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Remembering Larry Phifer

JUSTIN WOMACK

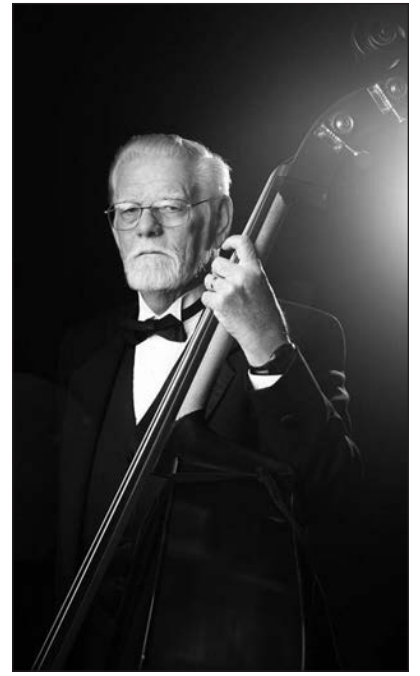
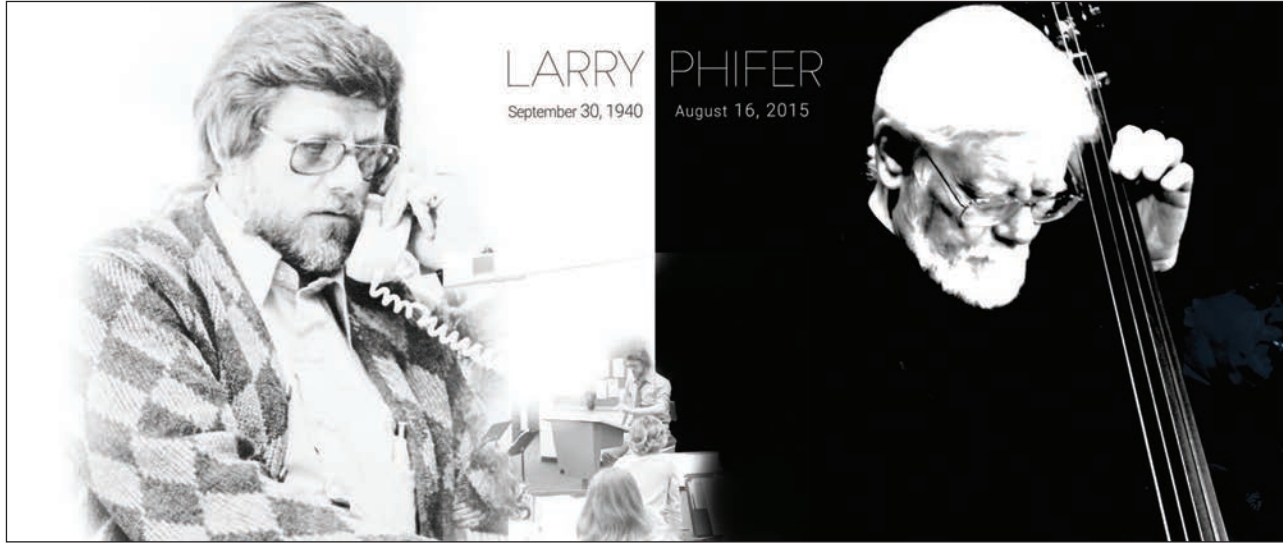
CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

One of Rend Lake College's most honorable music educators passed away Sunday, Aug. 16. The loss of Larry Phifer, at age 74, struck campus, the community and his loved ones.

Phifer held the fourth chair contrabass position in the Paducah Symphony Orchestra. And, as a teacher of both college-level and grade school music students, he held a large portion of the local music community in his hands. His legacy is carried on through all of those lucky enough to have known him.

A celebration of life service was held Wednesday, Aug. 26 for friends and family. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Phifer was welcome to attend. Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" echoed throughout the halls of the First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Vernon as the band "The Rainmakers" played, along with friends and fellow students in an open jam session. A few were some of the players from the Paducah Symphony Orchestra. Phifer's own bass was brought out and played in his honor. There was a slideshow presentation, filled with memories and pictures of Phifer and his friends, accompanied by a buffet of sweets and snacks.

Many people came out to show their appreciation and respect for



Larry Phifer

MT. VERNON — Larry Dale Phifer, 74, of Mt. Vernon died at 1:02 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, 2015, at Good Samaritan Regional Health Center in Mt. Vernon.

He was born on Sept. 30, 1940, in Sedalia, Mo., son of Franklin L. and Dorothy J. (Curnutt) Phifer. He married Linda Kay Herman on Feb. 15, 1998, in Mt. Vernon.

Mr. Phifer is survived by his wife; five children, Mia Phifer of Chicago, Evana "Vani" Phifer of Springfield, Michael Gabriel "Gabe" Phifer and Melissa Roether-Brown of Sesser, Janice E. Drew and husband Rich of Elwood, and Sue Schaeppman of The Hague, The Netherlands; three former stepchildren, Meridy Vaughn-Lutheran, Brandy Foster-Gau and Heath Foster; sister, Dee Hercules and husband John of Mt. Vernon; three grandchildren, Erica Elizabeth Hay of Springfield, Jacqueline Elaine Schaeppman of Leiden, The Netherlands, and Samuel Paul Schaeppman of The Hague, The Netherlands; and several nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Tom and Frank Phifer; and two nephews, Justin Paul and Jason Eric Hercules.

He attended Lincoln Way High School in New Lenox and graduated from Gibson City High School. He received his Bachelor of Music Education in 1962, and his Master of Music in 1967, both from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington; his post-graduate study was at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, post-graduate ABD study was at University of Illinois in Urbana. During his teaching career he taught students from kindergarten through sophomore in college. From 1996 to 2008 he was an elementary school teacher and technology coordinator, and taught band, chorus and fine arts at Summerville Grade School, Dodds Grade School and Opdyke-Belle Rive school districts. From 1973 to 78, he was chairman of the Arts and Communications Department at Rend Lake College. He was a guest conductor for the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State District Chorus at SIU-Carbondale and SIU Edwardsville. He successfully wrote for grants totaling over \$324,000 for Summerville School. He was a member of the Illinois Music Educators Association, the National Honor Society, Blue Key National Honor and Service Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Professional Music Fraternity, Kappa Delta Pi National Honor Fraternity in Education and was recipient of Certificates of Commendation from President Gerald Ford and the Music Educators National Conference for the Rend Lake College Collegiate Choir performance in front of the White House on Memorial Day in 1976 for the Bi-Centennial Celebration. Mr. Phifer played Fourth Chair Contrabass in the Paducah Symphony Orchestra for 34 years.

In honor of his wishes, Mr. Phifer was cremated and a Celebration of Life Service was held at First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Vernon with the Rev. Stacy Tate and the Rev. Rachel Helgeson officiating.

There will be no visitation. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Paducah Symphony Orchestra to go toward the sponsorship of the Fourth Chair Contrabass for the upcoming season. Donations may be made online or by mail to the Paducah Symphony Orchestra and will also be accepted at Hughey Funeral Home in Mt. Vernon, which is in charge of arrangements.

a man who was truly an inspiration in the community and classroom. Two of his students were there — brothers Michael and Jonathan Dauby. Michael is a former student and Jonathan is a current student at RLC.

"I don't know what it was about Larry, but there was a confidence that he gave me," Jonathan said.

"It's remarkable how much he has improved, in all honesty," Michael said of his brother's development under Phifer. "I wholeheartedly believe it's his own determination, and good teaching."

Another former RLC student, Isaac Hicks, said, "What are musicians? We are artists first before we are mathematicians or whatever else. ... It's about creativity. [Phifer] knew that and understood that. He was trying to make sure that the right

seeds were planted so that it would grow to where we would later understand it even if we didn't at the time."

The loss of a musician and teacher of Phifer's caliber will certainly leave a large hole in the heart of the college's music department. Buster Leeck, dean of Liberal Arts at RLC, thought very highly of Phifer.

"I've known Larry, honestly, for the better part of 30 years. Just a phenomenal character, a good man, a very good instructor, and teaching was what he loved."

Leeck said Phifer's health issues were unknown to most of the faculty until he announced he would not be returning for the fall semester.

"It was a surprise to everybody, including Larry. Definitely unexpected," said Leeck. "Credit to the new folks, they have real-

ly stepped up and have taken on all of the things that Larry had left."

Jonathan Dauby said he believes the music program and the orchestra are growing.

"[Phifer] always wanted it to grow. I walked into band and it's twice as big as it was last year," Jonathan said. Hicks added that he wants the college both to grow and to stay small. "I do hope Rend Lake continues to grow, but ... I hope it does not lose that small, intimate setting to learn like we had with Phifer."

Phifer's legacy will carry on through his students, colleagues, friends, and family. He truly was an inspiration, mentor, and friend to many and will surely be missed. Those who knew him will always remember the wonderful memories, powerful knowledge, endless love, and of course ... leading tone!

Costa Rica in May with RLC

WILLIAM MCPHERSON

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER

Are you tired and stressed out? How does a nice tropical getaway sound? What if you could get three college credit hours in the process while you sip your Mojito in the warm relaxing sun? Well then, Costa Rica may just be the place for you next spring.

The trip is being provided and overseen by Education First in conjunction with Rend Lake College International Studies. According to their website at www.EF.com, Education First is the world leader in educational tours and international education.

Associate Professor of Sociology Sarah Draper said the trip is being offered as a Social Science class called SOSC 2101. Draper noted that it is a meticulously planned, nine-day trip

that will explore the exotic environment and rich culture of Costa Rica. Each day is filled with many planned activities overseen by an expert tour guide to showcase the diversity of the region.

Draper stated that the trip begins in the colorful capital city of San Jose. According to the itinerary provided by EF, during the nine-day experience, students will be exposed to a world of biological diversity. Among the activities listed is a visit to the stunning INBioparque natural park, the Poas Volcando — one of the largest active volcanoes in the world, the beautiful La Fortuna Waterfall, and a boat tour of Caño Negro. Students will also get to experience the relaxing thermal hot springs, visit a coffee plantation, and have lunch in an exotic rain forest, and much, much more.

Alicia McPherson took a trip



GET TROPICAL — Imagine jetting off on a tropical getaway after graduation next May. Rend Lake College is offering SOSC 2101 — a trip to Costa Rica.

to Europe through EF back in high school. She said, "I really enjoyed my last trip with this company. It was very fun and I got to learn a lot. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and

kind. It was a unique experience. They really make you feel safe and welcomed. I would love to go on another trip with them."

Draper stated that a tentative deadline for registration is this October. She said students who want to go should enroll in the class for the spring semester. The actual class only consists of the trip, so there is no extra course material to buy or prerequisites to attend.

The Costa Rica trip is scheduled to depart on May 16 — two days after next year's graduation. That date is subject to change. The nine-day excursion is \$2,405 per student, which can be paid in monthly installments of \$193. Students over 30 years of age must pay \$2,645, which covers a room upgrade to double

Costa Rica continues on page 2

Who's your trustee?

TAYLOR BLANKENSHIP

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Representing a student body takes responsibility, motivation, hard work, and critical thinking. Each year, candidates run for the position of student trustee. This person represents the students of RLC and presents its collective interest to the RLC Board of Trustees. It's a big honor and a big task.

Last spring, RLC students elected Claire Ellen Pytlinski. She was born and raised in Waltonville where she graduated from Waltonville High School in the spring of 2014. During her time in high school, she played basketball for three years and participated in the Beta Club and the FFA. Her free time was filled with outdoor activities such as bow hunting, fishing, and maintaining her family farm. It's a given from her hobbies that Pytlinski's major here at Rend Lake is Agriculture Business and Management.

"I received the High Achiever's Scholarship, but that's not

what really brought me to RLC," stated Pytlinski. "I came to Rend Lake because it was a better transition for me. I liked the idea of being close to home and I wasn't ready to jump into a four-year university just yet. RLC was the perfect opportunity for me to get used to things."

She is set to graduate in May 2016. Her future plans include transferring to a four-year university. Which one? She hasn't decided yet.

"I would like to get hired on in my major with a farm magazine. Taking pictures and writing articles would be ideal," said Pytlinski.

Back in March, Pytlinski was seated as the new student trustee at a meeting of the RLC Board of Trustees. President Terry Wilkerson officiated over the procedure. When asked how she felt at the meeting, Pytlinski stated, "I was actually pretty nervous at first because News 3 was there. I even sat in the wrong seat! After the ceremony started, however, I wasn't all that nervous."

She says she owes her posi-

tion as student trustee to her instructor, Kathy Craig.

"Kathy was the one who informed me about the position and encouraged me to run for it. I didn't even know about the open spot, but I am really glad she told me because I would have been upset if I found out I could have run for it after the election was over."

She said she wants to do anything she can to help the student body.

"I want to make campus the best it can be from the students' perspective. My main priority is to act as a middleman who can bring student problems to the board to be addressed."

When asked about changes they would like to see around campus, most students agreed on cosmetic changes and food options.

"Being here five days a week usually means eating Subway five days a week," said student Ashton Beaver of Christopher.

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Claire Pytlinski

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ATHLETICS

W S E C T I O N S

Warriors sophomore catcher McMahan named Summer Collegiate All-American

REANNE PALMER

RLC SPORTS INFORMATION

Perfect Game released their annual list of players named Summer Collegiate All-Americans last week. Rend Lake College's returning catcher Aiden McMahan (Wolf Lake) landed a spot as a Third Team All American, making him the only NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) player to be named to any of the teams.

McMahan spent his summer with the Prospect League's Richmond River-Rats where he finished second in the league in hitting with a .390 batting average. After 40 games played, McMahan logged 22 runs, 55 hits, 10 doubles, two triples, 22 RBIs, and two stolen bases. The Prospect League had five other players make All-America teams this summer.

Last season for the Warriors, McMahan had a .302 batting average in 133 plate appearances. With 35 hits, he logged 24 runs, nine dou-



bles, one homerun, and nine stolen bases. The left-handed hitting catcher is the son of David and Angie McMahan and a prodigy of Shawnee High School, where he helped lead the Redskins to the state tournament during his junior year. McMahan and the War-

riors began their fall season at the Indiana State Showcase in Terre Haute, Ind. on Saturday, Aug. 29. Their first home game was against Kaskaskia College at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2.

For all things athletic at the Lake, visit www.rlc.edu/warriors.



VOLLEYBALL — RLC's Nichole Alcorn (22 - Albion), LEFT, Danielle Bruns (24 - Pinckneyville), CENTER, and Denise Bruns (26 - Pinckneyville), RIGHT, prepared for a block during the first match against SWIC in Waugh Gymnasium. RLC won the game 25-20 but lost the match 2-3. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Sports Information)

Lady Warriors drop home opener vs Belleville

REANNE PALMER

RLC SPORTS INFORMATION

Rend Lake College's Lady Warriors Volleyball team lost 2-3 in their home opener against Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC) opponent Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC). RLC moves to 0-4 for the season and 0-1 in the GRAC.

The Lady Warriors came out strong in the first two matches, winning 25-20 and 26-24 respectively. SWIC made their first appearance of their season in RLC's Waugh Gymnasium and the Blue Storm found their groove to make a comeback in the third and fourth matches. RLC lost 12-25 and 16-25, never taking the lead in either set. RLC and SWIC battled it out in the fifth set with each team taking the

lead and tying five times. RLC lost the last match 14-16.

Leading ladies for RLC included sophomore Denise Bruns (Pinckneyville) who logged six kills, two blocks, and 15 digs; sophomore Emily Green (Wayne City) with 10 digs and 14 assists; freshman Megan Rubenacker (McLeansboro) who logged 18 digs; sophomore Danielle Bruns (Pinckneyville) with six kills and five blocks; freshman Nichole Alcorn (Albion) with six kills and four blocks; freshman Kodi Knight (McLeansboro) who logged 11 digs; and freshman Ryann French (Woodlawn) with six kills.

Despite the loss, Head Coach Sara Crews said the effort and dedication by the young team will make them contenders this

season. "Our region opening match every year is against SWIC. Last year we got hammered in three straight. This year, with four freshmen making major contributions, we were able to push them to five sets," said Crews.

"Although we didn't win, to be able to battle and lose the deciding match 14-16 this early in the season says a lot for where this team is compared to past teams. We definitely have a lot to work on, but there is a lot of promise and potential in this team."

The Lady Warriors will return home on Saturday, Sept. 5 for a tri-match with Illinois Central and East Central colleges at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. respectively. For all things athletic at The Lake, visit RLC online at www.rlc.edu/warriors.

Costa Rica

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occupancy twin or double room, instead of the triple or quad occupancy room given to younger students.

Draper said the trip may seem expensive, but that it is a great deal when you consider it covers airfare, hotel accommodations, on-tour transportation, the cost of the tour guides and director, and much more. It also covers most of the meals on the trip. According to the trip website, this includes three meals daily on the second day through the eighth day; a local dinner on the first day, and a light breakfast on the last day. Any student who has taken a previous trip with EF is eligible for a special \$100 discount, according to the site.

Draper said she is willing to help or advise any student looking to save money for this trip by engaging in creative fundraising endeavors. She stated one way to raise funds is to make sure friends and relatives know about the trip and ask for cash instead of presents on special occasions. The full cost of the trip must be paid roughly 60 days before the departure date.

She said that to attend this trip, students will need a valid and up-to-date pass-

port. The tour is not just limited to current RLC students. Anyone who lives in-district can sign up for this class and take the trip. RLC will waive tuition for the three credit hours. For more information, contact Draper at drapers@rlc.edu or via phone at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1809. Students may register at the EF site — www.efcollegestudytours.com/professors-trip/1636047CY or by calling (877) 485-4184 and referencing tour # 1636047CY.

Trustee

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"Don't get me wrong. I love Subway. But I would like to see another food option come to campus. Maybe a food stand, or even a food truck that comes to campus every Tuesday or something would be a cool idea."

Several other students mentioned ideas for more food options around campus that they would like to see considered. A few students even encouraged cosmetic changes and small updates be made to make the campus look "fresher."

In addition to cosmetic changes — some of which are already in place — Beaver said a place for students to spend downtime would also be nice.

"Some of us have huge breaks in our day," said sophomore Brooke Robertson of Christopher. "Maybe

a small spinoff kind of like SIU has. It's a game/lounge center that plays music and provides space to sit and hangout or play pool or something. I think this would be really beneficial to students and could also be something that lures in new students to the college. I can also agree totally that the students need something like this to be brought to campus."

Eli Lisk was the outgoing student trustee.

"Eli was very helpful," stated Pytinski. "He walked me through everything and gave me important information that will help me in my position. He also told me that if I ever needed anything that I shouldn't hesitate to ask him, which was very nice."

Pytinski said her favorite part so far is being able to represent the students and make suggestions about things they need. She is

very qualified for this position because of her contact with students all across campus and her kind, caring personality.

"I am pretty open to anyone's opinion and I am willing to help anyone out."

While the main benefit to the position is getting to know the students and new people, it's not the only perk.

"Let's be honest," she said. "The food at those board meetings is super delicious!"

Getting a lot of invites to events around campus is also something that is important to her. Board meetings take place every second Tuesday of the month on campus. In April, new board officers were voted on. The officers elected were Chairman Eric Black; Vice Chairman Randy Rubenacker, Secretary John Kabat, and Illinois Community College Trustees Association repre-

sentative Rick Marlow. Dr. David Asbery and Randall Crocker also serve on the board.

"Being in behind the closed doors at the meetings is very educating," Pytinski said. "There is so much work that goes on just to produce what seems like a normal day to us students. I really have a whole new appreciation for everyone."

"If I could give any advice to new students it would be to be as involved as you can. Kathy [Craig] has really helped me do that and I am very grateful. Take advantage of the fun things the college offers like Fun Fest and Warrior Fest. They're all really fun and can help you become more familiar with the college and can help a new student meet new people. It is going to be a great year as student trustee and I can't wait to see what lies ahead!"

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Best kept secret? Meet RLC's award-winning children's center

Don't call it a day-care. The award-winning Rend Lake College Foundation's Children's Center is a fully accredited learning center for children, teaching center for college education students, and is open for business this fall. Some parents on campus may not be aware that RLC has a Center for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age during school semesters, and up to 12 years during summer, according to the RLCFCC website. The center was just recently reaccredited for five more years by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The Children's Center recently won the prestigious Gold Circle of Excellence from the ExceleRate Illinois program. The Center is available to the general public — both RLC students and staff, as well as the local community at large. There are two classrooms for children, ages 3 to 5, including a free Pre-K Classroom. The free Pre-K classroom requires children to meet eligibility requirements, including a checklist and a screening for the child, all of which RLCFCC Director Brooke May said takes about 20 minutes.

"This classroom is absolutely free, Monday through Friday, throughout the school year, from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.," said May.

The second classroom, which has a daily usage fee, does not have any enrollment requirements and the schedule is flexi-

ble, allowing parents to choose which days their child attends, based on their own schedule necessities. Both classrooms offer high-quality care and will develop the child's learning experience.

The RLCFCC boasts a qualified staff that is dedicated to creating a safe, loving, and educational environment for children. Kaitlyn Gatimu teaches the pre-school class. Rene Crouse is in charge of the Pre-K class. Jamie Cambron is the lead teacher in the toddler classroom. Robin Pytlinski teaches in the infant room.

Alicia McPherson — a student worker in the Practicum class for early childhood education — said, "It bugs me that people think what we do is like babysitting," adding that it's a big faux pas to use the word daycare in association with the Children's Center. "We are so much more than that," McPherson said. "We are teachers, and the children here are getting an education, just like everyone else at Rend Lake College."

Gia, a 3-year-old student in the Pre-K classroom, began her interview with the Clocktower Chronicle by spelling out her name. "G-I-A! I love going to school!" she said. When asked about her daily activities, she responded, "I play with kids here!" She also noted in the interview that she loves to read books, color, and play outside on the newly renovated playground.

The RLCF Children's Center has been lauded



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH — Congratulations to the staff of the Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center. They were named August Employees of the Month by President Terry Wilkerson. **FROM LEFT** are; Jessica Parvin, Mackenzie Johnson, Robin Pytlinski, Katie Williams, Nichole Musielak, Cassie Nolen, Brooke May, Jamie Cambron, Kaitlyn Gatimu, Rene Crouse and Chelsey Sanders. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

by the Illinois Department of Human Services for excellence in their most important categories - personal care routines, outstanding actives and interaction, language and reasoning, great use of space and furnishings, and structuring those furnishings to assist children with disabilities.

In addition to preschool children, the RLCF Children's Center also accepts infants and toddlers. Anyone interested in enrolling a child or learning more about the Center is invited to contact May at (618)437-5321, Ext. 1393



P-L-A-Y — Children hit the playground at the Rend Lake College Foundation Children's Center — a play-based learning center located at the Ina campus. The fully accredited, award-winning facility accepts children from six weeks to five years of age during the school year and up to 12 in the summer. (Nathan Wheeler / RLC Public Information)

General Motors, Orphan Cars to headline September Cruise Night

General Motors (GM) vehicles — Buicks, Olds, Pontiacs, and more — and Orphan cars are invited to attend Friday's Cruise Night, hosted by the Kingsmen Auto Club of Mt. Vernon and held at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace.

The Sept. 4 Cruise Night will begin at 6 p.m. in the east parking lot, across from the RLC Golf Outlet, at the MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon. All classic and show cars are invited to attend, but only GM and Orphan vehicles will be eli-

gible to win a drawing for the Featured Car plaque.

The Cruise Night is free to the public and will end at 9 p.m. There will be prizes and a 50/50 drawing during the evening, and attendees can take advantage of free refreshments, live music, and several sale opportunities at the MarketPlace.

Some of the opportunities at the MarketPlace include 15 percent off a purchase of \$100 or more and buy one get one half off all clothing at the RLC Golf Outlet, a free cut and style

with chemical service at Studio RLC, 20 percent off regular price or 10 percent off sale prices at Shoe Stop, new sale items at BonWorth, and 10 percent off a meal at Lone Star Steakhouse.

October is the last Cruise Night of 2015 and will feature Chevrolets (1958 and newer) and Corvettes. Cruise Nights are held from 6 – 9 p.m. on the first Friday of every month from April to October. To learn more about the Cruise Nights, contact Jim Hutchison at (618) 244-7711 or (618) 242-6279.

Kingsmen Road Rally beginning at RLC clocktower Sept. 13

Start your engines and get ready to take off at the Kingsmen Auto Club's first Road Rally event, hosted at Rend Lake College next month. The club is using the college's clocktower as the starting point for the timed event, which begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

A road rally, as defined by Kingsman Terry Hale of Mt. Vernon, is an event where participants race from one location to the next, while obeying all traffic laws, to try to reach the final destination first. Hale said the winner will receive a cash award.

"When you start, you'll have a map of the first segment and you will drive to that first stop, where you will receive the second segment. That goes on for the third and fourth locations," explained Hale. "It's a timed event, so you've got to be on your toes, but you have to drive safe and can't speed.

We're asking everybody to be safe and have a good time."

Hale said the course is less than 100 miles from start to finish, meaning all participants should be at the final destination by noon. Soft drinks and food will be served at the last location, and participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

"Rend Lake College is a good starting point, and we will end somewhere in Mt. Vernon. It's going to be a great event to show cars off," said Hale. "The college helps the Kingsmen a lot with different events, and we felt that the clock tower would be a good spot to start at. The club appreciates what Nigel Thompson [RLC Automotive Technology Professor] and the college do for us."

This event will also honor Ron Hale, Terry Hale's son, who died in 2006 and who was a car enthusiast.

Hale said his son's 1970 Chevy Nova will likely be one of the cars featured in the Road Rally.

"Anyone can come out and bring their car. You don't have to be a member of the Kingsmen club. We just like to get our cars out and drive them. In fact, the more the merrier," said Hale. "This is our first road rally and we hope to continue doing it every year."

Cars and trucks must be 30 years old or older to participate in the Road Rally. Entry costs \$30 per vehicle to enter on the day of the event, or \$20 to pre-register. Preregistration can be done by contacting Hale at (618) 214-6187 or Jody Martin at (618) 279-3137, or by completing the registration form below and sending it to one of the addresses listed. If bad weather threatens, the Road Rally will be rescheduled for Sunday, Sept. 20.

SENSE & SENSITIVITY

by HARRIETTE COLE



DEAR HARRIETTE: I had a wonderful summer that included spending a week with friends. They went out of their way to make sure that my family and I were comfortable and had fun. I want to thank them for their generosity. We gave them little gifts when we arrived, but it seems like there should be some kind of follow-up to cap it all off. What do you recommend? — Filled With Gratitude, Denver

DEAR FILLED WITH GRATITUDE: Why not go the old-fashioned route and send a handwritten thank-you note to your friends? Simply saying thank you is a wonderful way to complete the circle of giving, and it happens rarely these days. Pick out a lovely card with imagery that reflects the style and tone of your friends. Then write something that

specifically expresses why you are grateful for the visit you had with them. Finally, have each family member sign the note. Then put it in the mail. Receiving such a note will be sure to put a smile on your friends' faces.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I have been doing a lot of work to help close out my father's life. He died about a year ago, and it has taken time to get everything together, but we are close. The super in his condo building has been very helpful to me throughout this process. I really couldn't have gotten everything accomplished without his support. I want to do something for him. I know giving him a tip is customary. It seems so cold, though. Is there something else I could do? — Closing

the Loop, Boston

DEAR CLOSING THE LOOP: You definitely should give the super a tip. Make it as large as you can afford. Generally speaking, tips help to round out the income for people in positions like that, so a monetary gift is exactly what he will appreciate. Now, because you want to personalize your sentiment in a significant way, you can also do some other things. If you have a photo of your father in the building, you might put that in an envelope with a card thanking the super for all his efforts to help you handle your father's affairs. You can write that you thought he might appreciate a memento of your dad — the photo.

Thank You
From the family of
Geraldine Purcell
for the flowers, cards and prayers.

Thanks to all at Rankin Funeral Home

Thank you: Rev. Larry Shelton, and Rev. Bill Price for officiating at the service.

Thank you: Emmanuel Baptist for all the help and food they provided.

Thank God: she was a good Christian woman and was loved and will be missed by many

Carl Purcell and Family

CITY OF KINMUNDY

Annual Labor Day Festival

Fri., Sat., Sun. and Mon.
September 4-7, 2015

<p>Friday, September 4</p> <p>5PM Beer Garden Opens in Park 5PM Horseshoe Tournament 7:30PM Party City DJ, Matt Erlinger will be performing</p> <p>Saturday, September 5</p> <p>5PM Beer Garden Opens in Park 5PM Bag Tournaments 7:30PM Cody Phillips Band will be playing</p> <p>Sunday, September 6</p> <p>7-8:30PM Bob Hancy and Family Gospel Sing Movie in the Park (Free Popcorn, Cotton Candy, and Drinks)</p> <p>Monday, September 7</p> <p>8AM 5K Run and Walk Begin 8AM Vendors Begin Setting up 9AM Car Showing, Organized by Donna Ford 10AM Beer Garden Opens 10AM Silent Auction Begins</p>	<p>Monday, September 7</p> <p>10AM Pony Rides 10AM Ice Cream 10AM Face Painting by Brooke 10AM Kids Games Open 10AM Bounce House Featuring the Huge Fire Truck Slide, Climbing Wall and Bounce House - Sponsored by First United Methodist Church, collecting a can of food for food pantry to play on the jumps</p> <p>10:30AM Zumba Class Begins in the Park 11AM-2PM Woody and The Nighthawks will be performing on the stage</p> <p>11AM Big Wheel Races 11AM Chicken Dinner at the Community Center</p> <p>2PM Parade 3:30PM Blind Man Driving Band will be performing on the stage 3:30PM Cake Walk 3:30PM Kinmundy/Alma "Remember When"</p>
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REND LAKE COLLEGE BRIEFS

SUSHI AND SANITATION ON MENU AT RLC

Sushi lovers can learn to make their own Japanese delicacy at RLC's Intro to Sushi Workshop, set for 5 – 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, in the Student Center, Room 120. The workshop costs \$20, plus a \$15 supply fee, and comfortable clothing is recommended. Prepare for the Management and Sanitation Training examination with the Food Sanitation workshop at RLC, scheduled for 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 3 and 10, in the Advanced Technology Center, Room 118. Students should bring photo identification to class. The Servsafe Essentials Textbook is required and available in the RLC Bookstore for \$78.75. The class costs \$160. Register today or learn more by contacting RLC's Community and Corporate Education Division at 618-437-5321, Ext. 1714 or 1380 or by email at commcorp@rlc.edu.

EMS COURSES COMING UP AT RLC MARKETPLACE

Rend Lake College and the American Heart Association are offering a number of emergency services courses at the college's AHA Training Center, located at the RLC Marketplace in Mt. Vernon. These include CPR, First Aid, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), National Incident Management System (NIMS), and Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC) trainings. One-day First Aid and CPR training is from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sept. 10, Oct. 22, Nov. 3, or Dec. 15. Two-day ACLS Preparatory training meets from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Sept. 2-3; Oct. 7-8; Nov. 4-5; or Dec. 16-17. One-day ACLS Renewal meets from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., on Sept. 3, Sept. 16, Oct. 8, Oct. 20, Nov. 5, Nov. 17, Dec. 4, or Dec. 17. Two-day PALS Prep training is from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Oct. 13-14, or Dec. 9-10. Those wanting PALS Renewal can choose from one-day courses on Sept. 23 or Nov. 19. Students wanting to build on their ACLS, PALS, or Basic Life Support (BLS) training can also inquire about instructor training courses, which are scheduled individually per applicant. Complete NIMS ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses online before taking NIMS ICS 300 and 400 at the Marketplace. There is no cost for NIMS classes. Dates are determined based on need. TNCC is a 16-hour course that meets from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Nov. 21-22. Attendees should be registered nurses with at least six months of clinical nursing

experience in an emergency care setting. The class costs \$300, plus \$80 for the book. To reserve a seat today, contact the AHA Training Center at 618-437-5321, Ext. 2032, or schultew@rlc.edu. All trainings will be held in Room 221.

FLU CLINICS ON CAMPUS

Rend Lake College will be sponsoring a flu clinic for students, faculty and staff on Sept. 8 and 9 in the South Oasis. The clinic will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day. The cost is \$25. RLC health insurance participants will be able to request reimbursement by sending receipts to Human Resources.

TAKE COMMAND OF COMMON CORE AND PARCC

Parents of K-12 students can learn about the new Common Core standards and PARCC testing with this workshop. It's designed to provide parents with information on both assessments, as well as provide resources to use at home to help support student learning. Three meeting times are scheduled with Instructor Ashley Lanius, though parents should only attend one session. The first will meet from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, at Hamilton County Sr. High School, Room 194, in McLeansboro. The second session meets from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, in the library at Benton Consolidated High School. The last session will meet from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, in the Academic Building, Room 215, on the Ina campus. Parents are encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet to view online resources with the instructor. The class costs \$10. Register today or learn more by contacting RLC's Community and Corporate Education Division at 618-437-5321, Ext. 1714 or 1380, by email at commcorp@rlc.edu or online at www.rlc.edu/cce.

ACT NOW WITH ACT PREP

High school juniors and seniors can start preparing for the ACT test with ACT Prep at RLC. Instructor Jeremy Mays will teach reading, English, science, and math skills expected to be on the ACT test, alongside tips and techniques for better test-taking abilities. Students will be required to purchase "Barron's ACT 17th Edition" textbook, which is available at the first session for \$20.27. ACT Prep will meet from 9 a.m. – noon on Saturdays from Sept. 12 through Oct. 17 at the RLC Marketplace, Room 203, in Mt. Vernon. The class costs \$89. Register today or learn more by contacting RLC's Community and Corporate Education Division at 618-437-5321, Ext. 1714 or 1380, by email at commcorp@rlc.edu or online at www.rlc.edu/cce.

EXPLORE MUSIKGARTEN WITH YOUR CHILD

Family Music for Babies features bouncing and rocking songs, wiggle and peek-a-boo games, and other fun activities for newborn to 18-month-old children. Family Music for Toddlers is designed for energetic children

between 15 months and 3 years old to keep them exploring and learning. Cycle of Seasons for Preschoolers is for children three to five years old and celebrates a growing independence and love for the outdoors. Instructor April Tennyson will lead each class. Each class costs \$25, plus a \$40 supply fee. Choose a session - Mondays from Sept. 14 through Oct. 26 or Mondays from Nov. 2 through Dec. 7. Each session is held at the RLC Marketplace, Room 204, in Mt. Vernon. Family Music for Babies will meet from 9 – 9:30 a.m. each day, followed by Family Music for Toddlers from 9:45 – 10:15 a.m., and Cycle of Seasons for Preschoolers from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Register today or learn more by contacting RLC's Community and Corporate Education Division at 618-437-5321, Ext. 1714 or 1380, by email at commcorp@rlc.edu or online at www.rlc.edu/cce.

HOBBY CLASSES COMING UP

PRINCIPLES of STREET RODDING — Work on a 1939 Chevy Coupe from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday nights. Choose a session - Sept. 8 through Oct. 13 or Oct. 20 through Nov. 24. Each session is \$89 and is held on the Ina campus.

FUN WITH ACRYLICS — This class is your creative outlet from 6-9 p.m. on one Tuesday each month. Paint a different 16-by-20 project each month - Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15. Each class is \$15, plus a \$10 supply fee, and meets on the Ina campus.

MUSIC MAKERS at the KEYBOARD — Six through nine year olds will play the keyboard, dance, drum, and sing along with special tracks each week. For just \$25 and a \$55 supply fee, kids get seven sessions, receive their own book, listening CD, and practice CD to continue the fun at home. Choose a session - Sept. 14 through Oct. 26 or Nov. 2 through Dec. 7. Sessions are held on the Ina campus.

INFUSED OILS & TINCTURES — Make your own herbal-infused oil and tinctures with Instructor Verlinda Newton. This class only meets once - from 5 - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, on the Ina campus. It costs \$12, plus a \$10 supply fee.

BEADED JEWELRY BASICS — Choose between making a beaded bracelet or necklace, and pair it with earrings while learning the techniques for crafting a unique piece. Participants must be over the age of 12. The class costs \$15, plus a supply fee of \$10 to \$20 depending on the pieces created. The first session will meet from 5 – 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, in the Historic Schoolhouse on the Ina campus. A second session will meet at the same time Tuesday, Sept. 29, at Hamilton County Senior High School, Room B157, in McLeansboro.

THE ART OF HOMESTEADING — Homesteading, or self-sufficient living, is an increasingly popular lifestyle choice for those living in rural and urban settings. Instructor Anne May – who has traveled to five continents doing service projects and assisting in underprivileged communities – will cover topics such as simplifying your life, gardening in the city versus the country, managing a small-scale poultry flock, canning and harvesting, and making homemade laundry soap. The class will meet from 6 – 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, and Oct. 13 in the Historic Schoolhouse on the Ina campus. The cost of the class is \$45.

TAXIDERM — Bring a scalpel or sharp knife and learn how to preserve, mount, and creatively display your animal skins. Classes are held from 6 – 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting Jan. 7 through Feb. 2. It's \$119, plus cost of supplies, and meets in the Advanced Technology Center, Room 151, on the Ina campus.

Register today or learn more about these classes by contacting RLC's Community and Corporate Education Division at 618-437-5321, Ext. 1714 or 1380, by email at commcorp@rlc.edu or online at www.rlc.edu/cce.

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Stop In And Register For A Chance To Win Free Cardinals Baseball Tickets



Sophomore Jesse Hinds, RIGHT, is pictured with Dr. Elizabeth Bailey-Smith, RLC Speech Professor. Together, the duo helped Hinds land a spot in the top ten at the Student Speech Video Contest. Click on the image for a larger view. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

A BOOST FOR CHILDREN'S SAFETY

A BOOST FOR CHILDREN'S SAFETY
Waiting until Mom gets labor pains is too late to decide on a car seat, according to Consumer Reports. Not only will you need one for your newborn's ride home from the hospital, but over your child's early life, you'll also need a range of seats designed for different ages and sizes.

Even seasoned parents may be fuzzy on which seat type is correct and when to make a move to the next one. Consumer Reports provides a guide.

CAR SEAT TIMELINE BY AGE AND SIZE — These estimations, based on best practices and child-seat height and weight limits, are Consumer Reports' recommendations for the minimum number of seats you'll need until your child is ready to use just the vehicle's seat belts.

- Rear-facing infant seats. \$55 to \$300 (for children 4 to 40 pounds). Infant seats have a detachable carrier, a great convenience because it allows parents to carry the child or snap the seat into a compatible stroller. Consumer Reports' tests show that they also provide the best fit for the smallest babies. Though these seats

are designed to accommodate babies weighing up to 40 pounds, most kids will outgrow them height-wise first. That means you will need a convertible seat in order to keep your child rear-facing through his second birthday.

- Convertible seats. \$40 to \$450 (for children 5 to 45 pounds rear-facing, 20 to 70 pounds forward-facing). Convertibles can be used two ways: rear- or forward-facing. It's recommended for kids to remain facing rearward until they reach their second birthday. Though you may be tempted to use convertibles for newborns, most don't provide the best fit for tiny babies, and you lose the convenience of the detachable carrier found on infant seats. Once a child has reached age 2 or the rear-facing height or weight limits of the seat, the seat can be positioned facing forward. Many have limits of 65 pounds or more.

- Belt-positioning booster seats. \$14 to \$300 (for children 30 to 120 pounds). Once your child outgrows the forward-facing harnessed seat, he will still need a booster to allow the seat belts to sit correctly on his frame. Boosters are designed to raise the child high enough to position the



CONSUMER REPORTS

vehicle's seat belt correctly. They are needed until a child is tall enough to use the belts alone -- usually when he reaches 57 inches tall and is 8 to 12 years old. High-backed boosters are a better choice because they include some side bolstering, plus a guide that can better position the shoulder belt.

IMPORTANT SAFETY STRATEGIES FOR PROPER INSTALLATION AND FIT — Your child seat must fit not only your child, but also your car. If you can't test-fit the seat before purchasing it, make sure you can return or exchange it. See SafeKids USA (safekids.org) for dates and locations where you can get your installation checked. To help get the right fit:

- Carefully read the manuals for both the car and the seat.
- Check the recline of rear-facing seats. That's critical, especially for infants. An overly upright seat may allow an infant's head to fall forward, obstructing his breathing. Most seats have a built-in level indicator.
- Child seats can be installed using your vehicle's seat belts, but it's



Properly tightening the restraint and harness on a car seat provides optimal protection, according to Consumer Reports.

often easier to get a secure fit using LATCH. (LATCH, which stands for "Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children," was developed to help parents more easily install seats in cars and eliminate seat belt incompatibilities.)

- Attach and tighten the top tether for all forward-facing seats installed with either LATCH or the seat belt.
- You may have to remove the rear seat's head restraint to allow a forward-facing seat to fit properly against the seatback.

RLC sophomore Jesse Hinds named Honorary Winner at national speech contest

REANNE PALMER
RLC SPORTS INFORMATION

Rend Lake College has one of the top ten national speakers in its midst. Jesse Hinds of Bluford spent the spring and summer of 2015 rehearsing and perfecting a speech for the Cengage Learning Student Speech Video Contest, and was named as one of six honorary winners.

The 33-year-old history major said his persuasive speech focused on the efforts of Compassion International, a Christian organization that advocates to end spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty for children around the world. Hinds and his wife Ann sponsor a child through the organization, and his speech encouraged others to do the same.

Sophomore Jesse Hinds, RIGHT, is pictured with Dr. Elizabeth Bailey-Smith, RLC Speech Professor. Together, the duo helped Hinds land a spot in the top ten at the Student Speech Video Contest. Click on the image for a larger view.

(ReAnne Palmer / RLC Public Information)

"I sponsor a child with my wife and it's something I've become very passionate about," explained Hinds. "I talk about it as much and as often as I can. An idea is not important unless you can communicate it."

Every spring, Cengage Learning hosts the Student Speech Video Contest, wherein four students are named Grand Prize Winners and six are named Honorary Winners from across the country. Hinds and the other five honorary winners received a \$250 award.

Hinds said public speaking is very important for students going into many different career paths, and is essential for his future career as an ordained minister. Currently, Hinds serves as an Associate Minister at Wesley United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon, where he helps lead small groups and Bible studies.

After graduating from RLC in May of 2016, Hinds said he will continue his history degree at Southern Illinois University before going into

seminary school. He said Dr. Elizabeth Bailey-Smith's speech class last spring helped him work on the public speaking skills he will be using regularly for the rest of his life.

"Dr. Bailey-Smith asked me to enter into the contest, and initially I said no, but she was very persistent. She supported and encouraged me to enter because she thought I'd do well, and she was right," said Hinds. His speech about Compassion International was first given as a part of Dr. Bailey-Smith's class assignment, but Hinds worked on making it even better before recording it for the contest a few weeks after Spring semester finals.

"Together, we did a couple practice takes. Dr. Bailey-Smith's collaboration was very, very beneficial for me," said Hinds. "Communication is essential to anyone, more so for the career I'm going into, and the instruction from Dr. Bailey-Smith is unique. Most instructors talk and provide students with information, but her job is to listen and evaluate your communication skills. She's shaping each student in every class into better communicators. I give her all the credit for my abilities."

Dr. Bailey-Smith said it was "easy" to be Hinds' professor, because he worked hard to take advantage of the course to improve on his skills.

"Jesse is a great student. He really grew as a speaker during the semester," she said. "Not only did he take it very seriously to improve personally as an orator, but he also encouraged and supported his peers. It is a pleasure to be Jesse's professor, because he is passionate about his education and wants to get the best experience he can out of everything. He asked questions and always worked to improve his skills to become a better communicator and student."

Hinds and the other award winners will be featured on Cengage Learning's website later this summer. To watch their speeches or to learn more about the contest, visit <http://solutions.cengage.com/SpeechContest>.

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