

RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE MAKING STOP AT VFW ON WEDNESDAY

LOCAL, PAGE A2

Today — Sunny, with a high near 61. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Increasing clouds with a 50 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms after midnight. Low around 45.

Wednesday — Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Low around 42.

Thursday — Rain likely, then a chance of snow in the evening. High near 46. Low around 28.



BASKETBALL

INDIANS TOP HAWKS TO ADVANCE IN REGIONAL PLAY

SPORTS, PAGE B1

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SERVING LIVINGSTON COUNTY SINCE 1880

Career fair provides eighth graders with job ideas



Classmates cheered as Jennifer Fitzpatrick from Cornell Grade School, center, took part in Alex Arbogast's Crossfit Challenge game during the first annual Livingston County Eighth Grade Career Fair on Friday. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

By Luke Smucker
Staff Reporter

SAUNEMIN — The gymnasium at Saunemin Elementary School was the place to be for eighth graders across the county on Feb. 23. The elementary school hosted the county's first eighth grade career fair thanks to event organizer and eighth grade career readiness course instructor Brittany Masching.

"I attended a Grundy County eighth grade career fair in the past, but when I got hired here this year at Saunemin, I knew there wasn't an eighth grade career fair, so I thought we would try it out and invite all of our county schools to attend," Masching said.

With an idea in place, Masching's next step was to contact the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber assisted by providing a listing of

businesses to get in contact with and also organized a number of goody bags that students received that today. The bags, which included some items provided by the Chamber, were also used by students to store any additional items that they might receive from local business volunteers during the event.

"Now that we're set up, I'm feeling good," Masching said. "The schools are starting to show up and all of my eighth graders are ready. They all have assigned jobs for this event because this is their career fair. So, they are in place and ready to go and everyone seems pretty excited about it."

The career readiness class that Masching teaches is offered to eighth graders at Saunemin. The course is meant to help students open their eyes to the different options available to them.

"We've talked about different types of colleges, what the difference is between size and cost, how to pay for those colleges and military options," Masching said. "Throughout the course, we've had different presenters come in and talk to the kids about their businesses. Our hope is that when these kids move on to high school, they'll already have some idea of the vocational or trade classes they want to try out."

The career fair gives students across the county the experience of talking to a professional and learning about the qualifications for employment. Before moving forward with the event, Masching reached out to Livingston Area Career Center Director Tera Graves. The LACC offers a similar freshman career fair at the National Guard Armory.

"I talked to Tera to make sure

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STATE NEWS

Expansion planned for Chicago airport

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the city's airline carriers are in the final stages of negotiating an \$8.5 billion deal to dramatically expand O'Hare International Airport.

The eight-year plan would be the single largest and most expensive terminal revamp in the airport's history, the Chicago Tribune reported. The goal is to increase the number of international flights and create more room for domestic carriers.

The airport hasn't made any major upgrades to its international terminal over the last two decades, while airports in New York, Miami, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas and Atlanta spent a combined \$18 billion on their international terminals, according to Chicago Department of Aviation figures.

Plans call for a state-of-the-art global terminal, dozens of new gates and several additional concourses. The global terminal would have wider concourses and gates to accommodate larger aircrafts that embark on international flights to places like Hong Kong and Dubai.

Aviation Commissioner Ginger Evans said the total number of gates would increase from 185 to about 220 upon the project's completion in 2026.

"You snooze, you lose in

See 'O'HARE' Page A6

A little patchwork maintenance



City crews have been busy the last few days filling the many potholes that have formed over the winter in the streets of Pontiac. PAUL WESTERMEYER/DAILY LEADER

Chenoa looks into TIF alternatives

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

CHENOA — At its meeting Monday night, the Chenoa City Council discussed amending TIF districts and possibly creating a grant system for private businesses using money in the Silliman Trust. Mayor Chris Wilder raised the issue after the purchase of the closed Red Bird Antique Mall.

"It was brought up several months ago that we have an entrepreneur that has decided to buy the Red Bird Antique Mall, and he wanted to start a gym," the mayor said. "He brought that to us and found out that it was not included in the TIF district, and he wanted to know how much that would cost to get that put into a TIF district."

Wilder said he had spoken with Gwen Crawford, vice president of financial analysis for the Economic Development Group, and that she told him it was "a very expensive process," costing as much \$10,000 to \$15,000 in a mechanism that could take three to six months to put into effect.

Given that that option would be so costly, Wilder proposed an alternative.

"Unfortunately, for now, (amending the TIF districts) just don't make sense," he said. "He would have to increase the property value astronomically for it to be of any benefit to the city ... I'm not above helping the man because I want to help every business that we can, because we need business here. But what's the best possible solution?"

"If the funds are there in the Silliman Trust, can we use them? I'm hoping (City Attorney Steve Mann) had a chance to look into it."

Mann explained to Wilder and commissioners that the language within the trust was sufficiently broad as funds being used to benefit the city. However, he did note that he had a concern with the potential wormholes created by awarding funds in this manner.

"If you set up a regime where your sort of giving back those funds over to one individual, that may not necessarily benefit the city at-

See 'CHENOA' Page A6

Court declines to decide fate of 'Dreamers' just yet

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Trump administration's highly unusual bid to bypass a federal appeals court and get the justices to intervene in the fate of a program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation.

The announcement means the case affecting "Dreamers" will have to work its way through the lower courts before any Supreme Court ruling is possible. The case could also become moot if Congress takes action in the meantime. Right now, however, efforts to address the issue in Congress have hit a stalemate.

The Supreme Court's decision for now to stay out of the case on the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, wasn't surprising. It's highly unusual for the Supreme Court to hear a case

before a lower appeals court has considered it.

But DACA supporters hailed the decision as a significant — if only temporary — win. Trump said the case would now be heard by an appeals court and "we'll see what happens from there."

"You know, we tried to get it moved quickly because we'd like to help DACA. I think everybody in this room wants to help with DACA," he said to visiting governors. "But the Supreme Court just ruled that it has to go through the normal channels."

DACA has provided protection from deportation and work permits for about 800,000 young people who came to the U.S. as children and stayed illegally.

In September, Trump argued that President Barack Obama had exceeded his execu-

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