



The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

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INSIDE



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FOOTBALL | 1B



RAMS WIN BB SECTIONAL

SOCCER | 1B

TODAY'S OPINION:

THE ISSUE | Proposition 1 in the City of Corning.

OUR OPINION | Fluoridation has merit, but the city's water system needs fixing first.

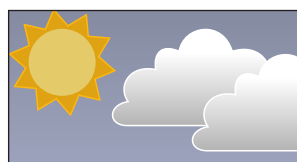
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TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



MOSTLY SUNNY

WETM 18 Storm Team seven-day forecast | 12A



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Prop. 1 a turning point

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | Proposition 1 is not a vote whether to fluoridate city water, but the results will have a major impact on that decision.

The proposition will allow Corning city residents to decide if they would like to change the City Charter to strip the City Council of its authority to fluoridate water.

A "yes" vote will amend the charter removing the City Council's

authority to fluoridate water. A "no" vote would keep the charter as it's presently written, and the City Council would retain the authority to fluoridate the city water supply.

In the fall of 2007, several months after the City Council voted, 5-4, to fluoridate, a group of residents opposed to the plan launched a petition drive.

The petition ultimately placed Proposition 1 on Tuesday's ballot.

Mayor Tom Reed said residents who don't want the City Council

to decide on fluoridation should vote "yes."

"If they want the City Council to decide the issue, they should vote no," Reed said. "Yes is no and no is yes."

If the proposition fails Tuesday and the council retains its authority, the issue is still not settled. The City Council would then have to formally vote to move forward with fluoridation.

However, if the proposition passes Tuesday, the council loses its authority to fluoridate and the issue is over.

Chad Moore, a resident against fluoridation, said the cost to install fluoride could easily run upwards of \$500,000.

"This project is going to cost more money than anyone claims," Moore said. "It was originally a piggyback on a water disinfection project. The city is not going to receive a grant for the disinfection project, so my guess is this could cost the city a major amount of funds."

SEE TURNING | 12A



THE LEADER FILES

Randy Kuhl and Eric Massa have a discussion Aug. 21 at Corning City Hall.

Kuhl plays underdog in 29th District House race

BY BEN DOBBIN
Associated Press Writer

ROCHESTER | In the southwestern corner of New York where Republicans have predominated since the party's founding in 1854, U.S. Rep. Randy Kuhl Jr. casts himself as the underdog in a rematch against Democrat Eric Massa, a retired Navy commander.

INSIDE

List of who and what will be on area ballots appears on page 9A.

The two-term Republican's surprising stance in a largely agricultural district the size of Connecticut where registered Republicans outnumber Democrats by 53,000 voters suggests the race is teetering on a knife edge the second time around.

Judging by most polls, in fact, some pundits think it'll be a surprise if Kuhl wins. The seat is one

Eric Massa

Age: 49
DOB: Sept. 16, 1959.
Party: Democrat
Residence: Corning
Religion: Catholic
Education: U.S. Naval Academy, 1981; Naval War College.
Experience: Served in Beirut, Bosnia and the Persian Gulf during 24 years in the Navy. Worked on the staff of the House Armed Services Committee, then left to work for retired Gen. Wesley Clark's presidential campaign in New Hampshire. Lost to Kuhl in his first run for office in 2006.
Family: Married, three children.

of four in New York that could flip from Republican to Democrat. Democrats currently have a 23-6 advantage in the state delegation.

Under the pressure of public dissatisfaction with the Iraq war, GOP dominance bent but did not

Randy Kuhl J.

Age: 65
Date of birth: April 19, 1943.
Party: Republican
Residence: Hammondsport
Religion: Episcopal
Education: Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., B.A., 1966; Syracuse University College of Law, 1969.
Experience: After a career in private practice, Kuhl won election three times to the state Assembly. He won the first of nine terms in the state Senate in 1986. He beat Democrat Samara Barend in his first run for Congress in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006, defeating Eric Massa, another first-time candidate.
Family: Divorced, three sons.

break in 2006 as the 29th District re-elected Kuhl by a slim

SEE RACE | 12A

Campaign tilts toward Dems in final days

BY LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON | Counting down to Election Day, Barack Obama appears within reach of becoming the nation's first black president as the epic campaign draws to a close against a backdrop of economic crisis and lingering war. John McCain, the battle-scarred warrior, holds out hope for a Truman-beats-Dewey-style upset.

Whoever wins, the country's 44th president will immediately confront some of the most difficult economic challenges since the Great Depression.

In that effort, he'll almost surely be working with a stronger Democratic majority in Congress, as well as among governors and state legislatures nationwide. GOP incumbents at every level are endangered just eight years after President Bush's election ignited talk of lasting Republican Party dominance.

It's been an extraordinary campaign of shattered records, ceilings and assumptions. Indeed, a race for the ages.

SEE CAMPAIGN | 12A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. Capitol is seen Saturday in Washington, D.C.

Slow economy has little impact on hunting

BY JOE KAFKA
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE, S.D. | Have gun, will travel — even if the economy's shot.

In the heart of South Dakota's pheasant-hunting country, license sales have been strong this fall despite gasoline prices near \$3 a gallon and a looming recession. Ditto for hunting license sales in New

York, Utah and Colorado. The leading retailers of outdoor gear, meanwhile, say sales of shotguns, ammunition and warm camouflage clothes aren't too bad considering the economy's headwinds.

Hunting's popularity has waned slightly in recent years, and American families are tightening their belts as a recession looms, but businesses catering to hunters say the sport's outlook

remains relatively healthy during these hard economic times.

"Hunters may not get the latest product, but they're still getting the things they need and getting out there. Our sales are holding up good," said Larry Whiteley of Bass Pro Shops, a privately held company that is one of the country's biggest suppliers of outdoor gear. "It's a family tradition. You know, deer camp

and all that stuff."

Some publicly traded companies that sell guns and other hunting equipment, such as Cabela's Inc. and Smith & Wesson Holding Corp., are showing signs of weakness, however.

To the extent that certain regions of the U.S. are noticing a dropoff in hunting and fishing activity —

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