



# The LEADER

PROPOSED BUDGET:

## Indian Hills may see \$1M in funding

**BY DERRICK EK**  
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Indian Hills Golf Course is set to receive \$925,000 in state funding for planned improvements under Gov. Eliot Spitzer's 2008-09 budget proposal.

According to the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Web site, \$850,000 will go toward the construction of new maintenance buildings at Indian Hills, which was purchased by the state last year.

The state will also provide \$75,000 to fund the design of future improvements to the golf course's irrigation system.

The money is part of a \$100 million initiative, announced by Spitzer, to revitalize the state's parks, trails and golf courses.

The Indian Hills project is among those planned by the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to launch the initiative.

SEE FUNDING | 8A

## Fuel costs hit C-PP budget

**BY BOB RECOTTA**  
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**PAINTED POST** | The Corning-Painted Post school district isn't immune to gas pains.

The cost of fuel is the driving factor in a projected \$484,000 increase in the district's transportation budget, revealed at Wednesday's meeting.

Larry Eccleston, director of transportation, said the cost of fuel purchased by the district and by bus companies under contract will jump from \$321,000 to \$651,000.

Eccleston projected the district will exceed the money it budgeted for fuel for the 2007-08 school year by as much as \$170,000.

Paul Webster, district business official, said the money will be drawn from other areas in the budget.

The affects of the current contingency budget are also being felt in the proposed 2008-09 budget. The district could see a \$22,000 increase due to the purchase of lawn

SEE C-PP | 8A

## Bust nets 10



From left to right, top to bottom: Jody Wilson, William Weed, Anthony Washanko, Robert Bates Jr., Jesse Vanzile, Shawn Matthews, Keith Nichols, Jason Bates, David Sweezey, Charles Talada, Richard Thompson, Christopher Combs, Thomas Matlack and Amy Hardwick.

FOURTEEN people have been arrested in the last four weeks on meth-related charges as part of Chemung County's Operation Rid Area of Meth (RAM) initiative.

PROVIDED TO THE LEADER

## 14 arrested on meth charges in last month

**BY JOHN ZICK**  
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**ELMIRA** | Ten people were arrested on methamphetamine charges Wednesday during a multi-agency sweep in and around Elmira.

Nine people were held on federal charges, the 10th on state charges. Those charged with federal crimes were transported to Rochester to be arraigned in U.S. District Court, while the tenth person was held in the city.

The arrests were made before sunrise when members of the Chemung County Sheriff's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Horseheads Police Department and the state police executed warrants at various locations.

Arrested Wednesday were:

- Thomas A. Matlack, 29, of Federal Road, Erin.
- Jody C. Wilson, 32, of

**CAYUTA** | Authorities discovered Wednesday an inactive methamphetamine lab at the Schuyler County home of Keith Nichols, who was arrested earlier in the day as part of a drug operation headed by Chemung County.

Nichols was one of 10 people arrested Wednesday morning after local, state and federal authorities executed warrants in and around Elmira.

Using information from the attest, Schuyler

Ridge Road, Horseheads.

- Amy E. Hardwick, 28, of West Fourth Street, Elmira.
- Christopher J. Combs, 26, of West 14th Street, Elmira Heights.
- Charles J. Talada, 25, no

County Sheriff's investigators obtained a search warrant for Nichols' Swartwood Road home.

Inside, police found containers holding unknown liquids, filters, chemicals and implements.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents, as well as an investigator with the Chemung County Sheriff's Office, assisted with the search.

Nichols will face federal felony charges related to the lab, authorities said.

SEE METH | 8A

## Veto override fails in House

**BY KEVIN FREKING**  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** | For the second time in three months, the House failed Wednesday to override President Bush's veto of a bill that would greatly increase spending on a popular children's health insurance program.

Democratic leaders fell 15 votes shy of obtaining the two-thirds majority needed for an override. The final vote was 260-152, with 42 Republicans siding with Democrats.

The result was expected, even as override supporters pointed to the slowing economy as another reason to spend another \$35 billion on the State Children's Health Insurance Program over the

next five years.

"Hardworking American families are struggling and in dire need of assistance," said Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C.

But Republicans held strong in their opposition to the spending increase. They said Congress had already set aside enough funding to ensure that current SCHIP enrollees could continue their health coverage through March 2009. They criticized Democrats for delaying an override vote to coincide more closely with next week's State of the Union address from President Bush.

"I think it's important to highlight that this is simply a political exercise," said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich.

SEE OVERRIDE | 8A

## Kuhl, Massa differ on SCHIP

**BY BOB RECOTTA**  
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**CORNING** | U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. and Democratic challenger Eric Massa have engaged in a war of words over the State Children's Health Insurance Program.



MASSA



KUHL

Massa held a press conference Wednesday blasting Kuhl for voting to sustain President George W. Bush's veto of

the \$35 million expansion of the program.

Bush has twice vetoed the program's expansion and the vote Wednesday was the second attempt by Congress to override the veto.

Kuhl, R-Hammondsport, has voted with the White House both times.

On Wednesday, Democrats fell 15 votes shy of a veto

SEE SCHIP | 8A

## Stimulus deal nearer after talks

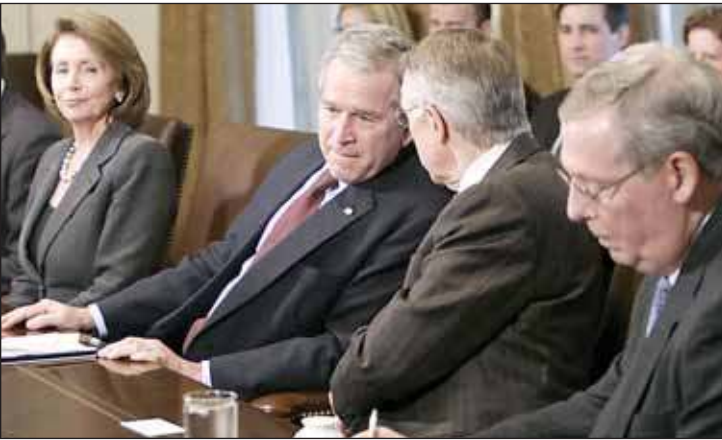
**BY ANDREW TAYLOR**  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** | Pushing deficit concerns aside, Democratic and Republican leaders moved closer to agreement with the White House Wednesday night on emergency tax cuts and benefit increases to

jolt the economy out of its slump, including opening new financing windows for some home loans.

Congressional leaders were to negotiate into the evening with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, underscoring the

SEE STIMULUS | 8A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush, third from right, leans in to listen to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. during his meeting Tuesday with Congressional leaders.



**TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER**

MIDDAY SNOW  
WETM 18 Storm  
Team seven-day  
forecast | 8A

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Advice	4C	Crossword	5C	Movies	5D	Sports	1B
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Comics	5C	Lotteries	2A	Police	2A	wknd.	1D

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