



## Longest night is darkest

Yule log lights Dec. 21 night

By Ryan Wilson  
Editor

Hope you're ready for the evil spirits on Dec. 21.

You might want to do what generations of people have done — and fire up the Yule log.

There might be even more reason this year to kindle a flame on the Northern Hemisphere's longest night. The winter solstice will be joined by the new moon, making it not just the longest night but the darkest in almost two decades.

For the first time since 1995, the longest night of Dec. 21 will be without a moon. This double dose of darkness won't happen again until 2033.

The new moon occurs when the moon is between the Earth and the sun, forcing us to see its shadow.

So, fire up the Yule log and keep it burning all night long.

After warding off the evil spirits, put the log's ashes in a well.

Warning: Failure to follow these instructions will bring tragedy to you and your family. At least, that's how what some traditions say.

Some people believe that a burning Yule log may repel any evil spirits during the night of Dec. 21, though the history of the log's myth is uncertain. Some say the log's ashes from that burn should be kept in a well all year to make that water taste better.

Chris McDonald, professor of political science, said he thought

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# Favorite things

## Festival of Trees annually awakens the holiday spirit

By Dominique Lamp  
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Christmas trees, lights, gingerbread houses, train rides and Santa Claus are among many of the beautiful things that get people — especially children — into the holiday spirit. Fortunately, there is one place where all of this can be found: The Memorial Medical Center's Festival of Trees.

The 2014 celebration is a milestone for the festival. This year is the festival's 25th anniversary for the event, which has raised a total of \$3.5 million for health-related projects and programs at Memorial.

About 30,000 people show up at the Orr Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds each year at the end of November to experience the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas.

Jennifer Varga and Carla Sundby are mother and daughter who volunteer together. Sundby works at Memorial Medical Center, where she learned about volunteering. This is her fourth year volunteering.

Varga is shift chair for the workshop, where people can make crafts. Like snowman magnet frames, decorating antlers, snow globes, holiday bracelets, handprint potholders and snowflake tattoos.

"We look through different ideas and kind of decide together with a few other people," she said, explaining how they choose crafts each year.

Around the center of the building a train gives rides to children for \$1. Joanie Whaley and Carla Ayers said The Bank of Springfield has operated the train station for about 10 years.



Lamp photos

The Christmas tree at the center of Memorial's Festival of Trees stretches almost to the ceiling. At top, from left to right, is a tree filled with crocheted ornaments, the sign outside the festival and a robot tree.

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

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Lamp photos

Workers conduct a controlled burn on prairie grasses at Lincoln Land.

# Restored by fire

## Winds aid controlled burn on LLCC campus

**Ryan Wilson**  
Editor

The Lincoln Land Community College Facilities Service department used drip torches to lead a controlled burn of some of LLCC's prairies Nov. 21.

Drip torches contain a tank full of gasoline and diesel. They ignite the end of the torch to make a constant flame, which is put against the grasses.

Steve Handy, grounds maintenance supervisor at LLCC, said the prairie fires were meant to "control" dominating species and restore some plants in the grasses.

The fire occurred on the prairies on the north side of Menard Hall, west side of the Workforce Careers Centers and on both sides of the main entrance to Lincoln Land.

Handy said the day's winds, which were 11 to 17 mph out of the southwest, were an advantage for the grounds crew.

The flames blew to the southwest, so the team stood behind the flames, he said.

He said the crew also stood in the "black area" of the prairies. This is an area that was already burnt by the fires and could not be relit.

The day's controlled burn was approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

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## 3 Lamp staffers graduating

**Brennan Stidham**

Brennan Stidham will be graduating from Lincoln Land with an associate in business administration, after starting at the school in the summer of 2011.

She will be transferring to the University of Illinois at Springfield to major in communications, with a focus in journalism.

Stidham most recently wrote a (rather delicious!) review of "Bistro-To-Go."

She also wrote an article about Bistro Verde and this year's Multicultural Festival.

"I honestly enjoyed all the articles I wrote, because I got to learn a lot from all of them," Stidham said, who aspires to become a published author. She is working on her third novel.

Stidham is definitely very passionate about writing, as her favorite classes at LLCC were in journalism and creative writing. She said she also enjoyed Dr. John Roberts' history class.

She graduated from Glenwood High School in 2011.

**Dominique Lamp**

Dominique Lamp has had the best last name of any Lamp staffer in her only semester with The Lamp.

But after this semester, she will be graduating from LLCC with that title and an associate in arts, after two semesters at the school.

She plans to transfer to the University of Illinois at Springfield next semester to major in communications.

Lamp says her favorite story was her breast cancer awareness article.

"I felt a connection between the people I interviewed," Lamp said. "I think writing stories that you are more close to the heart really gives you a reason to put your all into it. And that's what I felt like I needed to do in order to portray their (Jen and Tim Humphrey's) breast cancer journey, as they would want it to be portrayed."

Her favorite class at LLCC was Mary Beth Ray's psychology class.

"No questions about that."

She wants to write for her entire life, she said.

"It is truly my passion."

Lamp graduated from Southeast High School in December 2012.

**Ben Johnson**

Ben Johnson will be transferring to Indiana University of Bloomington, Ind., next fall to major in sports communications.

Johnson said he enjoyed writing his article on smoking bans.

His favorite classes, he said, were Newswriting and Mass Media and Society. (But he was told his professor, Tim McKenzie, would be reading this.)

"Besides those taught by Prof. McKenzie, of course, it had to be Com 111 and 112," Johnson said. "I met a lot of friends in those classes."

Despite enjoying his communication classes, Johnson aspires to be a sports broadcaster. He wants to do play-by-play announcing for professional football or basketball.

He graduated from Rochester High School in 2011.



Lamp photos

Deer, a train and Santa Claus are part of the draw at the Festival of Tree.

Trees

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In the middle of the railroad track. The crossing gates lift between rides, allowing visitor to enter, to see a tree almost as tall as the building itself and the man of the season: Santa Claus.

Children line up for the chance to sit atop Kriss Kringle's lap, either smiling, or screaming, but always indulging in the holiday season.

Sundby shared her favorite part of volunteering each year saying, "Definitely the screaming kids at Santa's area, and the smiling ones, too," Sundby said of her favorite part of volunteering. "But just the kids believed in Santa Claus is definitely what pulls me out here every year."

Community members are invited to decorate showcases, trees and wreaths. Four Lincoln Land Community College employees worked together to decorate a tree. They were Barbara Eades, the foundation's assistant director; Colleen Pittman, public relations and marketing assistant; Rose Raikes, marketing and communications coordinator; and Diane Clark, assistant director of public relations.

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A tree, at front, designed by Lincoln Land staff.



At left, a model train runs past ginger bread houses.



At right, various trees are on display.

# Play connects audience, actors

By Diane Wilson  
Staff Writer

Dreamy. Surreal. Provocative.

This may be one way to describe the overall theme for Lincoln Land Community College Theatre performance of "The Shadows of Edgar Allan Poe."

Directed by Mark Hardiman, professor of theater, this work was performed at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield Dec 5, 6 and 7.

"The creation of this production is not a play but assembled pieces of Poe that we (the cast and crew members) liked," Hardiman said. "We explored the text, how to use them in depth and how to blend it all together."

It was a thought-provoking performance of Poe's works such as, "The Raven," "Annabel Lee," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Fall of the House of Ushers," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Mask of the Red Death" and other stories.

"The entire piece was underscored," Hardiman said. "It was sort of like a Catholic Mass with responsorials, etc. ... We selected some pieces of Poe's work for the surrealistic, evocative or dreamy feel."

The theater was a quaint and intimate space to engage the audience to be one with the actors. "The Shadows of Edgar Allan Poe" was portrayed with sound, fabric and light. The actors' only prop was yards and yards of soft, white and gray flowing fabrics.

"We put people behind the fabric with lighting or shadows to make it look as if someone was watching you or there were shadows," Hardiman said. "Less is more with no props, as you can tell your own story."

Throughout the entire performance, the actors made subtle movements within the fabric.

This piece was very moving with striking visual images. The creative use of colors, interesting lighting and shadows played a huge role in this performance.

The creative use of fabric and shadows were used to represent fire, water and stone. Dark fabrics symbolized the Raven and the pendulum. They were trying "to evoke rather than tell," Hardiman said. "Like a veil of life and death."

The performance also featured original music that was arranged, composed and performed by Jefferson Gentry and Dylan Smith. There were soft organ sounds and chants that captured the feeling of darkness, death, fire and love.

The female actors wore haunting makeup with dark eyes. They also had whitish faces and wigs to portray the dead or ghostly figures. The male actors wore no makeup.

Their costumes were reflective of

the 1800s, as the colors were muted and soft. Sometimes the actors appeared as statues under the fabric or ghosts struggling to get through the veil of fabric.

"The choreography with the fabric as well as the immense dialogue wants to create art that the audience wants to go back to," Hardiman said. "The fabric adds a new element to the production to make it more creative."

He said he wanted the audience to use its imagination to understand Poe.

For example, Jim Seay, dramaturg, said they used bells to symbolize Poe's courting period, golden wedding bells for his marriage, funeral bells and other symbolic bells.

"The insistent rhythm of bells and song fit well with the repetition of love in his (Poe's) life," Eric Stachera, professor of English, said. "Poe had a fascination with death and love."

Following the performance, Professor Marlene Emmons and Stachera provided background on Poe and some of his stories. Stachera and Emmons discussed how Poe's images portrayed the idea of obsession and love.

Jim Seay discussed Poe's life and his lousy luck with women.

For example, in the "Red Death" scene, there was very little spoken dialogue. But a lot of attention to detail with the use of the colors violet and red.

In the story of "The Pit and the Pendulum" James Seay and Judy Nichols gave a compelling performance that conveyed the feeling of being attacked by rats and the pendulum. The actors captured the essence of the finest details of the different stories with amazing performances.

"The Shadows of Edgar Allan Poe" starred Lincoln Land students Keith Barron, Rose Cloud, Coral Courtney, Lindsey Dixon, Kennideigh McKee, Will Meyers, Judy Nichols, Anne Reis, James Seay, Devon Swafford, Brandon Swanson and Christian Todd.

The crew consisted of Tim Creason; Light Design, Katie Eickhoff; Costume Design, Gentry and Smith; Sound Design, David Kelm; Light Design Supervision, Shannon Murphy; Assistant Director, A.J. O'Shea; Stage Manger, August Roy; Assistant Director, Production Documentarian, Jim Seay; Dramaturg., and Enjoni West; Writer, Assistant Director.

Jim Seay researched the different Poe stories. He was also the unique voice of the narrator.

"When you read Poe's work, you may see yourself in it, and they (the crew members) tried to portray that," Hardiman said "Seeing yourself in the veil between life itself."

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this tradition was an attempt to Christianize earlier Nordic traditions.

He said this became popular up to at least the Victorian times.

Samantha Reif, professor of astronomy, stays confident, despite any harmful spirits four days before Christmas.

"People celebrated the December one (solstice) because it was the longest night of the year," she said. "But it was also that hope that spring was coming."

She said she could remember a story from a Finnish community near her previous home in Houghton, Mich., which is in the upper peninsula.

"There was a little boy who was so depressed about the winter, and he was getting sicker and sicker," Reif said. "His dad wanted to prove

that winter is going to end, and so he made a carved wooden bird. And he (the boy's dad) hung it over the fireplace. The bird would sort of flutter because of the heat."

She said this proved to the kid that spring was coming.

"I have one (a carved bird) in my car to remind me that it will get bet-

ter," she said.

Reif said there is also a good reason behind the Yule log myth.

"It's dark. It's cold. So you light a fire. Seems logical."

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Ryan Mazrim/The Lamp staff

**Rend Lake outscored the Loggers with 29 2-point baskets, eight 3-pointers and 49 rebounds. Rend Lake dominated both halves, although Lincoln Land started out strong.**

## Men's basketball at 6-3

### Vs. Rend Lake (Nov. 19)

Lincoln Land took on region opponent Rend Lake and the Loggers fell to the Warriors 65-42.

Lincoln Land shot only 30 percent in the game (14-46) with 19 percent from behind the arc (3-16).

Freshmen Eddie Longmeyer and Dino Mehmodovic both scored a team high 8 points.

Rend Lake's freshman Martin Kourtlandt led the Warriors with 20 points and 5 rebounds.

Lincoln Land falls to 3-3 on the season.

### Vs. Daley College (Nov. 22)

The Lincoln Land Loggers defeated the Daley College Bulldogs, 58-48, at Cass Gymnasium.

The Logger started the game on a 20-5 lead. However, the Bulldogs ended the half on an 8-4 run that included a put-back at the buzzer.

The Bulldogs were in foul trouble most of the second half and played the last three minutes of the game with only 4 players on the court.

### Vs. Black Hawk East (Nov. 25)

LLCC men's basketball team had a victory to be thankful for going in to the Thanksgiving weekend after traveling to Kewanee, Ill. The Loggers defeated the Warriors of Black Hawk East, 74-71.

Sophomore Jake Stombaugh made two clutch free throws with :13.9 left and that proved enough.

After the Warriors scored, LLCC sophomore Michael Cameron made his first free throw and missed the second one allowing the horn to go off in the fight for the rebound. This helped the Loggers win.

Loggers sophomore Corey Evak led all scorers with 17 points going 8 for 9 from the field along the way.

### Vs. Illinois Valley Community College (Dec. 2)

Lincoln Land lost, 57-55, to Illinois Valley Community College in Ogelsby, Ill.

The Loggers and Michael Cameron outscored IVCC 16-3 during the last 3:16 of the game to end with a win.

Freshman Eddie Longmeyer led the way for the Loggers with 14 points, 9 of which came from free throws.

Torrance Johnson of IVCC led all scorers with 16 points.

### Vs. St. Louis Community College (Dec. 6)

Lincoln Land has spent much of the early season on the road, but the Loggers returned home today and came away victorious over the Archers of St. Louis Community College, 76-61.

The Loggers lead by as many as 19 on their way to a 76-61 victory.

Lincoln Land's Eddie Longmeyer had a team-high of 22 points. He also pulled down a team high 8 rebounds.



**Logger's Garret Williams (shooting) had 2 rebounds and 3 assists. Lincoln Land finished out the day with a total of 25 rebounds and 17 assists.**



Lamp photos

**Molly Sloman, number two, looks to pass to Gretchen Hobbie, number four. Sloman led the Loggers with 22 points in their 79-37 victory over MacMurray College's JV team.**

## Women's basketball at 5-7

### Vs. Millikin University (Nov. 18)

Eloise Sneddon hit a 3-point basket with 10 seconds left in the game to propel Lincoln Land to a 55-52 victory over Millikin University JV.

Lincoln Land was able to take the lead during the first half by shooting 54 percent from the field.

Sophomore Molly Sloman led the Loggers with 18 points. Sneddon had 13 points.

### Vs. MacMurray JV (Nov. 22)

Lincoln Land was led by its 25 steals and players Molly Sloman, Kelsey Forsythe, and Gretchen Hobbie to cap a 79-37 win over MacMurray College's JV team.

LLCC alumnus, Melinda Wilson, scored a team-high 12 points for the Highlanders.

Freshman post player Hobbie had 14 points and a game-high 12 rebounds in the win for the Loggers.

### Vs. Black Hawk College-East (Nov. 22)

Lincoln Land women lost to Blackhawk-east, 64-47. The Loggers trailed 22-17 at the half.

Madi Paxson, Sinora Cole and Jasi Roberts led the Warriors in scoring with 18, 14 and 10 points respectively.

Molly Sloman led Lincoln Land with 20 points and Rachel Alde added 10.

### Vs. Illinois Valley Community College (Dec. 2)

The Lincoln Land women lost their game to IVCC, 60-62.

LLCC trailed 31-28 at the half.

Eloise Sneddon and Rachel Alde led the Loggers with 12 points and Molly Sloman contributed 11.

### Vs. SIU-E Club Team (Dec. 5)

Rachel Alde scored 23 points and had 13 rebounds to lead Lincoln Land to a 87-51 win over SIU-E Club Team.

This was Alde's first double-double of the year.

The Loggers led 46-22 at the half.

Molly Sloman, Eloise Sneddon and Gretchen Hobbie scored 20, 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Kelsey Forsythe added 4 steals for LLCC.

### Sauk Valley Community College (Dec. 6)

The Lady Loggers squared off against Division I Sauk Valley on Saturday at the Lincoln Classic. LLCC lost 48-75 but only trailed 35-25 at the half.

Gretchen Hobbie led the Loggers with 12 points and Molly Sloman and Eloise Sneddon added 11 apiece. Sloman and Kelsey Forsythe both had 3 steals.



**Abbey Schaffer (number 24) shoots a layup in LLCC's game against MacMurray College's JV team on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014 in the Cass Gym. The Logger's won, 79-37.**