

ROCHESTER  
**Democrat and Chronicle**  
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011

**SUNDAY**

**UP TO \$136**  
IN COUPONS AND SAVINGS INSIDE

**ROCWEATHER**



**59° 42°**  
EXPANDED WEATHER 10B

**BARSTOOL COWBOY**

**ROCHESTER KEEPS PULLING DAVE DONNELLY BACK HOME**  
IN ROCLIVING



**RIT'S GOAL**

**COLLEGE AIMS TO BREAK GROUND ON HOCKEY RINK NEXT AUTUMN**  
IN ROCSPORTS



**ECONOMY » ASSISTANCE**

# FOOD STAMPS SOAR

Strapped residents seek basic nutrition in hard times

**MEAGHAN M. MCDERMOTT**  
Staff writer

Since the Great Recession began in 2007, the number of people in the six-county region using food stamps has grown by nearly 50 percent. In that time, spending on the program locally has doubled.

Although a portion of that increase may be attributable to a drive to get more eligible people signed up, there's no denying that the uptick is a sign of ongoing economic distress. It comes at a time when incomes nationwide are down and poverty is on the rise. It's a symptom reflected in increased demand at local food pantries and mirrors food insecurity trends nationwide.

It's putting stress on local service agencies and on residents who feel the American Dream slipping from their grasp.

"I became a teacher because I believed that education can get you out of poverty," said Maria DeMarquez of Greece. A special education teacher for seven years, DeMarquez hasn't been able to find a full-time job since being laid off a year ago. A homeowner and single mom of two daughters, she said her income has dropped from \$44,000 a year to \$15,000.

She's reaching the end of hope. "I'm three months behind on my mortgage and I just signed up for food stamps," she said.

**FOOD INSECURITY**

About one in five Americans would qualify for most federal nutrition programs.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as food stamps are now known, is a federally funded program that provides cash assistance to

See **ASSISTANCE**, Page 19A

**INSIDE**

The poverty rate nationwide has increased in the past year. See how those numbers play out locally. **19A**



**1 in 7** Monroe County residents use food stamps

Increase since 2007 in the number of people in the six-county area served by food stamps **50%**

**12 million** pounds of food distributed by Foodlink last year — a 75 percent increase over 2007

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CARLOS ORITZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**VOICE OF THE VOTER POLL » HYDROFRACKING**

# Likely Monroe voters back fracking

55% in poll support the controversial process

**STEVE ORR**  
Staff writer

Compared with the rest of upstate New York, Monroe County is a hotbed of support for the controversial method of natural gas extraction known as hydrofracking, a Voice of the Voter poll has found.

The poll found that 55 percent of likely Monroe County voters were in favor of hydrofracking and 35 percent were opposed.

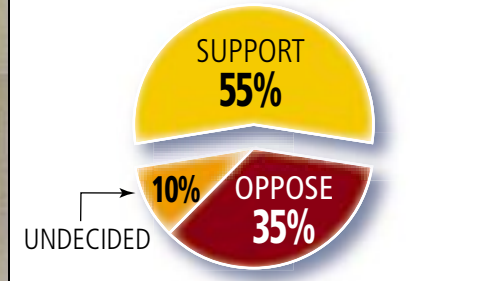
The remaining 10 percent were undecided. Hydrofracking, or hydraulic fracturing, is a way to reach gas trapped in rock layers deep under ground. State environmental officials have held off issuing new drilling permits for the most aggressive form of hydrofracking while they update regulations.

**INSIDE High-profile races:** Poll shows Republicans Maggie Brooks and Bill Taylor lead in countywide races. **Page 6A**

See **FRACKING**, Page 6A

**Poll: Hydrofracking**

Do you support or oppose using "hydrofracking" to drill for natural gas in N.Y. state?



SOURCE: Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc.

KEVIN M. SMITH/GRAPHICS EDITOR

**TOP STORIES**

**BILL CLINTON AT UR'S MELIORA**

"There are dozens of things we need to do to bring America back," Clinton said in his keynote speech Saturday, a highlight of the University of Rochester's Meliora Weekend. "Every one of them will involve universities." Alumni and locals turned out to hear his remarks and his conversation with UR President Joel Seligman. **Page 1B**



**GROWING FAST**

A regional economic leader is the field of business services, which, combined with software and telecommunications, employs 47,000 people. **Page 1E**

**CAMPAIGN 2012**

Republican contenders seek to sharpen their evangelical Christian credentials and emerge as a more conservative alternative to Mitt Romney at the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition forum in Des Moines. **Page 2A**

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