

PROGRAM

VIETNAM VETS TO TELL OF EXPERIENCES

LOCAL, PAGE 2

Today — Cloudy with showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. High around 60. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the morning.



Tonight — A 40 percent chance of showers in the evening. Low in the middle 40s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday — Partly sunny. High in the middle 50s. Low in the lower 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday — Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. High in the upper 60s. Low in the upper 50s.

COLUMN

ERICH MURPHY'S SEZ MEE COLUMN

SPORTS, PAGE 6

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016 | Vol. 138 No. 31 | 10 Pages | \$1.00

The DAILY LEADER

SERVING LIVINGSTON COUNTY SINCE 1880

STATE, NATIONAL

Guard: No bonus repayment issues for soldiers

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — The Illinois National Guard says none of its soldiers received improper enlistment bonuses like those reportedly paid to some soldiers in California, but has had some cases of improper payouts due to clerical errors.

News media reports this week have indicated the Pentagon has demanded some soldiers repay bonuses after audits revealed large overpayments by the California National Guard.

Illinois National Guard Capt. Dutch Grove said Tuesday that an audit conducted in 2015 found bonuses to 67 soldiers not eligible to receive them.

Grove said subsequent checks found that 52 of those cases involved clerical errors and the adjutant general of the Illinois National Guard waived them rather than seek repayment. Fifteen of those cases are still being reviewed.

The amount of money waived was not immediately available.

Company asks protesters to leave land

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — The developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline said Tuesday that the dozens of protesters who have camped on company-owned land since the weekend are trespassing and that "lawless behavior will not be tolerated."

Texas-based Energy See 'LEAVE' Page 10

ATHENA winner named



Karen Donovan, assistant executive director of Futures Unlimited, tears up as Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mindi Terrell reveals her to be the winner of this year's Athena Award. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

ELECTION 2016

McConnell has gone from quiet to mum

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has never had much to say about Donald Trump. But lately, he has fallen completely silent.

As he's made the rounds in his home state of Kentucky this month, McConnell has either ducked reporters' questions or explicitly refused to address the topic he acknowledged was on everyone's mind: his party's presidential nominee.

At a local Chamber of Commerce event in Danville, McConnell twice instructed the crowd not to ask him about the presidential race "even though that's what I know you all wanted me to talk about."

At an event in Pikeville, McConnell refused to answer a reporter's question about Trump not paying any taxes.

And on Tuesday, McConnell urged high school students in Brandenburg, Kentucky,

to "put the personalities out of your mind" and instead decide whether they want "the status quo versus change" as they prepare to vote for the first time.

But McConnell never mentioned Trump, and he declined to discuss the GOP nominee with a reporter after the event. Asked if he agreed with Trump that the election is "rigged," McConnell laughed and walked away.

McConnell's silence is especially notable in light of Trump's recent complaints about the election system and hints he might not ultimately accept the results. Despite a lifetime in public service, McConnell has offered no reaction, passing up the opportunity to defend the nation's democratic institutions.

Allies argue that for the 74-year-old McConnell, there is little upside in saying any-

See 'MCCONNELL' Page 10

DISTRICT NEWS

Barickman receives ag honor

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

As the old adage goes, a friend in seed is a friend, indeed. Citing his commitment to supporting Illinois agriculture, members of the McLean County Farm Bureau presented Sen. Jason Barickman with the Illinois Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture award at the Enid Schlipf Farm near Gridley on Friday.



Sen. Jason Barickman

The district that Barickman, R-Bloomington, represents includes Livingston County, and is rich in farm ground and fields as far as the eye can see. Thus, having a public servant with a finger on the pulse of agricultural concerns is vital to a largely rural constituency. Important, too, is a legislator who was raised on a farm, and knows the concerns and struggles farmers face personally, as Barickman had.

"Illinois farmers and the agriculture industry are the heart of our state's economy," the senator said upon receiving the award. "I grew up on a farm that my father and brother continue to operate, so I know how hard our farmers work to feed us all."

The Friend of Agriculture is awarded to lawmakers in recognition of their commitment to supporting Illinois family farms and the agriculture industry. MCFB assistant manager Anna Ziegler went into greater depth about how Barickman, this year's winner, was chosen, saying that it was an award from the Illinois Farm Bureau Activator Program, which is the PAC of the IFB.

Ziegler mentioned that further there were trustees who made livings as farmers from each district, and that they determine who wins the award from candidates who qualify, based on the lawmakers' voting records on agricultural topics.

"Each legislator receives a ranking based on their voting record on agricultural issues," she said, saying that the IFB Board considers and

See 'AWARD' Page 10

PONTIAC COMMUNITY ART CENTER

Art walk designed for appreciation of local talent



Brenda Thompson, left, and Vickie Fitzgerald showcase a few of the pieces for those who complete the Pontiac Community Art Center art walk on Nov. 5. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

By Luke Smucker
Staff Reporter

The Pontiac Community Art Center is celebrating its quinquennial by recognizing a group of local artists that came before them, the Amitytown Society of Painters. Five years after the art center opened its doors at 103 West Madison St., members have organized a one-day-only art walk, from 1 to 5 p.m., on Nov. 5, to celebrate the history of art in Pontiac, in some of the town's most historic homes.

"When we first opened, we were told by many people that there is a history of art in this town," Vickie Fitzgerald, chairperson of the art walk in Pontiac said. "We thought it might be fun to find out a little bit about the former artists, look up some of those people and their art, and honor them as part of the tradi-

tion of art in Pontiac."

The Amitytown Society of Painters began in Livingston County around 1910. In the beginning, Fitzgerald said there were only a few Pontiac members, Thomas Googerty and Dr. Thomas Lockie, who would meet at the Lyle Huston Farm, near Cornell, because Huston's wife, Viola, was also one of the painters. By the 1940s, they became a formal group, taking the name Amitytown Painters.

"They were mainly landscape artists, so a lot of the paintings you will see on this walk will depict places around Central Illinois," Fitzgerald said. "Some are paintings of the barns on people's farms, or of people's homes. We also have some paintings of the old mill in town and some of the old courthouse. It is great to be able to offer a connection, from the

See 'ART' Page 10



501 W Howard St.,
Great Investment Opportunity! Pontiac.
7 income streams from this property.

\$199,900

Call for details today!!



321 W. Madison Street,
Pontiac, IL 61764
www.LyonsSullivanRealty.com
815-842-1400

For details or a showing of any of our listings please call or text Terry at 815-674-6299.

