We have been talking about how conference games are at a whole different level and tonight proved we hadn't bought in to that thought," Jones said.

Vs. Danville Area Community College (Jan. 28)

Lincoln Land led the first half and fought back and forth with the Jaguars, but ended up losing 55-71.

Danville finished the game with a 27-10 run, pulling away by 10 points in the final four minutes.

Vs. Illinois Central College (Jan. 31)

Lincoln Land had another back-and-forth battle, but lost 59-64.

The game included 12 ties and 11 lead changes.

"We made strides tonight. We haven't been playing well, and tonight we started putting it together," Jones said.



Photos by The Lamp
From left to right, Justin Knoedler, Ron Riggle and Eric Weaver talk to winter baseball camp participants. This was the 13th year Lincoln Land has hosted the camp.

Winter training

Baseball camp lets young players hone skills over holiday break

By Ryan Wilson
Editor

SPRINGFIELD — One by one, each boy — clad in baseball attire — ran as fast as he could to a base, 50 or so feet away, resting on the shiny and freshly waxed floor of Cass Gymnasium at Lincoln Land Community College. Justin Knoedler stood near the base wearing a red shirt, clapping his hands, and cheering the kids on.

The child touched the base and ran back to the starting line with a big smile. The next child then started running to the base to start the whole process over again.

It was LLCC 13th annual winter baseball classic. At least 100 boys came to the event that lasted Dec. 29 to 31.

"It's a good time of the year, because the kids are all excited from Christmas gifts and things like that," Knoedler said. "They come in with a new bat and a new glove, and we get to play baseball when it's 20 degrees outside."

Former major-leaguer Knoedler was joined by Colton White, Eric Weaver, Ron Riggle and Ryan Aper in teaching boys ages 8 and older the fundamentals of baseball, including batting, throwing, base running and defense. Aper, Riggle and White are all LLCC alumni.

"We think it's a great opportunity for the kids who really don't have a whole lot to do during Christmas break," said Ron Riggle, LLCC's

'If we can help one or two of these kids, maybe get to college or eventually pro ball, then that would be a cool thing.'

Eric Weaver, former pro pitcher

athletic director and head baseball coach. "A lot of them play competitive baseball, and their team is going to be practicing pretty soon. So we think it's a great opportunity to get in and kind of get the baseball season started."

The camp was split into two sessions, 65 boys ages 8 to 11 participating from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and 35 to 40 boys ages 11 and older participating from 12 to 2 p.m. Riggle said all the children came from Central Illinois.

It cost \$120 per person to attend the event, which was promoted via The State Journal-Register, radio and mailings. The price increased to \$140 for those who registered after Dec. 19. The cost included a T-shirt.

"I love getting the kids excited about the game," Knoedler said. "There's so much out there for these kids to do now. A lot of them play video games — something that I wasn't into when I was a kid. For the kids to get involved in a sport like this and stay active is really important to me."

Knoedler, who was a catcher in the MLB for six years, said less than 2 percent of all college baseball players will play professionally.

"If we can help one or two of these kids, maybe get to college or eventually pro ball, then that would be a cool thing," Weaver said.

Weaver, who pitched in the MLB for three years, said he believes his 6-foot-5-inch, 230-pound stature gave him an asset in the majors. Weaver graduated from Illiopolis High School in 1991.

Knoedler, who has taught at the camp for 12 of its 13 years, said the kids make him laugh all the time. One year at the camp, however, his 7-year-old nephew, Colton called him a cheater.

He said he was leading a drill that teaches children how to hit groundballs and line drives. Each boy was told he would be out if his ball hit the gym's ceiling. But, he said, several kids — like Knoedler's nephew — did just that, after trying to hit homeruns, instead.

"He (Colton) reared back, swung for the homer, and I called him out, as his ball hit the ceiling," Knoedler said. "He immediately started crying and calling me a cheater. ... I was now a cheater and 'Uncle of the Year.'"

Ryan Wilson can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu or 217-786-2311.

Women at 2-1 in MWAC

The Lincoln Land Loggers started conference play Jan. 24 with a win for the women's basketball team. The women now hold a 2-1 record in the Mid-West Athletic Conference and an overall 10-11 record for the season.

Here's a look back at the record since the last edition of The Lamp in December:

Vs. Southeastern Illinois College (Dec. 10)

The Loggers fell to this Division 1 team, 64-75.

Coach Gary Albert was proud of the team's second half effort to pull the game within two possessions after trailing by 10 points at half time.

Vs. Illinois Central College (Dec. 18)

Lincoln Land put up a strong first half, trailing by only 2 points, but it lost 49-73 to this No. 3-ranked team.

"We did a lot of good things during the first half, and it was probably the best we've played all season," Albert said.

Vs. Robert Morris-Peoria (Dec. 20)

Three-point shooting helped the Loggers deliver a 47-39 victory during the LLCC Classic.

Eloise Sneddon drained four 3's to lead LLCC with 14 points and Molly Sloman made three 3's to finish with 13 points.

Vs. Carl Sandburg College (Dec. 21)

Lincoln Land swept the LLCC Classic with a win in its second-game, 51-27.

The shooting was not as strong as Albert would have liked, but he credited defense for the team's success.

Kelsey Forsythe finished the game with a game high 12 rebounds and

6 steals.

Vs. Lindenwood University—Belleville JV (Jan. 7)

The Loggers deliver a 66-51 victory.

Albert said it took the team a bit to "get back in game form tonight after the two-week break." Although the team had 25 turnovers, Albert was happy with the rebounding.

Vs. Millikin University JV (Jan. 19)

Poor shooting, just 19 percent from the field, led to the Loggers 44-41 loss.

"We had good looks all night but we just couldn't get anything to fall," Albert said.

At Lincoln College (Jan. 24)

A strong start led Lincoln Land to a win, 62-41, in its first conference game.

Sneddon led the team with 16 points while Forsythe and Hannah Hergenrother finished with 11 and 10 respectively.

Vs. Danville Area Community College (Jan. 28)

The Loggers lost their second conference game, 50-68.

The difference in the game was the turnovers as LLCC committed 23 turn overs to 14 for Danville.

Vs. Lewis & Clark Community College (Jan. 31)

The Loggers defeated this conference rival, 71-66, to bring their conference record to 2-1.

Sneddon and Forsythe finished the game with 17 and 16 respectively. Rachel Alde contributed 13 points and Gretcheb Hobbie pulled down 8 rebounds.



Winter baseball camp participants run different drills on Dec. 29. Many young players were excited to use equipment they received for Christmas during the holiday break.

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