

Kuhl not thrilled with outcome of joint conference

BY BOB RECOTTA
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WASHINGTON, D.C. | U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, said he's somewhat disappointed by his first experience serving on a joint conference committee. Kuhl said he was initially thrilled when he was named Wednesday to the House committee charged with reconciling the House version of the College Cost Reduction Act, or H.R. 2669, with the Senate version.

Kuhl's enthusiasm, however, quickly waned.

"When I got there it became obvious the Democratic majority in both houses had already struck a deal, so all the discussion was superfluous and not consequential," he said. "Late last night they reported a conference report out and were asking us to sign it. It was a 130-page report that none of us have even seen or had any participation in."

Kuhl said he expects the compromise bill to hit the House floor next week. He said he's not sure how much Republican support it will receive.

"Without getting into a lot of detail, there are some real negatives, but there are some positives too," Kuhl said.

Kuhl said one aspect of the bill he supports is providing more money for Pell grants to combat the increasing cost of higher education.

Kuhl said the bill would also cut interest on student loans

in half, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

"It's a graduated phase-in for four years, but in the fifth year of the program, all that disappears and it kicks right back up to 6.8 percent, which puts you in position where there is huge increase in expense," Kuhl said. "That is going to level this country with \$40 billion worth of debt four years down the line."

Kuhl said the bill would increase spending by \$20 billion, instead of cutting spending by \$750 million. He said Democrats also changed the nature of the bill so it can be passed by a simple majority in the Senate.

According to the House Education and Labor Committee, the bill also provides tuition assistance to students who commit to teaching in public schools in high-poverty communities and provides loan forgiveness for first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, nurses, public defenders, prosecutors, early childhood educators and librarians.

Kuhl said the whole reconciliation process left him disillusioned.

"It's a little disappointing that what's touted as being a democratic process for the discussion of differences in bills in both houses was really very single-mindedly dealt with behind the scenes by the Democratic majorities with virtually no input from the Republicans at all," Kuhl said.

Massa, Kuhl's opinions differ on SCHIP program

BY BRYAN ROTH
The Canandaigua Messenger

With the popular state Children's Health Insurance Program for the working poor due to expire this month, congressional hopeful Eric Massa called for renewing the program Wednesday and criticized the man he hopes to replace, Rep. Randy Kuhl, R-Hammondsport, for voting against it.

Kuhl says he supports the program, but not tax cuts and reductions in Medicare benefits tied to a bill that would have expanded Children's Health Insurance.

SCHIP is a federal program administered by states that provides families with health insurance if they earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but can't afford private coverage.

"Every member of Congress has a gold-plated, diamond-studded health insurance plan and the American people deserve no less than what the members of Congress have," Massa said during a phone conference.

He added that if elected to represent the 29th Congressional District, he would keep his current health plan as a military retiree until all his constituents have the same plan as Congress. The 29th District includes all of Ontario County except Geneva, southeast Monroe County, Yates County and the Southern Tier.

SCHIP expires Sept. 30 and there's a wide gulf between the Bush administration and Democrats over how much to expand the program.

Among those Democrats is New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who wants to increase SCHIP to add at least 60,000 children in the state. He has called for increasing the eligibility level

to four times the poverty line. For a family of four, the current federal poverty rate is \$20,650. Under the proposed changes by Spitzer, families of four with an income up to \$82,000 would be eligible for SCHIP coverage.

President Bush, however, argues that such changes would allow higher-income families to drop their private coverage for free or low-cost subsidized insurance.

Kuhl voted against expanding the program last month. He said related measures in the bill would have cut seniors' Medicare benefits, increased taxes on private health insurance policies and made it easier for illegal aliens to get government-funded health care.

"Every American agrees that children should have access to affordable basic health insurance and SCHIP has successfully provided low-income children with basic health care services for over a decade," Kuhl said in a prepared statement following the Aug. 1 vote. "However, I oppose cutting Medicare benefits for our senior citizens and raising taxes. I did support a proposal which re-authorized SCHIP without the tax increase and Medicare cuts."

Massa pointed to a study released in May by Brigham Young and Arizona State universities that found poor children who don't have access to public insurance programs make more visits to hospitals.

"Emergency room medicine is the most expensive form of practicing medicine," Massa said. "Every American family sits around the dinner table and makes their decisions on their future based on whether or not they can see a doctor. The for-profit HMO model has failed us."

St. by the Corning-Painted Post Historical Society. There will be children's activities, flea market, traditional demonstrations, raffles, a country store, crafts, food and refreshments and live music. For more information, visit Web site www.pattersoninmuseum.org.

DAYCARE GETS UPGRADE



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

The Corning Children's Center building will be razed after the new facility is complete.

Children's center plans move forward

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | After years of setbacks, the Corning Children's Center is finally ready to move ahead with its building plans.

The city Planning and Zoning Commission will meet at 5 p.m. Monday to review a site plan proposal from Corning Inc. for the construction of a 23,000-square-foot building off Baker Street.

The new building would give the center more space than the current facility, which will be razed once the new center is complet-

ed, according to James Goodling, city director of planning and economic development.

The construction of a new children's center was originally slated to start in the spring of 2000, but an economic downturn forced Corning Inc. to put the project on hold.

The center serves children from 6 weeks to 12 years old.

The new building, which will be owned by Corning Inc. and leased by the children's center, will serve more than 300 children.

The construction timeline has not yet been deter-

mined. The current facility will remain in use until the project is completed.

Corning Inc. officials are expected to issue a press release on the project Monday afternoon.

The center has used several modular units since the spring of 2001 to solve its space constraints.

The new one-story building will not have the same unusual architectural design as the current Baker Street center.

Pegi Cook, center director, could not be reached Thursday afternoon for comment.



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

The center has used modular building since 2001 to solve space issues.

Holocaust survivor, speaker dies

BY DERRICK EK
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Angie Suss Paull, a Jewish Holocaust survivor from Rochester who gave a powerful talk about her experiences before a packed auditorium at the Corning Museum of Glass in early May, died Monday.

She was 84. A native of Poland, Paull was 17 when the Nazis invaded her hometown. She lost most of her family and endured years of being imprisoned in a ghetto, at concentration camps and in a forced labor camp.

She was liberated by American troops in 1945, and later came to the U.S. to live with relatives.

For the past 20 years or so, Paull had spoken at schools and community centers, sharing her story with tens of thou-

sands of people in upstate New York and around the country. A few years ago, she wrote a book about her experiences,

called "Angie's Story."

She appeared in Corning in May as the guest speaker in the inaugural Meta Spiegler Memorial Holocaust Remembrance Lecture.

The Leader was informed of Paull's death by Marcia Weber of Corning, one of the organizers of the event.

Paull's obituary appeared in Wednesday's edition of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

"The evening she was in Corning, she stayed signing

books and talking to people until quite late," Weber wrote in an e-mail to The Leader. "I was touched to see how many people wanted to talk to her and share their feelings. The line of those waiting to meet her went across the auditorium. People were so appreciative of her sharing her story with them, and it obviously had a profound effect on them."



Paull

Whingblinger Heritage Fest slated

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Kids 12 & Under Eat Free

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Prime Rib 4:30-Close

Sunday: Brunch 10am-2pm \$7.95

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