



Doc Roberts' bench to be repaired

Weather-damaged honor given for retired history prof

By Addison Keeley
Assistant Editor

A bench honoring Dr. John Roberts was recently removed because it was in disrepair, having suffered weather-related effects. Officials say it will be repaired and moved to a better location. The bench was dedicated on June 4, 2018, to the history professor known affectionately as "Doc Roberts." He

was honored at his retirement for his 48 years of teaching at Lincoln Land with a wooden bench and a tree along the walkway to the A.Lincoln Commons.

The history professor began teaching at Lincoln Land in 1966 and retired in 2018. He is the longest-serving employee of Lincoln Land.

"The project to repair and refinish the bench installed in honor of Dr. John Roberts is on the 'to-do' list of our facilities staff," said Lynn Whalen, the chief communications officer of LLCC, adding that its completion is to take place in fall 2021.

Whalen said preparing the campus

for the fall semester has stalled the repairing and relocating of the bench. Once completed, however, the bench is set to be installed in the breezeway area between Sangamon Hall and Sangamon South, which will protect it from further weather damage.

The tree that was planted in Doc Roberts' honor remains intact in the same place it was planted, Whalen said.

The act of relocating the bench can be seen as an act of honor as well as a reflection on how impactful and valued his career at LLCC was.



Dr. John Roberts poses with President Charlotte Warren and former LLCC President Robert Poorman on June 4, 2018, when the bench was dedicated.

From LLCC



Sara Mullen/The Lamp

The Kreher Agricultural Center opened for the Fall 2021 semester, thanks to an \$18 million donation from Irene and Charles Kreher.

Kreher Ag Center opens

By Sara Mullen
Assistant Editor

The New Kreher Agricultural Center is officially open at the Main campus in Springfield. The center features state-of-the-art laboratories and cutting-edge technologies.

The tall wooden doors of the main entrance gives a hint to the magnificence within, and opens to a welcoming space. The design is a smooth blend of rustic and modern, where tall windows and thick timbers lining the halls invites the feeling of outside, inside. At every turn, there is a space for congregating with soft, comfy couch-filled loung-

es, a kitchenette with a microwave, and numerous tables and chairs looking out on a lanai with more tables and chairs, as well as a BBQ grill.

More than three years ago, Irene Kreher, in her desire to find an appropriate way to memorialize her husband Charles, decided the Ag students at Lincoln Land Community College would carry on the Kreher family legacy of love for community and agriculture.

Professor of Agronomy Bill Harmon explains the purpose of the \$18 million gift during the groundbreaking ceremony. He states, "This support will enable us to meet the needs of our growing and

diverse student population and provide relevant, up-to-date curriculum on the latest technology in state-of-the-art facilities and environments. These funds will not replace current support by the college ... but rather 'grow' the agriculture program, increasing the number of students served, increasing local job opportunities filled with qualified LLCC grads, and improving agricultural literacy in our communities, ultimately designed to make LLCC a center of excellence in agriculture education."

Kreher, Continued on Page 4

Lamp focuses online

If you only read the print edition of The Lamp, then you've missed a lot of news.

When Lincoln Land Community College closed in March 2020 due to Covid-19, The Lamp moved online. Many continued to follow campus and community news at thelamponline.com. The Lamp won numerous awards, including best news website and the John Ryan Best of Show, for its online publication.

The Lamp is excited to have its first post-pandemic print edition this week, but there are a lot of stories that were posted online in the last few weeks that only appeared on thelamponline.com. We hope you'll go there and check them out.

While you're on thelamponline.com, we also hope that you'll subscribe to our news weekly email newsletter. We hope to put out the inaugural newsletter next week, which also will be available on the college's Lincoln Landing app. But the newsletter can also be sent to your email each week, giving you all the stories that might not make the paper.

A form is available at thelamponline.com. We hope to have the first newsletter in your mailbox on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Pandemic cuts student use of food pantry

By Abby Denney
Lamp writer

In March 2020, the coronavirus pandemic sent nearly 14 million college students off campus and onto online classes. The stay-at-home order hit some students harder than others, including those who might face food insecurity. Lincoln Land had to temporarily close its food pantry, and it has yet to see the numbers rebound after it reopened in June 2020.

Food insecurity is an issue for college students, specifically those attending two-year schools and those from lower-income households, according to studies done by the Congressional Research Service. A

Food bank usage

	Number of patrons	Number of visits	Avg uses per patron
Spr '19	52	184	3.54
Sum '19	11	35	3.18
Fall '19 (to 11/14)	48	135	2.81

2019 survey of food banks across the United States by Feeding America, an advocacy organization, revealed that, "86% of food banks that responded were serving college students in some capacity, including 73% that were doing direct food distribution (e.g., to campus pantries

or mobile/pop-up distributions)."

Access to a food pantry is a vital resource for some College students. Since November 2016, the Lincoln Land Community College food pantry has provided resources to students who are experiencing food insecurity including personal care

and hygiene items. This changed when the pandemic forced Student Life to temporarily close LLCC's Food Pantry.

Its staff was able to face the unforeseen challenges by distributing the remaining donations to micropantries in the community and referring students to these and other outside resources. Before the pandemic, the food pantry served an average of 50 students each semester.

Fortunately, the food pantry was able to reopen on June 8, 2020, by appointment. Now, over a year later, it is able to operate almost the same as it did pre-pandemic. However, according to Leslie Johnson, the

assistant vice president of student success, the number of patrons has since gone down.

It is unclear why fewer students are utilizing the food pantry, perhaps some are simply unaware of its existence.

"Students can educate themselves about our food pantry in case they or another classmate needs to utilize this resource," Johnson said. "The LLCC community can also view food and non-food items in need by going to <https://www.llcc.edu/food-pantry-list/>. If a person is able to do so, we would love it if they were able to donate to LLCC's Food Pantry."

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

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Democracy survives a coup

To see the video under discussion, please go to [link youtube.com/watch?v=DXnHlJKZZAs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXnHlJKZZAs)

By Chris Koorzen
Lamp writer

An electric feeling rushes over the crowd. Chanting in unison, a disordered charge launches itself at the seat of civil government. Windows are smashed open, doors battered down, fencing railed over, and soon police officers find themselves surrounded and under assault. At 1:49pm, it is declared a riot.

It is Jan 6 2021, in Washington, D.C., and elected officials have gathered to complete the process of presidential election. The day ends with five dead, 15 hospitalized and 138 injured. It is a day when the use of physical, threat-of-harm violence was used to coerce a process of civil government.

"This was not a peaceful transition. It is a moment to reflect on, and take seriously, regardless of our political affiliations," stated Professor Matthew Schownir at Lincoln Land Community College, who recently delivered a talk about the Jan 6 insurrection. "[It was a] coordinated attempt to interrupt the democratic proceedings of our institutions."

For Schownir, the greatest issue is the use of violence in an attempt to get one's way, and that people seem to overlook the seriousness of the insurrection. The entire point of an elected assembly is to settle disputes by reasoning and a fair process.

"It's America; it's whatever," said one respondent, when we inter-



viewed members of the public about the day's events. "They'll probably try again, with the same result."

Most people agreed. "There was no point in it. I get they were upset, but they could've done it in a more respectful manner," said another respondent, who acknowledges that there might have been a grievance, but understands there are peaceful ways to change things for the better.

Only one of the five Lincoln Land students interviewed for this story had seen the actual video.

"It is scary how we have just glided over this issue," that student said.

It highlights Schownir's concern that the public do not seem to realize the looming threat, partly because they're not aware of it. And when the public simply accepts that "they will probably try again with the same result", it means as a result, more

people will die.

No one that saw the footage was left with any doubt to the gravity of the situation. The 5-minute video presented to Congress by Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Mississippi, places the viewer into the madness of the crowd, and among the brave officers left to defend the Capitol and the people inside. Four of these officers committed suicide in the months after the attack.

The FBI treats the event with the seriousness it deserves. As of October 2021, 141 new faces feature on the FBI's Most Wanted list and 588 individuals face federal charges in connection with the insurrection of Jan 6.

"We do not tolerate violent agitators and extremists who use the guise of First Amendment-protected activity to incite violence and wreak havoc. Such behavior betrays the

values of our democracy," FBI director Christopher Wray said in a Jan. 7 news release.

"Reaching for violence makes it very complicated very quickly," Schownir said, pointing out that accepting the use of physical violence in civil discourse only opens the floodgates. When we move past the question of "Is it OK to do this?", we inevitably arrive at "How much?"

Public figures and politicians using the day's events to boost their profiles worries prof. Schownir deeply. "If we go back [even] 20 years, there was enough decorum and dignity [among politicians] to wholeheartedly condemn an assault on the Capitol."

He added: "You cannot play normal political games with something like insurrection, because what do you give yourself permission [to do] in the future?"

Service industry struggles to find workers

By Carmen Dillman
Lamp writer

Now that a "new normal" is starting to form, many businesses are searching for employees to help them kickstart business once again. However, many businesses are struggling to find the help they are looking for.

Morgan Huett, assistant manager at Caribou Coffee on MacArthur Avenue, says she's been having to overwork some of her employees due to a shortage of workers. Unfortunately, this has caused even more of a shortage for her.

Engrained Brewery, a restaurant near Scheels, has

actually had to shorten the number of days and hours it is open. Now it is closing Mondays and Tuesdays because it is not being able to keep up with demand.

As for the reason why there is currently such a lack of workers is highly debated.

Ryan McGrady from the Sangamon County Growth Alliance said there are many factors playing into why people are choosing to stay home now versus getting out to work. A major rumor circulating is that people are making more by staying home because of COVID benefits and support than they would be at work. The second factor

he addressed is that it is a hard time for parents to go back to work as they would have to find a daycare for their children to go to. The last factor he listed was that many people changed industries during the lockdown, referring to this as the "Great Resignation", meaning more people left jobs in the food and hospitality industry for more of their dream jobs.

Caribou, Gymnastics and Cheer Zone, Engrained, along with many other businesses in town are looking for workers and strongly encourage everyone to get back in the workforce while they can because McGrady

said, "They're never gonna pay more than they do now!"

Some Springfield Teens and Young Adults have accepted this challenge.

Ellen Selinger, nanny and babysitter, enjoys her work due to "the flexible schedule while in school as well as being able to have an impact in the life of a toddler."

Mara Arisman, who has worked at Scheels for about 7 months now, said she is employed because she "needed a job to keep my gas tank filled in order to participate in school activities." Yet through having this job, Arisman said she learned valuable and essential life

skills, such as the importance of hard work and management skills.

However, other young adults feel now is not the time to be working. Ramon Jimerson, a competitive high school baseball player, said he simply doesn't have time for a job due to his busy schedule. Sharing that opinion is Briana Huelsman. Recently unemployed, she said she is not working so she can have time to focus on applying to college.

Nevertheless, if you feel you are in need of a job, many businesses across town would be happy to employ you.

Midterm study spots: Students share favorites

By Carmen Dillman
Lamp writer

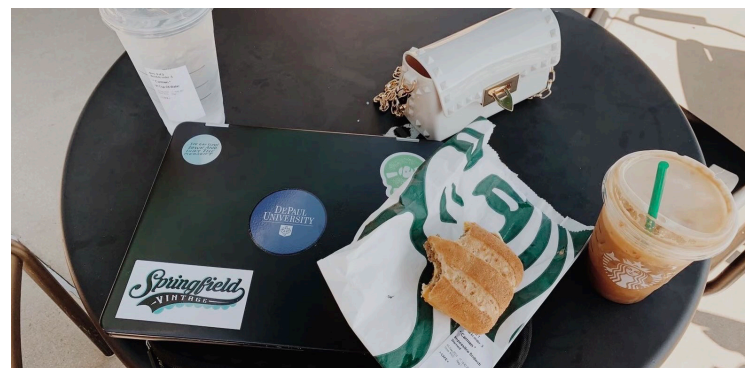
With Midterms quickly approaching, many LLCC students are on the look out for good places to study.

The Lamp conducted a survey to see what are some of the best locations to prepare students for their midterms. When off campus, simply studying at home is what many students prefer. Although while on campus, the A.Lincoln Commons and the library offer students a quiet place to study.

Paige High, a Sophomore at LLCC studying elementary education, recommended Starbucks as a good off-campus study site, but on when campus, she likes the Commons.

Vincent Madonia, an LLCC freshman, also recommends the Commons on campus as a great study area.

However, when is the best time to



utilize these spots?

LLCC freshman, Brennan Crowder prefers to study alone during the day, and high school senior Audrey Pacheco, who is taking night classes at LLCC, said he also likes to study alone. Only for Pacheco, night is better than day.

Yet what would an LLCC Alumni

recommend?

Meredith Howard, an LLCC alum, said she liked to study outside before the weather got too cold, but switched to the library in the winter. Now studying journalism at Baylor University, Howard said Wm. Vans was one of her favorite study spots when in Springfield.

Although these are all personal preferences, here is a list of good places to study for your Midterms in town:

Barnes & Noble,

Open: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon to Sat, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sun

Starbucks

Open: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon to Sun

Wm. Vans

Open: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon to Sun

Caribou

Open: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon to Sun

Harvest Market

Open: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mon to Sun

Bunn Gourmet

Open: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon to Thur, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fri and Sat

Custom Cup

Open: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mon to Fri, and 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sat

Panera

Open: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Mon to Sun

Encouraging vaccines

Students offered a \$200 cash incentive

By Addison Keeley
Assistant Editor

Despite the progress made with hopes of bringing the pandemic to an end, like the introduction of multiple types of vaccines, the pandemic is still not over and not giving any definite signs as to when it will end.

In hopes of making the school and Illinois alike safer, LLCC has accommodated numerous health regulations, including daily COVID screenings, mask mandates, and weekly spit tests.

Rachel Duff, student health coordinator at LLCC, claims these

regulations are not firsthand ideas of the school administrators, but rather an example of following up on directives from the governor.

“Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order mandating all higher education employees and students either be fully vaccinated or submit for weekly COVID testing. Fortunately, LLCC was already well positioned to be able to comply with this statewide mandate,” Duff said.

Duff states vaccines are “the best defense for reducing effects of COVID-19” and say they offer benefits beyond health to the people employed or enrolled at LLCC.

“LLCC has even provided financial incentives to employees and enrolled students in the Fall 2021 semester for being fully vaccinated in the hopes of further enhanc-

ing the well-being of our campus communities,” Duff said.

Contrary to Duff’s affirmations, some staff members and students alike believe the regulations may not be as beneficial as they are meant to be.

Alexis Baker, a third-year nursing student, insists she does not find the mask mandate helpful, expressing that “People are still not wearing the mask properly, and it isn’t helping if people that are doing the proper guidelines are still testing positive for work.”

Even with the additional financial benefits for those on campus, Baker is not sold on the vaccine either, as she believes only one vaccine being FDA approved is questionable enough.

While Baker said she “semi agrees” with the mandated weekly tests, she conveyed considerable

exasperation with the policy, deeming that it is holding back people like her and others majoring in the medical field.

“As long as unvaccinated folks complete the screenings regularly and honestly, I think that can be a big step toward protecting all on campus,” said Rebecca Klatt a reading and English professor at LLCC.

Klatt also noted that symptoms should be heeded, as they could only be underlying allergies and simple colds, stating that “Not all ‘red lights’ are indicative of a serious virus.”

With this established, she avows that weekly tests should only be mandated to those who are symptomatic, as long as their symptoms are not due to allergies or a cold.

Despite supporting the idea of the screenings, Klatt was not

convinced or opposed with the additional health regulations for the school.

“You can find 50 sources supporting use of and 50 sources stating their ineffectiveness for fighting the spread of Covid-19 and its variants,” said Klatt regarding masks.

As far as vaccines go, Klatt contends that “not enough time, research or trials have gone into any of the vaccines to be able to make definite statements about long-term effectiveness and or effects on various populations.”

Regardless if one trusts or agrees with the health regulations on campus, one can assume that we all share the common hopes that they work to the benefit of everyone, and the way the world was without COVID-19 is sorely missed.

Rescued kitten still counts nine lives

By Chris Koorzen
Lamp writer

SPRINGFIELD — Coming into work expecting a routine day and leaving as a surrogate father, Monday turned out to be quite a surprise for Officer Randy Emery of the Lincoln Land Community College Police Department.

It started approximately at 10:30 a.m. while he was on patrol over by the Workforce Careers Center.

“I heard an animal in distress, it was louder than quieter, [and] then I didn’t hear anything”.

Emery enlisted the help of a nearby student, who confirmed the faint noise, and together they tracked the source to a nearby minivan. Efforts to entice the cautious kitten from her hiding spot were unsuccessful. With additional support from administrative personnel, they were able to locate the owner of the vehicle.

“I just waited till his class was out [then] he went out there and opened the hood”, Emery said.

Perched in a tight spot between the back of the engine and the top of the transmission, Emery scooped the little feline from the dangerous



Submitted photo
Officer Randy Emery holds the kitten that he rescued from a minivan on campus during the first day of classes.

area with a reassuring hand.

“She was really little, and I could

tell she wanted to be found”, he said.

From there she was taken to the station to wait in a safe space until

Emery got off shift. Quick-thinking Officer Kathleen Jacoby dubbed the kitten “Mini” as a namesake of where she was found.

How the kitten got there is still unclear, but Mini was lucky that Emery was around to hear her cry.

“I think all of us are that same way. Our heart is in the right place, it’s just whether you’re in the right place to help”, he said.

Emery adopted little Mini into a loving family where most of the members have four legs. She’ll be making her trip to the vet soon for a checkup and to get her vaccinations.

Animals on Lincoln Land main campus is not unusual. The natural landscape attracts many visitors and sometimes they find themselves in trouble. From baby geese that get stuck in storm drains to deer that get themselves tangled in batting nets, the officers from LLCCPD dealt with plenty of scenarios before. Students and faculty are encouraged to report sightings of animals in distress to our helpful police department.

The LLCCPD can be contacted at 217-786-2278.

Student-run restaurant offers take-out meals

Bistro Verde open Tuesday, Thursday

By Addison Keeley
Assistant Editor

With COVID-19 restricting the number of on-campus classes in 2020, there simply was not enough students to run Bistro Verde, a restaurant operated by Food Pro 4 students of the culinary program. The new on-campus guidelines allow Bistro Verde to return this Tuesday, giving staff and students the opportunity to indulge in fresh food while supporting the school, and give culinary students a chance to take a step further in their cooking careers.

Upon ending a one-year layoff, management behind Bistro Verde are hoping that the business can come back as strong as ever.

“I hope we do well (this year). Everyone is used to mitigations with COVID, and we handle food carefully to ensure greater safety”, expresses Sean Keeley, culinary instructor and supervisor of Bistro Verde.

Keeley recommends that customers call ahead or email their orders in advance, insisting “We are great about having food ready on time for pickup”.

As far as eating aspects go, Keeley mentions that Bistro Verde is strictly takeout, and that food is packaged to-go. Keeley adds that dining in Bistro Verde “may not be suggested this year due to COVID restrictions”, despite customers being allowed to during previous years. Keeley says that the menu will not change aside from the weekly special item, but states that the program can accommodate dietary needs.

There may be an “I” in “culinary”, but there certainly is not one in “teamwork”, which Kim Carter alludes to being the

driving force behind Bistro Verde. Carter has been in the LLCC culinary and Bistro staff for almost a decade further evaluates her faith in Bistro Verde’s chemistry behind the scenes, stating “My expectations and prayers are that we (our current team) can grow our team skills, improve in our weaknesses, and showcase our strengths.”

Carter affirms that several details of Bistro Verde coincide to make it a rewarding experience in numerous ways.

“My favorite part of being a chef, besides “mothering” my students to successful careers in the food service industry, is the actual cooking of the food, seeing our guests enjoying our food and facilitating my personal recipes” says Carter. Proclaiming that love is “the greatest ingredient ever added to a dish”, she adds that she “prays our guests “feel the love” in our recipes this year”.

Students that are working for Bistro Verde are also eager to see what service this year can do for the future of the business at LLCC as well as their personal careers concurrently.

Student Lauren Schuster believes that the staff is going into the year without any general expectations, adding “This year we’re getting a little more consecutive time at each station which should help us gain confidence and execute more efficiently the longer we’re open”.

Despite her previous experience working in a restaurant she stated that it is the first time taking part in developing a menu.

“We all have the chance to create our own chef special, so the feedback from those dishes will be really crucial for us to understand to build successful menus in the future”, declares Schuster.

Bistro Verde can be found by the Workforce Careers Center on campus.



Lamp photos by Sara Mullen

A lounge area and outside patio with barbecue grill for students are part of the offerings at The Kreher Ag Building

Kreher

Continued from Page 1

The building's design is student-friendly. Its functional design meets ADA standards and allows for meetings of various sizes, from small collaborations to large conference groups. Professor Harmon says the intent is that "we want students not just to be in our class and [then] leave campus, but we want them to be in this building interacting with us and each other."

The center already hosted the first of six Ag Expos coming this fall, which serves as a way to introduce high school students of the area to the advanced opportunities at LLCC.

Agriculture Program Specialist Holly Bauman enumerates the many different benefits and new equipment in the Kreher center, from the state-of-the-art drones for practice in precision farming, to tractor, welding, and other simulators, drafting tables and a horticultural lab. Holly explains that these tools "give students a chance to try out different

equipment before we put them in the real thing."

There is also a computer lab and smaller rooms where students can collaborate, work, and study.

The Animal Science Lab is a vast open space with a door and area large enough for a planter to fit. In addition, the room allows for presenters to bring in livestock for demonstrations. There is even a rainfall simulator.

To state it plainly, LLCC's Agriculture program and new Kreher Agricultural Center are the newest and most innovative in the state. After the initial investment for the center, and the move to the new building along with equipment and scholarships, Kreher Farm Perpetual Charitable Trust is still growing, allowing for continued progress and future innovations. The Kreher Family has left a legacy for which we can all be proud.

For more information, contact Holly Bauman at 217-786-2276 or holly.bauman@llcc.edu, or contact Bill Harmon at 217-786-2573 or bill.harmon@llcc.edu.



A student enjoys the student lounge at Kreher Ag Center at the main campus. According to Ag Professor Bill Harmon, having students stay and use the building before and after class is one of their main goals.



Simulator equipment such as the ones shown are used to prepare students for using things such as farm machinery, welders and heavy equipment safely before using them in the real world.



The flight simulator is used by students.



This state-of-the-art drone is used for precision farming.



Anatomical animal models are used in a classroom at the Kreher Ag Center.



Singing again

Lamp photos by Emily Leers

The Lincoln Land Community College Choir presented two ACDA Preview Concerts in the A.Lincoln Commons on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021. The first one was at noon, and the second was at 7 p.m.

This was the first live performance by the group since December 2019.

The music focused on finding hope and healing, and taking action in the face of various personal and global crises.

The choir will be the only community college performing next week at the ACDA Fall Conference at DePaul University.

Music Assistant Professor Laurie Fritz directs the choir.

At the evening performance, the choir was accompanied by LLCC Flute Instructor Colleen Hillyer and LLCC Percussion Instructor Nikola Dokic. The choir's accompanist is Rachel Pinto.





Lamp photos by Emily Leers

Planned Parenthood organizer, Brigid Leahy, leads 'bans off our bodies' chant. Over 100 people gathered in Downtown Springfield on Saturday, Oct. 2, for a rally protesting the recent abortion law in Texas.

Abortion rights rally

Thousands gather at sites across 50 states

By Emily Leers
Assistant Editor

SPRINGFIELD — Hundreds gathered outside the Old State Capitol on Saturday for a local event that was part of a nationwide series of rallies in support of abortion and reproductive rights.

The Springfield rally was organized by at least 10 groups, including Planned Parenthood of Illinois. Thousands gathered at sites in all 50 states in an act of unity ahead of the new term for the Supreme Court, which will be the ultimate decisionmaker in issues related to abortion rights in the United States.

The Springfield rally called for the repeal of abortion laws in Texas and Illinois.

The Texas Law, the newest and most restrictive in the country, targets abortion providers after fetal cardiac activity is detected through a sonogram, usually about the sixth week of pregnancy. Illinois is one of 38 states to require parental notice 48 hours before a minor seeks care related to an abortion.

The notification of a guardian in Illinois can be bypassed by a court order, but Hannah Baity, a University of Illinois Springfield student who spoke at the rally, said seeking a court order to bypass parental notice is "humiliating" and "nothing more than another obstacle."

Springfield activist and author as well as the executive director of the Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center, Shatriya Smith shared a poem

with the crowd.

"I was treated with dignity and respect, and talked to like I needed to know what was going on with my body," Smith said of her experience with Planned Parenthood. "I appreciated that."

Smith added about the new Texas law: "It makes me feel like they hate women, especially me."

After the rally, Smith said she has been working toward becoming the poet laureate of Springfield for a long time, combining her love of poetry and social activism.

"Usually I will write one for the event, but this one came right after the Texas abortion law," Smith said. "I wanted to share my anxiety, angst or anger in a way that fits and suits my personality."

Patti Pace-Halpin is a volunteer for Planned Parenthood as well as the Illinois Handmaids, who showed up Saturday in red capes and white bonnets. The attire is from the book, "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood, and the Hulu series of the same name

in which women are forced to bear children in a male-dominated society.

"I am angry, upset and mad about what's happened in Texas and other states," said Pace-Halpin, who also works with the Resistor Sisterhood, a group of four who joined together to promote social activism. "I wish everyone in every state had the reproductive freedoms and rights we have in Illinois."

Jordan Reeter, an 18-year-old Millikin University freshman, said: "Abortion laws in general are really harmful to women. They completely ignore any struggles within a pregnant person's life beyond their pregnancy."

Reeter was at the rally with her mother and two sisters.

"Not everyone is able to support a child, and these abortion bans force people to take on children they can't afford or place them in an already overworked and crowded foster system. Everyone deserves a right to healthcare. Abortion is healthcare," Reeter said.



UIS student Hannah Baity talks about abortion.



Rally attendees hold signs.



The Illinois Handmaids wore their red capes.



The speakers pose on the stage at the rally.

Blood donations down 10%

Need for blood is on the rise

By Sara Mullen
Assistant Editor

The American Red Cross is in desperate need of blood donations. As a result of the Covid-19 spike in September, donations are down 10 percent during a time when supplies are usually low from the summer season.

Drew Brown, regional communications manager for the American Red Cross of Illinois, said the organization needs “at least 10,000 additional blood products each week” during October to get caught up.

There are several reasons why supply is low. One is the difficulty in coordinating blood drives during pandemic lockdowns. Brown explained that after the lockdowns ended, schools and other businesses started to open, and people didn’t have the time for making donations anymore.



Photo courtesy of The American Red Cross

Ironically, just as businesses and schools are finally opening completely, people will be getting out more, creating opportunities for accidents that may require treatments that include blood products. Additionally, as hospitals begin to recover from the overwhelming numbers of pandemic patients, they will begin to open up for more elec-

tive procedures, many of which will require blood.

Charles Beadle, president of the Litchfield branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, said they “had not held their annual drive since before the pandemic in 2019. In 2020, when the drive would usually take place, the church was not even meeting for regular service.

We’re just starting to get back to our regular duties.”

Beadle said that they plan to hold another drive this Spring if they can get enough support.

However, Beadle said: “Covid has changed everything. People don’t do the things they used to do. We still haven’t gotten back to normal. Covid protocols cause people to second guess what used to be second nature.”

Long-time donor Jenny Young from Hillsboro agreed.

Young explained: “I’m older. If I get Covid, it may do me in. It seems silly to put my own life at risk to save someone else. It’s time for the younger people to step up.”

Brown said everyone is needed and that “safety is of the utmost importance to the staff and volunteers at the Red Cross.”

Brown also mentioned that donors aren’t the only help needed. Volunteers are needed for what she called “blood drive ambassadors.” The ambassadors are there to greet donors with a smile and check

them in. They also hand out juice and snacks to the donors, Brown said. The youth are perfect for this because of their usual cheerful enthusiasm.

Brown explained that now is the perfect time to volunteer and donate. With the holidays coming up and with the current shortage, there is no better time.

“Every two seconds, someone needs blood,” Brown said.

Young said: “It feels really good to know you are helping others. You may even be saving someone’s life.”

Beadle agreed: “With all the feelings of helplessness we’ve experienced through the pandemic, it’s nice to know that there is a positive action we can take to do something worthwhile.”

If anyone is interested in donating blood, hosting a blood drive, or volunteering as a blood drive ambassador, they are encouraged to go to Redcrossblood.org, and you will be prompted on what to do and where to go.

It’s been a bruising year as a boxing fan

By Addison Keeley
Assistant Editor

Whether it’s due to COVID-related pullouts, good matchups not falling through, old legends being beaten up, or bad decisions, it has definitely been a rather bruising year to be a boxing fan. Especially in comparison to the rather epic year of 2020, which was full of plenty surprises, some glorious knockouts, and a handful of rather incredible fights such as Jose Zepeda vs Ivan Baranchyk, Juan Francisco Estrada vs Carlos Cuadras 2, and Jermell Charlo vs Sergey Derevyanchenko.

Due to the tremendous quality that was maintained last year, even after a several month drought in the first half of the year due to the arrival of COVID-19, I was confident that the sport would be as good if not better than last year was. With 2021 having a few months left, I can thoroughly say my prediction was wrong so far, and it is likely to stay that way.

This year started off rather painful this year for me as far as boxing goes. My favorite current fighter to watch, Miguel Berchelt, took on his biggest test to date yet in undefeated, former featherweight champion, Oscar Valdez in what was expected to be an all-Mexican slugfest. The fact this fight had been in talks for over a year and had been postponed once before due to Berchelt testing positive for COVID made me only anticipate it more. I was so confident the persistent, hard, and unorthodox combos of Berchelt would be too much for the leaky style of the smaller fighter in Valdez. I was so confident, I even placed \$500 in total bets among acquaintances. The fact I had remained humble in comparison to said acquaintances, who were oozing with confidence had me expecting that my reward would be handed to me on a silver platter. Once fight night occurred, two things were quite clear—it was the best night in the career of Valdez, and the worst of Berchelt’s. While Berchelt virtually lacked a game plan and showed plenty of signs of being a weight drained fighter (decreased speed, lack of stamina or volume in combinations), Valdez managed to work his game plan nearly to a tee, improvements in every way, as he beat up Berchelt for nine rounds before brutally knocking him out in the 10th. Needless to say, I lost interest in sports

betting for a while.

Ten days ago, Valdez successfully defended his new WBC super featherweight belt against Robson Conceicao of Brazil. The fight was seemingly jeopardized after Valdez had failed not one, but two drug tests upon testing positive for a diuretic called phentermine. Immediately, fans started to question if he has been under the influence of performance enhancing drugs throughout his career, particularly in his standout victory over Berchelt this year. The WBC gave him the green light to go on with the fight, which he won in unspectacular, and somewhat controversial fashion. The bitter result of the fight enhanced the bad taste that Valdez had left in the mouth of fans like me from the fishiness of his drug tests.

The entire situation makes one wonder how many fighters are currently or have been using performance enhancing drugs without us knowing.

Another negative for me that somewhat turned into a positive was due to several issues, I was unable to get my hands on tickets to see unified welterweight champion take on one of my all-time favorites in future first ballot hall of famer, Manny Pacquiao in what was one of the biggest fights boxing had to make this year.

Unfortunately, Spence was forced to withdraw due to a retina injury, which can be quite detrimental to his career. Spence notably had to spend time off after dodging death in a frightening alcohol-related car crash in 2019, but passed his comeback test with flying colors against Danny Garcia in December 2020.

However, Pacquiao was still set to fight for a world title, as Yordenis Ugas of Cuba put his super WBA title on the line against him on August 21st. Ugas notably won this title from Pacquiao, after the WB stripped Pacquiao due to inactivity, therefore upgrading Ugas as their super champion. After starting well, Pacquiao was outboxed convincingly for a majority of the fight. The fight would have been an opportunity for Pacquiao to regain a title at welterweight once more at the age of 42, but instead it was a fight where father time seemed to finally catch up with him, exhibiting the all-time great as a shell of his former self.

Speaking of legends getting beaten up, hall of fame cruiserweight and

4x heavyweight champion, Evander Holyfield took on MMA’s Vitor Belfort at the age of 62. While Holyfield has been clearly showing signs of CTE, most specifically in his speech, he was somehow cleared to fight, ultimately causing him to suffer a short beating before being stopped in the first round.

Oddly enough, hall of fame 6-division champion, Oscar De La Hoya was set to fight Belfort initially after being retired for 13 years. However, being hospitalized from COVID-19 deemed him as unable to participate in the bout, which is why Holyfield stepped in.

Unfortunately, hall of fame 2x heavyweight champion, Riddick Bowe is set to box former NBA player, Lamar Odom in October in an exhibition. Bowe clearly suffers from CTE and is in no condition to be fighting, even if it is just in an exhibition.

The initially exciting, but overall disappointing exhibition between aged legends Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr. clearly has been inspiring other greats of the sport to get back in the ring, all the while showing more signs that they should get out of it. One cannot help, but to find this sad.

While boxing is still on weekly throughout the world and a substantial number of fans are allowed to be seated in the audience for fights now, COVID-19 is still hurting the sport. Teofimo Lopez, who is coming off of a monumental upset victory over Vasyl Lomachenko, cementing him amongst the best fighters today pound for pound, as well as making him a unified (or undisputed depending on who one asks) champion at lightweight. In the middle of June, he was revealed that he tested positive for COVID-19, pushing back his mandatory defense against Australia’s George Kamboos till October. Some have speculated that Lopez, who maintains a rather voluminous stature for lightweight has been having trouble making weight, and/or even has gotten so caught up in the lifestyle of stardom that he wanted time away from training or merely needed more time to do so in order to come into the fight in top form. Tyson Fury, who is riding high off of a stoppage win over former heavyweight champion, Deontay Wilder from February of last year revealed in June that he had tested positive for COVID-19. The positive test results for former 2x

super middleweight champion, David Benavidez pushed back his fight date with awkward veteran, Jose Uzcategui, which is more than likely to be a barnburner.

I hate to point the finger at anyone, due to never fully knowing what goes on in the life of a fighter or who is actually sick, but one may just take in the possibility that these rather frequent positive COVID tests may not be COVID-related at all and could indeed be a fitting excuse to earn more training time. With medical reports seemingly never being released, this makes the theory easier to believe. Should this be the case, I cannot help but to understand to a degree, especially since I am not the one actually doing the work. However, the question shall remain unanswered for all of us, and will never be anything more than speculation. Regardless, it sucks as a fan to see these fights get taken from us.

Like it always has been and likely always will be, questionable and sometimes purely bad decisioning continues to tarnish the sport.

In the best fight of the year so far between two future hall of famers, Roman Gonzalez and Juan Francisco Estrada picked up right where they left off in their first meeting in 2012. The first fight was an instant classic and full of nonstop action, and this fight was arguably better. While many, including me expected Gonzalez to lose handily and show signs of his age catching up with him, he managed to virtually outclass and outpunch Estrada after 12 rounds. However, 2/3 judges awarded the fight to Estrada in one of the most unpopular decisions this year, with one judge being suspended as a result.

Maryland’s Mykal Fox dominated Venezuela’s decorated former amateur champion, Gabriel Maestre for nearly an entire 12 rounds only to be rewarded with a unanimous decision loss for his efforts. Maestre, who holds the interim title for the WBA, a division with Venezuelan roots, which many believe benefitted him for the decision.

Jermell Charlo, who holds ¾ belts at junior middleweight took on the undefeated Argentinian, Brian Castano, who holds onto the other remaining belt in the division (the WBO belt). After a thrilling affair with lots of twists and

turns, the bout ended up in a split draw. Lots of fans believe that Castano fell victim to a hometown bias, as the fight took place in Texas, where Charlo was born. The fact that a rematch may not take place soon or at all is another blow that us fans have to take.

Despite all the bad aspects of the sport in 2021, we have certainly been rewarded with some great fights. As mentioned, Gonzalez vs Estrada 2 is likely the best fight of the year so far, and will likely go down as an all-time classic. The controversial result has called for a third fight to take place between the two, which is expected to happen in October. The always thrilling Emanuel Navarrete successfully defended his WBO featherweight title against Puerto Rico’s Puerto Rico’s Christopher Diaz in a dominant performance. Angel Fierro cemented a breakthrough win during another Mexico vs Puerto Rico affair in a fire fight with Alberto Machado. Puerto Rico’s unorthodox, yet powerful buzzsaw in Subriel Matias stopped a second undefeated prospect in a row in Batyrzhan Jukembayev, in a slept-on slugfest. Josh Taylor of Scotland was officially crowned undisputed and king of the junior welterweight division after beating who was the fifth undefeated fighter in a row in former unified champion Jose Ramirez. The young and ruthless Vergil Ortiz continues to step up in competition by stopping his two best opponents Maurice Hooker and Egis Kavaliauskas back to back, retaining his unbeaten and knockout streaks. Pound for pound king Canelo Alvarez is set to take on the undefeated IBF champion, Caleb Plant in a super middleweight unification bout this November. In the same month, my two personal favorite welterweights of this generation, Terence Crawford and Shawn Porter are set to clash in what promises to be one of the best fights of the year.

While it has been an underwhelming year indeed, and certainly the weakest year that I have been a fan of the sport, I still have faith it can finish strong. More importantly, I know the sport will always be great, and one lukewarm year does not convince me that the sport will ever die, as I already am eager to see what lies ahead for next year.



Lane Cummings poses his 2002 Corvette at the Route 66 Mother Road Festival on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2021. His car won Best Corvette category (1997-present). Lamp photos by Brady Wycoff

Car camaraderie

Route 66 Mother Road Festival draws crowd to Downtown Springfield

By Maddy Wycoff
Lamp writer

Spectators gathered in Downtown Springfield to see streets lined with cars the weekend of Sept. 24. The Route 66 Mother Road Festival celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. The festival, which took a hiatus last year, brought people together for a weekend of cars, live music and food.

Both competitors and attendees admired the detail and time others put into their vehicles. Those walking the streets could see everyone talking and bonding with one another over their love for cars.

Cars entered for award consideration were parked on the streets surrounding the Old State Capitol. The weekend was filled with events such as Friday's night cruise, a burnout competition on Saturday and the awards ceremony on Sunday.

Steve Goulden of Springfield had six cars entered in the show.

"I've done a lot of work," he said of his Trans Am Camaro. "I've added the doors to it and some of the graphics to it, and I like that car. It's my favorite to drive."

Goulden won five awards, including first place in the Best Camaro category (1993-present) for his Trans Am.

"It's not a money thing or nothing, it's just a prestige type thing," Goulden said.

The Mother Road Festival is important to Goulden and car fans alike: "It gets all the car enthusiasts together to talk about their cars, or the ones their working on, or ones they may want to buy."

Goulden also explained that the festival is an opportunity to see friends.

"When I'm out here I see a lot of people I haven't seen for a long time. It's kinda cool,"

he said.

Lane Cummings of the Quad Cities also appreciated the festival.

"I like it because it costs you to enter, but it's free to the public. So, you get a bunch of people. It's a good deal," Cummings said.

Cummings brought his 2002 Corvette to the festival.

"I was curious to see what the turnout would be this year because last year they didn't have it, but I think we got a good turnout," said Cummings, who won first place in the Best Corvette category (1997-present).

Bill Travis of Riverton also entered the festival. Travis has been building cars for 47 years. He entered his 1964 Comet Cyclone.

When discussing the festival, Travis said "I think it's the best thing that can happen to Illinois."

He added: "I think it does raise everybody's morale when they come out and see other people. I think it's the best medicine you can get right now."

The Route 66 Mother Road Festival provided a weekend of fun for Central Illinois. Spectators and competitors listened to local bands, ate food from the Cozy Dog Drive In, had lemonade shake-ups and took photos of their favorite cars.

Whether people had cars up for awards or were simply walking around, the Mother Road Festival gave them the chance to interact and share their passion with others. The festival showcased the strong camaraderie that forms between car enthusiasts.

Travis admired the festival saying, "We're getting a lot of crowd, lot of good people, and it's a nice day. It just don't get any better than that."

Added Travis, "I think it's just an unbelievable show here."



Spectators admire cars at the Route 66 Mother Road Festival.



Steve Goulden with his Trans Am Camaro. Goulden brought six cars to the show, and he won five awards, including Best Camaro category (1993-present).