

RACING

ROCKY RAGUSA'S SPEED WEEK

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Today — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High in the middle 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.



Tonight — A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Low in the upper 60s. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday — Showers and thunderstorms likely in the afternoon. High in the lower 80s. Low in the middle 60s.

Saturday — A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. High in the lower 80s. Low in the middle 60s.

COLUMN

VIEW FROM THE CAB TUNES INTO RADIO TRAFFIC

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016 | Vol. 137 No. 178 | 10 Pages | \$1.00

The DAILY LEADER

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NATIONAL

Rauner board asked builders to lobby lawmakers

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — The head of the agency managing state construction solicited help from private builders to lobby for state funding in an email ethics experts say was inappropriate.

The email obtained by The Associated Press was sent Tuesday by Jodi Golden, executive director of Gov. Bruce Rauner's Capital Development Board. A Rauner spokeswoman said it's "outrageous" to suggest the email created a conflict of interest.

Sent from a government email account, Golden's message was addressed to "Construction Industry Partners," urging them to contact lawmakers in favor of legislation providing \$2.1 billion for this year and more for next year.

The agency has no construction money because of the nearly yearlong budget deadlock between Rauner and Democrats who control the General Assembly. The AP reported in November that the agency had to shut down \$700 million in projects that were underway.

Good-government advocates said the email was inappropriate. Illinois Campaign for Political Reform chairwoman Susan Garrett said recipients might believe the solicitation is an "expectation."

"No pressure should be placed upon those who do business with the state to have any impact on the

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Listen to the band



Members of Pontiac Township High School's Marching Band attended a mini-camp Wednesday afternoon at the high school. From left is David Bromley, Zach Johnson, Matthew Birkett and A.J. McCabe. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

STATE LEGISLATURE

Dems defy governor, push own budget

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Amid howls of protest from Republicans, the Democratic-led Illinois House passed a spending plan for next year Wednesday without considering any of the pro-business legislation GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner wants as part of a deal to end an historic budget stalemate.

The Democrats' defiance of the governor's wish for a compromise escalates a dispute that has left the state without a spending plan for 11 months. Republicans yelled and booed after Democrats abruptly stopped debate and called a vote on the budget, passing it 63-53. Seven Democrats voted no.

"What just happened in the House of Representatives is something which I've never witnessed in my many years here, but I would just say it's a very sad and a dark day for Illinois democracy," said House Republi-

can Leader Jim Durkin.

Democrats put the whole budget in a single bill in an attempt to force Rauner's hand. The governor's office has suggested that he would veto the plan if it reaches his desk, which could jeopardize education funding and prevent schools from opening in the fall.

Illinois is the only state in the nation still without an agreed budget for the current fiscal year. The acrimony on display Wednesday signaled the gridlock could extend into a second fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

After meeting Rauner in his office Wednesday, House Democratic Speaker Michael Madigan said he would proceed with his own plan. Madigan said the governor's suggestion to have groups of lawmakers negotiate a budget agreement is going nowhere.

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ISSUES AND EGGS

Karls tells good, bad of Pontiac

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

Though Mayor Bob Russell was absent at Wednesday morning's Chamber of Commerce Issues & Eggs gathering that had advertised him, City Administrator Bob Karls filled in to update those in attendance on current and future happenings within the City of Pontiac. Though he began on a somewhat sour note concerning the "bad news" about Pontiac, he ended his talk on the highlights of the municipality.



City Administrator Bob Karls

In an address he called the "state of the city," Karls said that, in many ways, Pontiac was a "city of the state;" that is, one in which the state's actions — or, more recently, inactions — have impacted the municipality in a big way.

One of major negatives in this regard concerned the city's fire and police pensions, which the city administrator said were largely dictated by state expectations and property tax caps, that have left the city's general fund budget drained.

"All of the increase in the levy that's required in the police pension fund has been offset by reduction in the revenues that go to the operations in the general fund," he said. "So, while 10 years ago we had close to \$1 million in property tax in the general fund, it's now under \$300,000."

"Probably within the next year or two years, it will be zero. There have been no other revenues to offset that, so each year we've been operating with a little less — in some cases, a lot less — than (the year before)."

The city administrator said this would continue until the Illinois General Assembly put forward a serious effort to overhaul the way it funds fire and police pensions.

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ELECTION 2016

Report: Clinton email use broke federal rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton and her team ignored clear guidance from the State Department that her email setup broke federal standards and could leave sensitive material vulnerable to hackers, a department audit has found. Her aides twice brushed aside concerns, in one case telling technical staff "the matter was not to be discussed further."

The inspector general's review on Wednesday also revealed that hacking attempts forced then-Secretary of State Clinton off email at one point in 2011, though she insists the personal server she used was never breached. Clinton and several of her senior staff declined to be interviewed for the investigation.

Earlier this month, Clinton declared that she was happy to "talk to anybody, anytime"

about the matter and would encourage her staff to do the same.

Opponents of her Democratic presidential campaign pointed to the audit as proof that Clinton has not been truthful about her private email use as fresh evidence she is not trustworthy or qualified to be commander in chief.

Campaigning in California, presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump noted solemnly that Clinton had received "a little bad news" and then railed against her "horribly bad judgment."

Clinton, also campaigning in California, didn't mention the controversy and ignored reporters' shouted questions. A spokesman for Clinton, who served as the nation's top diplomat from 2009 to 2013, declared the audit showed her email use was consistent with

what others at the department have done.

The 78-page analysis, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, says Clinton ignored clear directives. She never sought approval to conduct government business over private email, and never demonstrated the server or the Blackberry she used while in office "met minimum information security requirements."

Twice in 2010, information management staff at the State Department raised concerns that Clinton's email practices failed to meet federal records-keeping requirements. The staff's director responded that Clinton's personal email system had been reviewed and approved by legal staff, "and that the matter was not to be discussed any further."

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton disregarded State Department cybersecurity guidelines by using a private email account and server, an internal audit found Wednesday.

JOHN LOCHER/AP PHOTO

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