

Kuhl defends Brazil trip

BY BOB RECOTTA
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CORNING | U.S. Rep. John R. “Randy” Kuhl Jr. defended his week-long trip to Brazil Thursday against attacks by Democratic opponent Eric Massa.

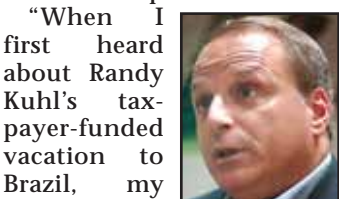


KUHL

“This is no junket,” Kuhl said in a conference call from Brazil. “We have been very short as far as time and very busy and we will continue to be very busy until we catch the plane home.”

Kuhl is one of 11 House members visiting to learn more about Brazil’s ethanol process. The delegation is expected back in the U.S. on Saturday.

Massa, who unsuccessfully ran against Kuhl for the 29th Congressional seat in 2006, called the trip wasteful.



MASSA

“When I first heard about Randy Kuhl’s taxpayer-funded vacation to Brazil, my first reaction was that it could not be true,” Massa said in a press release. “I simply did not believe he could be so out of touch with his constituents. Randy Kuhl has voted repeatedly against children’s health insurance and against home heating assistance for senior citizens, but he has no problem spending thousands of our tax dollars on a luxurious trip to South America.”

Kuhl said it’s Massa who’s out of touch if he thinks the trip has no value to residents of the 29th Congressional District.

“It shows the ignorance the man possesses,” Kuhl said. “As a country you can’t hide your head in sand and think the world will be fine. This is a global economy. Everything I

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I-86 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



JASON COX | THE LEADER

Contractors had hoped to open the access road linking I-86 west to Exit 45 today, but the opening has been delayed a week thanks to bad weather.

Ramp’s opening delayed

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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PAINTED POST | Slowly, but surely, work on the Painted Post interchange is starting to ease the strain on local traffic.

Part of Exit 45 on Interstate Highway 86 opened last week allowing motorists to travel west from Denison Parkway and

Riverside to I-86 west and U.S. Highway 15 south.

Contractors had hoped to open the access road linking I-86 west to Exit 45 this afternoon, but inclement weather will push back the date about a week.

“We’re shooting for next week,” said Andrew Bertch, project engineer for the state Department of Transportation. “The weath-

er has been terrible. It’s frustrating, but hopefully it will get better.”

Opening Exit 45 should help alleviate some of the traffic that has backed up on East High and West Pulteney streets since the late spring. Traffic is especially slow during the morning and evening commutes.

SEE RAMP | 12A



JASON COX | THE LEADER

Opening Exit 45 should help reduce traffic on East High and West Pulteney.

Union to go back to work

D-R: Not all jobs open

BY SARAH GROSSMAN
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PAINTED POST | After 16 weeks of picketing, Local 313 union members are going back to work.

Dresser-Rand invited workers to return under a new contract after declaring an impasse in negotiations Thursday, company officials said.

Under the new contract, union employees will change to the company’s PPO health insurance plan currently offered to salaried employees.

They will be subject to new work regulations.

But while the members decided to return to work, the union does not agree with the company’s declaration of an impasse or the terms of the new contract, said Steve Coates, president of the Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Local 313.

Local 313 has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board as a result, Coates said.

SEE UNION | 12A

Fairley testifies at murder trial

BY JOHN ZICK
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ELMIRA | Anthony Fairley told a jury Thursday he saved his own life when he shot and killed 24-year-old Anthony Hall during the early morning hours of June 2.

Fairley, 30, of Elmira, was the last witness to testify at his murder trial in Chemung County Court. The case will go to the jury sometime today.

“I just started letting off shots,” Fairley told the jury Thursday. “I was terrified.”

Fairley is charged with sec-

ond-degree murder and other counts for fatally shooting Hall shortly after midnight on June 2 at Fairley’s Magee Street apartment.

He admits killing Hall but contends he was being robbed by Hall and another man, Michael Scharborough, whom he said was armed. According to the defense, the shooting was justified.

“I saved my life in my own home,” Fairley told the jury.

The prosecution disagrees, saying Fairley killed Hall in

SEE TRIAL | 12A

IT’S BEGINNING TO LOOK ...



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Patrick Cahill, 3, gets a coloring book from Santa at the Marconi Lodge Thursday after the Northside tree lighting. See the tree on page 12A.

Corning Hospital names interim chief

BY BOB RECOTTA
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CORNING | Paul Nurick has been named interim chief operating officer of Corning Hospital.

Hospital officials announced Nurick’s appointment Thursday. He will replace Marilyn Custer-Mitchell, who announced her resignation in October and left two weeks ago.

“I’m excited about coming to Corning,” Nurick said. “I’ve worked with hospitals both large and small, and look forward to contributing to the future that Guthrie is building for Corning Hospital.”

Nurick most recently served as chief

operating officer at Norwalk Hospital in Norwalk, Conn. He also served in the same position at Lehigh Hospital in Allentown, Pa.

Nurick also worked on a consulting basis as an interim COO.

Dave Iocco, chairman of the Corning Hospital Board of Directors, said Nurick was hired to continue the work begun by Custer-Mitchell.

“Anticipating the building of a new hospital, we need to continue to improve on efficiency improvements day to day to support the additional expense created by the capital investment in a new hospital,” Iocco said. “In his former position in Connecticut, (Nurick) was able to improve

the functional process and implement cost improvements to improve efficiency.”

Iocco said the board interviewed six candidates for the position.

Nurick holds a master’s degree in health systems management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts from Union College.

He also performed post graduate research as a faculty member at the University of Manchester in England.

With Nurick at the helm, the board of directors will continue its search for a permanent boss. Hospital officials said they

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