



The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

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Steuben sheriff race

Court will review ballots

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | The winner of the Republican primary in the race for Steuben County Sheriff will not be known until after a court review Friday of absentee ballots.

Supreme Court Judge Marianne Furfure made the

ruling Tuesday after hearing arguments in a show cause order launched last week by county sheriff candidate Joel Orway's campaign committee.

The order cited errors that originally gave the wrong candidate the lead and requested Furfure impound the machines and consider a court review and recanvassing of the

election results.

In her ruling Tuesday, Furfure called for:

■ The review of absentee ballots to begin today at the county Board of Elections.

■ The absentee votes to be carefully scrutinized and opened before two-person teams for any candidate wishing to be present. The candi-

dates are county Undersheriff David Cole, county Chief Deputy Joel Orway, and former Maryland state trooper James Waight.

■ The county Board of Elections to ensure the machines "not be interfered with in any way." However, Furfure stopped short of impounding the machines.

Furfure's ruling set in motion the most intense scrutiny of the local elections system in recent memory after mistakes in the original, unofficial tally erroneously gave a 158-vote lead to Cole on Sept. 9.

The original tally gave Cole 2,952 votes, Orway 2,794 and Waight 2,298 votes.

That tally was questioned by

Orway the next day after he was told some ballot counts reported by the elections board were incorrect.

Election board officials reviewed ballot counts last Thursday during their routine recanvassing and reversed the original tally, giving Orway

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SEVERE WEATHER



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

A large branch fell on a car and across the front lawn of a house on Veteran Drive in Painted Post.

Power returned to most areas

THE LEADER STAFF

CORNING | Power has been restored to a majority of the local New York State Electric & Gas customers who lost electricity as the result of a wind storm late Sunday and early Monday.

As of Tuesday evening, no outages were reported in Chemung, Schuyler or Yates counties, according to NYSEG's Web site. In Steuben County, outages remained in Hornell, Canisteo, Avoca, Addison, Arkport, Woodhull and Wayland.

Tuesday afternoon, some customers in Painted Post remained without power, but those outages were apparently repaired.

More than 11,000 NYSEG customers in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties were without power at some time Monday.

More than 100,000 people in upstate New York lost power as the result of a wind storm caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ike.



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

A wider view shows the size of a limb that fell onto a car at a Veteran Drive home in Painted Post.

House passes offshore drilling measure

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON | The House voted late Tuesday to open waters off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to oil and gas drilling but only 50 or more miles out to sea and only if a state agrees to energy development off its shore.

Democratic leaders called it a step toward energy independence, but Republicans labeled it a "sham" because most of the estimated 18 billion barrels of oil believed to lie below off-limits coastal waters are within 50 miles of land and will remain out of bounds.

The measure passed in a largely party-line vote of 236-189. It now goes to the Senate, where energy will be the topic later in the week. Thirteen Democrats bucked their leadership and voted against the measure.

Even before the House vote, the White House said President Bush was prepared to veto the measure should it reach his desk. An administration statement said the bill would "stifle development" of offshore energy resources by essentially making permanent drilling bans within the

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Kuhl opposes Dems' bill

BY BOB RECOTTA
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WASHINGTON, D.C. | U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, voiced his opposition Tuesday to an energy bill passed by the House of Representatives.

Kuhl voted no on the bill, which was sponsored by House Democrats and would give states the option of allowing drilling between 50

and 100 miles off shore.

"I believe it's the biggest hoax to be put on the American public by any politician," Kuhl said. "It's a no-energy bill. It's a sham. This is the biggest hypocrisy ever. It's unbelievable a bill like this would be brought to the floor."

Kuhl said the new bill still prohibits oil companies from drilling in areas he said

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CORNING-PAINTED POST SCHOOLS

Board to vote on facilities committee

BY BOB RECOTTA
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PAINTED POST | The Corning-Painted Post school board is prepared to take the next step in solving the district's facilities problem.

The board will vote today on a facilities advisory team. Assembling the team is part of a process developed by Superintendent Mike Ginalski and approved by the school board earlier this month.

Ginalski said the team will consist of approximately 25 members, including district employees, parents, students and community members.

"Our goal was to have folks who represent a variety of the communities that make up

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Facilities team is important step toward progress | Opinion, 4A.

the school district," he said.

Ginalski said the group will hold its first meeting in October and eventually meet with the project's construction manager and architectural firms.

Simultaneously, the district will hold community meetings to keep residents informed and allow them to give their input.

Ginalski said four community meetings are already planned and more could be scheduled.

SEE FACILITIES | 2A

MARKET STREET

Holiday parking policy may end

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | City parking lots surrounding Market Street have offered free parking to customers during the Christmas shopping season for more than a decade.

But that may soon change as some say the practice actually limits the amount of parking spaces for customers.

Tom Blumer, board chairman of Corning's Gaffer District, said employees take over the parking areas during the free period, leaving little or no room for customers.

Councilman Jim Nelson,

R-7, chairman of the city's Code Committee, discussed the potential change during a committee meeting Tuesday at City Hall.

The committee forwarded a proposal to eliminate the free parking offered during the Christmas season to the City Council. The council will vote on the issue at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 at City Hall.

Rick Maxa, co-chairman of the Gaffer District Business Association, said the Centerway Parking Garage will likely be the only free parking area this holiday season.

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Woman tasered after police confrontation

BY JOHN ZICK
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CORNING | Corning police used a Taser on a suicidal woman who confronted officers with a knife Tuesday at the Victory House on Pine Street.

The unidentified woman will not face criminal charges, Corning Lt. Jeff Spaulding said. She was taken to a local hospital for a mental health evaluation.

"She challenged us with a knife," Spaulding said. "Under

the circumstances, it wasn't an option to walk up to her and physically disarm her. Our officers aren't going to do it."

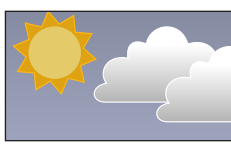
Police responded to the Victory House — a halfway-house type facility for those with mental health issues — sometime around 5 p.m. Tuesday.

When officers arrived, they attempted to communicate with the woman, who ignored police, Spaulding said.

A Taser was used to disarm the woman and take her into custody.



TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



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