

# FINANCE

## U OF I EXTENSION PROMOTES FINANCE TIPS

LOCAL, PAGE A2

**Today** — Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming north in the afternoon.



**Tonight** — Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. East wind around 5 mph.

**Saturday** — Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday night** — Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.

**Sunday** — Partly sunny, with a high near 43.

**Monday** — Partly sunny, with a high near 42.

# HOOPS

## AREA BASKETBALL PLAYERS TAKE PART IN 3-POINT SHOOTOUT

SPORTS, PAGE B1

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# The DAILY LEADER

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### STATE

## House committee approves ban of marketing

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — An Illinois House committee has approved a bill that would prevent credit card companies from marketing their products on public university and community college campuses. Despite passing the legislation, some committee members from both parties were questioning whether the bill was necessary.

"I've not been able to find any demonstrable numbers, research or data that says that the acts that we currently have are ineffective," said state Democratic Rep. Carol Ammons of Urbana.

But the bill's chief co-sponsor, state Democratic Rep. Sue Scherer of Decatur, said the legislation would help reduce predatory behavior that leads to students signing up for credit cards that will later cripple them with debt. Scherer said the bill still needs work and has promised to fix drafting errors. As written, the bill currently repeals the Illinois Credit Card Marketing Act of 2009.

"I really ask you to consider letting this out of committee so we can keep the dialogue going and bring it back with an amendment rather than just throwing the baby out with the bathwater," Scherer said.

Lobbyists from the banking industry oppose the bill, arguing that it's an ineffective approach, The State Journal-Register reported.



County Clerk Kristy Masching poses with her husband Mark Masching, who was honored Thursday night by the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce as its 2017 Bill Edwards Agribusiness Person of the Year. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

## Chamber fetes Kelly, Masching at banquet

By Paul Westermeyer  
Staff Reporter

The Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce honored its persons-of-the-year Thursday night at its annual awards banquet. After being introduced by the previous winners, Bill Edwards Agribusiness Person of the Year Tim Kelly and Business Person of the Year Mark Masching both gave brief, humorous speeches on their respective honors.

Last year's Agribusiness Person of the Year, Paul Sutter, introduced his successor, Tim Kelly. Sutter noted Kelly, co-owner of Kelly-Sauder-Rupiper Equipment, began his career nearly 40 years ago, when he was first hired on at what was then Gardner Sales & Service.

Kelly took a management position before he and his brother, John, bought into the company in 1991, eventually merging with

Sauder Implement and Rupiper Equipment to become Kelly-Sauder-Rupiper Equipment in the early 2000s.

Sutter said Kelly was "a very large part of KSR's success," adding that he was very humble.

"Without Tim's dedication, KSR would not be where it is today," he said.

When it was Kelly's turn to speak, he joked that "being here up on stage is not exactly in my comfort zone," but said the audience was about to be amazed by the most "life-changing, earth-shattering, inspirational speech you've ever heard ...

"As soon as Mark Masching gets up here in 45 seconds," he deadpanned.

Kelly then earnestly thanked the Chamber, its members, his nominator(s) and his family members for honoring him as they had,

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## Trump, Kim might meet by May's end

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of trading insults and threats of nuclear annihilation, President Donald Trump agreed to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by the end of May to negotiate an end to Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, South Korean and U.S. officials said Thursday. No sitting American president has ever met with a North Korea leader.

The meeting would be unprecedented during seven decades of animosity between the U.S. and North Korea. The countries remain in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice and not a peace treaty.

"Great progress being made," Trump tweeted after the South Korean national security director, Chung Eui-yong, announced the plans to reporters in a hastily called appearance on a White House driveway.

Trump added that sanctions will remain in place until there's a deal.

Trump took office vowing to stop North Korea from attaining a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the U.S. mainland, a goal that Pyongyang is on the cusp of reaching. He's oscillated between threats and insults directed at Kim that have fueled fears of war, and more conciliatory rhetoric.

The historic announcement comes during a period of unparalleled tumult in the West Wing, with the president's policy agenda stalled and morale sinking as staff departures proliferate and disrupt efforts to instill more discipline and order.

Trump clearly relished the news of the planned summit. He had made a surprise visit to the White House press briefing room on Thursday afternoon to alert reporters of a "major statement" on North Korea by South Korea. When asked by an ABC reporter if it was about talks with North Korea, he replied: "It's almost beyond that. Hopefully, you will give me credit."

Earlier Thursday, Chung had briefed Trump and other top U.S. officials about a rare meeting with Kim in the North Korean capital. During that meeting, the rival Koreas agreed to hold a leadership summit in late April, the

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Sparks are flying at Giovanini Metals' fabrication shop in Pontiac. Michael Verdun, front, and Austin Einhaus, two seniors in Jodi Lancaster's advanced welding class at the Livingston Area Career Center, have teamed up with Pete Giovanini to construct two press boxes for Williamson Field. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

## Williamson Field to get two new press boxes

By Luke Smucker  
Staff Reporter

Michael Verdun and Austin Einhaus, two seniors in Jodi Lancaster's advanced welding class at the Livingston Area Career Center, have teamed up with Pete Giovanini, vice president of Giovanini Metals, to construct two new press boxes for Williamson Field.

Recognizing the current press box is reaching the end of its lifespan, Pontiac Township High School Supt. Jon Kilgore and his staff began to research some options.

"The weight of a double-stack design was putting too much pressure on the foundation and we knew we had to repair that," Kilgore said. "While considering our options, we decided it was time to look into a different style of press box because the structure needed to be re-designed anyway.

"With that in mind, I have always been fascinated with the concept of repurposing

shipping containers. In my research, I've found they have many uses outside of shipping. There are even modern houses that were created from shipping containers."

Kilgore shared his re-purposed shipping container idea with high school's Facilities Director John Tibbs. Combining Tibbs's background and experience as a contractor with some of Kilgore's ideas, the duo soon came up with a plan. The plan was brought to the school's architect and after it was approved, the purchasing research phase of the project began.

"We ended up purchasing containers from The Storage Spot Storage in Bloomington," Kilgore said. "We hand-picked the containers, they have only been used one time and are an extra foot tall. So, they are in near-pristine condition."

With the containers purchased, the next step was to find someone to do the welding work. The high school chose Giovanini Metals in Pontiac. Supt. Kilgore

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Corned Beef & Cabbage, with a donation of non-perishable food items to benefit our Community food pantries.

DJ music, Cash Bar, and Green Beer

### Annual St. Patrick's Day Food Pantry Benefit

Saturday March 17th 5-8pm, Pontiac Elks Lodge

Raffling a trip to IRELAND for two!

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased with a donation of \$50 per chance



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