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RLC's Homecoming celebrations are right around the corner

BY TYSON HILL

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFF or students of Rend Lake College, the first major event of 2013 is right around the corner.

February 20 is Homecoming and will feature the night of the Homecoming basketball games and the student coronation of RLC's Homecoming King and Queen. The women's game will be at 5:30 p.m and the men's game will follow at 7:30 p.m. Both are playing Wabash Valley College.

The following night, Feb. 21, will be the night of the Homecoming Student Mixer. The mixer, which features music, dancing and free food, is scheduled for 6 - 10 p.m., in the Student Center.

For students, perhaps the biggest question in regards to Homecoming is who will be crowned RLC's Homecoming King and Queen? According to Jena Jensik, RLC academic advisor and (STARS), Clocktower Chronicle reporter Brecca Mullinax (Student Ambassadors), Alexa Heumann (dance team), Justine Lamke (cheerleading team), and Melissa Pearson (Radiologic Technology Club).

CLOCKTOWER CENDIAKE CHRONICLE

> Candidates are expected to be distributing information about themselves starting Friday, Feb, 8. Check out the Clocktower Chronicle next week for bios and photos of the candidates.

> "Since the Academic Calendar is different this year, voting will be the week prior to Homecoming and the day of Homecoming," said Jensik.

Votes can be cast Thursday and Friday, Feb. 14 and 15, as well as on Homecoming, Feb. 20. All voting is done in the Student Center.

Only RLC students can vote.

"You have to be a student registered for at least one credit hour through RLC," said Jensik. "All students will get one vote. When they come in to vote, they'll be asked to present their Student ID and we'll mark their name off." Admission to the games and the mixer is free, so RLC students can dress to the nines and prepare for two nights full of fun. The Chronicle will have more information about Homecoming and the candidates. so students be sure to continue picking up the paper when it drops on Thursdays.

Tractor work



A student in Rend Lake College's heavy equipment technology program works on a project in the Applied Science Center.

Rend Lake culinary students judge national BBQ contest

<u>BY MELISA GIBBS</u>

CULINARY ARTS CLUB end Lake College Culinary students were recently invited to judge the 22nd Annual National Barbeque Association's (NBBQA) contest in Murphysboro.

BBQ is serious business and 17th Street Barbeque cooked up more than 1,000 pounds of pork and chicken for the RLC culinary students to devour while judging more than 500 sauces, rubs and marinades from across the country. The winners, by blind votes, will be awarded medals and certificates, later this month, at the NBBQA convention in Mobile, Ala. Mike "The Legend" Mills entertained the RLC students with stories of his own BBQ history and preferences. He explained, in great detail, his days as a BBQ judge, what to look for and what could make him love or hate a certain sauce. When asked how he liked his sauce, Mills replied, "Thin. ... It needs to be able to penetrate into the meat and get the flavor into every nook."

When the RLC students walked in, bottles had already been covered and divided into groups, based on style. A few of these styles included Tomato Spicy, Vinegar Mild and Fruit Based. Judging was based on three important categories: taste, texture and



one of the coordinators of Homecoming this year, the ballot is set.

"I've already received the nomination forms. ... So I've got the candidates. I know who they are," said Jensik.

Candidates for Homecoming King are; Steven Crawford (Student Ambassadors), Alex Heathcoat (STARS), Steven Campbell (Radiologic Technology Club), and Jason O'Brien (baseball team).

Homecoming Queen candidates are; Kylee Henager (golf team), Juanita Jones

A B C Delish! - Rend Lake Culinary Arts students grade some tasty entries at the 22nd Annual National Barbeque Association's (NBBQA) contest in Murphysboro. FROM RIGHT, are students Ashli Yates, Steve Simmons and Joe Shaw. (Photo by Melisa Gibbs - Clocktower Chronicle) IN THE PHOTO BELOW, RLC Culinary Arts student Ashli Yates takes time out from tasting BBQ and poses for a photo with 17th Street Bar and Grill owner Mike Mills.

Nursing students aid in Mt. Vernon hospital move

BY BEKA KASH

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFF end Lake College Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) students recently took part in moving day for St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon. The students helped transport patients and equipment from the old hospital to the new one. The move was done via several ambulance companies in Southern Illinois.

Melisa Berendson, an ADN Instructor at RLC, says "We took the students to gain clinical hours related to leadership for our Nursing Today and Tomorrow class." Berendson mentioned that her role was to guide students through the procedure of moving patients and observation.

The students had various duties, including preparing the patients for the move, sterilizing beds, boxing up equipment



Rend Lake College Associate Degree Nursing students Sarah Meyers (LEFT), of Waltonville, and Angela Gunter of Sesser, recently gained some clinical credit by helping staff at St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital make the big move to its new facility in Mt. Vernon. The students said the experience was both enjoyable and rewarding. (Photo by Angie Pheonix, RLC Clocktower Chronicle)



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REND LAKE COLLEGE

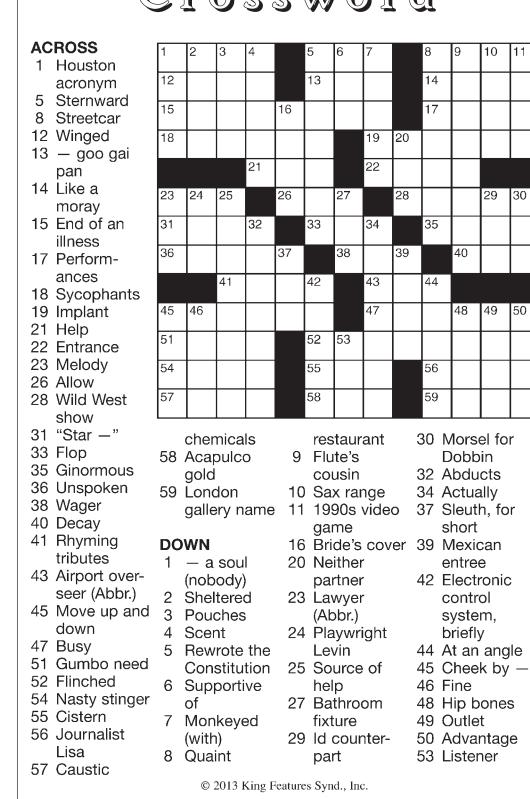
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Crossword solution is printed on page 3.

'Silver Linings' deserves shot at Oscar gold

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BY BRECCA MULLINAX CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFF

hen going to watch "Silver Linings Play-book," anyone in the audience would expect to see a good film. Nominated for eight Oscars, as well as a great cast with actors Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence and Robert DeNiro, how could it go wrong? It couldn't. In fact, it doesn't.

Although there is a slow five- to 10-minute start, the film immediately picks up and sends the audience onto an emotional roller coaster — full of happi-ness, sadness, fear, and embarrassment. With the plot being centered around a young man recently diagnosed with a bipolar disorder, it is, without a doubt, no coincidence that the audience is sent into a range of emotion every single scene and bat of an eyelash throughout the whole two hours. Recently released from a

mental institution, Pat, played by Cooper, is a man looking to reconcile his marriage with his ex-wife whom he still loves dearly. However, with a restraining order, and everyone in the town afraid of his next outburst — including his parents, played by DeNiro and Jacki Weaver — it makes his situation even more difficult. That is, until he makes a new unconventional friendship with Tiffany, played by Lawrence (The Hunger Games). Even though Tiffany suffers from deep problems of her own, she decides to help Pat



with his ex-wife as long as he in return enters a dance competition as her partner.

With every moment pulling at your heart strings, making you laugh happily, or hiding your face in shame with the rest of the audience, one can see the Oscar nominations are well-deserved for every actor or actress in the movie. Cooper may be at his finest. His determination to get his wife and job back while trying to stay on the right track with his medication evokes such

extreme sympathy and understanding from the audience, it leads people wondering about real-life situations similar to this.

Overall the film itself definitely deserves 4.5 stars out of five for storyline, acting, and simply unexpected enjoyment of how phenomenal it was for a romantic comedy drama. However, it receives none for family friendliness. With a few violent situations, some nudity, and an extreme amount of language, it is not suggested for younger audiences.

Marcia



Raquel Whitehead Maxey

Kirsten Κηαρρ

Shon Kyle

Tyrone

Echols



Northcutt





Jeff Stewart

E-files

Brenda Heinzmann

RLC Campus Connection

Corų

Breeze



nando Jacinto set out on campus to find out Q: Who will

win the Super

Bowl? Let's see

Τοποςίο Thomas

The Chronihow clear the crystal ball was cle's own Ferfor RLC students and staff. Tanacia Thomas, 19, Mt. Vernon, Major: Nursing

> A. Ravens?? I don't know. Marcia Whitehead, 58, Benton, Administrative Assistant A. Ravens Raquel Maxey, 26, Mt. Vernon,

Upward Bound Adviser A. Who's playing in the Super Bowl?

Kirsten Knapp, 19, DuQuoin, Major: Radiologic Technology A. Don't know. My team's out! Shon Kyle, 21, St. Louis, Major: Undecided A. Ravens

Cory Breeze, 28, Bonnie, **Major: Industrial Electronics** A. Ravens Tyrone Echols, 20, Collinsville, Major: Business A. Ravens Todd Northcutt, 28, Mt. Vernon, Personal Trainer A. I don't know. I don't care.

548-6854

WE SERVICE:

Blues? Rend Lake Warriors? I don't know. Jeff Stewart, 19, McLeansboro, Major: Ag Mechanics A. Ravens Brenda Heinzmann, 54, Steeleville, Early Childhood **Education Instructor** A. Ravens

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REND LAKE COLLEGE

Love the one you're with: **Creating a classroom community**

BY CYNDE GREGORY SPECIAL TO THE CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE

t's the first day of class. They shuffle in, spot similar life-forms, and slip in with that group. Hipsters sporting wild hair and tats, buttoned-up and serious young scholars, middle-aged moms and dads, maybe a couple of aging hippies. One or two sad souls choose spots isolated from the others; they don't want to identify with them for reasons of insecurity, arrogance, or something else.

Every good teacher knows that learning doesn't happen in isolation. Creating a learning community gives students a sense of security, study pals, and somebody to double-check with about assignments. While once upon a time classrooms were largely homogenous, filled with young white males who shared many of the same real-life experiences, these days most classrooms can, at first glance, seem to be a wild cacophony of humanity, tender and tough, curious and hostile, open-minded and most definitely, absolutely closed.

Here's the question: How do you get them to connect? How do you get them to feel safe enough to express ideas in front of such a varied group, listen to one another's ideas, engage in authentic dialogue, and push their own academic, social, and personal limits in order to grow?

From the moment the class passed the threshold. I feared this was one pot of stew that was never going to mingle flavors. It wasn't just that there were a number of different "types," it was that already, 43 seconds into class, an invisible but palpable distrust was rumbling just below the pitch of human hearing. However, it was not below the pitch of teacher hearing, and it filled me with fear. I had Goths and girlie-girls, straight-shooters and loose cannons, bookworms and back-row mutterers. I had a guy proudly sporting a spaghetti stained chef's hat, and

another proudly displaying a bald and vibrantly tattooed skull, and they were glaring at each other.

I opened my mouth to say, "Class dismissed." Fortunately, my inner administrator reminded me that if I dismissed them before the first class had even started, I would lose my job. My mouth has a mind of its own (often not a good thing) and instead, I said, "Let's dump the desks."

"Huh?" the class sang in unison. A good sign. Unison.

"Shove them out of the way and make two circles facing each other."

"Huh?" they sang again. "You with the gorgeously tattooed skull, you're in charge. Make them do it!" He glared. They scram-

bled. It was done.

The circles formed, the inner circle facing the outer one. They looked almost ready for some spontaneous folk-dancing.

"Inner circle: You've got one minute to pry out as much interesting information from the person you are facing as you possibly can. Skip the boring stuff parents ask their kids' dates. Ask what they're afraid of, if they've ever been lost, or what makes them laugh hysterically."

"Ummm," a girlie-girl trilled, "Like, what are we supposed to be doing?"

"You are speed dating," I said. She perked up immediately, as did several of the older returning students who probably hadn't dated in a while. "When I flick the lights, everyone absolutely stop talking - even if you're in the middle of a word. When I flick them again, outer circle has one minute to ask questions. After your two minutes are up, inner circle steps

atop one another, all rising to a beautiful crescendo...

I flicked the lights. Silence.

I flicked again.

Words. Conversations. Eye contact. Here and there, a hand reached out to touch a shoulder, mouths slipped from crescent-moon grins to open laughter.

And thus it went. Round and round the room they probed and questioned and probably overstepped bounds, but nobody complained so I let them be. When everybody had finally met everyone else and it was time to sit down, I saw several stu-

dents grab their bags and books and slip next to someone from a completely different group. We reviewed policies and talked about my grading system, and they actually listened. But that wasn't the best part. The best part was when the chefhat guy and the tattooed skull guy left class together, their charmingly ridiculous heads tipped, chuckling over whoknows-what.

Dr. Cynde Gregory teaches composition and literature at Gwinnett Technical College in Georgia in addition to tutoring second language learners of all ages.

Solution to Crossword puzzle printed on page 2.

Solution time: 25 mins.







Culinary continued from page 1

appearance. The heaviest weight was given to taste. Every.one would first taste the sauces plain and then a second time with the meat of their choice.

Even with labels covered, clear winners in each category were easily found out. Nobody spoke their opinions until votes were col-

Hospital continued from page 1

and riding along to transport the patients. The students helped moved between 50 and 60 patients all together.

Angie Gunter, an ADN student from Sesser, says "I worked in the Rehab Department at the old hospital, preparing patients to be transferred to the new hospital. I rode in the ambulance with my last patient and helped them get situated in their new room."

Sarah Meyer, an ADN student from Waltonville, mentioned that she helped wherever she could, from preparing the patients to riding back and forth between hospitals. "The new hospital is

lected. But almost every time, the tables would be in complete agreement as to which sauce was the winner. By the end of the afternoon, the once ravenous and eager students were groaning and attempting to duck out of judging another table.

Mills said at the beginning, "Pace yourselves. You've got a lot of BBQ to eat!" Lesson learned.

beautiful and they have thought of everything," said Gunter, who added that she would love to work in the OB department at the new hospital after graduating. "It is really modern for a small southern Illinois town," said Meyer.

According to the SMGS website, the new facility cost around \$237 million to open. Moving day went as smooth as expected for Meyer and Gunter, and only took 4.5 hours out of the 12 hours estimated to complete, Berendson said. With the recently expanded Crossroads Community Hospital, Mt. Vernon and the region is flush with state-of-the-art healthcare facilities that will cater to the well-being of southern Illinois' sick residents for years to come.

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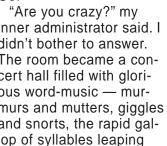
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to the left, outer circle stays put, and do it again. Go!"

"Are you crazy?" my inner administrator said. I didn't bother to answer. The room became a concert hall filled with glorious word-music - murmurs and mutters, giggles and snorts, the rapid gallop of syllables leaping





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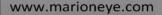
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Rend Lake College

Red-hot Rend Lake wins GRAC rematch with Lake Land

he Rend Lake College Warriors overcame a 12-point halftime deficit to beat Lake Land 72-68 in a Great Rivers Athletic Conference rematch Jan. 30 in Ina.

LLC won their first meeting this season by three points. Cutting into the lead one possession at a time, the Warriors finally went up 60-59 with backto-back free throw makes by sophomore forward Bronson Verhines (Woodlawn, III.). RLC kept up its inside wall on defense, forcing Lake Land outside. The Lakers, who drew buckets from the threepoint well often in the first half, found it empty down the stretch.

When forced to the line in the waning minutes,

RLC responded with a 7-10 performance from Verhines, freshman forward Montez Buford (Louisville, Ky.), and guard Cortez Macklin (Louisville, Ky.) Macklin hit his only two free throws of the game to grab a four-point lead with 2.9 seconds on the clock. He led the Warriors with 18 points. Buford had 14 and Stephon Bryant (Louisville, Ky.) had 10. Lake Land's Harold McBride, Jr.,

led all scorers

with 22. RLC Head Coach Randy House said he was happy with his team's desire and composure in the second half. "Cortez [Macklin] got, Corey [Ayala] got going, and Montez Buford ... all the guys in the second half, when we needed big shots, [came through],"

said House. "We weren't going to get it all back at once. That's what the assistant coaches told them. ... We've got to chip away. Our demeanor doesn't chang much on the floor. Thats one of the things I'm really pleased about with these kids. Whether we are up 15 or down 15, we kind of play with the same demeanor. We don't put pressure on ourselves and hurry things. We just kind of continue to do what needs to be done."

What needs to be done next is a win at Lincoln Trail on Feb. 2. The win over Lake Land on Wednesday is RLC's seventh-straight. Ranked seventh in the nation among NJCAA DII programs, the Warriors now move ahead of Lake Land in the conference standings, and are tied for second in the league with John A. Logan College. RLC has an overall record of 15-2 and is 7-2 in the GRAC.

For all things athletic at The Lake, visit RLC online at www.rlc.edu/warriors.



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GET UP — Rend Lake's Antoine Buchanon (Middletown, Wis.) throws down a monster dunk Wednesday night in the Warriors' 72-68 comeback win over Lake Land College in Great Rivers Athletic Conference basketball action at RLC. (Photo by Nathan Wheeler, RLC Sports Information)

Garver signing







Trico High School senior Katie Garver signs a national letter of intent to play golf for Rend Lake College. SEATED, FROM LEFT, are her father, Don Garver,



Katie Garver, mother Kim Garver and RLC Head Women's Golf Coach Cindy Corn. STANDING, FROM LEFT, are Trico staff: Director of Athletics Ron Coleman, Assistant Coach Travis Cook, Head Coach Tom Bowlin and Principal Mike DeNault.

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302 Broadway • Mt. Vernon, IL Sponsored by: Salem Lodge 1678 and Illinois Elks Children's Care Olney Central's Dominique Rubin calls timeout after diving for a loose ball in Rend Lake's 79-65 loss on Jan. 16. Also involved in the play are, FROM LEFT, RLC's Kristina Henley, OCC's Tabi Thurman, and RLC's Tazonda Gibbs and Elyse Jackson.

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