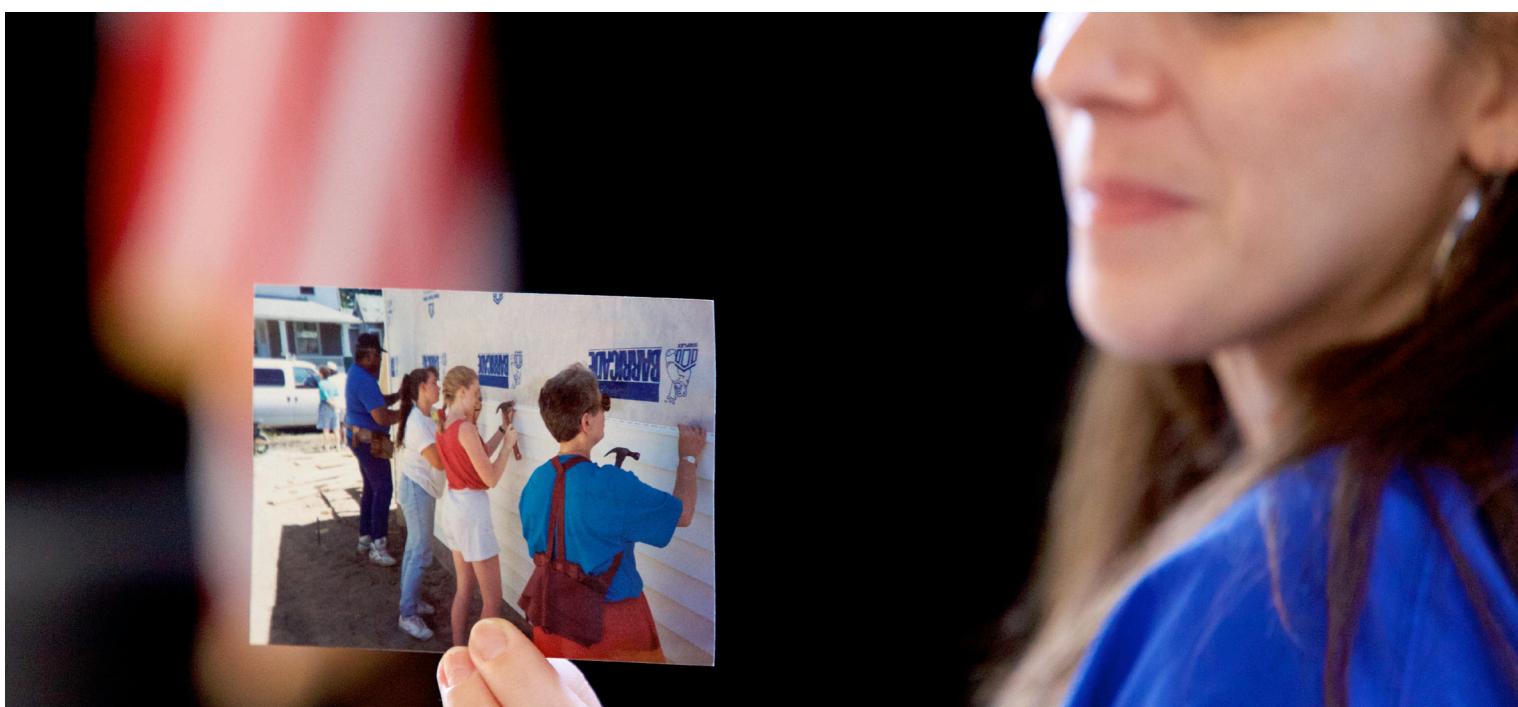


The LAMP

www.TheLampOnline.com

March 2, 2017 • VOL. 63 • ISSUE NO. 7

Unlocking the past



Submitted photos

A member of Phi Theta Kappa looks through 25-year-old pictures in the time capsule that was opened on Founders Day on Feb. 18, 2017.

LLCC time capsule opens glimpse into the past

By Logan McHenry
Lamp Staff

SPRINGFIELD -- After 25 years, Lincoln Land students unearthed part of the college's past and got a glimpse of what life was like at the school in 1993.

Inside they found: a VHS tape, old newspapers, photos, shirts, and other memorabilia were unearthed on Feb. 18. They had been buried 25 years prior by the Phi Theta Kappa, the college's honor society, as part of the 25th anniversary of the college.

Lincoln Land Community College celebrated its 50th anniversary on Feb. 18, 2017, the day the college was officially created. Part of the Founders' Day celebration included digging up a time capsule that was buried exactly 25 years ago on the 25th anniversary of the college's existence.

This event has been performed by the Alpha Epsilon Kappa chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, which is the chapter that is involved with Lincoln



Phi Theta Kappa members show items to be placed in a new time capsule, such as a cell phone, to be opened on the college's 75th anniversary in 2042.

Land. It was first buried in 1993 and will be reburied after Saturday's celebration. It will then be dug up again on the 75th anniversary in 2042.

Multiple items will be retrieved

from 25 years ago while other items will be buried for 25 years in the future.

One item that was retrieved was a letter with various questions about

how life was at this time was. The very last question, oddly enough, was: "Are Cub fans still saying 'wait until next year.'" It is funny how they just won the World Series in 2016.

Another item found was a picture of some of the members of the 1993 chapter that attended the International Convention in Dallas, Texas.

A VHS video of WICS TV news from Sept. 22, 1993, was also found. It talked about some terrible 1993 floods and there was a weather report done by Gus Gordon, who is the husband of faculty adviser, Claire Gordon.

"It doesn't seem like it was that long ago, but when we got to see the contents, they had a VHS tape in there, which was crazy because I haven't seen one of those in so long," said Catherine Wittler, the vice president of Alpha Epsilon Kappa.

TIME, continued on page 5

LLCC alert system responds to fire alarm

By Isaac Warren
Editor

SPRINGFIELD - On Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, fire trucks could be seen outside the entrance of Menard Hall. Most students, staff, and parents received texts, emails, and phone calls letting them know that Menard Hall was safe and could be reentered. The cause of the commotion was a fire alarm that was sounded my mistake, according to a PR secretary. This event that happened twice allowed Lincoln Land Community Col-

lege to show off their emergency alert system, and how it works.

If you are a staff member or student at LLCC, you are automatically enlisted in the emergency notification system. In the event of severe weather, or other closures, according to the LLCC police site.

If you wish to change the default method of communication, or change an email address or phone number, you can contact the IT desk at (217) 786-2555, or you can send an email to

helpme@llcc.edu. If you want to do it on your own, go to www.getrave.com/login/llcc.

LLCC also sends alerts to social media outlets, and in some cases, local tv and radio stations.

Rest assured, you are in good hands at LLCC. Should something go wrong, you will know about it as soon as possible in multiple different fashions.

Isaac Warren can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu.

Diverse students at LLCC

By Jourdan Craggs
Lamp Staff

SPRINGFIELD -- The non-traditional student is the traditional student at Lincoln Land.

Of the 12,000 students at Lincoln Land, 39 percent are over the age of 25, 19 percent are minorities and 58 percent are taking classes on a part-time basis, according to the college's website.

To an outsider Lincoln Land looks like just an ordinary community college filled with students clamoring after a degree with no other worries in the world. A closer look at the student population reveals that it is more diverse than originally thought.

Non-traditional student Marcy Durbin is grateful Lincoln Land gave her the opportunity to attend school there, but also for the chance to work in the Taylorville office.

Working here made it much easier, Durbin said.

To an outsider Lincoln Land looks like just an ordinary community college filled with students clamoring after a degree with no other worries in the world. A closer look at the student population reveals that it is more diverse than originally thought; student workers with full time positions within the school, single parents taking night classes to make things work at home, former addicts taking a second shot at life, older adults who have never pursued a higher education finally following their true passions after having already worked for many years.

The variety of students at Lincoln Land is incredible and one of the most unique things about this community college is that it caters to every single one.

Lincoln Land offers many classes geared towards a more non-traditional student. Some of these include a college skills course, classes to teach someone how to use computer programs and online courses. Night classes are also available to accommodate a hectic schedule. Parents make up a large percentage of the student population and the college runs a DCFS-approved child care that is available to students and the community.

As a college that is focused

DIVERSITY, continued on page 5

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

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WOOF offers exciting insight and experience for farming

Emmi Fisher

Print Editor

Have you ever dreamed about visiting the lush vineyards of Italy or France? Being able to travel their wine countries and relax while enjoying the best wines, European dishes, and learning more about viticulture? Staying in a castle where royalty lived in the Middle Ages taking care of the castle's greenhouse? Or maybe visiting Hawaii to enjoy the grand tropical scenery and laying under the stars in a tree house overlooking a water foundation, while looking after free range chickens when the sun awakes in the morning?

Summer is on the rise and your dream destination might be more realistic than imagined, and better yet, affordable. All you have to do is provide manpower, seek to learn more about another culture, and find a way of getting to the final destination for the trade-off of free lodging, fresh organic food, being able to meet new people from around the world, and learn more about local food systems and organic farming practices.

WWOOFING provides this opportunity. WWOOF stands for Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms, but you do not need to know that a tomato is actually a fruit, that all plants are fruit sometime in their cultivating process, or even that "Zea Mays" is the scientific name of corn.

Whatever your interests are, from organic livestock, beekeeping, farm stand or farmers market management, vegetable production, organic dairy production, homestead, permaculture, to even flower operation, there is a farm for you. It would just take applying your motivation for WWOOFing into the online filters on their site and narrow what specifically interests you the most. The time commitment also varies. One can WWOOF during a day visit for a couple hours to forty or fifty hours a week.

In addition, you can stay longer. Most hosts recommend a day trip or staying two to three weeks, but one can WWOOF up to a whole year, or depending on what the host family and the WWOOFer agree upon.

I found out about WWOOF in Fall 2015. I was headed to Puerto Rico to stay on a large tropical fruit and livestock farm. They were hosting ten other WWOOFers at that time. I would have been staying in the couples beautiful Villa where I would have a private room and my own personal bathroom. The women of the house practiced yoga every morning and evening and encouraged everyone to join in.

My objectives would have been to learn more about tropical environments, cultures, and food systems while enjoying the city and beach in walking distance nearby. This farm required you work six hours Monday through Friday and gave WWOOFers the weekend off. This destination is still on my to-do list, but after Zekia Virus broke out, and being

on a college budget, I decided to pick a more local WWOOFing experience, so I headed out to Washington State and WWOOFed in the Rattlesnake Hills Wine Country (Zillah, Washington) on an organic vineyard, homestead, and owl hatchery.

After being dropped off at the Greyhound station in Yakima, Washington I was picked up by the host farmers. During the trip

I noticed the couple's high energy and liberal spirits through the colorful artwork displayed everywhere.

from Yakima to his farm the host farmer, Paul, showed me the many agricultural productions that were occurring in Zillah, a small town about thirty minutes from Yakima. I was actually very shocked, being from Illinois I thought that no other place would have great agricultural operations like we do.

Furthermore, Washington State surprised me with dozens of mid-size operations producing cherries, peaches, apples and even hemp.

Arriving at Paradiso's Del Sol I knew the host family would be super fun. I noticed the couple's high energy and liberal spirits through the colorful artwork displayed everywhere. There were also tree swings, turkeys running the yard, a basketball hoop, and solar panels on the house.

It was the perfect hippy place you picture when you imagine Washington State. Paradiso's Del Sol is a small organic vineyard, homestead, and owl hatchery. Barbara, Paul's wife, takes care of the accounts, and does the farm taxes. She showed me around their property.

That night for dinner I enjoyed a fresh super all from the farm and learned how to properly sample the many flavors of wine they sold.

The next day I woke up to homemade bread and I coated it in honey from the farm. Then headed out to work. My agreement included twenty hours of work per week, so I planned to work five days a week for four hours a day. After my shift, I would go running. I wanted to push myself to beat my record of eight miles and had three weeks to do so.

My plan was to run six miles a day with Sunday off the first week,

eight miles the next, then finally pushing for ten miles and backing it off two miles a day the last week. I thought this would help me enjoy the new area and push myself a little more physically and mentally.

The third day brought a new WWOOFer, an environmental studies major from New Hampshire, who was also on his first WWOOFing trip. It only took us a few hours to become friends. We started planning trips for the weekend. Our first was to the local Native American reservation that was by Mount Rainier, and a forty-five minute bike ride from the farm. We were up for the adventure. We were doing fine until we got to the reservation, then the roads became extremely narrow.

Cars were flying by us crazily, but we made it alive. We first went to a Native American flea market. The market was amazing and full of art, jewelry, and food for sale. Next we headed into the downtown area to wander through stores getting a grand glimpse of the Native American clothing style. We concluded our excursion with a visit to our first casino experience.

We both jumped at the opportunity to gamble for the first time with a lower minimum age requirement on the reservation. I, being budget conscious, only gambled a dollar. However, my friend gambled five dollars and won fourteen. After sitting in on other gambling games for an hour, we walked outside to the forgotten daylight.

We started small talk with a group of Native Americans we overheard talking about a huge Bow Wow happening that evening. They told us a few hundred people would be there honoring an old native leader who had just passed. It was not open to the public but they invited us come with them and even offered us a ride.

Unfortunately, the Bow Wow was an hour away and it was my turn to cook dinner for the other WWOOFers and farmers so we headed back home. That night I made shrimp curry with farm fresh veggies, and large pearl couscous. For dessert I baked chocolate chip vegan banana cookies, and of course Paul offered us instruction on which of his organic wines to best pair it with.

Other WWOOFers joined us along the way including a traveling nurse looking to vacation before she permanently moved to Oregon with her fiancé. The nurse had lived in Las Vegas with her best friend for a year, but was ready to make the big move with her soulmate. Then shortly after another WWOOFer from Los Angeles arrived.

By the time my final week came I had learned so much from the previous weeks. From learning and witnessing a lot that goes on in a farm like the different types of management of wine grapes and operations involved, getting the viticulture tips from Paul and asking Barbara the financial questions that she deals with, to understanding the garden ecosystem, fruit orchard care,

witnessing a baby lamb just born, reviewing why Paul kept failing in his artificial insemination procedure with their pig, hand butchering a chicken and smoking it for supper, to even being exposed again to the natural world, but this time on an operating farm setting.

On the last night of my WWOOFing we all had a bonfire and sleep under the stars. Paul prepared sausages that came from a pig he had raised and slaughtered the year before. I do not eat pork so I made a camp fire grilled tuna melt. I used the homemade bread, tuna, fresh spinach and peppers from the garden, herbs, and fresh goat cheese they pick up from their neighbors who raise goats. That night we had a blast. We talked and talked and talked, and then our talks turned into giggles to out of nowhere bursts of laughter. Must have been something in the water, air or knowing our location and laws.

The final morning came on the farm quicker than expected. Goodbye to the little homestead, the vineyard, chickens, sheep (my new best friends), turkeys, dogs, owls, the immigrant farm workers who listened to my extremely broken Spanish, but kindly taught me to properly prune fruit trees at a very fast pace. Goodbye also to my new WWOOFing friends who had come to WWOOF because they too were up for learning new farming skills, meeting new people, and traveling away from the area they knew as home. Goodbye to the WWOOFing hosts who were very crazy, and colorful at times, but had good intentions in developing people who wanted to learn about being more self-sufficient, and help contribute to implementing a better earth.

I highly recommend a WWOOFing experience and will always take one whenever I am allotted the opportunity. My experience with WWOOFing went far beyond learning to garden better. It really was a vacation and it taught me just how adventurous and courageous I really am. When it was all done, I was happy to return home and move on with my life with a better appreciation of wine and the natural abilities of human senses.

Lincoln Land Community College offers credit programs in Value-Added Local Food, Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, and Baking/Pastry, and non-credit cooking and food classes through our Community Learning Culinary Institute. For more information, visit our website at www.llcc.edu.

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Visit us online
for more
fantastic stories
from LLCC
students!

Stovall address social injustice

By Isaac Warren

Editor

SPRINGFIELD -- On Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, David Stovall spoke to LLCC students and staff about social justice, and the importance of having discussions about topics that may be hard to talk about, such as race inequality and the education system. He made many bold statements, some of which I agreed with. After reading over the notes I took, I decided to take professor Stovall's advice, and do my own research on some topics he discussed.

In order to understand a person's ideologies, one must first understand the person. I did some research on professor Stovall, and found some very intriguing facts. For one, Stovall has earned a Ph.D in Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois in 2001. As an accomplished writer, he has contributed as an editor, or as an author, to multiple different books. The vast majority of the books all have a central theme of race and education, as well as the history of Chicago.

Currently, Stovall works at the University of Illinois in Chicago as a Professor of African American Studies and Educational Policy Studies. He also founded a high school in the late 1990's. I thought this was amazing, and decided to venture further down the rabbit hole to see what this alternative school was about.

The website for the school was, at the time of writing, not functioning properly. No departments, staff members, or course information. Application links for the class of 2020 returned with an error that stated no departments could be found.

According to US News' website, the school had 356 students enrolled as of 2016, with 24 full-time teachers employed there as well. 100% of these students were minorities, with most of them being hispanic, and an astonishing 96% of those enrolled were considered economically disadvantaged.

Test scores were troubling, with



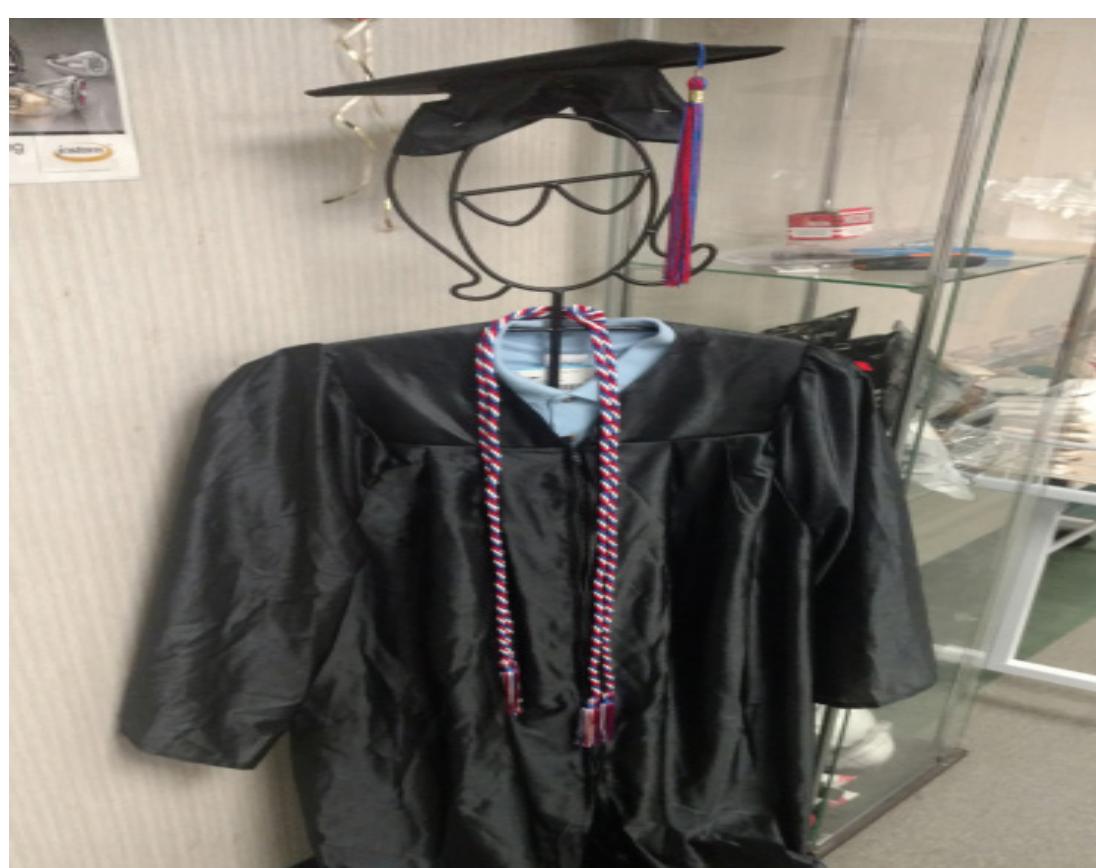
Lamp photos/Isaac Warren

People talk after David Stovall's speech in the A.Lincoln Commons. BELOW: Stovall talks with students.

85% of students performing below or were at academic warning in math, and 83% were performing at the same level in reading. 1% in reading exceeded the standard, however. 66% of 12th graders took at least one AP exam, with the average number of exams just below 3. The school was unranked when compared to other schools in the Chicago area.

Overall, Dr. Stovall is a very intriguing person who has accomplished a lot in his life so far, and will surely accomplish many more great things. He brought up some very important issues in his speech, and called for an open and honest conversation about race and education; to which I completely agree.

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The Lamp/Avery Cook

A cap and gown is displayed near the Sollenberger Room in the Student Union. GradFest will offer students a chance to order graduation regalia.

GradFest celebration

By Isaac Warren

Editor

Midterm are just around the corner, and students who are on their last semester of Lincoln Land Community College need to ensure they have everything ready for graduation. There are some important dates to keep in mind, as well as some checklist items that have due dates as well.

Starting at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on March 15, GradFest celebrations will begin at all LLCC locations, and will last until March 16. Afterwards, caps and gowns can be picked up from the bookstore, or can be shipped to a different location.

Applications need to be turned in March 1 if a student wants to be considered for awards. April 15 is the deadline for one's inclusion in commencement, as well as sizes for gowns. In order to be considered a Spring 2017 graduate, application forms need to be turned in by May 1. If a student is planning on graduating over the summer, applications are due July 15.

Application forms can be found online via LLCC's website, or can be

filled out through Blackboard.

Commencement will take place May 15 at 7:30pm in the Prairie Capital Convention Center at 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701. It is a requirement to obtain a cap and gown from the bookstore to participate. Rehearsals will be Friday, May 12 at noon in the same location.

If you have been nominated, or would like to nominate yourself to speak at commencement, forms will be available starting in March, according to the LLCC website. Forms can be found in Menard Hall room 1255.

Diplomas will be sent out to all students, regardless of participation in commencement, within eight weeks of the ceremony. Diploma covers will be handed out at commencement.

If this applies to you, congratulations! You are almost finished! The long nights and stressful essay writing will all be worth it once you stride across the stage and enter your future.

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Hero's homecoming

Community celebrates return home of soldier injured in Afghanistan

By Andrew Paisley

Lamp Staff

TAYLORVILLE — Army PFC Maggie Bilyeu was finally welcomed home Feb. 10 in an elaborate parade given by Christian County residents.

The Owaneco resident was injured while fighting in Afghanistan on Nov. 12, 2016.

Bilyeu, a 2008 graduate of Taylorville Senior High School, was injured at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, after a suicide bomber detonated a bomb that he had been carrying.

The explosion killed four people instantly, injured 16 U.S. soldiers, including Bilyeu, and a Polish soldier. Another U.S. soldier died after being transferred to Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Bilyeu, who suffered a broken leg, three broken ribs, a shattered femur, injuries to the chest, along with several internal injuries, was also transferred to Walter Reed Medical Center.

Bilyeu enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 2015, where she was sent to Fort Hood Army Base in Killeen, Texas. She was then deployed to Afghanistan in September 2016.

"I was very hesitant at first to speak to the Afghan people, but after working with them every day on base, they sort of befriended me. And of course, I played right into their plan because they were the ones who detonated the bomb," Bilyeu said.

The Taliban eventually claimed responsibility for the attack.



"This is what these people do," Bilyeu said. "They befriend soldiers from other countries while working with them on base. They make you think that they are trustworthy and not bad people. And then you fall right into their trap when they do something like detonate a bomb."

Bilyeu stated of the Afghan soldiers: "It was such a surprise and it happened so very quickly. I wish that I could go back and try to respond to the bomb at a quicker pace."

After recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center for three months, Bilyeu was granted a two-week leave. Her plane arrived Feb. 10 in Springfield, where local citizens met and escorted her to Taylorville, where people lined the streets and waved flags as she made her



way through town.

The lineup started at Jayne's Park in Taylorville, where the cars drove down West Main Cross Street, and then around the square, stopping at U.S. Bank on the square.

"If I could go back in time, I'd be much more alert. For me, it was so weird, because I am usually the first in line to go do combat-

ives and this time I wasn't. It all happened too quickly," Bilyeu said of her experience.

Maggie Bilyeu is the daughter of Burt and Kim Bilyeu of Owaneco. She reported back to Fort Hood Army Base on Feb. 26.

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Decision looms for Taylorville schools

Major cuts may be made without referendum's OK

By Jacob Schmedeke
Lamp Writer

TAYLORVILLE -- China Levy, a former Taylorville High School graduate, was in many extracurricular activities: the spring musical, art club, Future Business Leaders of America, scholastic bowl and journalism.

She joined to explore her skills and challenge herself. She continued her extracurriculars throughout high school because of the sense of community she got from them. The extracurriculars taught her discipline, how to lead, how to work with others on common goals and much more.

"My involvement in extracurricular activities at THS also made me a competitive applicant for my foreign exchange program and was undeniably a factor in my admittance to Northwestern University," Levy said.

Levy is the community engagement specialist for The Seattle Times. She attributes her professional success to her THS journalism class. She also said that she couldn't imagine high school without extracurricular involvement, believing she wouldn't have been able to study abroad or attend a prestigious university without it.

Where kids once ran and played joyously, cornfields now lay. West Elementary School was closed in 2010, and the former land, which included dozens of trees planted by students 20 years ago, has been turned into a cornfield.

South Elementary School also closed in 2013.

Taylorville residents have slowly



Lamp photos/Jacob Schmedeke

The former West Elementary School was closed in 2010, and the former playgrounds are now cornfields.

watched their elementary schools fall behind. Now, it looks like it could hit the Taylorville Junior High School and Taylorville High School.

With the state yet to pass a budget, putting them millions behind in educational payments, Taylorville residents are having to take matters into their own hands. Proposing a property tax referendum to save their

teachers and schools on this upcoming ballot on April 4. The proposal will increase property taxes 85 cents for every \$100. The current property tax rate is 3.4233 percent, with the increase it would be 4.2733 percent.

There's also, Citizens for Education, a group of parents, community and business leaders who are trying to get information out about the



Signs sit in front yards urging people to vote for the referendum.

referendum and help it pass. They have a Facebook page with an enormous amount of information and just recently added a call center until the April 4 election. Anyone is welcome to volunteer for Citizens for Education.

The last property tax increase in the district was in 1978. For perspective, "Grease" and "Animal House" had just come out in theaters. Jimmy Carter was president of the United States. "M*A*S*H," "Happy Days," and "The Jeffersons" were a few of the popular TV shows that year.

If the referendum does not pass, there will be massive cuts. In the 2017-18 school year alone, they will save a little over \$1 million, which includes the dismissal of 22 staff and personnel. Extracurricular activities being cut in 2017-18 include: Madrigals, scholastic bowl, FFA, student council, journalism, the spring musical, National Honor Society and the literary contest. Athletics, couldn't run, jump or power their way out

either. All junior high, freshman and junior varsity athletics will be eliminated, including cheerleading and the pom poms.

The cuts don't end there, the Board prepared additional cuts for 2018-19. 11 more staff members including the THS art, business and foreign language teachers, who will be cut and their programs dissolved. The board also voted to eliminate the varsity athletics in 2018-19. Officially ending all Taylorville school athletics.

The THS student council isn't taking these cuts lightly. They've organized Project #voteyes as a way for the student council to get involved with the community and help inform them on the upcoming April 4 ballot. They also help Citizens for Education with calling residents to ask them to vote yes for the referendum, as well as going door to door to talk to people.

Jacob Schmedeke can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu.



Cheyenne Gain/The Lamp

A small dog enjoys the new Bark Park that opened this year in Jacksonville.

Time

Continued from Page 1

"My sense is that Alpha Epsilon Kappa has created a tradition that will go on at Lincoln Land for many generations," stated Don Ecklund, who is a Phi Theta Kappa advisor at Lincoln Land.

Multiple items were to be put in the time capsule to be reintroduced in 25 years when the time capsule was next dug up. Some of the items being added are a copy of the Lamp and Lump newspapers, a cellphone, and a photo of the chapter officers and members.

"I think it's important to keep doing it because it shows people to appreciate their time at Lincoln Land and also reminds us that there were people here before us building up the programs that we enjoy and learn from today," said Catherine Wittler as she thinks about how things have changed over the years.

Everyone should mark their calendars for 2042 in which the time capsule will be retrieved once again.

"I think it's exciting to see what I'll be doing when 2042 comes around. Hopefully, I can come back to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the college," said Gina Suszko, the public relations officer.

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Jacksonville Public Library has been drawing people to the library for nearly 10 years with musical performances.

Diversity

Continued from Page 1

on student happiness and success, Lincoln Land offers a lot of its jobs to current and former students. This gives students a sense of pride in their school as well as providing a much needed paycheck for them to take home. All the ladies in the front office of the Taylorville campus are former students and have a better understanding of what is needed when helping current students.

Debbie Hawthorne described Lincoln Land as one of the best schooling experiences she's had, "I was never very good in school growing up and it became a discouraging experience for me when nobody cared enough to help when I was struggling. At Lincoln Land they have so many tools available to me to use it's almost impossible to fail this time around."

With such a positive and encouraging environment it's easy to see why more students of the non-traditional variety are choosing Lincoln Land to obtain their education.

Jourdan Craggs can be reached at lamp@llcc.edu.

By Courtney Langdon

Lamp Staff

JACKSONVILLE – Music Under the Dome has been bringing the Jacksonville community together to experience something new for almost 10 years.

The Jacksonville Public Library organizes the series of musical performances as one of its many outreach efforts. It is one of the longest running and most popular offerings by the library.

It is held September through May with five to seven concerts per season.

"It's a good opportunity to relax and have a good time," said Library patron Dan Currie. "Gives you an idea about music besides rock and roll."

Originally only offering classical music performances, Music Under the Dome has expanded to a wide variety of genres, in-

Jacksonville offers place for dogs

Builders plan to build pavilions at new Bark Park

**By Cheyenne Gain
Lamp Staff**

Jacksonville Bark Park is where the happy dogs go.

The new park offers a place for dogs to run, but the group that built the park has plans to continue to improve it. The park has benches that were built thanks to the donation of bottle caps, but the park is continuing to collect caps to benefit the local shelter, PAWS.

"There is still work to be done," said Steven Davidsmeyer, a member of the committee for Bark Park. They plan to add two pavilions, one for both the small and large dog sides.

Donations can be made in cash or online at www.facebook.com/jaxbark. Those donations will help with improvements and keeping the park clean.

The park has stayed clean since its opening in October 2016, thanks to the dog owners always cleaning up after their pets.

Being a great pet owner also means taking your dog and giving it the exercise it needs.

"I bring them because they need to make friends!" said Betty Means, who brought her two small dogs.

Unfortunately, the dog park has not attracted the same number of small dogs as large ones. Often, owners of little dogs believe they can take care of them at home, with walks and playing in the yard.

"Most people don't understand the needs of small dogs energy levels, and their socialization needs," Davidsmeyer said.

Different breeds of dogs may need to run in a larger area such as a terrier. All dogs need socialization, because it will make them a better dog.

"Every time I bring my little one, we are the only ones here," Rachel Hennessey said. "Sometimes another little dog shows up, but it's pretty rare."

All the little dogs need to unite and come together for a play date.

If you don't have a little dog, you can visit the local animal shelter PAWS, or Morgan County Animal control and adopt one today. Ask your neighbors, friends, and family to meet you at the dog park for a small dog play date! If you cannot adopt, get the word out that small dogs need to visit the park too!

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Music Under the Dome

cluding folk, roots, Celtic, Native American and even show tunes.

"Attendance varies," said Jacksonville Public Library director Chris Ashmore. "Once the temperature outside was in the negative, and around seven people showed up. On the other hand, sometimes we have an overflow of 80-plus people."

Recently, the Jacksonville community came together to raise money to buy a piano that would be kept at the library for the purpose of Music Under the Dome.

Ashmore mentioned that this idea was suggested by some of the performers, who said that having a piano available to them would be nice. Previously, Ashmore said the library rented a keyboard from Boyd's Music when necessary.

Pianist Anna Ferraro and The Source newspaper Publisher Marcy Patterson organized a

fundraiser at the Soap Co. Coffee House. Local musician Ken Bradbury and Jacksonville High School senior Caleb Holaway spent the day playing piano and raising money. Bradbury is also set to perform this season at Music Under the Dome on March 24.

This is the first year in which the event will host only performers from the Jacksonville area.

The next Music Under the Dome concert is scheduled for March 5. The Illinois College Women's Chorale and the Illinois College Chambers Singers will perform.

More information about upcoming Music Under the Dome concerts can be found at the Jacksonville Public Library's website, www.jaxpl.org.

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Guide to spotting bald eagles

By Jared Gorrell
Assistant Editor

SPRINGFIELD -- It's bald eagle season here in Illinois. Every winter, thousands of bald eagles descend south from the frozen north woods. Their destination is Illinois. Thanks to the large rivers and big reservoirs present throughout the state, Illinois has become a bald eagle's paradise. Illinois' big lakes and rivers provide ample food (waterbirds and fish) for eagles. Indeed, after Alaska, Illinois, in the winter, has more bald eagles than any other state in the US! Here in Sangamon County, we may be farther from some of the big rivers, but we have the Sangamon River, and we have Lake Springfield. Lake Springfield can have upwards of fifteen bald eagles on it at one time, especially when areas to the north freeze over.

Most of the eagles concentrate near small pockets of open water, as do their prey, ducks and geese. One of the best places to see a bald eagle in the wintertime in the Springfield Area is Lincoln Greens Golf Course. The parking lot is free and open to the public, and the power plant directly across heats the water on the lake enough to leave an open space on the lake year-round. As a result, it's quite easy to find several bald eagles in the trees around the edge- just look for the white heads!

If you want to impress your friends, here's how to ID a bald eagle from a distance if it's flying.

1. Is it big? Bald eagles tie with American White Pelicans for being the largest birds in Illinois. (And yes, there are pelicans in Illinois. I've seen thousands here.)

2. Is it black or dark brown? Young eagles are dark brown, adult eagles are black with a white head and tail.

3. Are the wings held flat when it flies, or in



a wide V? If the bird holds its wings flat AND it fulfills the first two criteria, it's most likely a bald eagle. If it has its wings in a wide V, that's a Turkey Vulture, which is FAR more common at Lincoln Land.

If you can remember these three steps, you should be able to identify a bald eagle. As mentioned above, bald eagles, when young (birth to about five years of age) are brownish. However, they're still enormous, and they have

a larger beak, proportionally to their body, than any other bird of prey in our area.

Lake Springfield's eagle population pales in comparison to areas along the Illinois River where you can see dozens in a day, but it's nearby and still impressive. However, as stated above, if you really want to find Bald eagles, go to the Illinois or Mississippi Rivers. This time of year, if you're lucky, you might even see them do their mating "dance"- a feat

of aerial skill that has to be seen to be believed! Many small towns along the big rivers have "Eagle Days", small fairs that celebrate the eagles. Still, keep your eyes open even when on campus- I've seen several Bald eagles fly over campus, overhead of students who had no idea what they were missing!

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Goalie Mike Robinson, who had 64 saves over the two day series, high-fives fans while taking the ice.

Jr Blues sweep Brown Bears

By Karlee Thompson

Lamp Staff

SPRINGFIELD -- Sitting at 10-34, last in the division, the Kenai River Brown Bears didn't stand a chance in Springfield. The Jr. Blues (22-21) easily defeated them on Feb. 17 and 18.

The Jr. Blues currently sit at third in the division, with hopes of improving and moving onto playoffs.

Feb. 17 at the Nelson Center, the Jr. Blues won 6-1. On Feb. 18, the Brown Bears suffered a loss of 10-2.

Joseph "Joey" Sardina, a center for the Jr. Blues, had an excellent weekend racking up 4 points after only being with the team for two weeks. Sardina is a former Brown Bear himself and says that it feels good to sweep his old team.

"I was confident going into the weekend because I knew the coaching and playing style since I was on the team last year," Sardina said.

The games were both very one sided, in the favor of the Jr. Blues. However, both games were very physical and a scene for some action.

"It's a good feeling to sweep, especially when beating a team with a differential of that many goals,"

said Alex Peck, right wing and student at Lincoln Land.

Stars of the game Feb. 17 included Forwards Brennan Blaszczak (3 goals, 1 assist) and Zachary Tyson (1 goal, 3 assists). Goalie Mike Robinson, a San Jose Sharks' prospect and University of New Hampshire commit, also was a star with a total of 29 saves Friday and 35 on Saturday.

The Jr. Blues have just 15 more regular season games and are in hopes of securing a playoff spot in the road to the Robertson Cup Championship that will take place May 11 to 14 in Duluth, Minn.

"I think we have a good run," Sardina said. "We are in third place. We have to try and finish highest as we can during the regular season."

"We are only 8 points back from 2nd with a few games left, it will be a tight race," Peck said.

Amy Cunningham, host mom to Sardina and Peck, said that she looks forward to the rest of the season and hopes the boys make playoffs.

"It's never easy when they have to leave, so I hope they get to playoffs and finish strong," she said.

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Jr Blues take to the ice to warm up before their game against the Kenai River Brown Bears.



NBA fans question Cousins trade to Pelicans

By Sebastian Rothering

Lamp Staff

SPRINGFIELD -- "I am absolutely shell-shocked. This changes everything in the Western Conference," said NBA fan Brandon Pearce.

DeMarcus Cousins is now a player for the Pelicans. Directly following Sunday's all-star game, the Kings and Pelicans struck a deal to send the superstar to New Orleans. Many people consider this to be one of the worst trades in NBA history.

"The Pelicans committed a crime against the Kings with this highway robbery of a trade," said Connor Nelson, a fan.

The entire trade included Buddy Hield, Tyreke Evans, a first-round and second-round pick in the upcoming NBA draft, going to

Sacramento. The first-round pick is top three protected, but it will most likely be in the 13-18 range. This means if the pick is in the top three then New Orleans will get the pick, not Sacramento. New Orleans is receiving DeMarcus Cousins and Omri Casspi in the trade.

The Pelicans last made the playoffs in 2015 and have never won the NBA championship.

Hield, as last year's sixth overall pick, has been inconsistent numbers. Former rookie of the year and third overall pick, Evans, has had multiple knee injuries and is in his ninth season.

Those two players, with ongoing concerns, are being traded for Cousins. Cousins being a three time all-star, two-time all-NBA team and top 5 player in the league.

Furthermore, New Orleans is getting a solid perimeter defender in Casspi.

It makes them a strong scoring threat with Anthony Davis and Cousins.

"This gives them the best one-two punch in the NBA," said fan Kyle Kuntzman.

Most importantly, this could make New Orleans a very desirable location for marquee free agents. They now represent a solid chance to win a championship.

On the other side, Kings general manager, Pete D'Alessandro, said "we had a better offer on the table two days ago" leading to much animosity with the fans.

The Kings did not make the playoffs during Cousins' stint on the team and have not since the 2006

season.

"The Kings are now the worst team in the NBA, talent wise," said Dylan Law, an NBA fan.

The Kings are now banking on the hope that Hield will turn into the superstar player he was drafted to be. They are taking their chances in the draft hoping to strike gold with their selections.

"They better hope that Buddy works out and that they pick well," said fan Scott Rothering.

It seems as if that New Orleans stole this trade, and, if it turns out like some think it will, then this could go down as the worst and most lopsided trade in NBA history.

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NFL return to STL?

Anheuser-Busch offers to buy Jets

By Sebastian Rothering

Lamp Writer

The return of the NFL to St. Louis has finally started to see some light.

First reported by CBS Sports Network analyst Craig Carton, the Anheuser-Busch family has extended an offer to New York Jets owner, Woody Johnson, to buy the team. The Busch family would presumably move the Jets to St. Louis and bring football back to the Arch.

Saint Louis had two NFL franchises in the past: the Cardinals, now the Arizona Cardinals, and the Rams, which just became the Los Angeles Rams.

"It's like being broken up with by two different girls, for the same reason," said Scott Rothering, a fan from Taylorville.

Both teams moved due to stadium issues and a strained relationship between the owners and fans.

"I grew up with the Cardinals," Rothering said. "When they left, there was a void. Now, I miss the Rams, so much."

The Rams originated in Cleveland, before moving to Los Angeles. The team then moved to St. Louis for 20 years, from 1995 to 2015.

Only five years later, the team won Super Bowl 34 and was successful for the next four seasons, last making the playoffs in 2004. This was also their last winning season.

A combination of losing, lack of improvement, bad coaching, and a bad relationship with an owner, is what ultimately led to the departure from Saint Louis.

The Cardinals, otherwise known as the "Big Red," only made three postseason appearances in its 27 years in the Gateway to the West. The team also played in the old Busch Stadium.

The combination of not winning, lack of funds for a new stadium, and dwindling relationship between the owners and fans, is what caused the move from Saint Louis to Phoenix.

In the manner the Rams left, there are plenty of fans who do not want anything to do with the NFL. But, there are also plenty of people that want an NFL franchise back.

"I absolutely miss the NFL, it is not the same as when the Rams were here," said fan Abby Smith. "Our city is more than capable of supporting an NFL franchise along with our baseball and hockey franchises."

Not all fans are in favor of another team in St. Louis, and would rather the NFL stay away.

Brandon Pearce added: "We have been screwed over twice by NFL owners, and it makes our city look bad. Keep the Jets in New York."

St. Louis currently is home to the Cardinals baseball and the Blues hockey team.

"I am just straight up tired of being lied to and cheated. I would just rather be a two-sport city: baseball and hockey. That is all we need," said Kyle Kuntzman.

While there is pessimism for another NFL franchise, there is also hope among others to get something done. Even if this Jets deal never comes to fruition, it represents hope.

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Unseen gaming

Visually-impaired student discusses his video game experiences

By **Dalen Lewin**
Lamp Staff

JACKSONVILLE -- Sight does not always determine one's ability to play video games. The sad thing is that I am one of the few blind people who believe this to be possible.

Most of the sighted people have the same reaction as the blind people: "Oh my gosh! How are you able to do that?"

I do not find that particularly offensive. It is just a little off-putting when somebody who has the same visual impairment asks me that question. When sighted people ask me, it is obviously no surprise. It is just sad that more blind people do not give video games much of a chance.

"It was pretty cool," said Chance Brow, a gamer with whom I recently played a videogame. "You didn't actually have to see what you were doing. You just knew. I tried playing similar games with my eyes closed to see what it was like, and I got my butt kicked."

There is one thing he was missing -- headphones. They are essential to

fully hearing the game.

"I think it's really cool that you don't allow vision to spoil your time from enjoying a game," said Adrian Washington after I played a video game with him.

Mich Ryan, a fellow visually impaired gamer, explained the experience well: "I think that it is great that you can play video games even though they are mostly inaccessible to the majority of blind people. I myself play video games even though they are definite barriers. I hope that in time, video games will be accessible for everyone."

Hopefully, this finds its way to a blind person somehow. Playing video games is not all that difficult, and I am going to explain how.

I am not able to play every video game. For example, I have tried playing Mario and was absolutely terrible. I even played the audio games version, and I was just as terrible. Maybe I'm just terrible at platformers. However, I can play Sonic, but that is probably because there are far fewer platforms.

However, put me in front of a Mortal Kombat machine, and I will keep shoving in quarters until I win because it is possible for me to do so. I have done it multiple times, not from an actual machine, but from the next best thing, an emulator that acts just like the machine. I can play any modern version of Mortal Kombat

just as well.

I can play tournament fighters, but I can also play side-scrolling beat-em-up arcade games just as easily. However, that is because all you have to do is go left and right and press the punch and jump buttons until you win. Modern games are much more complex.

I can play Grand Theft Auto and Assassin's Creed pretty well, but only the open world segments. I use my headphones to locate enemies and civilians. I know where the attack and block buttons are, and I know the guards' giant footsteps when I hear them. Even if I am not able to hear that, they have a convenient drummer that plays while they march. All I have to do is aim in their general direction, get close and attack. The same goes for the civilians. They have very noticeable footsteps and, since this is a city, they are everywhere, talking and humming. They are pretty easy to locate.

Grand Theft Auto is a different story. It is even easier to locate people and identify who they are. The cops have a siren and the civilians are either walking, talking or using their phones. The gangster are even easier to locate. All they do is spout gang slang everywhere they go. They are practically telling me to attack them.

In Assassin's Creed, the fighting is mostly sword-focused and pressing

the shoot button only fires the gun when locked onto a target. With Grand Theft Auto, I know where the lock-on button is, and I know how to shoot, seeing as how nobody in that bothers to try to hide and presumes to come after me screaming.

I can also play linear action games so long as they do not involve shooting. I can never get a shot off in Call of Duty. I can knife them pretty well, but by the time I get to them, I am already dead. However, I can play Dynasty Warriors because that is a sword-fighting game. All I do is look for action, aim at it and start fighting.

I can't play games with massive open worlds with nothing in them. I'm looking at you, Skyrim.

That is a perfect example of a game that I would be able to play if only it had the same amount of action as Grand Theft Auto or Assassin's Creed, but that is not the case. Even when I get to a city, I have to find my way into the city. There is no way to do so because there are no audio clues. When I am out in the wilderness, I would expect to find a bear or a rabbit or a bandit, but no. It is a wide-open area with very, very, very few enemies.

I hope one day to play Skyrim. Despite not being able to play it, I try desperately. The sound design is incredible. The music is incredible. The immersion is incredible. The fighting is intense. The acting is

nothing short of spectacular. It is one of the greatest games in the world. Yet, its only flaw is the one that ruins the whole experience for me -- the world is so expansive that I can't find anything.

Some games are unplayable for the blind, but most of those games are some of the greatest.

Assassin's Creed Black Flag is another great example. It is mostly focused on sea warfare, which, again, is amazing. The battle to take ships is great. The sound design is spot on. The fights are intense and immersive, the canons firing, the swords clashing, the guns booming and the explosions as the cries of war and death are heard all around are absolutely astounding, all of which are brought to a halt when the ship and loot are finally taken over and its crew subjugated.

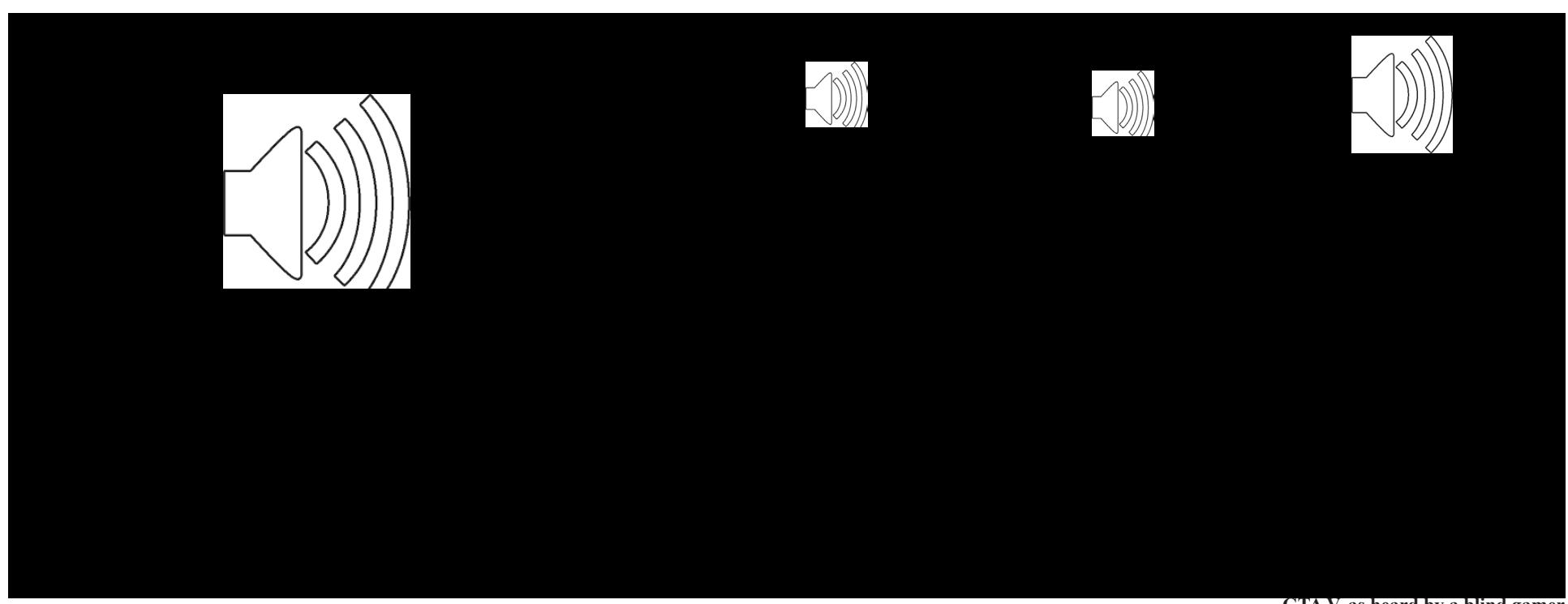
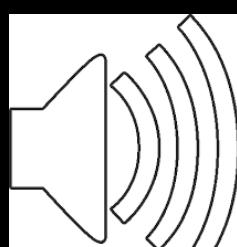
Too bad the world is too big for me to try to take part in that awesomeness. I can play the other Assassin's Creed games, though, and I am grateful for that. The sound design for them is amazing as well.

I just want the video game companies of the world know that there is a demographic they are sorely missing, one that loves their work and wishes to be a part of it that can be a part of it -- if only given the chance.

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GTA V, as seen by the usual gamer



GTA V, as heard by a blind gamer