

COLUMN

KENT CASSON'S VIEW FROM THE CAB

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Today — Mostly cloudy. High in the lower 60s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.
Tonight — Mostly clear. Low in the upper 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday — Sunny. High in the upper 60s. Low around 50. East winds in the morning becoming southeast in the afternoon.
Sunday — Partly cloudy during the day. High in the upper 70s. Chance of showers in the evening. Low in the upper 50s.



DONATION

VOLLEYBALL TEAM RAISES MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 | Vol. 138 No. 32 | 10 Pages | \$1.00

The DAILY LEADER

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STATE

Candidates for Indiana gov spar over prisoner

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana gubernatorial candidates say they would likely grant a pardon to a Chicago man whose request hasn't been acted upon by Gov. Mike Pence for two years despite evidence he was wrongly sent to prison for an armed robbery conviction.

Republican Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb said during a Tuesday debate that he understands Pence's stance that 49-year-old Keith Cooper should first exhaust all court options to clear himself of the 1996 robbery in Elkhart, Ind.

Cooper's pardon request, which the Indiana Parole Board recommended be approved in 2014, has received renewed attention since Pence became Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate. The governor's general counsel wrote a letter to Cooper's attorney last month that it would be unprecedented for an Indiana governor to grant a pardon based on an innocence claim.

Holcomb said he would want to further review the case, but clearly signaled a difference with Pence on how to proceed.

"I would look forward to quickly exonerating, quickly pardoning, swiftly, if the facts bear that out," Holcomb said.

Democratic candidate John Gregg said he would immediately pardon Cooper based on his knowledge of the case.



Karen Donovan, executive director of Futures Unlimited, greets a well-wisher after being named the winner of this year's ATHENA Award. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

LOCAL FETTING

Donovan tapped as 2016 ATHENA Award winner

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

Each year, the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce bestows upon a local resident its ATHENA Leadership Award, in association with ATHENA International, named after the Greek goddess of wisdom, to a woman or man who is "honored for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills," according to ATHENA International's website.

On Tuesday night, the Chamber surprised Karen Donovan, the executive director of Futures Unlimited, with the honor at the latter organization's board meeting, which Donovan called "overwhelming."

According to ATHENA International, since

the program's inception in 1982, more than 6,700 exemplary leaders in over 500 communities have received the prestigious ATHENA Award in the United States, Bermuda, Canada, China, Greece, India, Russia, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom, and by honoring exceptional leaders, the ATHENA Leadership Award Program seeks to inspire others to achieve excellence in their professional and personal lives.

With more than a dozen family, friends and other loved ones in tow, Chamber Executive Director Mindi Terrell crashed the Futures Unlimited Board meeting to surprise Donovan with the award. Terrell described the qualifications of the award and the reasoning for the Futures exec's nomination, while a visibly moved Donovan, and the

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BATTLE FOR MOSUL

Locals: ISIS using human shields again

QAYARA, Iraq (AP) — Islamic State militants have been going door to door in villages south of Mosul, ordering people at gunpoint on a milelong trek into the city and using them as human shields as the extremists prepare to defend it from Iraqi forces, according to residents swept up in the forced evacuations.

Witnesses described scenes of chaos over the past week as hundreds of people were ordered out of their homes without having time to pack and driven north across the Ninevah plains toward the heavily-fortified city, where IS has been preparing for a climactic showdown.

"IS took all of us from our homes at gunpoint and told us they were taking us with them to Mosul," Ahmed Bilal Harish told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "They said if you don't come with us you're an unbeliever."

He said he and his family were only able to escape when a volley of airstrikes caused the fighters to scatter during the 25-mile (40-kilometer) forced march from their home in the town of Shura to Mosul.

"We had two choices: We could be killed by Daesh or die along the way, so we ran," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. The family is now living in a camp for those displaced by the fighting in an area under government control.

Other Shura residents also described being forcibly relocated to Mosul over the weekend. The militants only gave people a few minutes to leave and said any stragglers risked being punished for hiding out and trying to join the Iraqi security forces.

One family was forced to leave their home in the middle of a meal, and another lost track of two relatives during the melee and have not seen them since. At least one villager died of a heart attack on the road, they said. The displaced residents spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears for their safety while living under IS rule in Mosul.

Brig. Gen. Alaa Mehsin, of the Iraqi army's 15th Division, said the IS militants were

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CAMPAIGN 2016

Business as usual? Trump, Clinton differ on vision



Donald Trump, second from left, waves part of a ribbon while surrounded by family, as part of the grand opening of Trump International Hotel Wednesday afternoon. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP PHOTO

WASHINGTON (AP) — His presidential dreams increasingly in question, Donald Trump pushed his business empire to the center of his political campaign Wednesday. Taking a break from battleground states, he made the case at his newest hotel that all Americans should look to his corporate record for evidence of how well he'd run the country.

Hillary Clinton agreed, but not the way he meant it. She used campaign events in Florida to attack the GOP nominee for having "stiffed American workers," saying he built his empire with Chinese-manufactured steel, overseas products and labor from immigrants in the country illegally.

"Donald Trump is the poster boy for everything wrong with our economy," she told several thousand supporters in Tampa, Florida. "He refuses to pay workers and contractors."

Trump's political aspirations have long been deeply intertwined with promoting his corporate goals. He announced his

campaign in the gilded lobby of Trump Tower in Manhattan and has held dozens of campaign events at his own properties. His remarks at his new Washington hotel, which has struggled to fill rooms amid the controversy surrounding his presidential bid, followed a visit Tuesday to his Doral golf course outside Miami.

"Under budget and ahead of schedule. So important. We don't hear those words so often, but you will," said Trump, linking the hotel redevelopment — just blocks from the White House — to his promised performance as president. "Today is a metaphor for what we can accomplish for this country."

Though the GOP nominee focused his remarks on his political message, the event was heavy with marketing, too. Standing under glittering chandeliers, top company executives, including his daughter, touted the hotel. And after his brief speech, Trump and his family headed to the hotel's grand lobby where

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