

RELIGION

FATHER DAVID'S PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

FAITH, PAGE A7

Today — Mostly sunny with a high near 85. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight — Showers and thunderstorms likely. Low around 61. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest after midnight.

Sunday — Mostly sunny with a high near 77. Northwest wind around 15 mph. Low around 55.

Monday — Sunny with a high near 80. Low around 58.



BASEBALL

IAWC, PONTIAC POLICE CLAIM LITTLE LEAGUE VICTORIES

SPORTS, PAGE B1

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NATIONAL NEWS

Unemployment falls to nearly 1969 levels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Another month of strong hiring drove the nation's unemployment rate down to 3.8 percent — tantalizingly close to the level last seen in 1969, when Detroit still dominated the auto industry and the Vietnam War was raging.

Employers added 233,000 jobs in May, up from 159,000 in April, the Labor Department reported Friday. And unemployment fell to an 18-year low.

The report shows that the nearly 9-year-old economic expansion — the second-longest on record — remains on track and may even be gaining steam. Employers appear to be shrugging off recent concerns about global trade disputes.

"The May jobs report revealed impressive strength and breadth in U.S. job creation that blew away most economists' expectations," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West.

With the unemployment rate so low, businesses have complained for months that they are struggling to find enough qualified workers. But Friday's jobs report suggests that they are taking chances with pockets of the unemployed and underemployed whom they had previously ignored.

Roughly an hour before the employment data was released, President Donald Trump appeared to hint on Twitter that a strong jobs report was

See 'WORKING' Page A5

Sealing the parking lot deal



City of Pontiac employees seal the parking lot behind the Pontiac Museum Complex in preparation of the Lipton Tea event next weekend. Starting Wednesday, the parking lot will be closed until the event is over. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

LCHD getting word out about West Nile virus

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

With the Illinois Department of Public Health announcement of the first positive test of West Nile virus in mosquito samples from Glenview and Morton Grove, the Livingston County Health Department is putting the word out on the collection of dead birds that might have been vectors of the disease, as well as other facets of note in the fight against West Nile infection.

Erin Fogarty, LCHD health education and marketing director, spoke about ed-

ucational and interest challenges of combating West Nile, while Donnie Simmons, LCHD environmental health director, offered information about how the ebb and flow of rates of infection were correlated to the summer climate.

Fogarty said that there had been internal discussions within the state's health department in how to keep West Nile virus, spread mostly by mosquitos and occasionally ticks, a relevant topic — one that the populace did not become complacent about. According to the IDPH, the illness, West Nile fever, may last from

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Chamber comes up with theme for parade

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

The Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the theme for the Threshermen's Parade this year, one that Mindi Terrell, executive director of the chamber, believes has been a long time coming.

The theme for the Sept. 2 parade will be "Honoring Our Farmers," which Terrell explained is meant to reinforce the importance of agriculture in the community.

"This parade has been around since the mid-1950s, so every year we look for something new as a theme, something different than has been done," she said. "We also think about the people who are decorating floats, so you want a theme that's broad enough for parade entrants to get creative with and different directions to go in."

"One of the things we got talking about is that, despite how long the parade has been around, we've never really had a theme that speaks to how important agriculture is to the area, how vital our farmers are to the community and how maybe it was time we did a celebration of that."

Terrell said that data she researched showed that Livingston County was one of the most preeminent in terms of soy and corn production; indeed, as recently as 2016, Livingston ranked among the top 10 counties nationwide for both soybean and corn bushel production, according to data from the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Even as the Pontiac area has recently trended toward a more tourist-oriented hub, Terrell said that agriculture remains a crucial engine of the economy.

"The rankings of Livingston are very high not just statewide, but nationwide in terms of crop production — that's pretty staggering when you look at how big farming is in other states like Iowa and Indiana," she said. "Our county is just a really important part of that whole operation. It's easy to maybe forget that when you have all the other things going on here, like Caterpillar or LSC Communications or OSF Healthcare and those other big employers."

The chamber exec also noted that the agricultural community is much more broad than just farmers, saying that it had "a lot of moving pieces" — making it ideally suited as a parade theme.

"Farming, as we all know, is so much more than just the farmer," she said. "It's everything from the farming equipment to the farm salespersons at KSR and Stoller. It has a lot of moving pieces, with the farmers being the

See 'CHAMBER' Page A5

Catton Creamery catering to the ice cream crowd

By Luke Smucker
Staff Reporter

FAIRBURY — Derick Catton's new business, Catton Creamery, a gourmet ice cream shop located at 214 E. Locust St. in Fairbury, has more in common with a coffee shop than a typical ice cream parlor. Instead of bright colors and vinyl flooring, the business features lightly-colored walls that accent dark hardwood flooring with a few tables here and there.

"When I first started, I really wanted the ice cream shop to appeal more to adults. I tried to offer flavors that I thought would appeal to an adult audience. I wanted to attract the same people who buy gourmet coffee," Catton said. "The building has kind of an old-fashioned feel to it, so that's what I was trying to stay with. But, I've noticed that we are serving a lot of

families."

Catton grew up next to the Dairy Queen in Fairbury, but he didn't get the idea to start making ice cream until he started serving it at the city's Lost in Time restaurant.

"I started noticing how much ice cream we were selling and I had this thought, 'I wonder if I could make gourmet ice cream,'" he said. "My thought was, if I could do it, people would buy it."

Eventually, Catton bought a huge industrial ice cream machine and started practicing. With the help of YouTube videos, he learned how to make gourmet ice cream.

"They show you how to make it on their equipment so that people will buy their machines," Catton said. "I was surprised at how easy it is. I was also surprised at how good I am at it. For a guy who doesn't really know that much, it is really

good."

Essentially, Catton takes an ingredient that everybody loves, like candy bars, buys really good ice cream mix and gives the ice cream a flavor.

"It usually turns out well," Catton said. "There have been a few things I've made that didn't turn out like I wanted, but most of the stuff has been amazing."

With his new skill, Catton had initially intended to sell his ice cream at Lost in Time. However, after a job change, he decided to open up his own business. When the building on Locust Street became available, he bought it.

"I got the building in October. I poured the floors and then my dad came and started helping in February. We really knocked it out from that point, because that's what my dad does for a living. He wrapped most of the work up in a month and did an

See 'ICE CREAM' Page A5



Six-year-old Maddie Wolf, right, takes an ice cream treat for mom from Catton Creamery employee Maddie Zimmerman. Catton Creamery recently opened in Fairbury. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

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KALYNN BRAZEAL

What if you are the problem?

There are times when you have to ask yourself why everything around you is sinking like the Titanic. You have dreams and things that you want to achieve but there isn't any break in the drama in sight. The bills equal up to the same or more than your paycheck. The drama at work keeps you stressed and constantly thinking of finding a new job ... but you have changed jobs before and it wasn't any better afterward.

You keep rowing and rowing but your boat never gets anywhere. In fact, you really would like a better boat but you just can't afford one. You plug the holes that constantly show up in your boat at the worst timing possible.

How in the world are you ever going to get ahead?

When the chips are down and the world is stacked against you, how are you going to make forward ground?

What if the answer to everything is something you haven't considered? What if the problem is you?

The drama that surrounds you? The kind that gets so thick it's hard to see straight sometimes? It comes from you. You are your worst enemy and you don't even see the process. But it's really a simple concept: people who are hurting hurt other people. Hurting people disrupt the progress and happiness of others. It's almost like a bucket of crabs... you don't need a lid cause the crabs will constantly work to pull down any others that are trying to escape. You pull down the people around you because you are drowning in

your failures, restless in your planning and lost in your faith.

Perhaps the people that you surround yourself with are shallow in their pursuits. They are easy to be around because they don't question your core beliefs. They don't push you to grow and be better. Your relationships accept you for your compromises and your faults without looking deeper. Mainly because they don't want to look below the surface of their own waves.

You constantly ask yourself "what is wrong with everyone?" Yet, there is no clear answer. Because you are the problem rather than everyone else. It's a strong person who can sit down and understand that maybe, just maybe, they are the reason everything around them fails. You have poisoned the well and you continue to do so by ignoring the signs.

Everyone has a bad day. A bad week. But when the problems are constant, when everyday you are banging your head against the wall ... It takes a big person to understand that there are issues that stem from you. When all else fails, you ask yourself... what now?

It starts with realizing that you are unhappy with yourself. You have to love yourself before anyone around you can love you, and before you can truly love yourself. If you don't like what you see in the mirror then you are playing a part in your own misery and those around



Kalynn Brazeal
GateHouse News Service

you, well, they are helping you along.

How do you know if this applies to you? Well it's really simple:

Are you stonewalling the people who love you? Are you keeping those who know you and love you anyway, at arms distance? Not the people who see what you let them see, but the people who know the heart of you. Do you highlight their errors but ignore your own?

Frankly it all comes down to ... what do you want for your future?

Can you say you were wrong? That is the point where you know when you can face the battles ahead. Can you admit that you were part or the whole of the problem? Can you admit you were wrong and move forward? Taking ownership of the root of the problem is how you step forward. At some point, you will come to the understanding that everyone can't be against you ... so it's you. You are the starting point and you are the only ending point. You can distort the truth, you can embellish the reality and you can strive to pass the blame but eventually the truth will catch up to you. Until you know yourself and love yourself, you can't love anyone else.

— Kalynn Brazeal is a conservative, Christian wife/mom/country girl carrying around an MBA, several decades of business experience and a strong opinion. Now living in the remoteness of North Dakota, she continues to share her column on life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and cake. She can be reached by email at kmbrazeal@icloud.com.

PERSPECTIVE

Continued from Page A7

living on this earth. That does take courage!

Jesus, while walking on this earth, was not concerned about earthly concerns. He constantly reminded us to act in a way that would build our treasures in heaven.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal, But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor

decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Matt. 6; 19-21)

As we begin our summer season remember this great acronym that my humble brother in Christ, Fr. Adam Cesarek, penned, "JOY", first "J"esus in your day, second "O"thers in my life, then "Y"ourself.

Eternal joy will be given to you if you live simple that simple acronym. Sharing the gift of our faith is much more fruitful and everlasting than talking about politics, the weather or the Cubs. Sorry Cub fans, I am a

Brewers fan.

All those earthly activities are somewhat out of our control and are always changing. God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end! Never changing, always the God of Love!

What's next? Well you know the answer to that! God gave you free will! Earthly treasures or heavenly ones? How about JOY!

Joyfully yours.

Fr. David Sabel is pastor of the Catholic Churches of Central Livingston County

LOOPER

Continued from Page A7

outrageous claim, one that would have angered his friends and coworkers, many of whom were women. He commended them to the church, and generously praised their hard work, even though he came from a culture where rabbis would not speak to women in public.

I suspect the rejection of the doctrine of creation has more to do with today's issues than yester-

day's injustices. To claim there is a divinely-given design for human sexuality is deemed unjust and even capricious. Frankly, anything that limits our "freedoms" is deemed unjust these days. But if those limits are rooted in our design, they are anything but capricious.

The claim that there is a divine design is not intended to limit freedom,

still less to pass judgment on people — "Who am I to judge?" as Pope Francis famously said. Rather it is to encourage people to reconsider, without bias, the Bible's claims, and the benefits it promises.

Shayne Looper is the pastor of Lockwood Community Church in Branch County, Michigan. Read more at shaynelooper.com.



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This event is sponsored by the Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services. The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services nor is it an endorsement.

SPARKS

Continued from Page A7

had experienced loss of life, many through bombs and bullets.

I put the paper down and stared out the window at the tiny dot of Philadelphia passing below. Maybe I should lighten up on the TSA. This certainly wasn't a life-threatening loss. In fact, their actions, crazy as they were, were meant to prevent loss. They were just doing their job as best they could.

I was within a hair's breadth of forgiveness when the horrible reality came rushing back: I was

doomed to eat tasteless Yankee pimento cheese until my next visit home. I nestled back in my Delta aisle seat, stewing on my anger until a new, more sinister question popped into my mind:

What were those TSA agents in Raleigh having for lunch?

A trial lawyer turned stand-up comedian and Baptist minister, Rev. Susan Sparks is a nationally known speaker, preacher and author specializing in the healing power of humor. Contact her through her email at revssparks@gmail.com, or her website, www.SusanSparks.com

MORMONS

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long ban kept them from participating in many important rituals.

Scholars said the essay included the church's most comprehensive explanation for the ban and its 1978 reversal, which leaders say came from a revelation from God.

But it didn't include an apology, leaving some unsatisfied.

"A lot of members are waiting for the church just to say, 'We were wrong,'" said Phylicia Norris-Jimenez, a 30-year-old black Mormon and member of the grass-roots Black LDS Legacy Committee, group of women who are organizing a conference Saturday in Utah to honor the legacy of black Mormon pioneers.

Norris-Jimenez said non-black church members still struggle with how to talk about the ban or understand the pain it causes. She said the anniversary celebration honors something that should have never existed but that it's a good gesture and hopefully leads to more

discussions about race.

A fellow group member, LaShawn Williams, said she finds comfort in her belief that the ban was a "policy of people, not a policy of God," made during a racist time.

She and her three children are the only black members of her congregation in Orem, Utah, and she tries to talk about race issues regularly with the teenagers she teaches in Sunday school.

Williams, an assistant professor in social work at Utah Valley University, would like an apology.

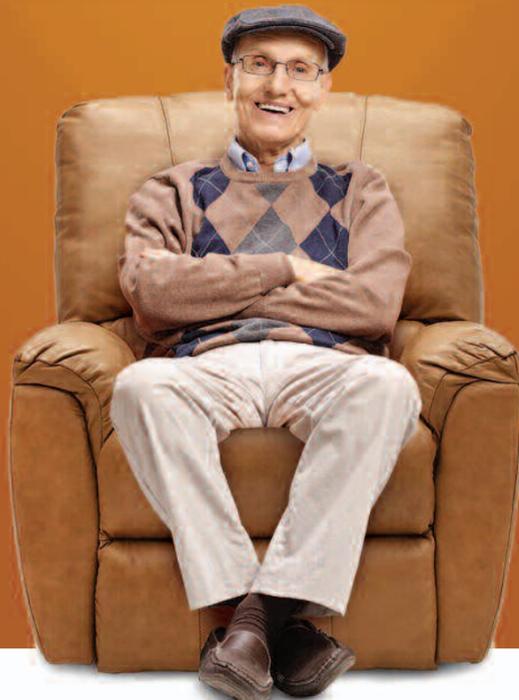
"If we preach repentance, we should definitely embody it," she said.

The theme of the anniversary celebration in Salt Lake City is "Be one," a reference to a Mormon scripture. Top church leaders will deliver a message, and Gladys Knight, one of the most famous black Mormons, will perform.

Darius Gray, co-founder of the Genesis Group that supports black Mormons, said the church and its doctrine aren't racist but racism lingers in the faith as it does in society.

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