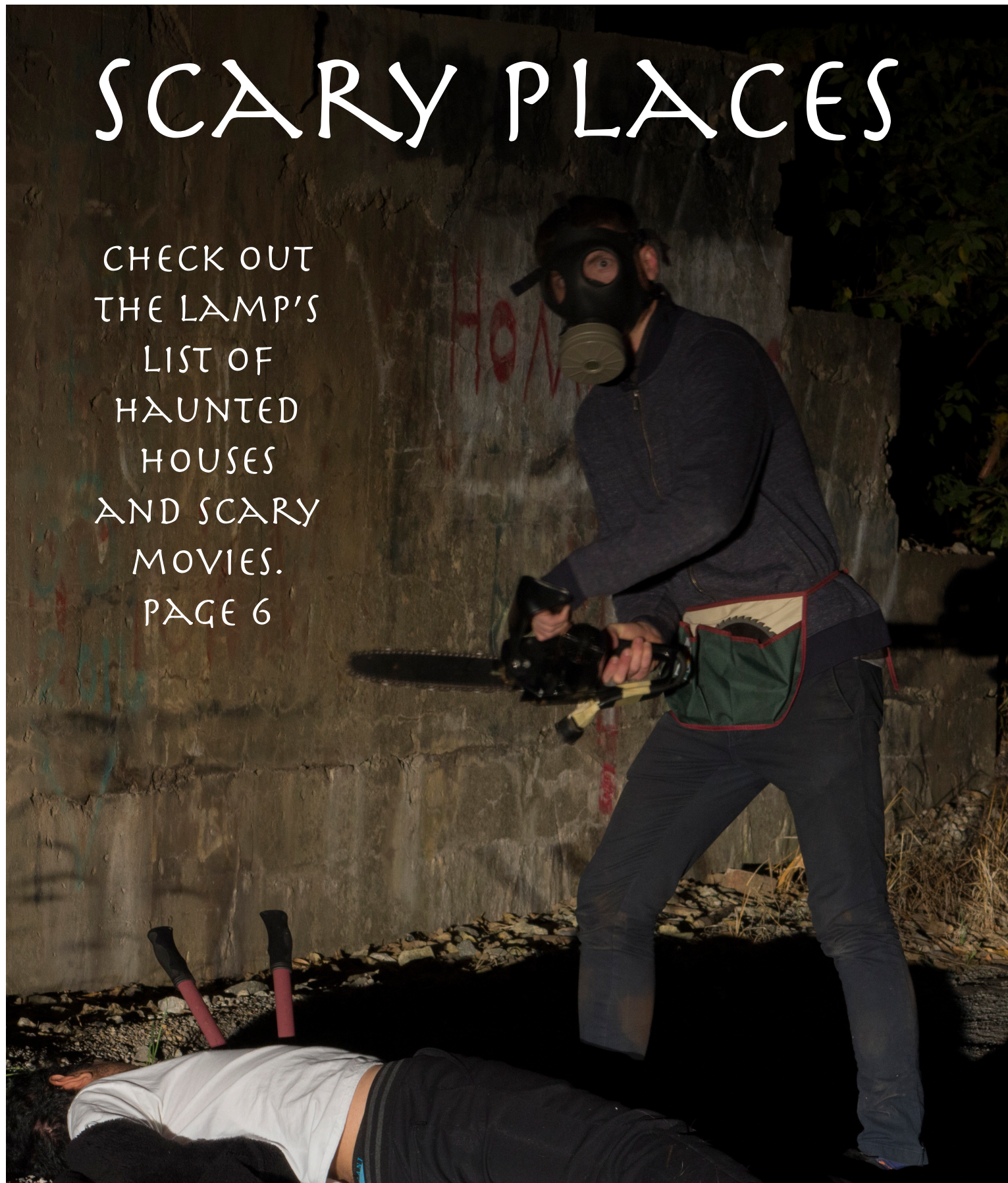




SCARY PLACES

CHECK OUT
THE LAMP'S
LIST OF
HAUNTED
HOUSES
AND SCARY
MOVIES.
PAGE 6



Coach wins 600

Dietz looks for
400 at LLCC

By Gracie Schweighart
Lamp writer

SPRINGFIELD - The 2017 season for the nationally ranked Lincoln Land Loggers volleyball team is off to a strong start. The Loggers opened up their season with a 3-2 victory over nationally ranked Cowley County and have been firing on all cylinders since.

With seven returning sophomores and seven freshmen, the Loggers are sitting at a record of 15-5 so far this season.

Also returning for the 2017 campaign is head coach Jim Dietz, who happened to reach his 600th win overall as a head coach against Kirkwood Community College on September 22nd. Coach Dietz has had a whirlwind of emotions as he closes in on win number 400 at Lincoln Land.

Dietz also holds the Lincoln Land Community College volleyball win record with an overall record of 388-140.

"The wins themselves generally blur together." Coach Dietz's current and former players would say different though. "The girls will tell you I can remember something about all of the matches or tournaments they have played in."

Coach Dietz has led the Loggers to the national tournament in multiple seasons, finishing runner-up the past two years.

"Leadership is always interesting," Coach Dietz said. "Last year, we had a couple of forceful personalities with our sophomores."

This year, the sophomore Loggers have taken a different leadership approach. "Our sophomores this year work through collaboration and consensus." Because of this, the Lady Logger volleyball team has been able to come together as a whole - allowing them to have such a great start to the 2017 season.

Sophomore Kiersten Anderson returns following an outstanding freshman year. Anderson is a 2016 graduate of Lutheran High School here in Springfield, Illinois.

During her high school volleyball career, she was named to the Champaign News-Gazette All-State team and was an all-conference and all-area selection.

After her freshman year at LLCC, she was named MWAC Freshman of the Year, all-MWAC, all-Region, and all-American. She was also the only freshmen selected to the all-National Tournament team.

Volleyball, Continued on Page 2

Students get 'Lit' at banned book festival

By Niko Robledo
Lamp staff

SPRINGFIELD - Professor Deborah Brothers has been holding a single-day banned book reading event for 16 years at Lincoln Land, but this year, she decided it was time to go further, organizing a four-day literary festival.

The first event took place inside the James S. Murray gallery to start off "All Lit Up" with the opening of a new exhibit and open mic. Events also included the "Well, I'll Be Banned: 17th Annual Banned Books Reading," a writing workshop titled "Monologues: Casting Light on Character" and finally a panel of author readings from professors around the Midwest.

"Books and text help us understand the world and other perspectives, and it's very meaningful to have everyone come out." Brothers said.

The open mic kicked off the festival on Sept. 25, bringing an influx of spectators to the gallery. The new exhibit featured visual art, based on the spoken word.

Leslie Stalter, professor of art, curated the event.

This is one of the only other times that students will have art in the gallery until the annual Student Art Show, she said.

While the open mic performances were predominantly spoken word based, Dr. David Leitner provided a hip-hop-themed piece. His performance emphasized the notion that all

forms of meter and rhyme are to be celebrated.

On Sept. 26, the Jacksonville campus held the first band book reading event, followed the next day by an event on the Springfield campus.

"I am excited about this going to one of our satellite campuses like that, because they don't have a lot of events that take place... My hope is that even though I won't be teaching there next fall is that somebody there will like the idea and run with it." Brothers said.

These events took place during national Banned Books Week, a national observance celebrating the freedom to read. Brothers reflects on the original banned book reading on Sept. 25, 2001. "In light of all the restrictions

that were happening with information access, and people getting bugged. It seemed more than important than ever to talk about freedom of information."

The final event took place on Sept. 28, in the R. H. Stephens Room. The panel featured the authors, John Paul Jaramillo, professor of English at LLCC; Jon Tribble and Allison Joseph who both work at the "Crab Orchard Review" and are creative writing faculty at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; and Ted Morrissey, a professor from Lindenwood University in Missouri.

Photos on page 5.

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

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Is Bitcoin the new currency?

**By Leo Borgelin
Lamp staff**

I would buy a house from a real estate agent only if they accepted one thing. Not my cash. Just my Bitcoins.

You don't have to live in Dubai anymore where real estate is going in terms of Bitcoins. The future is alive and present everywhere else. Bitcoin was used recently to pay for a new house in Texas. You don't have to ask Amazon Alexa or Siri if Bitcoin is accepted somewhere near you. Sooner, but not later, it'll eventually reach you. Like that cup of coffee from Starbucks, that you can buy with Bitcoin. Yup, there's an app for everything.

We should have known that digital money would eventually reach us as a society. From gold to paper and then eventually to plastic cards. It only makes sense as technology makes a greater appearance in our lives that it becomes part of it. You might as well start introducing your phone to your wallet. You'll be using both a lot more.

Bitcoin, which was first established in 2009 introduced the world to digital currency. From that point on, it has been growing and trending

gradually throughout the years. The main users of Bitcoin and all other forms of digital currency call themselves 'cryptocurrencies'. Why a name so cryptic and hidden? Ironic when you already know about it or can willingly do your research. Even more ironic when that currency is established on one of the most public forms of technology. Yes, the blockchain.

The blockchain is only complex and cryptic to those who designed it. That's why we have programmers and computer science majors. But when it comes to understanding it, you might think of yourself as one of the Facebook founding computer engineers, because it really was that easy. The blockchain is a public ledger that technology and cryptocurrencies use to record any move, transaction, data that everyone is able to see. There's still one question. Where does the cryptocurrency and public ledger connect to?

If technology has done one thing, it's shown us that the tech bubble popped. And it has thrived ever since it burst onto the scene. Now everyone has specs of soap in their eyes. What it really did was

decentralize everything, almost everything. This big trend of decentralization only came after products we purchase became more convenient. That was never enough. Products became faster. That still wasn't enough. Now they are decentralized. You have full authority over everything you use.

You know what decentralization reminds me of? Democracy, power to the people. It wouldn't be wrong for Americans to say "hey we had decentralization first." And they would be absolutely right because that's what a democracy is. Now that democracy, is extended to your money and the businesses you interact with. Some of these cryptocurrencies, as many as they are, actually give the everyday person votes and power to make a change within a company as a customer. That's a step up from giving a review and rating a company.

Forget about where it all starts. At this point, it all seems crazy how fast and how much the world is changing. You even have competitors of Bitcoin within your own city of Springfield. Bitqy which was explained to me as, "Bitqy is

attached to the commerce market and is spreading at a much faster rate than bitcoin, which primarily had it's slow start with the techies (people of technology)," Bruce Wong who is a chiropractor in Hawaii also a user and advocate of Bitqy. As it goes, each Bitqy (currency) is a shares worth of the company. The same public ledger and decentralization applies to it as well. There are already over 20 businesses alone in Springfield, let alone the masses it has over the nation.

Full disclosure I do have Bitcoins. Another full disclosure I also have Bitqy. Whether America adopts its own digital currency, just to stay ahead, I can't tell you that. I can only tell you this: I'm standing where you are. So much is going on with the world that we can barely tell which direction we are looking in. But each night I go to sleep, I know tomorrow is waiting, even past midnight. In 24 hours or less, tomorrow will be here. If America prepared democracy for the world, then I'll prepare myself for the future. All before today's past.

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Leave the sugary drinks behind

**By Teresa Brummett
Lamp writer**

With the cost of energy drink's to reach \$ 61 Billion by 2021 we must be aware and remember that there are dangers of drinking sodas, energy drink and boosters. And they are nothing that we haven't already heard. But the facts are out there, we just need to do a little research to find them: obesity, kidney damage and certain cancers.

Then we have the energy drinks and boosters. Even with all the vitamins included in some of these drinks that could possibly be too much of a good thing and can be hazardous to your health. And with all the sugars in these drinks how much sugar is too much?

According to the website, Healthline.com, a man should have no more than 150 calories and a woman no more than 100 calories per day of sugar. Be aware the average personal intake of sugar is only 9 teaspoons of sugar a day but the real average personal consume 20. It makes your body work harder to get rid of the excess sugars obtained. During an entire year, the average person has an intake of 150-170 pounds of sugar, about the weight of an adult.

So, it's no wonder that during the first year of college, students on an average gain 10 pounds. And by the end of their four years of college, around graduation time students have gained a total of 70 percent

more weight since the start of school their freshman year.

Even certain vitamins that are in these sodas, power drinks and boosters can also be found in some of the top weightloss supplements on the market. Meaning that you're getting energy, but you could also be losing weight that you can't afford to lose. Which isn't any good on your bodies.

The dangers are all too real when it comes to mixing too much caffeine with sugars from sodas or boosters. This could send anyone into cardiac arrest, which stops the flow of blood to the heart. So, when this happens a person may have shortness of breath, chest pain, or nausea. This then leads to a state of unconsciousness, and abnormal or absent breathing. Which usually leads to death. Arrhythmia which is the heartbeat is irregular or an abnormal rhythm. And death can also occur if medical attention is not found. These two ways are a sure sign of too much caffeine in your system.

Then we hear about how vitamins are supposed to be good for you. So, when the bottle says...take two daily that is just what they the FDA or "The Food and Drug Administration" mean. Because when the intake is over the daily allowance, it can be deadly. So, don't let the name vitamins throw you off what is and what isn't healthy. Like vitamin B6. It helps those neurotransmitters. It is needed for the brain development and function and helps in other ways like influencing

your mood and melatonin which helps regulate your body's clock. And in some cases, can be life threatening if overdosing. Like when the 28-year-old male who drank 8 cans of an energy drink before he went into cardiac arrest. Of course, not all of us will slug down 8 cans with a 2-hour period but you need to be aware that the dangers are there.

I spoke with ten students here at Lincoln Land, five females and five males, on what they drink while here at school and if they preferred water, coffee, sodas, energy drinks or boosters. Six students told me that they drink either a soda or coffee in the morning but drink water the rest of the day. Then the remaining four students were split. Two of the students both male told me that they drink either an energy drink or booster in the morning then by lunch have some type of soft drink or soda. Which is still more sugar into their only 9 teaspoons of their daily amount. And the remaining two students, one male one female agreed that they both drink some type of energy drink or coffee in the morning. But when the afternoon comes they both feel like they need the extra boost so they drink either another soda or energy drink to pep them up for the rest of their afternoon.

It's hard to judge a student when they come to school and a lot of the times it's early and they might have worked late the night before. They need to find something to give them the wake-

up energy they need, but they need something that will keep them full of energy all day long. So, they won't be falling asleep in their classes.

But, it comes to a point when the energy drinks, soft drinks and boosters are doing nothing but getting you addicted to the caffeine that they contain.

Although regular Coke has 69mg of caffeine it's not the highest soft drink out there. Jolt cola, which was the rave in the 80's and still available today, is the highest on the market...believe it or not! But their slogan says it, "All the sugar, twice the caffeine" which is at a total of 282 mg and is totally off the charts. And is more than four times what regular Coke is.

So, the next time you need help waking up in the morning, make sure that you choose wisely. Instead, go and make an appointment to see your family doctor and let him or her help you get the correct vitamins needed for each day. Where they can help you get off that addiction of the sugars that tempt you and your classmates into the unhealthy lifestyles we know today. And once you get off the sugars of these soft drinks, energy drinks, and boosters you'll see a change in the way you look and feel. In the long run, changing up these drinks for the proper vitamins is one of the keys to having a bright future.

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Volleyball

Continued from Page 1

"We saw the drive in last year's sophomores to work hard in order to get back to nationals," Anderson said. "Going to nationals and seeing what can happen with hard work is a lesson that I hope the other sophomores and I have instilled in the freshmen."

Anderson, along with the other sophomores, have been striving to use their experience and lessons they learned from last year in order for their team to continue to be successful. They have done a fantastic job thus far.

Freshman Delaney Edwards, another Springfield area alum, has adapted well to the shift from high school level volleyball to playing for the nationally ranked Loggers. She says that the sophomore leadership has been extremely helpful in making the transition much easier.

"The sophomores have been a big part of how I have developed as a volleyball player throughout this year," Edwards said. "They've also made it easier for me to adapt to new people and new situations."

Edwards, a graduate of Williamsville high school, was a three-year starter for her high-school volleyball team and earned all-

conference honors her senior year.

For Edwards, her mental aspect of the game has changed throughout the beginning of her freshman year at LLCC.

"Looking back to where I, personally, started to now, there has been a big change on the mentality I have and how the speed of the game has changed."

Learning a new defense and playing with a brand new team can be tough, but the Logger volleyball freshman has not skipped a beat. As a 5-7 outside hitter, Edwards has continued to play as large of a role for the Loggers as she did this time last year for Williamsville.

As the Loggers are nearing the last full month of their season, winning games against region foes is extremely important for their postseason rankings.

Both Anderson and Edwards agree that one of the main priorities for the rest of this season is to take it one game at a time. The overall goal is to make it to nationals and come home with a national championship. After finishing runner-up the past two years, the Loggers are more determined than ever before. According to Anderson, "Third time's a charm."

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Organic food is set up for sale in the A.Lincoln Commons. BELOW: Marnie Record sits at the Food Stand.

Jacob Fisher/The Lamp

Christian group is revived

Fellowship finds fresh ideas, activities

By Noah Miers
Lamp staff

Lincoln Land student Theo Graff hopes Christians can find a place to come together on campus.

Christianity is the belief that Jesus is the son of God and that he allows the mortal and sinful to go to heaven. Graff is president of a resurrected Christian group: Christian Student Fellowship.

“The goal of the club for me is to connect with students of the Christian faith and those who are doubting themselves,” Graff said.

He said he wants to discuss and exchange ideas on the Christian faith.

The group is “a non-denominational group for college students to hang out with others who are interested in learning more about God, Christianity and Jesus. The weekly meetings will consist of 1. Getting to know each other, 2. Prayer, 3. Study a topic such as how do we know the Bible is true, 4. Discussion, 5. Closing prayer, and 6. Hanging out,” the group’s adviser, Chris

Barry, said.

“The group is also based off of an older club that fizzled out”, Barry said.

Barry says that “The club has a good start, as many students signed up and provided fresh ideas that would expand the club’s options through an active event schedule.

It is also looking to expand on these ideas from unique and diverse perspectives on how to reach the goal of coming together in common faith”.

Members have already met to elect officers and to “vote on possible events in the semester and sharing what interests each person has in the club,” Barry said.

The club is “a safe place with genuinely nice people,” one member said. “They get things done and don’t dilly-dally.”

That member said she also wants the club to help her faith towards others and learning how to help others in her community.

The club plans to meet on Thursday and Friday afternoons, so if you do have some interest either fill out your contact info on the cutout or sign up online at www.llcc.edu/christian-student-fellowship-club.

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Organic food comes to LLCC

By Jacob Fisher
Lamp writer

SPRINGFIELD – Sarah Goodman has become part of the growing trend of organic food consumers.

A budget specialist for the college, Goodman said her family began eating organically grown foods about a year ago, and she said a great way for them to get the food is by shopping regularly at the LLCC agriculture department’s organic Food Stand.

On Sept. 25, Marnie Record was sitting in the A.Lincoln Commons selling organically grown produce at the ag program’s regular Farm Stand event. It’s in its third year, and Record is hoping people will make a healthier food choice after visiting the stand.

The Food Stand’s products are grown as part of the community garden behind the Work Forces Careers Center on the Springfield campus.

As organic products have become more and more popular, Record said, “It has continued to grow for the past 20 years and [organic living] is staying on this upward trend.”

Record would expand on a statistic she recently saw regarding people eating organically. She would go on to say



that there has been a 23 percent increase between 2015 and 2016.

Lincoln Land Community College has supported the agriculture department to produce organic products. The Farm Stand sold several types of organic products that has been grown on Springfield’s very own campus.

For the Agriculture department to get the produce ready for the Farm Stand sale, Record says, “Each produce has a different growing time, [products] pretty much ranges from 30 days to 60 days.”

“Some things like carrots, take longer,” Record said, “and some of the greens are closer to the 30 to 45 days.”

Goodman is glad that she is eating organically-grown foods. “It is better

for people”, she said. “Buying from the Food Stand is great because when they buy local, you are also supporting your local businesses.”

“It is an easier access to locally grown foods,” Goodman said.

As organic living is growing, Lincoln Land Community College is starting to offer Agricultural Watershed Management programs. The programs help students broaden their agricultural interests.

LLCC’s newest program is developed to introduce students to comprehensive problems and best solutions associated with agriculture.

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Celebrating Cultures

Story by Shyanne Shymansky
Photos by Niko Robledo

SPRINGFIELD—Alex Khayyat was glad to share his native culture with Lincoln Land students on Oct. 4.

“Since I was adopted from Lebanon, it’s really cool to see where I come from and to be able to celebrate my native culture,” said Khayyat, who was sitting at the table for the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield’s table in the A.Lincoln Commons.

That table was one of dozens that lined the Commons, giving Lincoln Land students the chance to learn about the diverse culture of fellow students and community members. The Multicultural Festival is an annual tradition at the college, offering information, music and food.

Also at the Islamic Society’s table, Shabana Arshed was answering ques-

tions visitors had about the Muslim faith.

The table included a variety of artifacts that show how people worship around the world. There was also evil eye glasswork from Turkey, prayer beads from Afghanistan and her daughter’s traditional outfits.

Arshed said it was her “mission to help make people informed of Islam and get the truth.”

Toward the back of the Commons,

music was being played, along with cultural musical performances. In that area, a group was there to showcase belly dancing.

Jody Rentschler started dancing nine years ago when she was looking for a yoga class to attend.

The belly dancing class popped up instead, she said. That scared her, but she saw that as a challenge to her to do it.

Anyone who is interested in joining the community, she said they should

really just get out of their comfort zones and just enjoy it.

Among the various cultural groups was the college’s Ag Club, which had members there to talk about genetically modified organisms.

“So many people are told that GMOs aren’t good for you,” student Kylee Fields said. “It’s because farming and ag get a pretty bad rep, but honestly, without them, where would we be? Naked and hungry.”

Speaking of hungry, the event featured free food that was definitely what won over the crowd. The food was situated near the registration area just inside Menard Hall. The line to get to the buffet of food wrapped down the hallway and did not decrease all afternoon.

Participants got the chance to try chips and salsa, egg rolls, enchiladas, an Indian dish, naan, mac ’n’ cheese, greens and much more.

This was Javan Meints first time experiencing the Multicultural Festival, he said.

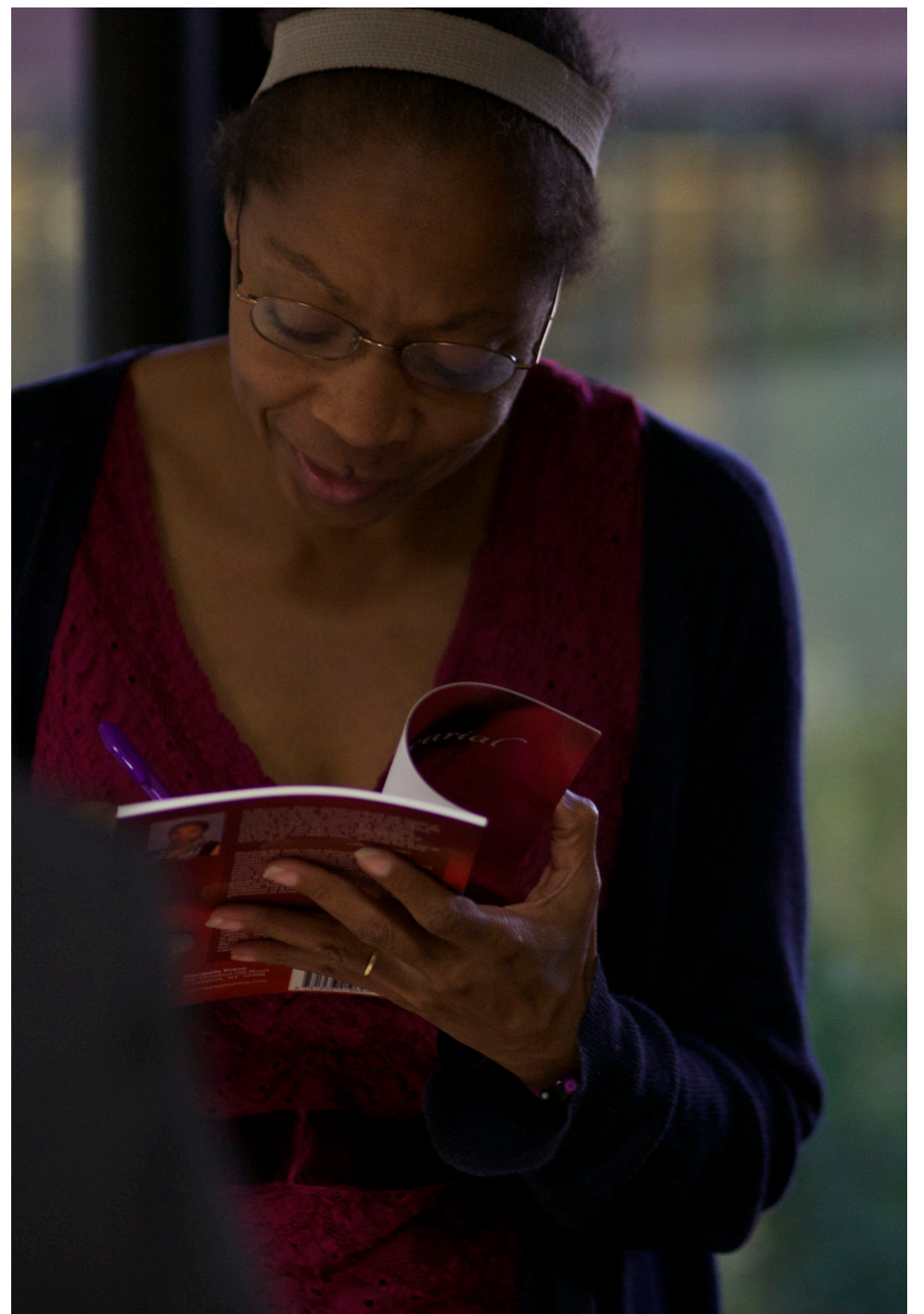
Meints said he really enjoyed the diversity and how it brought students together.

Shyanne Shymansky can be reached at lamp@lcc.edu.



All Lit Up Festival

Photos by Niko Robledo





Niko Robledo/The Lamp Photo Illustration

SCARES AND FRIGHTS

Haunted houses to visit

By Dakota Fenelon
Lamp staff

The Massacre

If you're looking to travel to the scariest haunted house in Illinois this is the place for you. The Massacre is ranked number 1 as the top scariest haunted house tour in Illinois and is well worth the money and a good scare.

There are three types of tickets you can purchase. The first being the general admission ticket at the price of \$25 per person. If long lines aren't your style and you know you're definitely not turning back from the terror of this mad house, you can purchase a \$35 flash pass which will bring you to a much shorter line in minutes! If that doesn't satisfy your need for a scare then you want the bonus add-on to this terror packed adventure you can throw in an escape room for a \$60 Platinum V.I.P. Immediate Access Pass instead, which has NO LINE and you get an escort to the front of the line and straight into the fun!

Address: 299 Montgomery Road, Montgomery, IL 60538
Contact: info@themassacrehaunt.com/ 708-320-FEAR

The Scream

This second house of horrors is a lot less pricey and guaranteed to make you scream!

With just a short drive to Decatur and the price of a \$12 general admission ticket, you can easily afford the haunted

house guaranteed to give you nightmares for a month. If you're looking to spend over \$12 then go ahead and by the \$20 pass to the front of the line!

This mad house is open every Friday and Saturday of the month of October and stick around for the 28th and 31st! The last two nights feature a Glow Light the Night special, where you get your own glow stick and there are absolutely no lights!! How's that for spooky?

Address Hickory Point Mall Forsyth, IL 62535
Contact: 217-423-4222

Terror On The Square

The horror moves in closer. In Petersburg we have Terror on the Square!

This years theme is once again "Terror in the Graveyard", last year's newest haunting experience has reanimated and is returning this year with even bigger scares and chilling frights than ever before!

General admission tickets are priced at \$13 per person unless you are 10 years or younger, than you get in for just \$10! Most affordable haunted house yet!

Every Friday and Saturday starting on Friday the 13th and ending Tuesday the 31st. Get ready for the haunt around an abandoned graveyard.

Address: 18450 N Fairgrounds Street, Petersburg Il, 62675
Contact: www.terrorontheweb.com

Extreme Haunted Hayrides in Riverside Park

Halloween will be celebrated in

Springfield with either a haunted hayride, zombie paintball, or both!!

Come on down! For just \$20 you will be provided a paintball gun to take out as many zombies as you can! Alternately, If you don't feel like harming a poor starving zombie, hop on the hayride if you just want to take it easy and go for a ride down horror lane at the lesser price of \$15, the choice is yours. At just \$30 however you can combine the two choices into a single ticket! Saving your wallet the extra \$5 of doing everything separately!

The horror has already started! Starting September 29th and 30th, the gates will open 6pm-11pm every Friday and Saturday in October.

Address: 2310 Chinchilla Lane, Springfield IL 62702
Contact: 217-522-7702

Carter Bros. Haunted Hayride.

Not looking to be scared this year? This list has got you covered!

Here you get a very affordable \$10 hayride and Halls of Terror, afterwards go and enjoy some s'mores with your friends at the bonfire!

The Carter Bros. are even nice enough to let you enjoy the hayrides in broad daylight for just \$5!

Address: 1580 South Sherman Boulevard Springfield, Illinois 62707
Contact: 217-414-3653/Josh Carter

So enjoy your spooky Halloween celebration from Ghouls and terrifying adventures to hayrides and bonfire gatherings.

WHAT TO WATCH THIS HALLOWEEN

5 films to spook your socks off

By Niko Robledo
Lamp staff

1. Sinister - Scott Derrickson

Who doesn't love the concept of someone coming through a television screen and murdering everyone you care about? In Sinister, author Ellison Oswald (played by the infamous Ethan Hawke) moves his family into a new home. In the attic finds a box containing a projector and multiple rolls of film. Soon after, he realizes that each film is a different murder and makes it his personal goal to solve the mystery and turn his story into a bestselling book.

2. 28 Days Later - Danny Boyle

A twist on the original idea of zombies, set in London. When a group of animal rights activists take on a job releasing a captive monkey. They are ignorant to the fact that this chimp was filled with an infection called the "Rage Virus." When infected, the virus causes the host to enter a state of hyperactive blood lust. The narrative follows a group of 3 survivors trying to make their way to safety.

3. It Follows - David Robert Mitchell

The main character discovers that she has been given a curse that can only be passed through sexual intercourse. Her friends don't believe that a curse could

exist and if it did, why the heck would it be passed through sexual intercourse? It manifests itself as a woman but, can be disguised as any physical object. This adds an extra teaspoon of fear to the already eerie experience.

4. The Conjuring - James Wan

Ed and Lorraine Warren a paranormal investigator and demonologist duo are convinced to take on a haunting of farm in Rhode Island. The activity in the farm house starts off slowly and the spirit appears to be benign. After multiple months of living in the house, the family realises they are dealing with much more than a bed sheet with eyes. The best part is that this film was based on a real story. Lorraine Warren was even a consultant to James Wan.

5. The Taking of Deborah Logan - Adam Robitel

Mia Medina is making a film on Alzheimer's Disease for her doctoral thesis. She sets up cameras around the home of Deborah Logan and her daughter Sarah. Over time she begins to notice that her mental health is deteriorating. BUT! Is it only her mental health? Or could it be something more sinister? Found footage films take your suspension of disbelief to another level by presenting the footage as real. This brings the film one step closer into our reality.

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Forensic DNA brings back local WWII MIA soldier after 73 years

By Zach Aiello
Lamp Editor

SPRINGFIELD – It's September 23, 1944, and Operation Market Garden is in full swing in the Netherlands during World War II. This is the Allies largest airborne operation of the war to this point. Its main objective is to secure a group of bridges, held by the Nazi army, spanning key rivers that enter into Northern Germany. If the Allies take these bridges, then the war will be over by Christmas 1944. As history shows, this did not happen.

The 401st Glider Infantry Regiment (GIR), G Company (attached to the 325th GIR) is landing on this day, three days behind schedule, due to inclement weather. They miss their drop zone and are now behind enemy lines near a dense forest called Kiekberg Woods by the town of Groesbeek, Netherlands. For several days, the German and American forces battled with ferocious attacks and counterattacks resulting in many American losses from the 401st and 325th GIR. The bloodiest day for the Americans is Sept. 30, when very heavy casualties are inflicted in the dense and foggy forest. Staff Sgt. Michael Aiello of Springfield is fighting here this day. On Oct. 1, Sgt. Aiello does not report for roll call and is listed as Missing In Action (MIA). He would remain this way for 73 years.

"I never thought we would ever hear anything about him again," said Michael S. Aiello, age 81, Sgt. Aiello's grandnephew and godson. "I was really too young to remember him, maybe 8 years old when he died."

In July 2017, descendants of Sgt. Aiello had a meeting in Springfield with members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), based in Fort Knox, Ky. They came to tell the family that the remains of Sgt. Aiello had positively been identified and would be available for return to his hometown for burial at Camp Butler National Cemetery.

"My dad was never sure if he was killed, captured or how he might have died. He deserves to come home a hero and it's a great honor to be his godson. I'm so happy,"

said Michael Aiello, who was named for his great-uncle.

Sgt. Michael Aiello was the youngest of 16 children, born to immigrant Sicilian parents in 1909 in St. Louis. He moved to Central Illinois when he was 3 years old and went to Sherman Grade School finishing the 8th grade. At 13, he went to work in the coal mines, like most of his family was doing. He, at one time, had his own restaurant in downtown Springfield, but was primarily a coal miner until entering the U.S. Army in 1942. He fought in France in the D-Day invasion three months prior to his death in the Netherlands.

So what happened between September 1944 and July 2017 to Sgt. Aiello?

In January, 1946 based on a tip from a local resident of Plasmolen, Netherlands, the Quartermaster Graves Registration Co. recovered three sets of remains from the Kiekberg Woods. One was unburied, and the other two were in foxholes. Two were identified as members of Co. G, 401st GIR (Sgt. Aiello's Company). The third set of remains was unable to be positively identified and was designated as "Unknown X-3367." They eventually were interred in what is today the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium on April 19, 1950, and was listed as "Unknown."

Over time, the remains of 52 U.S. servicemen from the Kiekberg Woods area were recovered. Forty-six of them were from the 325th/401st GIR. Through diligent and methodical forensics, the Department of the Army and DPAA was able to keep narrowing down the potential possible matches for the unaccounted for servicemen. Recent historical research showed that there were 21 unaccounted for servicemen within a 5-mile radius of the Kiekberg Woods, and all were members of parachute infantry or GIR's, including 14 attached to the 325th/401st GIR (Sgt. Aiello's). Anthropological and dental analysis ruled out 19 of the 21 candidates as a match for Sgt. Aiello's remains. This left two potential remains, one being X-3367.

Members of the Springfield Aiello family began receiving phone calls

about 2010 looking for descendants of Sgt. Aiello. The DPAA kept in touch with the family members, only able to tell them that "it may be possible" that his remains have been identified. The family almost lost hope when the DPAA requested DNA samples from two male members of the Aiello descendants between 2013 and 2015. Nothing more was heard from until May 2017.

After review of the obtained samples and approval was obtained, X-3367 was disinterred from the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium in May 2016 and sent to the DPAA's forensic laboratory in Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. A variety of DNA testing was conducted, including mitochondrial (maternal line) and Y-chromosome (paternal line) using Sgt. Aiello's remains and family submitted samples.

An anthropological analysis was conducted with the remains and revealed them to be of an adult male, 35 to 55 years of age at death, and stature of 62 to 67 inches tall. At the time Sgt. Aiello went missing he was 35 years old and 66 inches tall.

The DNA testing came back a positive match and the Army forensics had helped solve a 73-year mystery and help bring closure to the Aiello family.

"It's incredible what the Army was able to do after so many years," said Brian Aiello, a great-great-nephew. "I'm so thankful they never gave up and I hope they continue this process to bring closure to other families. I believe it's well spent taxpayer's money and hope they bring them all home someday."

Sgt. Aiello will be coming home to Springfield in a few weeks, and a full military burial will be conducted. Services are planned for 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, in Camp Butler National Cemetery, Riverton, and is open to the public.

Zach Aiello can be reached at lamp@lcc.edu. Zach is the great-great-greatnephew of Sgt. Michael Aiello. His father is Brian Aiello, and his grandfather is Michael Aiello, the grandnephew and godson of Sgt. Aiello.



The Silent Killer

Winter is coming and gas is everywhere.

By Jack Pugh
Lamp writer

Every morning a few summers ago, John Smith would get up to go to his first summer job. The 16-year-old's mother would greet him and his friend still wearing her PJs.

She asks her son about it, "Do you remember working at Monsanto's?"

He says, "Yes."

"I know you may not have noticed, but every morning you and your friend would go to work. I would stare at you guys. Thinking to myself, this was the last summer I would see my boy getting ready for work. You looked so cute with your red lunchbox you had prepared yourself, the way you were dressed, and you were a working man. I wanted those precious memories," she said.

The family didn't know it then, but they were suffering from chronic exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. They are living proof of what it is to almost lose everything in life and more.

The family wishes to remain anonymous, but are OK with sharing some of their stories and hardships through their tough and trying times. The family name has been changed to Smith to protect their anonymity.

For some perspective, this family is not alone with CO exposure according to Andy Goodall, assistant fire chief from Taylorville. "We roughly answered 70 or so calls for carbon monoxide related accidents in this area."

Taylorville is a relatively small city that is surrounded by heavy agricultural areas, as is all of Central Illinois. Taylorville responds to calls around the county.

This time of year is a very beautiful time of the year. All the leaves are turning to their bright orange, blinding yellow and almost fluorescent red colors all as they begin their descent toward the ground. This is the time of year when the windows are open wide to feel the nice cool breeze of fall, as it enters and fills these homes. Some will say it allows the house to air out all the bad toxins that dwell in it as well. Either way, it's a good and beautiful time of year.

As winter fast approaches, furnaces will be igniting, stoves are warming up and the windows are being shut down. The last bit of fall blows away with the changing of the seasons. When the houses close up for the winter, does it necessarily mean they are safe?

"Fall and winter can be a dangerous time when people shut down their homes and have carbon-based fuel appliances (gas stoves/ovens, water heaters, and furnaces) turned on," Goodall said.

He also explains what CO actually is, "a carbon-based fuel that does not burn properly." The appliances at fault can have a leak, malfunction or blocked so the gas can't properly burn. The unburned gas "is odorless, colorless, and deadly."

Scuba diving may seem farfetched when speaking about CO issues for Central Illinois. Sadly, it's not. Divers can be used as a good representation of the tell tale signs of being poisoned by Carbon Monoxide.

It needs to be said that the associ-

ated accident with being a diver is the bends. The bends are where the diver returns to the surface too quickly. This causes Nitrogen bubbles to be in the bloodstream.

The carbon monoxide may be a more rare occurrence with divers, but it can happen with a gas compressor. If the compressor pumps the exhaust fumes from the compressor into the bottle/canister, the poor diver that receives that tank will be getting CO poisoning.

Pat Stork, a paramedic for Cocoa Beach Fire Department in Florida explains it as this: "Given a diving accident, if a diver comes up disoriented, with chest pains, flushed skin (red face and skin), we immediately know it's a carbon monoxide poisoning. They are immediately sent to a hyperbaric chamber."

The flushed skin, blueish lips or nails are signs of hypoxia. Hypoxia is where the body is being starved of oxygen, or low oxygen levels present in the blood. The CO molecule will bind to the hemoglobin in the bloodstream

faster than oxygen will, allowing it to hijack the body's intake of oxygen, thus causing it to be low.

The Smith family can attest to this. The bluish lips, bluish nails, or flushed skin are all the signs of hypoxia. Other signs include an altered cognitive states (forgetfulness or confusion). This makes the normal everyday tasks for the individual start to become more troublesome than what it normally would be. The entire Smith family struggles with this and continue to do so.

The hyperbaric chamber works by increasing the air pressure to that of three times higher than being outside of it. It allows the air to be taken in at a higher rates allowing the lungs to get more oxygen and the for the blood to get more oxygen flowing through the body as well. This allows the blood and the body to work out the gas in their systems and flush it out.

Not only does Stork work with diving accidents, he works for the fire department. Meaning he also goes on calls for fires and house inspections.

"We get a call (from a home), the individuals are all complaining about similar symptoms. We immediately will gauge their level of consciousness. If the individual(s) are all at altered levels of consciousness, we look around for gas appliances," Stork said. He said they will look for items

like water heaters, stoves/ovens and other miscellaneous gas appliances throughout the house. If an appliance comes back with a leak, he said, "We will evacuate the house immediately! The individuals will be rushed off and treated for CO poisoning."

That last one is such an important aspect to look for. When the nail is blue, it shows the blood being deprived to that region, meaning CO is in the bloodstream and depriving the tissues oxygen.

Stork was once from the Springfield area, and he knows the area as well as most of Central Illinois locals do.

He warns us, "Gas is the norm for Central Illinois (Gas stoves/ovens, furnaces, water heaters, etc.) if you feel any of these symptoms, suspect CO as the issue."

The Smith family agrees. They all suffered from these easily-noticed, easily-missed signs of CO poisoning. They also noted to look for personality changes in loved ones, flu-like symptoms, and bodily aches and pains. These can be missed and

of CO poisoning.

"Everyone, whether in a cold or warm climate, should be aware of the dangers of CO poisoning," Young said. "In particular, during colder months and when power goes out following a storm, we need to be cautious and follow recommended safety tips. Generators must be at least 20 feet from the home, and should never be used indoors." Or else powering your house can become a very deadly situation.

In the winter time, many of us tend to start cars when it's colder outside, there is nothing wrong with that. That is unless it's in a garage, the fumes from the exhaust will stay in the garage and can create a lethal cocktail of carbon monoxide.

Young was able to give some national statistics on accidental carbon monoxide-related deaths: "450 deaths are due to accidental CO poisoning every year, and there over 20,000 emergency room visits caused by CO every year."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "73 percent of CO exposure is in the home, and 41 percent occur during the winter months of December, January and February."

This may be very scary and eye opening to some of us Central Illinois residents, but there is hope! There are ways to detect it and catch CO before it becomes deadly.

"A CO detector is the first line of defense in your homes," Young said. "It's important to follow National Fire Protection Association guidelines and have one on every level of your home and in or near any sleeping area."

The reason being you are more aware of the onset of the symptoms while awake rather than when asleep. It sounds obvious, but if the exposure happens while someone is sleeping, it can be fatal.

They can be placed low toward the floor or high towards the ceiling. Also, one should be aware of the location where the detectors are and how old they are. There are again, tons of different models, some can be good for five, seven, or up to ten years depending on the model.

CO detectors are easy to maintain, they can be hardwired to an outlet or battery powered, in which case one should make sure it is plugged in or change the batteries every six months.

The basic CO detector, fire alarm/CO or the combo explosive gas detector (methane, propane and carbon monoxide). They all work the same, it's just what the consumer feels is right for their home.

As the houses begin to close up for the winter, keep in mind about the Smith family who has suffered CO poisoning and how it almost killed them and robbed them of a normal life. Think about your family, think about your house being closed for the winter with gas appliances, and think about how to protect your house as well as your loved ones this winter.

Carbon Monoxide is odorless, tasteless and invisible to the naked eye; don't become it's next victim. It may be 'Silent but deadly,' but it is detectable and preventable.

Jack Pugh can be reached at lamp@lcc.edu.

'A CO detector is the first line of defense in your homes.'