



# The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

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## Called to duty

### What drove Matt Zeller and Tom Reed to run for Congress?



Photos provided to The Leader

### Homefront hero Matt Zeller still fighting for change

BY BOB RECOTTA  
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**VICTOR** | Like many people of his generation, Matt Zeller's life was shaped by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

"My grandfather (Robert Blades) joined the military right after Pearl Harbor and served in the South Pacific," Zeller said. "When 9/11 happened, he was the person I thought of. All I could think of was Grandpa joined the Navy the next day.

"I have all of this because he served. I haven't earned any of this. I have it because I was blessed enough to have a grandfather and great grandfather and uncles that went when their country needed them."

SEE ZELLER | 6A

**Age:** 28  
**Hometown:** Victor  
**Political party:** Democrat  
**Political hero:** Dwight D. Eisenhower  
**Favorite sports team:** Syracuse Orangemen. (I know their name has changed, but they'll always be the Orangemen to me.)  
**Favorite author:** Ernest Hemingway  
**Favorite fiction novel:** "Farewell to Arms"  
**Favorite band/recording artist:** U2  
**Favorite album:** Joshua Tree by U2  
**Favorite movie:** "The Godfather"  
**Cat or dog:** Dog  
**Favorite hobby or pastime:** Listening to music  
*see 6A for iPod list*

### Hometown hero Tom Reed a self-made man

BY BOB RECOTTA  
rrecotta@the-leader.com

**CORNING** | At its core, Tom Reed's story is the embodiment of the American Dream.

The youngest of 12 children, Reed was raised by his mother after his father died when Reed was 2 years old.

"Watching my mom raise the last six of us, she truly was my hero," Reed said. "If you ask anyone around town, she touched a lot of lives. She never complained. She always had a smile on her face. I think I only saw her cry two times in her entire life. She was a tough lady and she always said 'the sun's going to come up tomorrow.'"

Reed's family moved from Chicago to Corning after his

SEE REED | 7A

**Age:** 38  
**Hometown:** Corning  
**Political party:** Republican  
**Political hero:** Amo Houghton  
**Favorite sports team:** Buffalo Bills  
**Favorite author:** David McCullough  
**Favorite fiction novel:** Hard to pick just one  
**Favorite band/recording artist:** Journey  
**Favorite album:** Escape  
**Favorite movie:** "It's a Wonderful Life"  
**Cat or dog:** Dog  
**Favorite hobby or pastime:** Hunting and fishing  
**Top five songs on your iPod:** Don't carry one

Where they stand:  
Next week in *The Leader*

### State Senate race O'Mara stands on voting record; Mackesey touts outsider status

BY JOE DUNNING  
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**CORNING** | Tom O'Mara believes his three terms in the state Assembly gives him the experience to be an effective state senator.

His opponent, Democrat Pam Mackesey, thinks

#### Inside

*The Leader* endorses Tom O'Mara for Senate. **Page 4A**

otherwise and feels new blood is needed in state government.

"He's an insider and I'm

an outsider," Mackesey said. "The critical issue for him is for the Republicans to regain the Senate. I'm going to Albany to do the people's business."

O'Mara disputes the insider designation pointing out he is a member of

SEE SENATE | 10A



O'MARA



MACKESEY

### Stepmom's murder trial begins Tues. in Elmira

THE LEADER STAFF

**ELMIRA** | An Elmira woman charged with murder in the poisoning death of her stepson is scheduled to go on trial Tuesday in Chemung County Court.

Melissa S. Engelhardt, 25, has waived her right to a jury trial. Instead, a judge will hear the evidence against her and render a verdict.

Engelhardt is accused of



ENGELHARDT

visiting his father, George Engelhardt, and the defendant in Elmira.

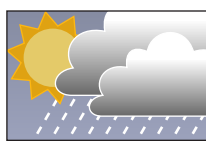
putting antifreeze in the juice cup of 21-month-old Andrew Cianfrini. The boy died Nov. 10, 2009.

Andrew was

SEE TRIAL | 10A



#### TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



SHOWERS THEN SUN  
WETM 18 Storm  
Team seven-day  
forecast | **10A**

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Advice	<b>3C</b>	Local	<b>2A</b>	Police	<b>3A</b>
Classifieds	<b>5C</b>	Lotteries	<b>3A</b>	Puzzles	<b>3C</b>
Home	<b>1D</b>	Obituaries	<b>5A</b>	Sports	<b>1B</b>
Lifestyles	<b>1C</b>	Opinion	<b>4A</b>	TV listings	<b>4C</b>

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