



# PANTHERS POUNCE

SMITH'S STRONG FIRST HALF LIFTS C-S



# The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 19 | 2007

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## Voters approve C-PP project

BY BOB RECOTTA  
recotta@the-leader.com

**PAINTED POST** | After two budgets were defeated by voters, Corning-Painted Post officials wanted badly for residents to approve a \$3.4 million maintenance plan.

Tuesday, they got their wish.

Residents overwhelmingly approved the plan, which centers on roof repairs at Calvin U. Smith Elementary School and East High School and security measures at all district schools.

The unofficial vote total at press time was 1,524-378 in favor of the plan.

"I'm very happy with the result," said Acting Superintendent Mike Ginalski. "The community once again showed they support education and support children."

Turnout was low, with only 9.4 percent of eligible voters casting ballots Tuesday. Participation is traditionally low for votes held this time of year.

This is the first vote held since district residents twice rejected the district's 2007-08 budget, forcing the district to adopt a contingency budget for the first time in its history.

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ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Above | Corning-Painted Post Director of Facilities Ken Murdock inspects a leak in the Corning East High roof. On Tuesday, district residents approved a \$3.4 million maintenance plan that would partially replace the roof at East High and replace the entire roof at Calvin U. Smith Elementary School. Below | Resurfacing the East High pool was one of the items voters approved when they passed the district's \$3.4 million maintenance plan. The plan would also replace pool equipment at the West High pool.



## Bath, Hornell proposals rejected

BY BOB RECOTTA  
recotta@the-leader.com

**BATH** | Residents of the Bath and Hornell school districts rejected capital projects Tuesday.

Bath residents voted 421-353 to reject a proposed \$18 million project that included:

- Creating a new press box, concession stand and parking at the district's athletic field.

- Improving the parent dropoff area, providing security lighting and renovating locker rooms currently being used as classrooms at the primary school.

- Increasing fifth- and sixth-grade classroom size.

- Replacing roofs.

- Replacing auditorium rigging, and the sound and lighting systems at the high school.

Residents also rejected a second proposition that would have installed artificial turf on the district's athletic field, 505-268. This resolution could not have passed unless the first proposition also passed.

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## Senate adds war funds to budget

BY ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** | The Senate voted Tuesday to provide \$70 billion for U.S. military efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, handing a victory to President Bush and his GOP allies on Capitol Hill.

The 70-25 roll call paved the way for the Senate to pass a \$555 billion omnibus appropriations bill combining the war funding with the budgets for 14 Cabinet agencies.

Bush was ready to sign the bill, assuming the war funding clears the House today. Democrats again failed to win votes to force removal of U.S. troops or set a nonbinding target to remove most troops by the end of next year.

"Even those of us who have disagreed on this war

have always agreed on one thing: Troops in the field will not be left without the resources they need," said Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Twenty-one Democrats and Connecticut independent Joe Lieberman — who stood with Republicans at a post-vote news conference — voted with every Republican present except Gordon Smith of Oregon to approve the Iraq funding.

The year-end budget deal between the Democratic-controlled Congress and Bush ended months of battling and disappointed GOP purists who complained the bill spends too much money and contains about 9,000 pet projects sought by members of Congress.

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## Kuhl gets money for area colleges

THE LEADER STAFF

**WASHINGTON** | College students and Monroe County residents will see the lion's share of the \$5.1 million earmarked for the 29th Congressional District from the Omnibus Appropriations bill.



KUHL

The House passed the voluminous document Monday night that combines 11 spending bills. The Senate is expected to vote on the legislation later in the week.

"These funds cover a wide spectrum of projects including preparing emergency responders to technological updates at St. Bonaventure and Elmira College," Kuhl said. "Funding these vital programs and projects are

critical to the economic development of the district."

Kuhl secured funding for the following programs:

- \$1 million for Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

- \$1 million for Rochester Institute of Technology's Integrated Power Microsystems.

- \$400,000 for Elmira College's Cowles Hall rehabilitation project.

- \$500,000 for the Monroe County Water Authority.

- \$100,000 for Elmira College's Murray Athletic Center upgrades.

- \$850,000 for improvements to Hyland Drive in Henrietta.

- \$438,000 for Monroe County Community College for a special needs training program.

- \$341,000 for St. Bonaventure University to

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## Upstate jobs lag behind nation

BY SARAH GROSSMAN  
sgrossman@the-leader.com

**ELMIRA** | Upstate New York's economy lags behind downstate and the nation in job creation, according to a report released Tuesday by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

According to "Upstate New York Employment Trends," growth has been modest but steady with 20,000 new jobs created in 2007.

Private sector employment, which makes up about 80 percent of all upstate jobs, has grown at an annual rate of 0.4 percent since 2003. The nation's job growth has been about 2 percent annually during that time.

However, results were mixed across the state. Chemung County and the

Utica-Rome areas were listed as areas struggling to sustain a recovery. Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and Binghamton have seen a decade-long decline in manufacturing jobs, according to the report.

Bright spots in the state include Albany, Glens Falls and Ithaca.

Corning and Steuben county were not addressed in the report.

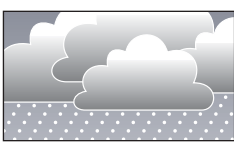
Chemung County suffered significant job losses between 1999 and 2004, including more than 1,200 jobs when Toshiba and Weyerhaeuser closed their plants.

"Private sector employment rose in 2005 and 2006, but it has leveled off in 2007 as job gains in retail and wholesale trade and in

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TELEPHONE: (607) 936-4651  
FAX: (607) 936-9939  
ONLINE: www.the-leader.com