



PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

Sewage flap divides Chenango, Fenton

Communities in legal proceedings

By Nancy Dooling
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Staff Writer

A river separates the towns of Chenango and Fenton. Yet that's not enough of a buffer to keep the towns from each other's throats. In fact, the Chenango River is at the

center of a bitter dispute that had led to Chenango trying to seize a small piece of property owned by Fenton. Chenango claims that's the only way to keep its sewage pipe in place on the Fenton side of the river. Fenton wants the pipe moved. The dispute has moved from town halls to the courtroom. A hearing on Chenango's pending eminent domain

action will be held Aug. 13 in Cortland County Court. A year ago, Fenton began eminent domain proceedings against the company that owned the riverbank property which is only six-tenths of an acre. Instead of letting the property be condemned, the owner deeded the property to Fenton, court records show. "Fenton acquired the property for the express purpose of excluding



REBECCA CATLETT / Staff Photo
The Town of Chenango is beginning eminent domain proceedings to seize property along the Chenango River.

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NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENTS

Drilling opponents cheer moratorium

Measure goes to state Assembly

By Nick Reisman
Albany Bureau

ALBANY — Opponents of natural gas drilling in the Southern Tier's Marcellus Shale formation are cheering the state Senate's approval of a short-term moratorium late

Tuesday night. The measure sailed through the Senate, 49-9. If approved by the Assembly and Gov. David Paterson, permits to drill for natural gas in the formation would be delayed until May 15, 2011.

Now focus turns to the Assembly, where supporters of the drilling moratorium believe it could be taken up soon.

"I think it has overwhelming support in our house," said Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, D-Babylon, Suffolk County. "We were waiting to see the Senate move the bill forward."

Sweeney said the Democratic-led Assembly could return to Albany in September to take up the measure.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, D-Manhattan, said in a statement that he supported withholding drilling permits until more information is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We simply cannot move forward until we have all the

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DIOGENES AGCAOILI JR. / Staff Photos
Anti-drilling protesters gather Wednesday at Binghamton's State Office Building as gubernatorial candidate Andrew Cuomo was in town.

Cuomo wants 'the facts' on gas drilling

By Jon Campbell
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Staff Writer

BINGHAMTON — About 50 people gathered outside the State Office Building on Wednesday, demanding answers from Attorney General and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Cuomo on where he stands on drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation. They left unsatisfied.

Afton resident and opponent of drilling for natural gas Kim Michels, left, gets a short audience with New York state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

Cuomo was in town to announce an investigation into predatory health care lenders and finances, of which his office has received numerous complaints as the economy turned sour.

The protesters, however, were more interested in the Attorney General's take on one of the biggest issues in the Southern Tier. Cuomo's appearance came the day after the state Senate passed a bill that would place a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until May 15, 2011.

The state has already put high-volume hydraulic fracturing — a practice in which a mix of water, sand and chemicals are blasted deep underground to

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Congress moves forward with state aid

By Brian Tumulty
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Legislation to provide cash-strapped states with \$16 billion in Medicaid money and \$10 billion to reduce layoffs of teachers and other public-school employees roared back to life in the Senate on Wednesday.

A 61-38 procedural vote moved the bill closer to Senate passage, expected today. It also set the stage for vacationing House lawmakers to return to work next week for a final vote

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that would send the bill to President Barack Obama.

Wednesday's breakthrough took place after two moderate Republican senators from Maine, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, joined Democrats in voting to move the bill forward. Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska also dropped his earlier opposition to the bill. The procedural vote ad-

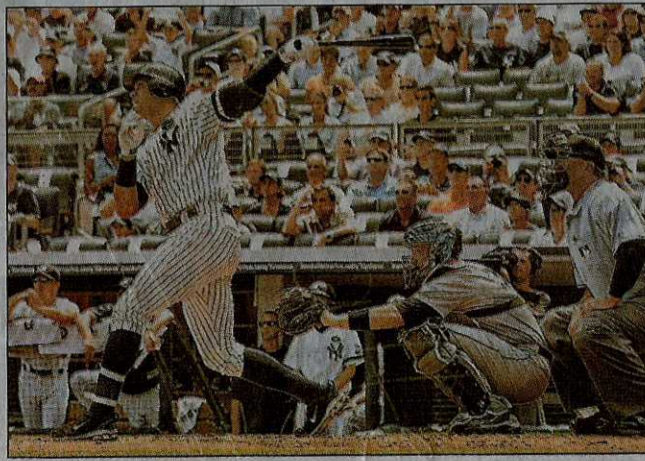
vanced a major piece of congressional Democrats' agenda. It was followed several hours later by an announcement from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., that she would call the House back into session early next week.

"As millions of children prepare to go back to school — many in just a few days — the House will act quickly to approve this legislation once the Senate votes," Pelosi stated.

The overall package would

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600 HOME RUNS FOR A-ROD



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez connects for his 600th career home run during the first inning of Wednesday's game against the Toronto Blue Jays. For more coverage, see PAGE 1B. The Associated Press

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Judge overturns gay marriage ban

A federal judge in California made his ruling in a lawsuit filed by two gay couples who claimed the voter-approved ban violated their civil rights. PAGE 20A

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH HOPE TENT PRESENTS Matthew West 1:00 PM Spiedie Fest Buttons \$20.00 Spiedie Fest & Balloon Rally Button pass is good for admission for all three days concerts and meet & greets in the concert area. YOU MUST HAVE A BUTTON REGARDLESS OF AGE