

# RACING

## ROCKY RAGUSA'S SPEED WEEK

SPORTS, PAGE 6

**Today** — Partly cloudy. High in the middle 70s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Tonight** — Mostly clear. Low in the middle 50s. North winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday** — Sunny. High in the middle 70s. Low in the lower 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday** — Sunny. High in the upper 70s. Low in the upper 50s.

**Sunday** — Mostly sunny. High in the lower 80s. Low in the lower 60s.



# COLUMN

## KENT CASSON'S VIEW FROM THE CAB

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# The DAILY LEADER

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## Threshermen's Reunion canceled

By Paul Westermeyer  
Staff Reporter

An unbroken run of 66 straight years of the Central States Threshermen's Reunion has come to an end. On Wednesday, Reunion officials cancelled what was to be the 67th edition of the event due to excessive amounts of rain. Though Mother Nature cast a gloomy pall over the weekend, a glint of sunlight for locals residents and engine fans was shown when the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce announced that the Sunday parade was still a go.

The decision to cancel came at approximately 10:30 Wednesday morning as Reunion officials gathered in a drier area of Threshermen's Park, most of which resembled something of a marsh — full of virtual ponds of standing water, muddy tracks and soggy grass.

"It is with great regret that the CSTR directors have decided to cancel the show for this year," Reunion officials said. "We felt it would be a disservice to

our visitors, exhibitors and vendors to have a show where there would be little activity on the grounds due to wet conditions."

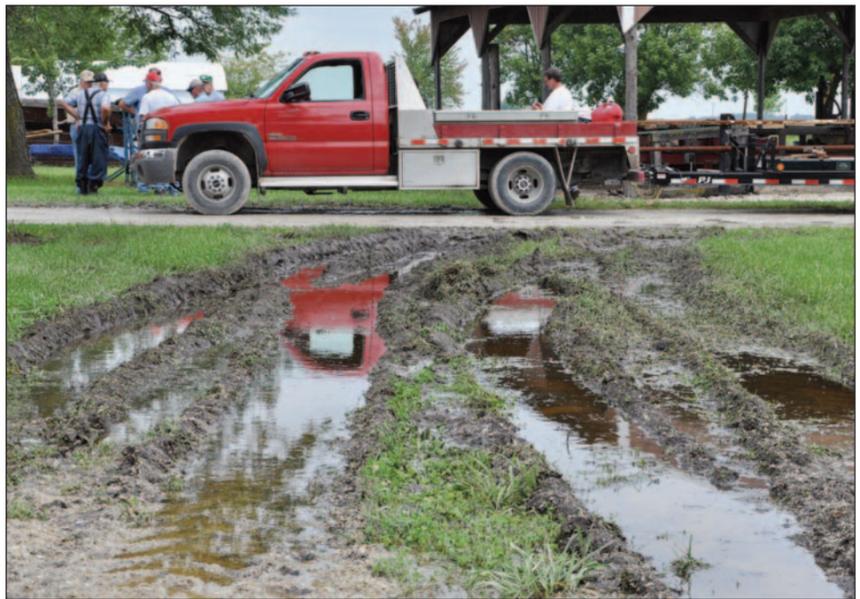
Reunion Vice President Dave Herz explained the rationale for the decision in greater depth.

"The grounds are just too wet," he said. "All of the park is too wet. Part of the parking lot is completely underwater and parts of the grounds are just entirely saturated. There's no way that we can get people in and out to come to the show. We normally do our threshing and shelling in an area that is just full of water right now."

"By the time we dragged all of the equipment out there, it would look like this," he added, pointing toward a long, muddy track, full of puddles of water, left by one of the larger machines.

Herz and Reunion 2nd Vice President Aaron Riets both noted that this was the first time since the Reunion began in 1949 that it had ever been completely

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Threshermen's Park was filled with standing water and muddy ruts Wednesday morning when Central States Threshermen's Reunion officials announced their decision to cancel the event. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

### NATIONAL

## Cook County judge dismisses social service providers lawsuit

CHICAGO (AP) — A judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by social service providers who wanted the court to force payment on contracts with the state.

WBEZ in Chicago reports Cook County Judge Rodolfo Garcia tossed the lawsuit after oral arguments Wednesday, saying the issue belongs in a higher court.

Nearly 100 social service providers sued in May over fallout from the state's unprecedented budget stalemate. They argue that the state breached its service contracts and they're owed roughly \$160 million. The lawsuit names Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and the heads of state agencies.

The groups in the lawsuit include the early education Ounce of Prevention Fund, which is run by Rauner's wife, Diana Rauner.

Illinois Pay Now Coalition spokeswoman Andi Durbin says they'll consider an appeal.

Gov. Rauner's spokeswoman declined comment.

## Survey: More U.S. adults use marijuana

NEW YORK (AP) — Marijuana use is becoming more accepted among U.S. adults as states loosen pot laws, new national survey data shows.

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## Combine clinic at KSR



Around 95 John Deere owners took part in the annual fall combine clinic at Kelly-Sauder-Rupiper Equipment on Tuesday. KSR service technician Corey Eggenberger, left, answered questions from Dave Sass and Roger Wahls about maintenance on a 608C Corn Head combine attachment. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

### ELECTION 2016

## Trump defends right to build huge wall

MEXICO CITY (AP) — On Mexican soil for the first time as the Republican presidential nominee, a firm but measured Donald Trump defended the right of the United States to build a massive border wall along its southern flank, standing up for the centerpiece of his immigration plan in a country where he is widely despised.

Trump, who previously derided Mexico as a source of rapists and criminals, praised Mexicans Wednesday as "amazing people" following a closed-door meeting at the official residence of the country's president, Enrique Pena Nieto. Trump and the Mexican president, who has compared the New York

billionaire to Adolf Hitler, addressed reporters from adjacent lecterns before a Mexican flag.

The trip, 10 weeks before America's presidential Election Day, came just hours before Trump was to deliver a highly anticipated speech in Arizona about illegal immigration. That has been a defining issue of his presidential campaign, but also one on which he's appeared to waver in recent days.

With political risks high for both men, Trump stayed on script, declining to repeat his promise to force Mexico to pay for a wall along the border between the two countries

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### LABOR FIGURES

## County's unemployed numbers fall

By Paul Westermeyer  
Staff Reporter

On Aug. 26, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Illinois Department of Employment Security announced that, although job growth was slow in areas of the state, the rate of unemployment had also decreased between July 2015 and July 2016 statewide. Both Pontiac and Livingston County saw an unemployment rate of 5.9 percent drop to 5.2 percent in that span.

Pontiac City Administrator Bob Karls welcomed the news for Pontiac.

"The falling unemployment rate is definitely good news," he said. "It means that our employers are doing well and, because of that, the unemployment rate is dropping."

Karls declined to speculate on what reasons may or may not have contributed to the declining unemployment rate, saying that there were "so many factors to consider," such as workers residing outside the county being employed by local businesses, as well as how the way that the unemployment rates are tabulated may not absolutely reflect the exact size of the workforce.

Still, the city administrator was optimistic about what the numbers meant for Pontiac, and had echoed conversations he and others in the municipal government had had with employers in the area.

"This is certainly indicative of what we've heard from employers — that their employment numbers have remained strong," he said. Karls referenced the Caterpillar plant in Pontiac, which has added jobs since the inter-governmental incentives and tax abatement agreement finalized in late January, signed by the company, the City of Pontiac, the Livingston County Board, other municipal governmental entities and several school boards.

Adam Dontz, CEO of the Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council, which was instrumental in creating the Caterpillar incentives package, highlighted his organization's role in helping thin

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