

**RACING**



JASON COX | THE LEADER

Children listen to drivers from the Grand Am racing series read books to them at Watkins Glen Elementary School.

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it was the first time they'd done it before an assembly and as part of the Watkins Glen International's Read For Speed program. First started in 2005 in the Watkins Glen school district, the program offers gift certificates from area businesses, exclusive track access and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities at the track as rewards for reading comprehension. The

program also takes place in Fassett Elementary School in Elmira. The Watkins program was also provided to preschoolers through first-graders. An added incentive this year to breaking the school's 2007 reading record of more than 17,000 books, was school Principal Rodney Weeden's pledge to give each student a chance to sink him in a dunk tank. Weeden's announcement at

the assembly that the school had broken the record was greeted with wild enthusiasm by the students. Weeden was nearly as enthusiastic about the WGI program as a way to encourage in the students to develop a habit of life-long reading. "It takes competing interests and turns them around in favor of reading," he said. "And it shows them success in racing is more a matter of using your mind than physical strength."

**CAR FIRE AT HOKEY POKEY**



DERRICK EK | THE LEADER

An Audi sedan parked in front of the Hokey Pokey's ice cream shop in Corning caught fire Thursday evening, filling the air with smoke as dozens of customers looked on. City firefighters extinguished the blaze, and no one was injured, but the car was heavily damaged.

**OBAMA**

Continued from 1A

Republican John McCain has his own potential problem people whom Democrats may try to exploit. In some cases, they have been for years. For example, there's Charles Keating Jr., a wealthy savings and loan executive from Arizona who was the focus of a congressional ethics investigation in which McCain was ensnared in the 1980s. Rick Davis and Charlie Black, two men in the inner circle of McCain's campaign, are former lobbyists - hardly a crime but still fodder for critics who want to undermine McCain's self-portrayal as a senator fighting to lessen big money's influence on politics.

So both parties will be researching - and putting the worst face on what they find. It's especially true for Obama, still a newcomer to the national scene. Voters haven't had years to form impressions based on what he has said or the legislation he's

passed. Or associates they've heard about forever. Here are brief descriptions of some people who may show up in ads, debate questions and Internet chatter over the coming months. JEREMIAH WRIGHT: Wright was Obama's minister for 20 years. He helped Obama embrace Christianity, performed Obama's marriage and baptized Obama and his two daughters.

Most of America knows Wright only through a few snippets from his sermons and a couple of contentious public appearances. They're familiar with him shouting "God damn America" and accusing the government of creating AIDS. Obama has done his best to distance himself from his former minister, to the point of resigning from the church that Wright once led. But that's unlikely to stop ads that portray Wright as a bigot and ask why Obama would listen to him for so many years. ANTOIN REZKO: "Tony"

Rezko is a businessman who has helped raise campaign money for Obama and many other Illinois politicians. He was convicted Wednesday on 16 of 24 counts in involving mail fraud, wire fraud, money laundering and aiding and abetting bribery. The charges have no connection to Obama, but Rezko is tied to the Illinois senator in other ways. Rezko and his family donated at least \$21,457 to Obama and helped raise over \$200,000 more, though not for his presidential bid. He also advised Obama on the purchase of a new Chicago home and, in his wife's name, purchased a vacant lot next door to the new Obama home when the seller wanted to dispose of both properties at the same time. Rezko then sold a slice of the property to Obama. Obama has donated Rezko's contributions to charity and says it was a mistake to work with Rezko on buying the house.

**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST**



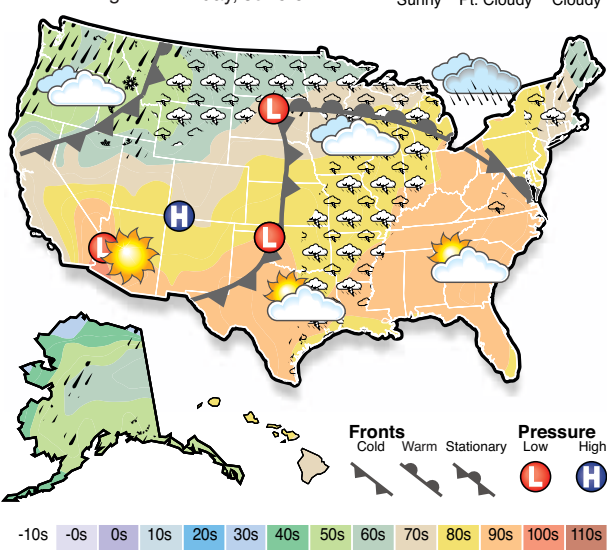
WETM 18 Storm Team  
 Meteorologist Scott Mayer  
 Meteorologist Joe Pasquarelli



Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hazy, hot, humid	P. cloudy, humid	Partly cloudy, hot	Partly cloudy	P. sunny with sct. t-storms	P. cloudy with iso. t-storms	Partly cloudy
High   91 Low   64	High   92 Low   63	High   92 Low   65	High   89 Low   62	High   85 Low   60	High   82 Low   61	High   84 Low   58

**National forecast**

Forecast highs for Friday, June 6



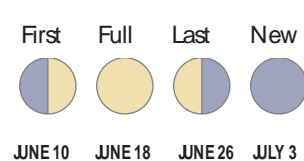
**NEW YORK**

Friday will be mostly cloudy in the morning becoming partly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms are expected in the afternoon. Highs will be in the lower 90s. Friday night will be partly cloudy and humid with lows in the lower 70s. Saturday will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs will be in the upper 80s. Chance of rain is 40 percent. Saturday night there will be a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Lows will be in the lower 70s. Chance of rain is 40 percent.

**WEATHER HISTORY**

In 1977, severe thunderstorms with large hail and 100-mph winds killed 13 and caused over \$1 million in damages near Norfolk, Virginia. The 13 people died when a 42-foot fishing boat capsized near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

**MOON PHASES**



**SUNRISE | SUNSET**

Sunrise today	5:33
Sunset today	8:42
Sunrise Saturday	5:32
Sunset Saturday	8:42

**DEBATE**

Continued from 1A

"Certainly we'll consider it when the time is right," Kuhl said. Both campaigns are currently working to get the required number of signatures to be a

candidate before the mid-July deadline. Kuhl also said it's possible either candidate could face a primary challenge. Moreover, Kuhl said his availability may be limited because the House may not recess until October. "I have a job that I'm elected

to do and that's where I am right now," Kuhl said. "Whereas my opponent is wandering around in the district playing politics, I assume." Kuhl and Massa held several debates in the district prior to the 2006 election.

**9/11**

Continued from 1A

detainees accused of plotting al-Qaida's 2001 attack were at turns cordial and defiant at their arraignment, the first U.S. attempt to try in court those believed to be directly responsible for killing 2,973 people in the bloodiest terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil. All five said they did not want attorneys and would represent themselves. The arraignment is the highest-profile test yet of the military's tribunal system, which faces an uncertain future. It also threatens to expose harsh interrogation techniques used on the men, who were in CIA custody before being transferred to Guantanamo in 2006. A sound feed to journalists from the courtroom was turned off twice. The first time, a soldier told reporters it was because a detainee was discussing a medication he had been given, which was a privacy issue. But his defense attorney, Navy Cmdr. Suzanne Lachelier, told The Associated Press later that the prisoner had been discussing his five years as a prisoner of the United States. The sound was also turned off when another defendant discussed early days of his

imprisonment. Judge Ralph Kohlmann said that in both cases sound was turned off because classified information was discussed. The arraignment, in which no pleas were entered, indicated that hatred for the United States among some of the defendants remains at a boil. One defendant said he deeply regrets not joining the hijackers who crashed passenger airliners into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field. "I have been seeking martyrdom for five years," said Ramzi Binalshibh, the alleged main intermediary between the 19 hijackers and al-Qaida leaders. "I tried for 9/11 to get a visa but I could not." Asked if he understands that he could be executed if found guilty, Binalshibh said: "If this martyrdom happens today, I welcome it. God is great. God is great. God is great." Calmly propping his glasses on his turban to peer at legal papers, Mohammed grinned at times and insisted he would not be represented by any attorneys. The other detainees quickly followed suit and said they too wanted to represent themselves. One defense attorney said his client, Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi, was pressured by his

other four to snub his defense team. Kohlmann then barred the detainees from talking with each other. The U.S. is seeking the death penalty for all five defendants, who sat at separate tables with their defense teams in a high-tech courtroom on this U.S. Navy base. Binalshibh's ankles were chained to the floor. Mohammed was careful not to interrupt Judge Ralph Kohlmann. He lost his composure only after the Marine colonel ordered several defense attorneys to keep quiet. "It's an inquisition. It's not a trial," Mohammed said in broken English, his voice rising. "After torturing they transfer us to inquisition-land in Guantanamo." The former No. 3 al-Qaida leader explained he believes only in religious "Sharia" law and railed against U.S. President George W. Bush for waging a "crusade war." The judge, wearing a crewcut and black robes, warned Mohammed that he faces execution if convicted of organizing the attacks on America. But Mohammed said he welcomes the death penalty. "Yes, this is what I wish, to be a martyr for a long time," Mohammed declared. "I will, God willing, have this, by you."

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