

HEALTH

DR. SASHA RADFORD'S "THE EYES HAVE IT" COLUMN

LOCAL, PAGE A3

Today — Partly sunny, with a high near 51. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.



Tonight — Increasing clouds, with a 30 percent chance of rain late. Low around 36. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday — Rain, mainly in the morning. High near 51. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph becoming west northwest in the afternoon. Low around 22.

Sunday — Mostly sunny, with a high near 39. Low around 25.

DIAMOND

PRAIRIE CENTRAL TAKES ON OLYMPIA

SPORTS, PAGE B1

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STATE NEWS

Redistricting advocates lobbying lawmakers

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS (AP) — Some advocates are pushing for an Illinois constitutional amendment to change how legislative districts are created in the state.

Redistricting advocates have asked lawmakers to consider their proposed Fair Maps Amendment that would form a 16-member independent commission to draw new districts, the Daily Herald reported. The commission would consist of seven Democrats, seven Republicans and two independents chosen by the state Supreme Court.

The U.S. Constitution requires legislative and congressional boundaries to be redrawn every decade. The process in Illinois is dictated by the party in power, which some critics have said allows parties to manipulate boundaries to remain in control.

The proposed legislation is sponsored by Republican Rep. Ryan Spain of Peoria and two Democratic senators, Julie Morrison of Deerfield and Heather Steans of Chicago. Supporters are working to get the issue on the November ballot.

The bill calls for at least 30 public hearings before approving new maps. The commission would also be subject to public records requests, including all communications and data used to create the maps.

New legislative maps will be drawn in 2021 following the 2020 census.



Chamber of Commerce Member Specialist Deb Howard and Executive Director Mindi Terrell chat about the upcoming April events at local chamber office Thursday morning. PAUL WESTERMAYER/DAILY LEADER

Terrell happy to be back in the saddle at Chamber

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

The Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a host of events coming up in April, and Executive Director Mindi Terrell is raring to take them on. After being out of commission with illness, Terrell has returned to work with a vengeance. She said she is eager to reconnect with all those that the Chamber serves, and expressed equal excitement about the new resident-driven initiative, Pontiac Community Heart & Soul.

"I'm glad to be back working full-time," she said. "That makes me happy more than anything, and it gives me an opportunity to get

back out in the community more than I have been, so I'm excited to be able to do that and reconnect. And that's the heart of what the chamber is about is being connected — connected to the community.

The theme of connection is echoed in Terrell's anticipation to work with the still-forming local Heart & Soul initiative.

"In August, the city's going to be talking about Heart & Soul, because right now they are in 'Phase One,' which is information gathering, and then they're going to be in 'Phase Two,' so we have them scheduled for one of our Lunch and Learn events," she said. "As a matter of fact, I've gotten my (Heart &

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Crest Hill man caught after chase

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

A traffic stop gone wrong in Lexington eventually led to a brief high-speed chase in Pontiac Tuesday night, according to Pontiac Police Maj. Dan Davis.

In the midst of the pursuit, the vehicle driven by the 20-year-old Crest Hill suspect, Rolando Wilson, made enough contact with a police squad car to cause damage to both. Eventually, the driver lost control of his vehicle on the I-55 overpass northwest of Pontiac while traveling down into the valley at the base.



Rolando Wilson

After the vehicle fell into the valley below, Wilson surrendered without incident, Davis said. In addition to the minor traffic charges of disregard of a stop sign and disregard of a traffic control signal, the suspect was charged with a felony and two misdemeanors: aggravated fleeing and eluding of police, a Class 4 felony, driving on a suspended license, a Class A misdemeanor and driving in excess of 40 mph over the speed limit, also a Class A misdemeanor.

The PPD major said that the incident began shortly before 8:37 p.m., when the Illinois State Police put out a dispatch for a 2007 Audi that fled from a traffic stop on Interstate 55 near Lexington. Pontiac officers subsequently located the suspect vehicle near the I-55 construction zone at the interstate's mile marker 199.

Upon the Pontiac Police approach of the vehicle, the driver quickly sped through the median and proceeded back southbound before exiting into Pontiac, according to Davis — this triggered a vehicular pursuit, initiated due to the driver's continued reckless driving.

Eventually, physical contact was made between a PPD squad car and the suspect vehicle, which caused minor damage to both.

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Work prep preceeds annual Lenten dinner

By Luke Smucker
Staff Reporter

In the Christian faith, the Friday before Easter Sunday is recognized as Good Friday. Traditionally, it is a day of fasting and penance in observance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Fr. David Sabel, pastor at St. Mary's Catholic Church, said the tradition of eating fish on Good Friday harkens back to a Jewish tradition of not eating "unclean" or blood-red meats during the Lenten season.

"As Catholics, we are all supposed to, in our own way, learn how we can sacrifice ourselves for our fellow brothers and sisters," Sabel said. "The goal is to try and be like Him to the best of our ability. So, we call it Good Friday because He did the things He said He would do on Holy Thursday."

The Lenten season ends with Easter on Sunday and Tamira

Masching, kitchen manager at the Pontiac Sportsman's Club, is hosting her second annual Lent Fish Fry event today from 4 to 7 p.m. at the club, 18663 4-H Park Road, Pontiac.

"I started this because it seems like everybody is looking for a place to go for fish on Good Friday," Masching said. "We just wanted to offer another option and so far we've been seeing some success."

Masching estimates the fish fry serves about 100 adults and children. The meal includes all-you-can-eat fried fish, coleslaw and fries at \$8 for adults and \$5 for anyone 10-years-old and younger.

"My goal is to help raise money for the Sportsman's Club," Masching said. "We're a not-for-profit organization, so any money we raise during the event goes back into supporting the club, paying the bills and upkeep of the building."

In order to serve everyone, Masching purchases about 120 pounds of fish from County Market for the event. In addition to ordering the food, Masching is also in charge of preparing the tartar sauce and coleslaw for the event.

"Prep for a fish fry is really simple, it's basically setting up the friers and setting up the tables," she said. "We typically have about 10 to 12 volunteers for the event. I keep a couple of them on the frier — one doing french fries and one doing fish. Another volunteer helps prep the fish and then we usually have a runner for anyone who needs more fish out of the walk-in cooler or french fries out of the freezer."

"We also have a couple volunteers running the counter to make sure all the dipping sauces are full, someone doing dishes, a couple people taking

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While most of the preparation for the Pontiac Sportsman's Club's second Lent Fish Fry began early this morning, kitchen manager Tamira Masching prepared homemade tartar sauce at the club on Thursday morning. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER



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