

RED CROSS

ARC BLOOD DRIVE COLLECTS 48 UNITS OF WHOLE BLOOD

LOCAL, PAGE A2

Today — Mostly cloudy, with a high near 48. South southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west in the morning.

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a chance of freezing rain overnight. Low around 32. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast after midnight.

Saturday — Cloudy with rain likely. High near 48. East wind 10 to 15 mph. Low around 32.

Sunday — Sunny, with a high near 46. Breezy. Low around 28.



BASKETBALL

STANDISH MOVES ON AT CLASS 1A 3-POINT SHOOTOUT

SPORTS, PAGE B1

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The DAILY LEADER

SERVING LIVINGSTON COUNTY SINCE 1880

STATE NEWS

AG candidate says GOP county official used racial slur

CHICAGO (AP) — A Republican candidate seeking a seat in the General Assembly is unworthy of the post because of his use of sexist and racist language, the GOP floor leader in the Illinois House said.

State Rep. Peter Breen said Winfield Township Republican Chairman Burt Minor should withdraw from the GOP primary for the 42nd Illinois House seat. It is alleged he repeatedly used a racial slur during a fall meeting with Republican attorney general candidate Erika Harold of Urbana.

Harold, who is African-American, and Breen said the comments came during an Oct. 12 meeting in Carol Stream when the 37-year-old Harold was meeting with local Republicans.

Harold said Minor asked if she had children, was married and were a lesbian.

"I was shocked," she said. "I told him I was not, but I made it clear that someone's sexual orientation should not be used to disqualify them from seeking public office."

Minor never apologized, and then asked whether it is appropriate to use the offensive slang commonly referred to as the N-word, Harold said.

"I haven't heard anyone use that full word in a long time. I said it's absolutely inappropriate to

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Chamber of Commerce Member Specialist Deb Howard fetes Tim Kelly as the 2017 Agribusiness Person of the Year at Elliott's Corner Junction Thursday at noon. JOY BUTLER/DAILY LEADER

Kelly, Masching receive Chamber honors

By Paul Westermeyer
Staff Reporter

It was a family affair for the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce award winners: at separate times and locations Thursday, the Chamber of Commerce first surprised Tim Kelly, co-owner of Kelly-Sauder-Rupiper Equipment its winner of 2017 Bill Edwards Agribusiness Person of the Year, and later honored Kelly's cousin Mark Masching, president of Kelly Electric, its 2017 Business Person of the Year.

The first to be honored was Kelly, who was surprised by Chamber members at a noon lunch at Elliott's Corner Junction.

Kelly's career began nearly 40 years ago, when he was hired on at what was once Gardner Sales & Service as a tractor tech in

1979. He eventually moved into a management position before he and his brother, John, bought into the company that eventually merged with Sauder Implement and Rupiper Equipment to become Kelly-Sauder-Rupiper Equipment in 2003.

The newly feted Agribusiness Person of the Year was described in the nomination petition submitted on his behalf as "the epitome of a man with a hard work ethic who puts everyone else first for the betterment of the whole. He is a people person and always holds his employees and customers in high regard and anyone that has worked with or for him would wholeheartedly agree."

Upon his being named the winner, Kelly said he was "extremely surprised" by the honor.

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Sheriff: School officer never went inside

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The armed officer on duty at the Florida school where a shooter killed 17 people never went inside to engage the gunman and has been placed under investigation, officials announced Thursday.

The Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School by a gunman armed with an AR-15 style assault rifle has reignited national debate over gun laws and school safety, including proposals by President Donald Trump and others to designate more people — including trained teachers — to carry arms on school grounds. Gun-control advocates, meanwhile, have redoubled their push to ban assault rifles.

The school resource officer at the high school took up a position viewing the western entrance of the building that was under attack for more than four minutes, but "he never went in," Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said at a Thursday news conference. The shooting lasted about six minutes.

The officer, Scot Peterson, was suspended without pay and placed under investigation, then chose to resign, Israel said. When asked what Peterson should have done, Israel said the deputy should have "went in, addressed the killer, killed the killer."

A telephone message left at a listing for Peterson by The Associated Press wasn't immediately returned. An AP reporter who later went to Peterson's home in a suburb of West Palm Beach saw lights on and cars in the driveway, but no one answered the door when AP attempted to get further comment.

The sheriff said he was "devastated, sick to my stomach. There are no words. I mean, these families lost their children. I've been to the funerals. ... I've been to the vigils. It's just, ah, there are no words."

There was also a communication issue between the person reviewing the school's security system footage and officers who responded

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'Ball for a Cause' looking to take the court again

By Luke Smucker
Staff Reporter

More than 100 games will be played in the gymnasiums of Washington School and Pontiac Junior High School during the second annual Ball for a Cause 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on March 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The fundraising event, which raised \$5,600 for the Jonathan Becker and his family last February, will focus this year's efforts on Austin Eggleston and his family. Eggleston, an eighth grade student at St. Mary's School in Pontiac, is currently at Lurie Hospital in Chicago awaiting a heart transplant. His brother, Flynn, is enrolled in kindergarten at Central School.

"The idea for the tournament came about because some of my players and their parents wanted to do something special for Jonathan Becker," Mark Donovan, event organizer and PJHS seventh grade basketball coach said. "Our team knew Jonathan as a St. Mary's student through basketball and baseball. They knew what he was going through

and wanted to do something. So we took the idea of a 3-on-3 and ran with it — it exploded."

Organizers initially planned for 20 to 25 teams, but on the day of the event they ended up with 60 teams.

"We had 240 boys and girls participate last year," Donovan said. "We had teams from Hopedale, Gibson City, Onarga, Bloomington, Minonk, Dwight, Fairbury, Forrest and Pontiac. Any money taken in was donated to the Becker Family."

Donations are collected through donated treats at the concession stand, a baked goods sale and admission to the tournament. The General Store, which made and sold T-shirts for the tournament, donated back a portion of every shirt that was sold, totaling around \$700.

"This year we are hoping for an even better turn out," Donovan said. "Austin Eggleston and his family are going through a very tough time and if we can do anything to make their life a little easier, that is our goal. They are a great fam-

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During the first year, 60 teams competed to raise \$5,600 for Jonathan Becker and his family in the Ball for a Cause 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. This year the fundraiser is focused on Austin Eggleston and his family and takes place March 10. PHOTO PROVIDED



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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