



Cold, cold campus

A student labors through the frigid temps and strong winds Tuesday at RLC's Ina campus. Forecasts early in the week called for warmer temperatures this weekend with only a slight chance of rain. (Nathan Wheeler / RLC Public Information)

### Connections matter - Student Engagement Survey coming to RLC

BILLY MCPHERSON

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

ot that kind of engagement. The CCSSE (Community College Survey of Student Engagement) is strictly concerned with academic commitment. Some students reading this right now may soon find themselves being asked to participate in this survey and/or focus group in the coming weeks

here at Rend Lake College. Now before you furl your eyebrows and imagine crinkling up that sheet of paper to deposit in the waste bin, you may want to consider some of the benefits that this survey could do both for you and for Rend Lake College. This survey was designed to

give students a voice at their college, in their communities, and help policymakers establish and further support programs and policies to help students everywhere meet their educational goals.

When contacted by the Clocktower Chronicle, the Assistant Director of the program, Courtney Adkins, Ph.D., said the survey was created because "there was a recognized need for a student engagement survey specifically designed for community and technical colleges.

CCSSE was launched in 2001, with the intention of producing new information about community college quality and performance that would provide value to institutions in their efforts to improve student learning and retention, while also providing policymakers and the public with more appropriate ways to view the quality of undergraduate education," added Adkins.

Adkins further stated that this survey, which was spearheaded by the University of Texas at Austin in 2001, has been administered at 879 community and technical colleges from all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia. It has also been administered in Alberta, British Columbia, Bermuda, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec. Adkins added that the Center is very encouraged by the

number of colleges which have used the data in these surveys to inform their educational decisions.

Recent data from the surveys show that students who get involved in programs such as orientation, student success courses, and learning communities — as well as other campus activities have a much increased level of engagement. However, far too few students take advantage of these opportunities.

Finally, when asked what teachers, tutors, and other academic professionals could do to assist in greater student retention, Adkins summed up the Center's position with the following words of advice. "Connections matter. The Center has

conducted many focus groups with students over the years, and we have been told repeatedly that students' relationships with others at the college are essential to their success."

As for how students could help with this process tnemselves, Adkins said, "Students are the most important voice in the Center's work. By providing honest feedback through our survey instruments and focus group work, you are helping your college help you succeed."

For more information about this survey and how to help make a difference in your own and others' education, students are encouraged to visit the Center's website at www.ccsse.org/center.

### **Culinary classes to** offer tips of the trade in spring semester

REANNE PALMER

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION number of cooking, baking and grilling classes are scheduled for the spring semester to get the food enthusiasts out of the kitchen and learning more about culinary arts. The classes are offered through Rend Lake College's Community and Corporate Education Department.

 King Cakes for Mardi Gras could be your ticket to celebrating the southern holiday locally, and with a bit of fun. The class, taught by Instructor Beth Man-

participants to make mini

drell, will teach

cakes and colorful cupcakes with the holiday theme. The class costs \$15, plus a \$7.50 supply fee. It will meet from 6 - 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25 in the Student Center Culinary Arts Lab on the Ina campus. Custom Designed

Specialty Cakes is a class designed to help bakers use fondant and gum paste to make

unique designs. Instructor Kim Barr will teach a variety of topics, such as bows, babies, booties and more. The class is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays from March 18-April in the Student

continues on page 2

#### **RLC Foundation** scholarship application deadline approaching fast

REANNE PALMER

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION nly a few weeks remain for future college students to submit applications for a number of Rend Lake College Foundation scholarships. The application, which helps students apply for numerous scholarships, is due by Friday, February 28.

Last year, over 525 scholarships and \$370,000 were awarded to RLC students through the Foundation. The application can be found at www.rlc.edu/rlcf and takes only minutes to complete. In addition to the online form, students must also submit their most recent transcript and one letter of recommendation. Examples of recommendations are employers, teachers, pastors, and coaches. More information on how to apply can be found here: www.rlc.edu/founda-

Interested students are also required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To complete the FAF-SA, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov or

contact the RLC Financial Aid Office. Scholarship recipients are selected based on the criteria set forth by each scholarship. High school students will be

continues on page 3

#### ~MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~

 Visiting Artist Series: Wheat Elder, Jan. 17-Feb. 28, RLC Theatre Lobby.

 Thespian Comedy Improv, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, RLC The-

 WYSE Competition, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5.

• Homecoming, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014; women's basketball game at 5:30 p.m., men's basketball game at 7:30 p.m.; Waugh Gymnasium.

 Art Demonstration: Jerome Wisehart, 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, RLC Theatre.

• Student Recital, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 20, RLC Theatre. Phi Theta Kappa

**Induction**, 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, RLC Theatre. • Student Art Show,

March 27-May 2, Reception 6-8 p.m. March 27, RLC Theatre and Theatre Lobby.

• **Job Fair**, 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn.

#### **INSIDE:**

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#### New To Lambda Nu



#### Culinary ..... continued from page 1

Center Culinary Arts Lab on the Ina campus. The cost is \$60, plus a \$20 supply fee.

• Children can also get involved in the kitchen this semester with Me and My Buddy Cookie Decorating. Little ones and adults alike will decorate cookies with spring-themed icing and toppings to take home after the class. Instructor Mary Rice will meet students at Aunt Minnie's Nibble & Chat in Pinckneyville from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 1. The class costs \$10, plus a \$5 supply fee.

• If designing cookies isn't enough fun, Instructor Becky Belcher will help fifth and sixth graders play with their food during the Fun Food Artclass. Participants will use the plate as a canvas and food as the paint to cut and carve, slice and dice fruits and vegetables into an edible work of art. The class will meet from 10 a.m. noon on Saturday, March 22, in Hamilton County Senior High School's Home Economics Room. The cost of the class is \$10, plus a \$5 supply fee.

REANNE PALMER

• If outdoor cooking is your hobby, RLC has the perfect class for you.

Grilling & Smoking will give participants hands-on opportunities to create, taste and evaluate a number of

products created on site. Culinary Arts Chef Jeff Fairbanks will teach the onehour class. The costs are \$98 plus a supply fee of \$30. Class will meet from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 10 through June 26 in the Student Center Culinary Kitchen on the Ina campus.

• If you prefer relaxing outdoors and sipping a glass of wine, Exploring Wines will also be offered throughout the summer. This class will look at wines from around the world, and will also include matching wine with food, tasting, purchasing, storing, serving and other areas. Participants must be 21 years of age or older. The class costs \$534 and will be taught by Culinary Arts Chef Robert Wilson. Meeting times are from 2 -

cation. Those interested in

the services should go to

the Coal Mining Training

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P.O. Box 247

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already completed

bers who have

6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from June 9 through

August 1 in the Student Center, Room 110 on the Ina campus.

 For the more serious students, several classes will be offered to prepare attendees for the

State of Illinois exam for Management and Sanitation Training. Food Sanitation Instructor Mary Ann Kluge will help students learn about food-borne illness, procedures for cleaning and sanitizing and many more topics necessary to pass the exam, which is given at the end of the class. The cost of the class is \$98, plus a \$38 test fee.

The classes will meet two consecutive Saturdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The first class will meet Jan. 18 and Jan. 25 in the Advanced Technology Center, Room 118 on the Ina campus.

A second class will be held at the RLC Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus, Room 101, on Feb. 1 and Feb. 8. A final class will

**Rend Lake** 

College

Clocktower

Chronicle

LuAnn Droege, Senior

Editor, Centralia Sen-

Nathan Wheeler, Edi-

tor, Rend Lake College

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meet on March 29 and April 5 in Room 354B of the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

 A Food Sanitation Refresher course will also be offered with Instructor Kluge. This course will meet from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. one Saturday and costs \$47.50. The dates and locations are as follows: Saturday, Jan. 18 in the Advanced Technology

Center, Room 118; Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Pinckneyville Campus, Room 101; and Saturday, March 29 at the RLC MarketPlace, Room 354B in Mt. Vernon.

For more information, or to register, contact RLC's Community and Corporate Education Department at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1267 or 1714.

Students in the Rend Lake College Radiology Technology program were recently inducted into Lambda Nu, the national honor society for the radiologic and imaging sciences. Front Row: (L to R) Laci Newton (Marion), Danielle Easton (Mt Vernon), Racheal Smith (Christopher), Bailey Battaglia (Zeigler), Erica Benjamin (Mt. Vernon) and Crystal Gann (Carterville). Middle Row: (L to R) **Kursty Stewart (Mt. Ver**non), Allissa Webb (Mulkeytown), Jayci Deaton (DuQuoin), Matt Battaglia (Royalton) and Vyto Simulis(Herrin). Back Row: (L to R) Aaron Smithey (Anna), **Steve Gosney (West** Frankfort), Landon Labuwi (Benton), **Michael Ramsey** (Murphsboro) and Nate Burgess (Xenia).

## Crossword

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Crossword solution is printed on page 5.

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### One month of registration left for **VESTA** wine-making workshop

REANNE PALMER

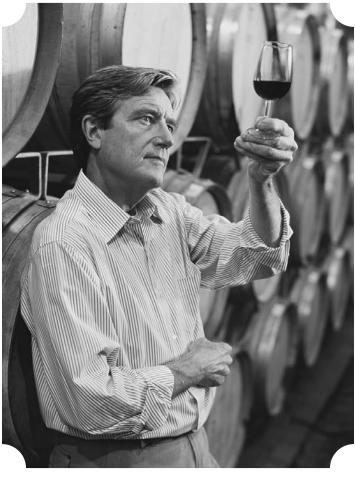
RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

■he registration deadline is nearing for wine makers to attend the Wine Chemistry Workshop Feb. 15-16 through Rend Lake College's Viticulture and **Enology Science and Tech**nology Alliance (VESTA) program.

**VESTA Illinois State** Coordinator Candice Fitch-Deitz said registrations will be accepted until Sunday, Feb. 9. The workshop is geared toward home and commercial wine makers who are looking to refine their skills. Dr. Barry Gump, VESTA Enology Lead, will lead the workshop with activities focusing on analytical testing and the chemistry of wine making.

The event costs \$150 per person, and \$75 for each additional participant from the same winery. The cost of the workshop will include instruction, a light breakfast both mornings and lunch on Feb. 15.

To register for the work-



(Metro Creative Connection Photo)

shop, or for more information, contact VESTA Illinois State Coordinator Candice

Fitch-Deitz atdeitzc@rlc.edu or at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1724.

FAFSA ..... continued from page 1

informed of their awards at their high school honors nights, with letters being sent out after May 1, 2014. Applications will be accepted after Feb. 28; however,

preference will be given to students who meet the due date.

For additional scholarship opportunities visit the Other Scholarship Opportunities website at www.rlc.edu/otherscholarships. For more information, contact the RLC Foundation at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1214.



#### **RLC Board January Highlights**

RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

**EVRARD-STRANG TO RENOVATE A&P LAB** 

The board accepted the bid of \$223,500 from Evrard-Strang Construction Inc. of Marion for the renovation of the Anatomy and Physiology lab. Funds for the project will come from the Title III grant. The new lab will better serve the needs of students and will help alleviate the current overcrowding of the existing labs in the building. The new facility also will help meet the demands of pre-Allied Health students, and will meet objectives contained in the Title III grant.

THREE NEW HIRES **JOIN RANKS** 

• Kathy Evans, Title III Activity Director / Activity Specialist, on a temporary full-time basis effective Jan. 15. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Economics from Indiana University and a Licensed Practical Nursing certificate from Southeastern Illinois College. She recently was clinical director for Bethany Village Assisted Living in Indianapolis.

• Katherine Hunter, Administrative Assistant for the Mining and Industrial Department, effective Jan. 20. She holds a Bachelor of Science

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Degree in Sports Management with a minor in Business from Indiana University and an Associate in Science Degree from Parkland College. She most recently was **Director of Administration** and Human Resources for

the United States Auto Club. Megan Rounds, STARS / TRiO / Student Support Services Advisor, effective Jan. 15. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale as well as Associate in Science and Arts degrees from Rend Lake College. She most recently was a substitute teacher for the Sesser-Valier

school district. **FOUNDATION TO SEEK ADMINISTRATIVE** 

ASSISTANT Granted permission to create the position and advertise for an Administrative Assistant to the RLC Foundation and approved the accompanying job description. As the Foundation continues to grow, the workload has reached a point where an additional staff member is necessary.

PROJECT CHILD'S Accepted with regret the

**SCHUSTER MOVING ON** resignation of Christina Schuster, Parent Services Coordinator for Project

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appreciate the opportunities I have been given during my time with Project CHILD and Rend Lake College, as well as your professional guidance and support," Schuster wrote in her letter of resigna-

IN OTHER business, the

board ... • Approved revisions to board policy and procedure concerning tuition waivers (second reading), community use of college facilities (second reading), reimbursement of miscellaneous department expenses (first reading) and travel reimbursement (first reading).

 Created board policy and procedure concerning

board policy concerning leaves (first reading).

 Approved revisions to board procedure concerning job descriptions and purchas-

 Authorized destruction of closed session tapes after being held for 18 months in accordance with and as provided by the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

 Approved the termination of employment of a groundskeeper.

CHILD, effective Jan. 2. "I

firearm concealed carry (second reading).

Approved revisions to

## processes, developing a

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## At White House summit, a time to share ideas and commit

MATTHEW DEMBICKI

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DAILY ince 2010, Kenneth Ender has had the mantra

"10,604." That's the number of additional students that Harper College (Illinois), where Ender serves as president, needs to graduate by 2020 for Harper to do its part in boosting the nation's college graduation rate by 50 percent by decade's end.

Part of Harper's strategy to get there has been to work closer with local partners, including businesses, universities and K-12 districts through sharing ideas, staff and resources. National college leaders have been watching the initiative. So has the White House.

On Thursday, Ender, who is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) board of directors, outlined the initiative - called the Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS) — at a highprofile White House summit on expanding college opportunities for low-income and disadvantaged students. NEC-SS efforts to work with high schools to better prepare students for college have been paying off: The number of recent high school graduates placing into college-level math at Harper has risen from 45 percent to 57 percent.

Moving beyond theory

Ender joined about 140 leaders from higher education, philanthropic organizations, businesses and local and state governments — including more than 20 from community colleges and community college organizations such as AACC — in sharing ideas at the White House summit, as well as pledging concrete plans to increase the number of underserved students thev serve.

Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) in Pennsylvania, for example, will focus on three areas: redesigning student entry and advising

multi-platform model for student engagement, and expanding its minority student mentoring ini-

For the first area, MCCC will enhance academic planning by using analytical and communication tools to allow advisors, faculty and students to select courses better, monitor students' progress and coordinate academic intervention strategies when needed, according to MCCC President Karen Stout.

For student engagement, MCCC aims to help first-time students better understand financial, civic and digital literacies — skills that are necessary for success in college and beyond, said Stout, a member of the AACC board of directors.

The third area is to extend MCCC's Minority Male Mentoring Program, which was introduced in 2009 to help increase the retention and success of lowincome African-American male students, to include low-income African-American and Latina female students.

From soup to nuts Commitments from institutions and organizations covered the gamut, from providing more scholarships and improving the pipeline between two- and fouryear institutions, to training students to serve as peer mentors and simplifying the student aid process. Some included pledges of millions of dollars, while others were more modest.

During his speech to the summit participants, President Barack Obama cited efforts of several colleges and organizations, including Bunker Hill Community College in Massachusetts, which teams with local high schools to help graduating seniors ramp up for college-level work the summer before their freshman year at the col-

'These are just a sampling of the more than 100 commitments that your organizations and colleges are making here today. And that's an extraordinary first step," Obama said. "But we've

got more colleges and universities than this around the country. We've got more business leaders around the country and philanthropies around the country. And so we have to think of this as just the beginning; we want to do something like this again, and we want even more colleges and universities and businesses and non-for-profits to take part."

Accompanying White House reports outline the general strategies as well as specifics from colleges and organizations. For example, one of the reports noted that the Community College Research Center has compiled several promising case studies from community colleges in Georgia, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin that are revisiting how they conduct placement assessments.

"These changes can be as simple as helping students review for their placement test," the report said. "In fact, the institution that implemented a review course for its placement exams shifted 35 percent more students into higher-level math courses and 60 percent more students into higher-level English."

Aligning national initiatives

AACC aligned its commitments for the summit to its 21st-Century Commission recommendations. At its annual convention in April, the association will release a guide to help two-year colleges implement those recommendations, which target improving college access and success.

The AACC initiative includes a new Virtual 21st-Century Center to house promising practices and provide technical support resources for institutions. AACC will also work with colleges in several regions of the country to help improve the outcome of underprepared students.

This article appeared in the Jan. 16, 2014 edition of Community College Daily.

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# SECTION

## Vols top Warriors in Ina during Region XXIV match-up

he Rend Lake College Warriors took a home court loss of 86-101 on Saturday, January 18 to the John A. Logan Vols. The Warriors are now 11-5 for the season and 3-3 in the GRAC Conference.

The Warriors went from high to low in the first half, holding the lead for several minutes to being down by 12 points with three minutes to go. Ultimately, the Warriors went to the locker room down 38-46. Two sophomores were top scorers for the half — Cortez Macklin (Louisville, KY) and Jeril Taylor (Louisville, KY) both scoring 10 points each. JALC's top scorer was freshman Tre Green (Chicago, IL) with 17 points.

Things only got worse for the Warriors in the second

half as basket after basket missed from all over the court. With less than six minutes left, the Warriors found themselves in a 28point hole. A technical foul by JALC's Darien Walker (Chicago, IL) put some energy back into the team, and they would make a slight comeback to finish the game 15 points behind. The Warriors scored 21 of 32 free throw shots (65 percent) to the Vols' 20 of 35 (57 percent). They also outscored in three-pointers, making 10 to the Vols' five.

RLC had four top scorers, including Mackin with 24, Taylor with 18, Parish McCullum (Maywood, IL) with 13 and Brandon Johnson (East St. Louis, IL) with 10. The Vols' top scorers include Green with 28, Jordan Martin (St. Louis, MO)

with 16, Martavian Payne (St. Louis, MO) with 13, Jay Johnson (Versailles, KY) with 11 and Russell Woods (Chicago, IL) with 10.

Other scorers for the Warriors were Ruben Gosa (Vine Grove, KY) with nine, Paul Knapp (Flora, IL) with five, Trice Whaley (Jeffersonville, IN) with three, and Montez Williams (East St. Louis, IL) and Richard Clemons (Louisville, KY) with two each.

The Warriors will play the next three games on the road against Lewis & Clark on Jan. 22, Lake Land on Jan. 25 and Lincoln Trail on Jan. 29. They will play Lindenwood-Belleville University at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1 at home. For all things athletic at The Lake, visit www.rlc.edu/warriors.



Rend Lake College sophomore Jauan Akins (Vine Grove, KY) puts up a block for fellow sophomore Brandon Johnson (East St. Louis, IL) during the second half against the John A. Logan College Vols. Johnson scored 10 points for the Warriors throughout the game. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Sports Information)

## Lady Warriors take double-digit loss to John A. Logan Lady Vols



Rend Lake College sophomore Jasmine Guthrie (Belleville, IL) puts up two at the beginning of the first half Saturday afternoon against the John A. Logan Lady Vols. Guthrie would be the top scorer of the game with 16 points. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Sports Information)

he Rend Lake College Lady Warriors moved to 6-7 for the season with a loss of 65-80 against the John A. Logan Lady Vols Saturday, January 18 at home. The team is now 2-4 against Region XXIV opponents.

With a slow start to the first half for the Lady Warriors, the two teams battled for control of the first half, ending at 38-38. RLC sophomore forward Jasmine Guthrie (Belleville, IL) put up 16 points for the Lady Warriors to JALC's sophomore guard Aneta Sloma's (Livingston, KY) eight points.

The Lady Warriors started the second half behind, not scoring for much of the first five minutes of play. In the second half, they were outscored 25-42, pushing the Lady Vols to victory. In all, the Lady Warriors made 16 of 34 free throws (47 percent) to the Lady Vols' 11 of 15 (73 percent). JALC also outshot RLC in three-pointers, making 11 shots outside to RLC's three.

RLC, Wabash Valley Warriors clash on

the court, bringing one win and one loss

Lady Warriors took on the

Wabash Valley Warriors

Top scorers of the game for RLC include Guthrie at 16, Kristina Henley (Metropolis, IL) at 13 and Denise Johnson (Memphis, TN) at 10. Lady Vols top scorers were Sloma at 21, BreAnn Denny (Indianapolis, IN) at 15 and Daryus Franklin

(Louisville, KY) at 14. The Lady Warriors also had seven more players in the scoring column for the game. Sophomore LaNiece Cannon (Madison, WI) with nine; Jamillie Reed (Memphis, TN) with eight; Marquita Hilliard-Williams (Madison, WI) with three; and Savannah Enlow (Corydon, IN), Tyra Gooch (Indianapolis, IN), Khadijah Wilson (Madison, WI) and Natalie Williamson (Mt. Vernon) each with two points.

The Lady Warriors will take the next two games on the road, going to Lake Land on Jan. 25 and Lincoln Trail on Jan. 29. The next home game will be at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 1 against Shawnee. For all things athletic at The Lake, visit www.rlc.edu/warriors.

them to 6-6 for the season

and 2-3 in the GRAC Con-



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#### n the first away game of Jan. 15 in Mt. Carmel. The ference. the spring, the Rend Lake Lady Warriors fell 64-72 The RLC Warriors College Warriors and during their game, moving topped their opponents for an 82-79 win, with sophomore Jeril Taylor 200 Franklin St.. (Louisville, Ky.) bringing in the winning 3-point shot. Whittington, IL They move to 11-4 for the 618-303-5266 season and 3-2 in the www.cornerdancehall.com GRAC Conference. FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2014 The teams were scheduled to return to their BATTLE CREEK BAND 7:30 - 10:30 PM home court January 18 to play local rival John A. SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2014 Logan College at 1 p.m. **AS TIME GOES BY BAND** 7:30 - 10:30 PM and 3 p.m. They will then

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RLC SPORTS INFORMATION

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son on Jan. 25 and 29,

itwww.rlc.edu/warriors.



The Rend Lake College Thespian Troupe will take the stage in the RLC Theatre at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 for the annual Comedy Improv. Those pictured are, FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW, Clay Lewis of Mt. Vernon, Nicholas Conner of Sesser, Curtis Galloway of Benton, Jackson Adams of Mt. Vernon, Yuting Zhang of Dahlgren, and Devin Riley of Dix; SECOND ROW, Keryn Fitzpatrick of McLeansboro, Cortne Fletcher of Benton, Shawna Cardwell of Benton, Shelby Patterson of Waltonville, Christine South of Enfield, Bethaney Brown of Mt. Vernon, Lauryn Strom of Sesser, and Sierra Harrell of Opdyke; BACK ROW, Jacob Ward of McLeansboro, Sean Fitzpatrick of McLeansboro, Eric Price of Benton, Chris Milburn of Mt. Vernon, Quentin Overturf of McLeansboro, Brandon Isom of Christopher, and Tyler Bourland of Ina.

Solution to crossword puzzle on page 2.

#### Solution time: 21 mins.

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#### Thespian Comedy Improv returning to campus Jan. 30

veryone in need of a good laugh is invited to the Rend Lake Col-■ lege Thespian Troupe Comedy Improv show, scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in the RLC Theatre.

The annual show will resemble the popular television show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" with a number of games and audience interactions. Tracey Webb, Thespian Troupe sponsor and RLC Theatre Professor, said the club meets once a week to practice the craft of comedy improvisation.

"The games we play improve the actors' ability to 'live in the moment,' which is a huge part of seeming real to life on the stage," said Webb, "In live theatre, things often go wrong. Improvisation skills keep actors on track and quite often can save a show from falling apart when somebody drops a line, drops a prop, struggles with a

piece of scenery and so on." Webb added the show will be a real-life practice session for the Thespians, who will count on active audience members and participation.

"The RLC Thespians are going to take suggestions from the audience and improvise entire scenes on the spot," said Webb. "Audience interaction is a must. In fact, often audience members are asked to join the Thespians on the stage and participate in the many acting games employed."

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ST4008A ST4068A

A1527A

SC3297B A1549A SC4066C1

A1669A

RLC Thespian Shawna Cardwell of Benton said she's looking forward to returning to the stage next week.

"It's not just fun for the Thespians, but for the audience as well," said Cardwell. "They have a chance to have their own moment on stage, in the bright lights."

The RLC Thespian Troupe began in 2002 when several students asked for a club where they could work on comedic skills, practice

improvisational exercises and sketch comedies. The club regularly entertains at local grade and high schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and events.

There is no cost for the show, which is expected to last for an hour and a half. Donations are accepted and will be used for the club's annual trip to see Second City, a theatrical company famous for comedy improvisational skills, in Chicago.

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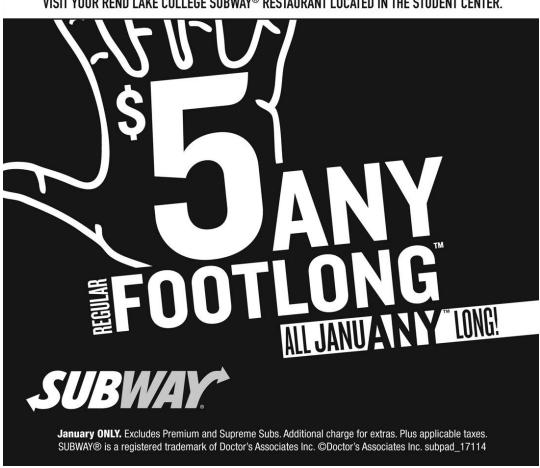
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