



The LEADER

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CORNING | NEW YORK

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 22 | 2008

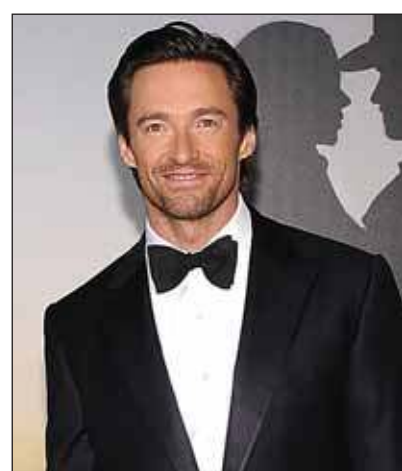
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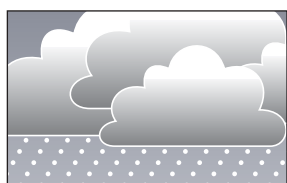
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TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



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29th race over



JASON COX | THE LEADER

Congressman-elect Eric Massa, D-Corning, announces victory Friday in the 29th Congressional District race as his wife, Beverly, looks on.

Massa officially declares victory

BY JOHN ZICK
jzick@the-leader.com

CORNING | Officially, he's Congressman-elect Eric Massa.

More than two weeks after the general election, Massa, D-Corning, declared victory Friday in the race for the 29th Congressional District seat.

U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. conceded the race shortly after Massa's announcement.

"It's my honor and I stand before you deeply humbled to accept vic-

tory as your next congressman in the 29th Congressional District, in the 111th Congress," Massa said. "It was a close election."

Massa said he defeated U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. by approximately 5,000 votes - roughly the same margin as 2006, when Kuhl defeated Massa for the seat.

"This race was a close and tough battle to the end, and today I urge all of my supporters to give Congressman-elect Eric Massa the support and encouragement that

he will need to carry out the great tasks that he will face in the 111th Congress," Kuhl said in a statement. "This country is facing an uphill battle. Our economy faces historic and unprecedented challenges, and we must unite to find the solutions that our country needs."

With the election behind him, Massa said his focus now is on the issues facing the district and the country.

SEE RACE | 8A

Automakers must sell Congress on loans

BY KEN THOMAS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON | Democratic leaders ordered Detroit's Big Three automakers Friday to submit what amounts to a detailed loan application to Congress so lawmakers can decide whether to give the beleaguered industry an emergency \$25 billion lifeline.

In a letter to the auto executives released Friday afternoon, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid demanded a detailed accounting by Dec. 2 of the companies' financial condition and short-term cash needs, as well as how they would achieve long-term viability.

"The auto companies' shareholders, business partners and prospective benefactors - the American people - deserve to see a plan that is accountable to taxpayers and that is viable for the long-term," Pelosi, D-Calif., and Reid, D-Nev., wrote.

The Democrats also called on the automakers to show how they would ensure that the government would be reimbursed and share in future profits, eliminate dividends and lavish executive pay packages, meet fuel-efficiency standards, and address their health care and pension obligations to workers if they got the federal help.

SEE AUTOMAKERS | 8A

Snow still piling up in parts of Upstate

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAMESTOWN | Lakes Erie and Ontario continue to feed snow squalls in western and central New York, and meteorologists say snowfall totals could reach one to two feet through the weekend.

The southwestern corner of New York along with a swath from Syracuse to the Lake Ontario shore are under lake-effect snow warnings from the National Weather Service.

Parts of Cattaraugus County on the Pennsylvania border are expecting up to two feet of snow between Friday afternoon and Saturday - on top of the 20 to 30 inches they have already seen this week.

In central New York, a number of school districts in Cayuga, Onondaga and Seneca counties shut down early Friday and canceled evening activities in anticipation of hazardous traveling conditions.

Elmira man sentenced in bank fraud case

THE LEADER STAFF

ELMIRA | An Elmira car dealer was sentenced Friday to 2.3 to 7 years in state prison for stealing nearly \$500,000 from an Elmira bank.

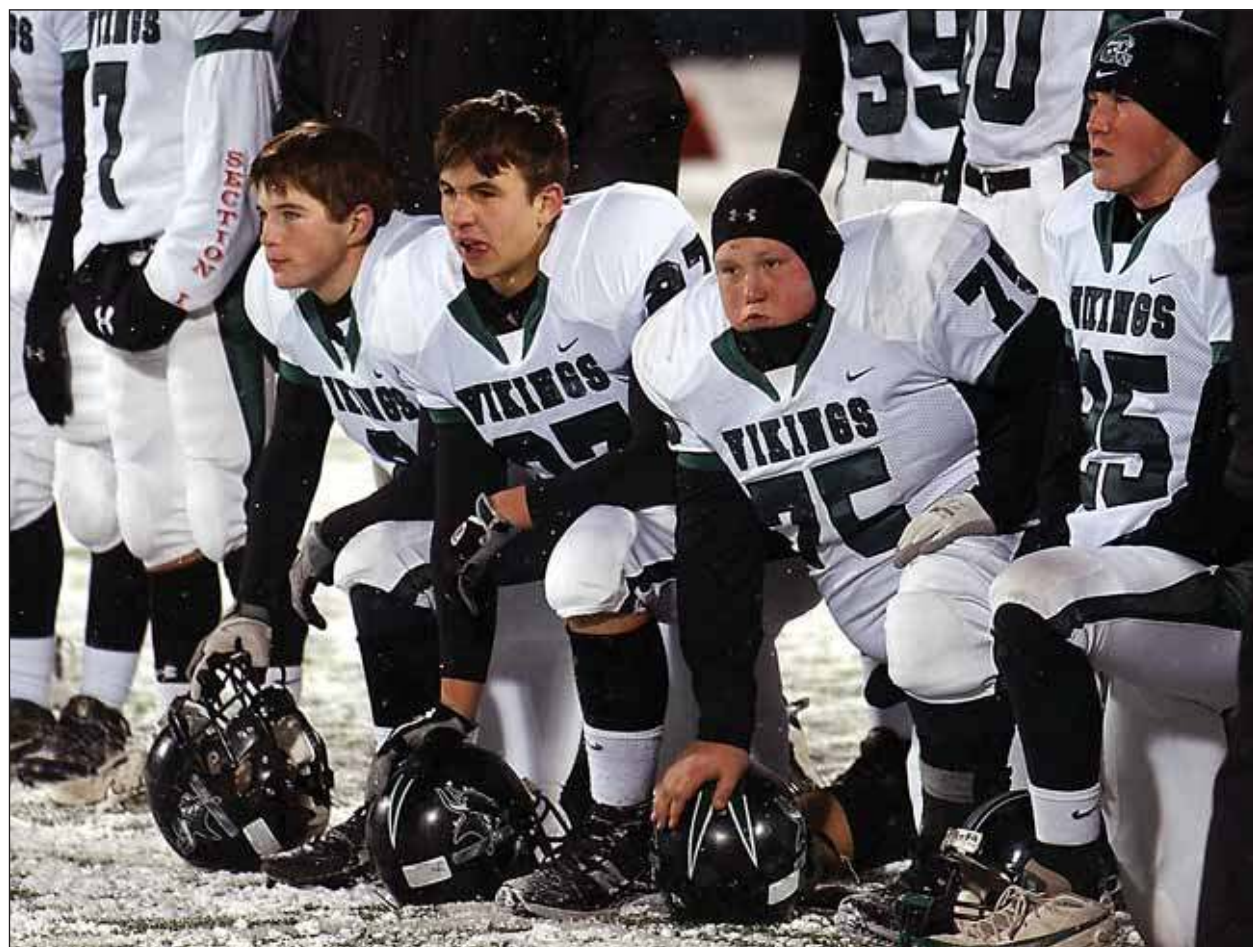
Bruce E. Wilber, 55, of Elmira, pleaded guilty in September to second-degree grand larceny, a class C felony. He is the owner of Wilber Auto Sales on Pennsylvania Avenue in Elmira.

According to authorities, Wilber used a fraudulent business scheme to steal nearly \$500,000 from the Chemung Canal Trust Co. The scheme went on for three years.

Wilber was ordered to pay \$420,413 in restitution to the bank.

Schuyler County District Attorney Joseph Fazzary was the special prosecutor in the case because of a conflict of interest in the Chemung County District Attorney's Office.

DREAM SEASON SOURS FOR WEST



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

West players look on following the Vikings' 48-8 loss to Sweet Home in the Class A state semifinals. Full story on the game appears on Page 1B.