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SATURDAY | AUGUST 2 | 2008

50 CENTS

Stray bullet kills Elmira man, 51



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Authorities search for bullet casings near 347 Hathorn Court off Woodlawn Avenue in Elmira, where an unidentified 51-year-old man was killed early Friday morning by stray gunfire as he slept.

Police: 'Persons of interest' identified

BY JOHN ZICK
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ELMIRA | A 51-year-old Elmira man was killed early Friday morning when a stray bullet struck him as he slept in bed. The man, whose name is being withheld pending notification of his family, was shot in the head at approximately 2:50 a.m. in Hathorn Court, an apartment complex just off Woodlawn Avenue, according to Elmira police. The bullet that killed him came through the wall from across the street, police said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

"It was obvious there was no saving him," said Deputy Chief Michael Robertson. The victim had a wife and children, police said. "The victim of this crime was a good man, a hard-working man with a family," Capt. Joseph Kain said. Authorities are searching for the person or persons responsible for the shooting. They say have identified "persons of interest" in the case and have spoken to numerous witnesses. No arrests had been made as of Friday evening. Police responded to the area of 352 Hathorn Court at approximately

2:50 a.m. after gunfire was reported. As many as 15 shots were fired, witnesses told police. When officers arrived on scene, an unidentified person approached them and explained a man had been shot across the street. The victim - who lived at 347 Hathorn Court, approximately 150 feet from where the shooting occurred - was found unresponsive, and was pronounced dead shortly thereafter. "This was our biggest fear," said Chief Scott Drake. "We knew this (an innocent

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From left, Capt. Joseph Kain, Deputy Chief Michael Robertson and Chief Scott Drake of the Elmira Police Department field questions about Friday's homicide during a press conference.

DA seeks death penalty in Pa. triple murder

BY MATT HICKS
GateHouse News Service

TOWANDA, PA. | Prosecutors will seek the death penalty in the triple murder trial of a Deposit, N.Y., man. Bradford County District Attorney Daniel Barrett said Thursday he will ask for the death penalty if Steven Colegrove, 32, is found guilty of killing three family members last year. His trial begins in January, 2009. Prosecutors took the first steps in seeking the death penalty by filing a notice of aggravating circumstances in fall of 2007. Colegrove is charged with



COLEGROVE

three counts of first-degree murder in the Aug. 8, 2007 shooting deaths of his father Joseph, his mother Marlene and his older brother Michael, which all occurred sometime after 1 a.m. at their Laceyville home. Imposing the death penalty would require a unanimous decision by the jury. Colegrove would face life in prison if a split decision was reached following a conviction. Colegrove has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Kuhl joins SCHIP extension efforts

THE LEADER STAFF

WASHINGTON | U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. joined Republican efforts Thursday to extend by five years funding for a popular government health insurance program that covers nearly 7 million children.

Kuhl, R-Hammondsport, co-sponsored a bill that would provide funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) through the end of fiscal year 2012. The program is set to expire on March 31, 2009. "The legislation I have introduced today with over 45 of my



KUHL

colleagues will ensure that our nation's more vulnerable citizens are guaranteed to have the quality, affordable health care they need and deserve."

Kuhl said. The bill does not increase or reduce eligibility standards. The program is designed to provide health coverage to children of the working poor - families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to

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Lawmakers head home amid gas price impasse

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON | Lawmakers sped for the exits Friday as Congress was to begin a five-week recess after a summer session noteworthy for bitter partisanship and paralysis on the issue topmost in the minds of many voters: the cost of gasoline. As its last major act, the House passed by a 409-4 vote its first spending bill, a \$72.7

billion measure awarding generous increases to veterans programs and military base construction projects. More noteworthy however, was what Congress failed to do: pass energy legislation and other measures aimed at lowering the price of gasoline. Senate Republicans blocked a bill aimed at curbing speculation in oil markets, while a

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Man gets 6 months in jail for dog's killing

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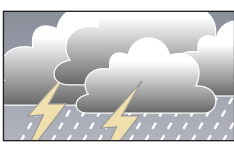
BATH | One of two men who killed and dismembered a dog last year in Savona was sentenced to jail time Friday in Steuben County Court. Jake A. Hoffman, 26, of Hornell, was sentenced to six months in jail and five years probation for his role in the killing of a Cocker Spaniel last summer. He will receive credit for time he served prior to his conviction, although court officials did not immediately know

how much time that was. Hoffman was convicted in April of aggravated animal cruelty. He faced up to two years in state prison. Police said Hoffman and a friend, Jeremy James, 26, of Bath, killed the dog in a "depraved and sadistic manner" on July 21, 2007, on Grove Street in Savona. The men then dismembered the body. The dog was owned by Hoffman's aunt.

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Advice	3C	Comics	4C	Local	3A	Police	2A
Business	5C	Crossword	4C	Lotteries	2A	Sports	1B
Calendar	8C	Etc.	1C	Obituaries	5A	TV listings	3C
Classifieds	5B	Horoscope	3C	Opinion	4A	Weather	8A

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