

LOCAL

APPLERIDGE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH LUAU

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SPORTS

GARCIA GETS 2-STROKE WIN AT WYNDHAM

PLEASE SEE PAGE B9



The LEADER

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

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\$1.00

MORE INSIDE

WEATHER



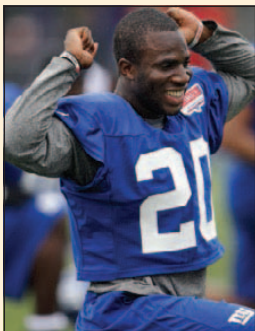
Partly sunny with an isolated shower. Complete forecast, **A8**.

LOCAL



River Friends receive grant for boat launch upgrades, **A2**.

SPORTS



Giants video raises questions of hazing, **B9**.

ONLY IN PRINT

- Pro & Con: Should the U.S. adopt a tax on carbon? **A4**.
- Senior briefs and menu, **A2**.

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ISRAEL CONTROVERSY

Reed defends Galilee dip

By John Zick
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U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, said Monday he was not intoxicated and was “appropriately clothed” when he went swimming in the Sea of Galilee last year during a congressional trip to Israel. Reed’s comments followed a Sunday report from Politico that said more than 20 GOP lawmakers, staffers

and family members drank alcohol and went for an impromptu swim in the Sea of Galilee the night of Aug. 18, 2011. One of the lawmakers, U.S. Rep Kevin Yoder, R-Kan., was admittedly nude during the swim. The Sea of Galilee is where Jesus walked on water, according to the Bible. It is not illegal to swim in the sea. “My wife (Jean) and I did go swimming in the Sea of Galilee on that trip with a large

group of folks at the end of a long day,” Reed said. “We were appropriately clothed.” Reed said that at the time of the incident, he “really didn’t” believe it was inappropriate. The swimming incident occurred after the group ate dinner at a waterfront restaurant in Tiberias. Reed had wine with dinner, but he was not intoxicated, his office said. Also, he told The Buffalo News no one

in his party seemed intoxicated. Additionally, he said he didn’t see Yoder take off his



Reed

clothes.

“From my perspective, we didn’t see anything that was inappropriate,” Reed said. “There was no impropriety, from my point of view.” Reed confirmed he and his

fellow freshman lawmakers were admonished the day after the incident by House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., who was on the trip but left the group before the swim. Reed said Cantor “expressed serious concern” about the incident. “Everything we do, we do in a fishbowl,” Reed said. “The bottom line is, we have nothing to hide. We

SEE REED, A8

I-99 CONVERSION



State Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, speaks Monday at a press conference detailing the final phase of a project that will convert U.S. Highway 15 to Interstate 99 from Corning to Williamsport, Pa. JOHN ZICK/THE LEADER

Final phase of U.S. 15 upgrade underway

By John Zick
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LINDLEY — An interstate highway from the Corning area to Williamsport, Pa., is expected to become a reality within a few years as crews recently began the final phase of a project to upgrade U.S. Highway 15 in Lindley. Lawmakers and state

Department of Transportation officials announced Monday that crews have begun construction on six bridges that will make U.S. Highway 15 an interstate-eligible roadway from Lindley to the Pennsylvania line. U.S. 15 is four lanes from I-86 in Painted Post to I-180 in Williamsport, except for a five-mile

stretch in Lindley. Crews have constructed a four-lane road adjacent to U.S. 15 in Lindley, but the bridges — three over roadways and three over creeks — are needed to connect the groundwork, which is scheduled to be completed this month. By the time the bridges are completed in late 2013 or 2014, the entire

stretch of U.S. 15 from I-86 to I-180 will be eligible for interstate status. An official designation of the roadway as I-99 is expected not long after the bridges are complete. “This is truly exciting and long-awaited progress for the Southern Tier and the states of New

SEE I-99, A8

SOUTH CORNING

Town halts work on water district

By Jeffery Smith
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The Corning Town Board has suspended work on the \$3.8 million Pinewood Water District project.

Officials voted to halt work for 90 days as they consider combining the project with the second phase of a water project in the Village of South Corning in an attempt to lower the cost, said Town Supervisor Kim Feehan.

The Pinewood project has included the construction of a new water tank on Spencer Hill Road and a new pump station, which has been completed, Feehan said. The work has cost about \$1 million.

Work to replace about 15,000 feet of water pipe on Skyline Drive and North and South roads has not been started.

“We are going to have an excessive price and no way to deal with it if we continue,” Feehan said to the board. “We are going into inter-municipal negotiations for the benefit of both communities.”

The village of South Corning recently finished the first phase of a \$1.3 million project to install 8-inch water lines and 42 fire hydrants on sections of River Road and Glen, Tuxill and Roberts avenues.

The upgrades were paid through a 38-year low-interest loan.

The project went slightly over budget, and village officials have no plans to begin the second phase, which includes upgrades to the village water tank.

Feehan said she plans to meet with South Corning Village Mayor Gerald D. Morse Sr. to discuss the possibility and benefits of combining the town’s Pinewood project with the second phase of the village’s water improvements.

ST. LOUIS

Representative sorry for rape comments

By Jim Salter
 Associated Press

Missouri Rep. Todd Akin apologized Monday for his televised comments that women’s bodies are able to prevent pregnancies if they are victims of “a legitimate rape,” but he refused to heed calls to abandon his

bid for the Senate.

Appearing on former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee’s radio show, Akin said rape is “never legitimate.”

“It’s an evil act. It’s committed by violent predators,” Akin said. “I used the wrong words the wrong way.”

Calls for Akin’s exit

from the race grew Monday, with at least two Republican senators — Scott Brown of Massachusetts and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin — saying he should resign the party’s nomination.

But Akin, who has served six terms, pledged to continue the race against Democratic

incumbent Sen. Claire McCaskill.

“The good people of Missouri nominated me, and I’m not a quitter,” he said. “And my belief is we’re going to take this thing forward and by the grace of God, we’re going to win this race.”

SEE AKIN, A8



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I-99

From Page A1

York and Pennsylvania," state Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, said Monday. "Once completed, I-99 will be a better, safer, less congested and more efficient roadway for those who travel it every day."

Also, I-99 is expected to expand commerce.

"Completing this link has been a high priority and will be a boon to economic development," DOT Commissioner Joan McDonald said. "By constructing this highway to federal interstate standards, we will create an uninterrupted corridor for shipping and commerce between New York state and Pennsylvania, as well as boosting trade with Canada and shipping to points throughout the mid-Atlantic and Southeast."

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, R-Corning, said the economic impact of I-99 can't be understated, but the safety of drivers is just as important.

"Moving to the next and



The marked line on the map shows the planned route for the completed Interstate 99. ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER

last phase of I-99 construction will bring us the highway safety features we've long sought for this route," he said.

The cost of the bridge

project will be \$31 million. The groundwork in Lindley cost \$46 million.

Eventually, I-99 will connect I-86 and I-68 in Cumberland, Md.

REED

From Page A1

understand where we're at, and we're not going to hide from anything."

Reed said some of the information in Politico's report was inaccurate. He said that to his knowledge, there was no FBI investigation of the incident, as Politico reported. He added that his office was never contacted by the FBI to discuss the incident.

Reed questioned the timing of Politico's report; it was published a year after the incident and right

in the middle of campaign season.

"It's something that I'd prefer not to be focusing on as we deal with the issues of the day," Reed said. "At the end of the day, we'll get back focused on the issues of the day."

Ithaca Democrat Nate Shinagawa, who is challenging Reed for his House seat, said: "These lawmakers had the privilege of a free trip to Israel to learn about its rich history, religious traditions and present challenges, but their behavior was irresponsible and disrespectful to those who consider the Sea

of Galilee a holy place. We must be able to trust our elected officials to behave appropriately while representing our district in Washington and our country while overseas."

Reed said he believes the incident has been overblown, but he understands the concerns.

"We're never going to be dishonest with the folks of the district," Reed said.

Reed was elected to Congress in 2010. He replaced Corning Democrat Eric Massa, who resigned his seat in disgrace amidst a sexual-harassment scandal.

AKIN

From Page A1

During the primary campaign, Akin ran TV ads in which Huckabee praised him as "a courageous conservative" and "a Bible-based Christian" who "supports traditional marriage" and "defends the unborn."

Asked in an interview Sunday on KTVI-TV if he would support abortions for women who have been raped, Akin said: "It seems to me, first of all, from what I understand from doctors, that's really rare. If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

Later Sunday, Akin released a statement saying that he "misspoke" during the interview, though the statement did not say specifically which points were in error.

"In reviewing my off-the-cuff remarks, it's clear that I misspoke in this interview, and it does not reflect the deep empathy I hold for the thousands of women who are raped and abused every year," Akin's statement said.

Akin also said he believes "deeply in the protection of all life" and does "not believe that harming another innocent victim is the right course of action."

Brown, considered to be one of the most vulnerable Senate Republicans in the November election, said Akin's comments were "outrageous, inappropriate and wrong."

"There is no place in our public discourse for this type of offensive thinking," said Brown, who is locked in a tight race with Elizabeth Warren.

Brown said Akin should apologize and resign the Senate nomination.

Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican, said in a

tweet that Akin "should step aside today for the good of the nation."

Moments after Akin's apology, President Barack Obama said Akin's comments underscore why politicians — most of whom are men — should not make health decisions on behalf of women.

"Rape is rape" Obama said. And said the idea of distinguishing among types of rape "doesn't make sense to the American people and certainly doesn't make sense to me."

The head of the Senate Republicans' campaign arm called Akin's comments "indefensible." Sen. John Cornyn suggested Akin take 24 hours to consider what's best for him.

In a statement issued Monday, Cornyn said Akin should weigh "what is best for him, his family, the Republican Party, and the values that he cares about and has fought for throughout his career in public service."

Akin's remarks also brought a swift rebuke from the campaign of presumptive GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney and his running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

Romney and Ryan "disagree with Mr. Akin's statement, and a Romney-Ryan administration would not oppose abortion in instances of rape," Romney spokeswoman Amanda Henneberg said.

Romney went further in an interview with National Review Online, calling Akin's comments "insulting, inexcusable and frankly wrong."

"Like millions of other Americans, we found them to be offensive," Romney said.

In an emailed statement Sunday, McCaskill said it was "beyond comprehension that someone can be so ignorant about

the emotional and physical trauma brought on by rape."

This month, the 65-year-old congressman won the state's Republican Senate primary by a comfortable margin. During the primary campaign, Akin enhanced his standing with TV ads in which former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee praised him as "a courageous conservative" and "a Bible-based Christian" who "supports traditional marriage" and "defends the unborn."

Ushering Akin from the race is complicated by the fact that he has never been a candidate beholden to the party establishment. Since being elected to Congress in 2000, Akin has relied on a grassroots network of supporters. His Senate campaign is being run by his son.

Behind the scenes, Republican officials were looking for intermediaries trusted by Akin to try to coax him from the race.

Missouri election law allows candidates to withdraw 11 weeks before Election Day. That means the deadline to exit the Nov. 6 election would be 5 p.m. Tuesday. Otherwise, a court order would be needed to remove a candidate's name from the ballot.

If Akin were to leave, state law holds that the Republican state committee has two weeks to name a replacement. The candidate would be required to file within 28 days of Akin's exit.

Akin, a former state lawmaker who was first elected to the House in 2000, has a long-established base among evangelical Christians and was endorsed in the primary by more than 100 pastors.

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LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Autopsy shows death of handcuffed man a suicide

The Associated Press

A man whose hands were cuffed behind him in the back seat of an Arkansas patrol car shot himself in the right temple with a handgun he apparently concealed from arresting officers, according to

an autopsy report released Monday that listed the death as a suicide.

The state crime lab report, signed by three medical examiners, said the muzzle of a gun was placed against Chavis Carter's head when it was fired. Jonesboro police

released the report to The Associated Press and other news organizations under a Freedom of Information Act request.

The report said the manner of death was ruled a suicide based on autopsy findings and investigative conclusions from the Jonesboro police department, which has faced questions from Carter's family and community members about the circumstances surrounding the July 28 shooting.

"He was cuffed and placed into a police car, where apparently he produced a weapon, and despite being handcuffed, shot himself in the head," the report said.

Chief Medical Examiner Charles P. Kokes did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Police have said officers frisked Carter, 21, twice after a traffic stop without finding a gun before he was fatally shot, but the department's internal investigation continues.

The FBI also is monitoring the case and the local branch of the NAACP has called for a thorough investigation into the death of Carter, who was black.

Two other men who were in a truck with him during the stop and the two officers on the scene are white, according to police.

The autopsy report comes days after police released dashboard camera video recorded the night Carter was shot in Jonesboro, about 130 miles northeast of Little Rock.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today
P. Sunny,
High | 77
Low | 52

Wednesday
Partly sunny
High | 79
Low | 51

Thursday
Mostly sunny
High | 83
Low | 52

Friday
Mostly sunny
High | 84
Low | 54

Saturday
Sun, clouds
High | 84
Low | 54

National forecast
Forecast highs for Tuesday, Aug. 21

Sunny Pt. Cloudy Cloudy

MOON PHASES

FRIDAY AUG. 31 SEPT. 8 SEPT. 16

SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today 6:23
Sunset today 7:59
Sunrise Wednesday 6:24
Sunset Wednesday 7:57