

# The DAILY LEADER

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NATIONAL

## Atomic bomb test marks 70th birthday amid renewed interest

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — When a flash of light beamed from the arid New Mexico desert early on July 16, 1945, residents of the historic Hispanic village of Tularosa felt windows shake and heard dishes fall. Some in the largely Catholic town fell to their knees and prayed.

The end of the world is here, they thought. What villagers didn't know was that just before 5:30 a.m., scientists from the then-secret city of Los Alamos successfully exploded the first atomic bomb at the nearby Trinity Site. Left in its place was a crater that stretched a half-mile wide and several feet deep.

Thursday marks the 70th anniversary of the Trinity Test in southern New Mexico. It comes as Tularosa residents say they were permanently affected by the test and want acknowledgement and compensation from the U.S. government.

Tina Cordova, co-founder of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders, said the aftermath caused rare forms of cancer for many of the 30,000 residents in the area surrounding Trinity. She said residents weren't told about the site's dangers and often picnicked there and took artifacts, including the radioactive green glass known as "trinitite."

Researchers from the National Cancer Institute are studying past and present cancer cases in New Mexico that might

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Selig Sealing recently announced an addition of 25,000 square feet to its Forrest facility made possible by the Property Tax Abatement approved by Livingston County, Prairie Central schools and the Village of Forrest. In front from left are Steve Cassidy, Brad Gulliford and Marty Fannin. In back are Adam Dontz, John Capasso, Jon Kilgore and Tim Shafer. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

## Forrest business taking advantage of program

By Luke Smucker  
Staff Reporter

FORREST — One of the largest industrial buildings in Livingston County is about to get even bigger thanks to the property tax abatement approved collectively by Livingston County, Prairie Central schools and the Village of Forrest.

On Wednesday, Selig Sealing, located at 342 E. Wabash St. in Forrest, held a tax abatement ceremony to commemorate the plans for the addition of more than 25,000 square feet to the facility. Accordingly, Selig is entitled to a 10-year property tax abatement and after creating one or more new, full-time positions that meet the eligibility requirements, the businesses can register to receive a \$2,500 per-job tax credit through the Illinois Small Business Job Creation Tax

Credit program.

"We're looking at adding anywhere between 10 and 15 positions right out of the gate," said Brad Gulliford, director of operations at Selig. "We've actually started bringing people on staff now because we can make room for them through the expansion. In last 12 years, we've added more than 100,000 square feet to our facility."

Steve Cassidy, Selig's company president and CEO, said the expansion will help the company continue to grow. It is important to grow the Forrest facility in particular because Cassidy said it is the most important facility in the company's infrastructure in terms of square footage, value and production.

"We have four buildings globally, but this is our flagship," Cassidy said. "This is the fourth investment that we've made here, but

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STATE BUDGET

## Temporary budget goes to governor

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Illinois lawmakers sent a stop-gap budget plan Wednesday to Gov. Bruce Rauner, who will likely dismiss the one piece to emerge from a flurry of Capitol activity, which did little to move the state toward a yearlong spending agreement.

Despite the first-year Republican governor's well-known opposition, the Senate put up a partisan vote on a \$2.3 billion, one-month budget to keep state government functioning; approved 39-0 with 15 voting "present." Democrats, who have used provisional fiscal plans several times in the past decade, want to keep essential and emergency services available during the budget standoff. Rauner wants a permanent fix.

But the day's bursts of activity provided more heat than light.

Majority Democrats in the House readied but delayed a final vote on funding \$18 million in additional July expenses after hearing sometimes heart-rending testimony from clients of state services on the struggles apparent two weeks into the state's new fiscal year. Meanwhile, the Senate voted to override Rauner's vetoes of several budget bills, though House reluctance spells certain failure, and a plan billed as a property-tax freeze compromise with Rauner by Democratic Senate President John Cullerton fell short.

The governor's office did not respond to requests for comment and he did not make a public appearance.

This spring, legislative Democrats were behind a \$36 billion budget that they acknowledged had a deficit of up to \$4 billion. They want a tax increase to cover "vital" services, while Rauner has first demanded action on pro-business and political reforms such as restrictions on compensation for injured workers and officerholder term limits.

The Senate's interim financial plan was the lone substantive proposal that made progress, but not before hoots of Republican derision.

"This puts us on a path to cementing in an out-of-balance, unconstitutional budget," Senate Republican budget leader Matt Murphy of Palatine said during floor debate. "Let's stop doing this a month at a time and get

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BLOODMOBILE

## RapidPass designed to make giving blood easier

By Paul Westermeyer  
Staff Reporter

With the American Red Cross's introduction of the new RapidPass online health history system, blood and platelet donation has officially entered the Digital Age. While blood transfusions via the osmotic Ethernit may still be a technological far cry, the new resource simplifies the donation experience and can cut 15 minutes out of an hour-long process.

According to a press release, "RapidPass streamlines the donation experience by allowing donors to complete pre-donation reading and health history questions online from the convenience of a computer at home or work.

"It became available to

donors locally on July 13 and is expected to reduce the time donors with a RapidPass spend at blood drives by up to 15 minutes."

In an interview, American Red Cross External Communications Manager Ben Corey further explained how the process works — and just how it will reduce time spent at a blood drive.

"RapidPass allows people to complete pre-donation readers and health questions online on the day of their donation," he said. "Donors then must print out the RapidPass form on a laser printer or email the PDF document to themselves and show it on their mobile device when they come to donate.

"Our collection staff will then scan the form, review the

donor's answers, and complete all other aspects of the exam. We still need to check their temperature, their iron level and their blood pressure to make sure they're healthy enough to give.

"It may reduce the time donors spend at blood drives by up to 15 minutes."

While a mere 15 minutes might not seem like much in the grand scheme of things, Corey believes even a small reduction in the time it takes to donate blood makes it a more attractive process that may lead to further donations.

"A reduction in the overall time it takes may increase the satisfaction of donors, and hopefully will result in more donors or repeat donors," he said. "It also means a reduction



An American Red Cross blood donation RapidPass form ready to be scanned. PHOTO PROVIDED

in staff time that would mean more donors potentially getting processed.

"Obviously, if we're processing donors quicker, we could have more donors giving blood, which means more blood product on the shelves for people in

need.

"It's really a terrific way to simplify the process."

For the upcoming Pontiac blood drive at VFW Post 886 on July 22, Chairman of the Pontiac Red Cross Bloodmobile

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**SELIG**

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the first investment made through the tax abatement program.

Already, the Forrest business employs 135 workers and Gulliford said 80 percent of the workforce resides in the county. John Capasso, superintendent of the Prairie Central school district, called the addition "a solid investment to the school district." In his opinion, having a company like Selig in the district is a help to the school system, even with the tax break, because of how many people it employs and keeps in the community.

"I know Illinois isn't always the most business-friendly atmosphere to keep a company, but we think Livingston County is," Capasso said. "We are thrilled to have them here and we really think a 10-year tax abatement is a small investment to make in keeping this quality company here."

Gulliford said incentives like the tax abatement program keep Illinois competitive when many companies are moving to Indiana. Although he wishes to keep the company in Forrest, Cassidy said at the end of the day it is a business and any big investment decision has to match up with the economics of that investment.

"So far, we are very happy to be here in Livingston County and Illi-



Selig Sealing recently announced an addition of 25,000 square feet to its Forrest facility. Director of Operations Brad Gulliford said the addition will bring at least 10 or 15 new jobs to the facility. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

nois doing what we do," Cassidy said. "We rely on the community support and the workforce that the community provides. We require a well-educated and skilled workforce to do the job that we do and provide the level of quality, service and performance our customers require."

Selig is the first of two companies taking advantage of the tax abatement incentives. RKO Saw and Tool in Cullom is also adding 600 square feet to its business. The program was first approved by the taxing bodies of Chenoa, Fairbury, Pontiac and Odell, as well as Livingston

County and area school districts from Pontiac, Prairie Central and Odell on Jan. 14. Since then, more taxing bodies have approved the measure.

"The quickest path to job growth is creating a business climate which invites investment," GLCEDC CEO Adam Dontz said. "The GLCEDC has spearheaded the property tax abatement program to reward capital investment, employment retention and the creation of new jobs. I am very pleased 17 taxing bodies throughout the county have adopted our proposal."

**Obama challenges critics of landmark deal**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vigorously challenging his critics, President Barack Obama launched an aggressive and detailed defense of a landmark Iranian nuclear accord Wednesday, rejecting the idea that it leaves Tehran on the brink of a bomb and arguing the only alternative to the diplomatic deal is war.

"Either the issue of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon is resolved diplomatically through a negotiation or it's resolved through force, through war," Obama said during a lengthy White House news conference. "Those are the options."

The president spoke one day after Iran, the U.S. and five other world powers finalized a historic, years-long agreement to curb Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for billions of dollars in sanctions relief. Opposition to the deal has been fierce, both in Washington and Israel. Sunni Arab rivals of Shiite Iran also express concerns.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, perhaps the fiercest critic of Obama's overtures to Iran, showed no sign he could be persuaded to even tolerate the agreement. In remarks to Israel's parliament, Netanyahu said he was

not bound by the terms of the deal and could still take military action against Iran.

"We will reserve our right to defend ourselves against all of our enemies," said Netanyahu, who sees Iran's suspected pursuit of a nuclear weapon as a threat to Israel's existence.

In Congress, resistance comes not only from Republicans, but also Obama's own Democratic Party. Vice President Joe Biden spent the morning on Capitol Hill meeting privately with House Democrats, telling reporters as he left that he was confident they would get behind a deal.

The president said he welcomed a "robust" debate with Congress, but showed little patience for what he cast as politically motivated opposition. Lawmakers can't block the nuclear deal, but they can try to undermine it by insisting U.S. sanctions stay in place.

In Tehran, Iranians took to the streets to celebrate the accord, and even Iran's hard-liners offered only mild criticism — a far cry from the outspoken opposition that the White House had feared.

The nuclear accord has become a

centerpiece of Obama's foreign policy, a high-stakes gamble that diplomatic engagement with a longtime American foe could resolve one of the world's most pressing security challenges. The importance of the deal to Obama was evident Wednesday, both in his detailed knowledge of its technical provisions and his insistence that no critic go unanswered.

An hour into the East Room news conference, Obama asked if reporters had other questions about Iran — a bit of unusual inquiry from a president who is rarely so freewheeling in his exchanges with the press. He pulled a piece of paper out of his pocket, saying he had "made notes" about the main criticisms of the deal and wanted to ensure each had been addressed.

The accord requires Iran to dismantle key elements of its nuclear program, lower its uranium enrichment levels, and give up thousands of centrifuges. International inspectors will have access to Iran's declared nuclear facilities, but must request visits to Iran's military sites, access that isn't guaranteed. If Iran abides by the parameters, it will receive billions of dollars in relief from crippling international sanctions that have badly damaged the country's economy.

The deal does nothing to address Iran's broader support for terrorism in the Middle East or its detention of several American citizens, though some U.S. officials hold out hope it could eventually lead Tehran to reassess its role in the world.

Obama, however, outlined a narrower ambition, saying the deal should be judged solely on whether it stops Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. As to whether the agreement might change Iran's other behavior, he said, "We're not betting on it."

Obama insisted sanctions on Iran could be "snapped back" in place if Iran cheats on the deal, even if Russia and China object. He defended the 24-day window Iran would have before international inspectors gain access to suspicious sites.



President Barack Obama answers questions about the Iran nuclear deal during a news conference in the East Room of the White House, Wednesday. The president defended his high-stakes nuclear accord with Iran as a sign of American leadership that will make the world safer. SUSAN WALSH/AP PHOTO

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be related to the Trinity Test.

"It's a moral and ethical issue. It's about consent," said Cordova, a former Tularosa resident and cancer survivor. "We were never given the opportunity to do anything to protect ourselves, before or after."

Vera Burnett-Powell, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Justice's Radiation Exposure Compensation Act program, did not immediately return a phone message and email from The Associated Press.

Cordova's father, Anastacio "Tacho" Cordova, was a 3-year-old Tularosa resident at the time

of the blast and later suffered from multiple forms of cancer. He died in 2013, and Cordova believes his illnesses were related to Trinity's aftermath.

The anniversary also comes amid renewed interest in the Manhattan Project, the secretive World War II program that provided enriched uranium for the atomic bomb.

Last year, for example, President Barack Obama signed federal legislation to create the Manhattan Project National Historical Park to preserve sites that helped with the bomb's creation.

During the project, Los Alamos scientists worked to develop the bomb that was dropped on the Japanese cities of Hi-

roshima and Nagasaki. It involved three research and production facilities at Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Hanford, Washington.

Retired physicist Duane Hughes, who gives tours at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History in Albuquerque, said the history of the Trinity Test is important because it helped end World War II and set the stage for a Cold War arms race.

"I don't know if anyone thought it was a failure," Hughes said. "It really changed the history of the world."

Meanwhile, writers with the WGN America show "Manhattan" are tackling questions about Trinity for its upcoming second season. The series follows a

group of Los Alamos scientists as they face moral quandaries involving the bomb.

The show doesn't seek to preach but hopes to demonstrate the project's complexities, "Manhattan" creator Sam Shaw said.

Shaw didn't want to give away too many details of the upcoming season. But he said with the Trinity Test a focus, writers couldn't ignore the plight of residents from nearby towns like Tularosa.

"Some of the aspects of that story ... the horizon for us and for this show," he said. "But the story from the beginning, I think, has been as much about secrets and secrecy as it has been about a weapon."

**Pabst Brewing to return to Milwaukee**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Pabst Brewing Co. said Wednesday it is coming home to open a new brewery and restaurant next year on the site of its original Pabst in Milwaukee.

The Los Angeles-based beer company said it plans to sign a multiyear lease on a building within the former Pabst brewery complex near downtown Milwaukee and expects to open to the public in summer of 2016. Pabst traces its roots to 1844 in Milwaukee, but closed its brewery there nearly 20 years ago. The company's brands include its flagship Pabst Blue Ribbon as well as Lone Star, Rainier, Ballantine IPA, Schlitz, Old Style, Stroh's and Old Milwaukee.

The new brewery would make many of Pabst's pre-Prohibition brands as well as new craft beers inspired by recipes from the company's archives. The brewery will include a tasting room, beer garden and a restaurant and bar.

"The launch of this brewery in Pabst's original home represents a long-awaited return to our roots," current owner and CEO Eugene Kasper said in a statement. Kasper and his partners bought Pabst in November. The previous owners moved the company's offices from suburban Chicago to Los Angeles after buying Pabst in 2010.

The former Pabst complex in Milwaukee has been renovated to include the Brew House Inn & Suites, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Public Health, apartments and other developments. The new brewery and tasting room will open in a former church that was later used as a Pabst employee training and conference center, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

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down to the business of compromising on the fundamental reforms necessary to make Illinois great again."

After the new fiscal year commenced July 1 without a budget, Democrats fashioned a checking account for the month — as they did in 2004 and 2007 — to keep the Capitol lights on.

"It's very narrowly focused," the legislation's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Heather Steans of Chicago, said. "We're trying to ensure that those key services that really do impact the health and welfare of particularly vulnerable groups are being met."

The House changed the plan last week to add salaries for all 64,500 state workers for July, not just those performing "essential" services. This came after Rauner sought court orders to be able to pay

employees and keep them working even without a budget. Courts so far have ruled in his favor and the first batch of checks went out Wednesday.

Rauner should "put politics aside, ignore the advice of his campaign advisers, and sign the bill," House Speaker Michael Madigan told reporters 90 minutes before the House completed its hearing on the new appropriation, which would provide millions of dollars for victims of domestic violence, autism services, cancer screenings and more.

"Wake up! Smell the coffee," Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, D-Chicago, said. "You heard the testimony today. You heard what happens to parents who have children with autism, who don't have the services, the support they need to make a go of it."

The plan won approval as an amendment to another piece of legislation but the House adjourned before taking a final vote.

**BLOOD**

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Dixie Vogel said in an interview that she was eager to implement the Rapid-Pass system for the first time — though admitted it may not go as smoothly as she hoped.

"It'll be the first time we've done it in Pontiac," she said. "Most of our donors probably aren't aware of it, so I'm sure it

will be a little slow to implement. We're one of the first regions to put it in place, so there might be some glitches."

Nevertheless, she was thrilled with the digital donation blood donation is heading.

"So many young people operate a lot with computers and phones nowadays," she said. "It is definitely improving on an already worthwhile cause."