

Budget issues discussed by 429 board

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

At its Thursday night meeting, the Pontiac District 429 Board discussed issues suddenly topical to educators around Illinois, given the continued lack of a state budget. On Friday, Supt. Brian Dukes summarized the discussion and action that took place at the meeting, which included some better news than other schools might be facing.

In Friday's edition of the Daily Leader, PTHS District 90 Supt. Jon Kilgore and Prairie Central CUSD 8 Supt. John Capasso both talked about lingering worries school districts have as it pertains to the trouble funding schools without a budget in place, and the potential for door closures should the budget situation not be resolved before May 31, the last day the state's general assembly is in session.

Dukes said that his board sounded off on the issue at Thursday night's meeting.

"A big thing we talked about was the unknown of the state budget, and the holding pattern we're still in because we don't have one, and

how that's going to play itself out in the last week and a half that those guys are in session," he said.

However, he noted that District 429 would "definitely" have its doors open when school resumes in August, even if no budget has been passed by then. He cited local revenue coming in the fall in two payments that would allow the school to remain open.

However, he noted that much of the discussion that took place during the meeting centered on the proposed formulas used to fund schools, and what changes might take place.

"There's a lot of discussion right now about whether there'll be changes to the formula used to fund schools," he said. "Right now, there's several models out there that would impact us in different ways if they were adopted."

The models he referenced were the current one in use, as well as one proposed by Sen. Andy Manar.

Manar, D-Bunker Hill, has criticized the current formula as "the second-most inequitable school funding system in the nation, and that funding system is doing a dis-

service to taxpayers, school districts and, most importantly, our children," and has proposed a formula in which 92 cents of every dollar of state funds would be distributed equitably.

Currently, only 44 cents of every dollar are redistributed in this way. Jason Barickman, a Republican state senator in Bloomington, has also proposed changes, and Dukes said that he hopes Manar and Barickman come up with a bipartisan solution.

In more welcome news, Dukes noted that the District 429 board decided to dissolve its contract with Band Boosters in an action item on Thursday night's agenda; he said that his district was solvable enough financially to take on the responsibility of funding its music department itself entirely without the assistance of the music group.

The 429 superintendent also said that the board took action to go ahead with a five-year repayment option on its sales tax revenue, and set its budget hearing to amend the district's budget for its next board meeting on June 30.

Cops at donut shop



Dwight Police Chief Tim Henson and Pontiac Police Officer Derek Schumm stand in front of Dunkin' Donuts, while PPD Maj. Dan Davis and Chief Jim Woolford wave from the building's top for Friday's "Cop on a Rooftop" event. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

Site to be reused for adult inmates

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Western Illinois lawmakers celebrated Friday as Gov. Bruce Rauner confirmed the Kewanee youth correctional site will be transformed into a space for adult inmates.

Department of Corrections spokeswoman Nicole Wilson said the agency is in early planning stages and is analyzing the best uses

for the site in Henry County that had been slated for closure. Rauner declared the 15-year-old facility surplus this year because of a declining number of young offenders incarcerated and a multibillion-dollar state deficit.

Peoria Republican Sen. Chuck Weaver suggested this month that the department could use the secure site for geriatric or chronically

ill inmates, particularly those sentenced to life in prison who no longer pose a security threat.

"We look forward to helping ensure the Illinois Department of Corrections realizes its goals to help rehabilitate our state's inmate population and provide the justice that our courts seek," Weaver said in a statement.

Socializing over ice cream



Zander Miller and his mother Corrie Harder celebrated the end of the school year for Central School preschoolers at the school's ice cream social and musical program Friday morning. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

CAT

Continued from Page A1

to communicate further, we will provide an update as needed."

Sources told the Journal Star a disgruntled former employee was making erratic statements regarding the company and the statements were enough to cause concern. Another source said the employee wasn't in the immediate area.

Miller said there was not an active shooter or a

bomb at the buildings.

Police said in a news release that they found The person allegedly responsible for the threats was located about 6:30 p.m., according to a news release from police. Where this person was found, what gender or person's age or whether the person was armed were not released.

The scene outside the company's headquarters building during the lockdown was quiet and devoid of any foot traffic. A man at the visitors center

politely said the building was closed and offered a free pass for a return visit. About 2:30 p.m., a Caterpillar employee was sitting behind the building. He said he had gone out for a break and couldn't go inside.

As they were leaving for the day, several employees said they didn't want to

talk. Others said they honestly had no idea why there was a lockdown. One employee said in an email after the incident was over that work went on normally for him and his colleagues.

GateHouse Media Illinois reporter Phil Luciano contributed to this story.

TOP 10

Continued from Page A1

Odell, and Robert Tulley, Wilmington, has yet to decide a field of study but will attend Heartland Community College, Normal.

Molly Elizabeth Ruddy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ruddy, Pontiac, achieved a GPA of 3.961 and has chosen to study business and finance at Illinois State University, Normal.

Matthew Alan Schrock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Schrock, Pontiac, attained a 3.959 GPA and will study business and finance at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Tyler James Lowe, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lowe, Saunemin, earned a 3.939 GPA and plans to study agri-business at Illinois State University, Normal

Alexander William Lawrence Olson, who graduates with a 3.898 GPA and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Olson, Odell, will attend Milwaukee School of Engineering in Milwaukee, Wis., where he will study structural engineering.

Mackenzie Lee Folk, daughter of Shannon Folk, Pontiac, and Dan Folk, Pontiac, attained a 3.878 GPA plans to get into the nursing program at Heartland Community College, Normal.

ART

Continued from Page A1

"The metal makes the photos very vibrant and the contrast and sharpness is incredible," Campbell said. "I not only offer wall art to my clients, but they also can purchase digital options, too. I like to think my business model is a fusion of things."

When she first decided to make photography her business, she wanted to go by the book and make sure everything was set up properly.

"The first thing I did was get my business name registered with the City of Pontiac as a local business. I think that is a step that people cannot miss," Campbell said. "Another thing to realize is that the photography business is 80 percent business and 20 percent photography. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that people don't see. From regularly checking e-mails to editing photos, making sure they are color-cor-

rected properly — a lot of different things."

Campbell said she enjoys taking high school senior portraits the most.

"The students are just full of life and excited about it," Campbell said. "It's a very important time in their lives. Weddings photos are obviously really exciting and important to shoot, too."

Ultimately, Campbell said she just wants to provide a professional-quality experience to customers.

"I really want to give that full-service experience. So, from the beginning to the end, you're not just going to call up and say, 'I need pictures taken, are you free Friday at 5:30?'" Campbell, whose website is rebeccacampbellphotography.com, said. "Instead, I want to have a full consultation. We're going to make up a session time and location, I'm going to do my best to make sure the photos look fantastic and I'll offer my guidance for which photos are the right photos for print and framing."

WELCOME TO
BERNARDI'S II
Italian Restaurant
In Beautiful Downtown Pontiac
Join us Sundays
Featuring
**1/4 Fried Chicken Dinner
and Baked Mostaccioli**
11am-2pm **Only \$10**
11 a.m. - 9 p.m. serving from our Full Menu.
We are no longer serving our Lunch Buffet at this time
Call for Reservations for 6 or more
123 North Mill, Pontiac
815-842-1198
Sunday Hours: 11 am - 9 pm • Dinner- Tues-Thurs 4-9pm • Fri-Sat 4-10 pm
Lunch Buffet - Thursdays 11 am-1:30 pm
www.BernardiRestaurants.com
Banquet Facility and Catering Available

HELLER MOTORS
SERVICE SPECIALS

\$39⁹⁵
Oil Change
PLUS Tire Rotation

- Oil Replacement up to 5 qts
- New MOPAR oil Filter
- Multi-point inspection
- Rotate Four Tires

Coupon not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon at time of service. Synthetic or semi-synthetic oil extra. Exp 5/31/16

A/C Service \$59⁹⁵
Check operation and system pressure, clean condenser, check belts and hoses. Refrigerant and dyes extra.
Please present coupon at time of write-up. May not be used in conjunction with any other offer. Exp 5/31/16

Transmission Flush \$179⁹⁵
Please present coupon at time of write-up. May not be used in conjunction with any other offer. Exp 5/31/16

HELLER MOTORS INC.
720 S. Deerfield, Pontiac
1-55 And Rt. 116
(815) 842-2552

Service Dept. Hours
Mon-Fri 7:30-5:00
Saturday 8:00-4:00

WE PAY TOP DOLLAR!

BUY OR LOAN!

- CARS • TRUCKS
- MOTOCYCLES • ATV
- CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
- RV'S • LAWN MOWERS
- TRACTORS

Pontiac Exchange
Rt. 66 & 23, Pontiac
815-842-3321

Serving the Area for over 30 Years
Mon-Sat. 9-5
Closed Sundays