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The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 29 | 2009

50 CENTS

Swine flu in Cortland County?

BY BOB RECOTTA
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BATH | Cortland County Health officials are awaiting test results to determine whether swine flu has come to upstate New York.

In a press release, Cortland County Health Department officials said they sent samples from two suspected cases to the state Department of Health laboratory in Wads-

worth Monday.

They are also investigating a third case, which they say is unrelated to the other two.

No other details about the suspected cases were available at press time.

If any of the cases are determined to be swine flu, it would be the first confirmed in upstate New York. A total of 45 cases have been confirmed in New York City.

The virus is being blamed

More on swine flu

- 7 hospitalized in U.S. | 6A
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for more than 100 deaths in Mexico, but so far less than 70 confirmed cases have been

discovered in the United States. None have been fatal.

Local health officials are keeping a careful watch for swine flu cases in our area.

Representatives of the health departments in both Steuben and Chemung counties said they are in daily contact with hospitals, schools and nursing homes in order to catch any cases of swine flu as early as

SEE FLU | 8A

Massa: Close Mexico border

BY BOB RECOTTA
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WASHINGTON, D.C. | U.S. Rep. Eric Massa, D-Corning, reiterated his call Tuesday for closing the border to Mexico in reaction to outbreak of swine flu in the country.

Mexican officials have con-



MASSA

firmed 20 deaths from swine flu. They are investigating another 130 deaths to determine whether the virus is to

SEE MASSA | 8A

Brush fires: Steuben County in state of emergency



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER
Firefighters work Tuesday to extinguish a brush fire near Myers Road and Harrian Road in Bradford. The cause of the blaze, which burned an unspecified number of acres, wasn't immediately clear Tuesday. Fire companies from all over the area responded to the scene. A state of emergency in Steuben County is in effect until 4 p.m. today because of an increased risk of brush fires. Until the state of emergency expires, it is illegal to burn outdoors in Steuben County.



Specter switches: Now a Democrat

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON | Veteran Republican Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania switched parties Tuesday with a suddenness that seemed to stun the Senate, a moderate's defection that pushed Democrats to within a vote of the 60 need-

More on Specter

Specter party switch rocks Pa. politics. | 3A

ed to overcome filibusters and enact President Barack Obama's top legislative priorities.

Specter, 79 and seeking a sixth term in 2010, conceded

bluntly that his chances of winning a Pennsylvania Republican primary next year were bleak in a party grown increasingly conservative. But he cast his decision as one of principle, rather than fueled by political ambition as spurned GOP leaders alleged.

"I have found myself increasingly at odds with the

Republican philosophy and more in line with the philosophy of the Democratic Party," he said at a news conference. He added, "I am not prepared to have my 29 year record in the United States Senate decided by the Pennsylvania Republican primary electorate."

SEE SPECTER | 8A

Equal pay still an issue in 2009

BY KATHLEEN COSTELLO
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ELMIRA | The good news is that women are a penny richer than they were in 2008.

The bad news is that women in this country still make only 78 cents for every \$1 that a man makes - for the same work. And it's worse for women of color. Black women make 68 cents and Hispanic women make 57 cents to that \$1.

That's why each year on April 28, Equal Pay Day is observed, to show the date that women finally earn as much as men earned by Dec. 31 of the previous year.

"You would think that in 2009, with as far as we've

come, equal pay would not be an issue. ... People don't realize that women's salaries are still so far behind men's," Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli said.

Santulli was one of about 30 people gathered Tuesday at the Steele Memorial Library in Elmira to observe Equal Pay Day at a luncheon/discussion hosted by the Elmira-Corning Association of American University Women.

More than half the attendees were wearing red, as is traditionally done every April 28, "to show that women are still in the red," said June

SEE PAY | 8A



KATHLEEN COSTELLO | THE LEADER

Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli (left) listens to a discussion at an event observing Equal Pay Day at the Steele Memorial Library in Elmira. More than half of the attendees wore red to signify that women are still "in the red" when it comes to making salaries equal to those of men.

Sitel to hold job fair, hire 200

BY KATHLEEN COSTELLO
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GANG MILLS | Sitel is adding 200 full-time jobs in customer service.

The call center is hosting a job fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and Thursday at its Gang Mills location. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have either a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma.

"People don't need to bring anything. They can come in, fill out an application on our computer and have an interview," said Averill Bolster, recruiting specialist with Sitel in Gang Mills.

To apply:

Visit 101 Canada Road or apply online at www.Sitel.com

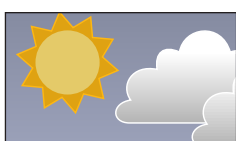
"Our contract has grown and we need more people," Bolster added.

The Nashville, Tenn.-based company is an inbound call center that provides customer care and technical support services for clients in a number of industries. Sitel workers do not make collection or telemarketing calls.

Interested applicants should stop by the company at 101 Canada Road or apply online at www.Sitel.com.



TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



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YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S LEADER

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