

HONORS

STUDENTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR ART WORK

LOCAL, PAGE A3

Today — Mostly sunny. Near record breaking warmth likely. High in the middle 70s. South winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph.



Tonight — Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Low in the middle 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph.

Friday — Showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Breezy. High in the middle 60s, then falling into the middle 50s by evening. Low in the lower 30s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

COLUMN

KENT CASSON'S VIEW FROM THE CAB

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The DAILY LEADER

SERVING LIVINGSTON COUNTY SINCE 1880

Family credited for Donovan's hard work

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

Karen Donovan, executive director of Futures Unlimited, was honored with the ATHENA Award at the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce-hosted 31st annual ATHENA Award luncheon at Baby Bull's Restaurant afternoon Wednesday. Upon accepting the award, Donovan reflected on the impact her mother had in shaping her life.

Donovan was introduced by Mindi Terrell, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, who said that there were two words she kept returning to when the decision came to select the Futures Unlimited exec: "service" and "dedication."

"As I read through her nomination form and talked to people, those are two things that

stood out to me that are kind of the embodiment of who Karen is," she said.

Terrell read a passage from Donovan's nomination form that she said summed up why she had risen to the top of those nominated.

"In a quiet, unassuming manner, Karen just does what is right: in her professional life, in her community and for her family," Terrell read. "She goes about this with no personal expectations — not for accolades, not for money, but for love."

"A few years ago, Karen was making retirement plans, but when it became apparent that Futures Unlimited to quickly step into the executive director role, she did so without complaint and without fanfare ...

"Karen has dedicated her life to serving those in need, especially those who have histori-

cally not been able to advocate for themselves."

Terrell went on to cite many examples of Donovan's charitable extracurriculars, including time spent with the Livingston County Humane Society, the Salvation Army and the Grace Episcopal Church. The Chamber director also held in high regard her advocacy of women as leaders, who should stand strong against negative gendered stereotypes.

Jenny Steffen, the luncheon's keynote speaker, then spoke about her work as a physician's assistant with OSF Medical Group in Chatsworth. The topic of her address, in honor of Donovan, was concerned committing to change, particularly as it concerned making healthy lifestyle changes.

After Donovan was presented
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Diana Dooley embraces her sister-in-law Karen Donovan, who was this year's ATHENA Award winner, at the award banquet Wednesday afternoon JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

STATE

Senate looks at pay, overtime

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — The Illinois Senate has voted to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of legislation that would raise the pay for home-care workers. Senators then approved new legislation to allow disabled clients in the home-services program to choose their helpers even if overtime pay is necessary.

Workers who help disabled residents stay in their homes would get a \$2-an-hour raise to \$15 if the Illinois House agrees with the 39-19 Wednesday vote.

Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto cited cost.

The Senate also approved legislation 38-18 allowing overtime pay for work over 40 hours a week. The Rauner administration limited overtime this year when the federal government ruled the workers qualified to receive it.

The bill would mean clients could keep familiar caregivers even if work exceeds 40 hours.

Schock's arraignment set for Dec. 12

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Former Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock will be arraigned next month on charges alleging he schemed to profit personally from his government job.

Schock was scheduled to be arraigned Nov. 21 on theft of government funds, fraud, making false statements and filing false tax returns charges.

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Working out at Evenglow



Evenglow resident Louise Voigts makes strides with encouragement from physical therapist Brenda Eilts as nurse Shelly Masching watches at Evenglow's recently renovated physical therapy room Wednesday. The room will open for the public's viewing for the Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours event tonight from 5 to 7 p.m. PAUL WESTERMEYER/DAILY LEADER

POLITICS

Lobbyist ban complicates administration hiring

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump's campaign promise to "drain the swamp" of Washington might make it difficult for him to fill all the jobs in his administration.

Trump's ethics plan would ban all executive-branch officials from lobbying for five

years after leaving their government jobs — one of several policies aimed at curbing the influence of lobbyists. His campaign released his plan about three weeks before Election Day, and "drain the swamp" quickly became a favorite rallying cry and social media hashtag.

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U.S. CONGRESS

McConnell to lead Senate GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans re-elected Mitch McConnell on Wednesday to be majority leader next year while Democrats picked Chuck Schumer to lead them, setting the chief actors as the chamber prepares for an agenda that will be dominated by Donald Trump and the GOP.

McConnell, 74, is a discreet but deadly master of the Senate's legislative chess game. His role will be to steer GOP bills to the desk of a president whose name he barely spoke during a tumultuous campaign in which many Republicans viewed Trump and his incendiary comments on Muslims, veterans and others as political poison.

"It's time to accept the results of the election, to lower the tone and to see what we can do together to make progress for the country," McConnell, from Kentucky, told reporters Wednesday.

As Senate minority leader, Schumer will assume his weakened party's most powerful remaining post as it struggles to define its role in a Republican-dominated government.

The New Yorker's ascension from his No. 3 spot has been a virtual lock since last year, when he quickly cemented votes for the top job after current Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., announced he'd retire. Most of each party's leaders will remain in their posts next year, an ironic stability following an election that seemed to show a demand by voters for change.

McConnell and Schumer faced no opposition at separate closed-door meetings. Later Wednesday, Schumer visited McConnell in his office, telling a reporter afterward: "First meeting. Working out things."

Republicans will control the White House, House and Senate but their potential Achilles' heel is the Senate, which they will dominate 52-48. Assuming Republicans don't eliminate the rule allowing filibusters, Schumer should be able to keep the GOP from the 60 votes they'd need on some issues to break the procedural delays, potential leverage for bargains.

"Where we can work together we will,"

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