



PGA | 3B
Mickelson
leaves tour



wknd. | 1D.
In memory
Holiday weekend events



NFL | 3B
Vick a free
man - sort of



The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

THURSDAY | MAY 21 | 2009

50 CENTS

Santulli unveils Medicaid overhaul

BY JOHN ZICK
jzick@the-leader.com

ELMIRA | County officials unveiled Wednesday an ambitious Medicaid-reform project they say could slash property taxes in Chemung County by 66 percent.

The plan calls for the elimination of the local share of Medicaid; New York counties contribute 16 percent of the



SANTULLI

state's \$45.45 billion Medicaid budget. The federal and state governments contribute the remaining 84 percent of Medicaid costs.

Currently, 74 percent of all county property taxes collected in Chemung County

are used to pay for the local share of Medicaid -- \$18.83 million. If this payment is eliminated, the tax rate in Chemung County would drop from \$6.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$2.35 per \$1,000, a 66-percent reduction.

"That kind of reduction is unheard of," Santulli said. "That's real tax relief."

Property taxes in Chemung

County are 79 percent greater than the national average, Santulli said.

To eliminate the local Medicaid share, Santulli is proposing a data-backed "common-sense plan" that he says will significantly reduce Medicaid expenses.

The plan unfolds like this:

- Provide consolidated

SEE MEDICAID | 8A

Medicaid in New York

- New York's Medicaid budget of \$45.45 billion is more than the entire budgets of at least 40 states.
- New York's Medicaid spending is 13.8 percent of the total Medicaid spending in the United States.
- New York's Medicaid budget is 20 percent higher than California, which has a population is 50 percent greater than New York's.
- Florida, which has a similar population as New York, spends three times less on Medicaid costs.



LPGA Corning Classic tees off today!

Inside sports

- Tourney boasts major-like players.
- Past champions chip in.
- Junes poster.
- Who will win?



At the course

Follow your favorite pro with the official **Pairings Guide**, courtesy of *The Leader*. Course map included!

Bill Griffiths Pro-Am

Kim's team shoots 56 for victory

THE LEADER STAFF

Three teams shot a 16-under par 56 during Wednesday's Bill Griffiths Pro-Am at Corning Country Club, but the team of Tim Smith, Sharon Volante, Paul Rogoski, Lou DiFabio and LPGA pro Song-Hee Kim won the scorecard tiebreaker to claim top honors.

The team of Peter Van Ingen, Amo Houghton, Mory Houghton III, Lee Robbins and LPGA pro Ai Miyazato took second place; and the team of Tom Fennell, Marty Fennell, Pete Fennell, Pete Fennell Jr. and LPGA pro Brittany Lang took third place.

Inside
Complete results of the Bill Griffiths Pro-Am. 7A

Finishing fourth was Brad Tanneberger, Brian DiLascia, Peter O'Dell, Gale Thrall and LPGA rookie Michelle Wie; while Matt Brown, Charlie Frysinger, Larry Grimaldi, Rob Liles and LPGA pro Sarah Lee took fifth.

The Pro-Am, sponsored by Corning Inc., was the last of the pre-tournament events leading up to the 31st and final LPGA Corning Classic, which opens today.

Tickets are \$16 for today's and Friday's rounds, and \$20 for Saturday's and Sunday's rounds. Youths ages 15 and under will be admitted free with an adult. A weekend pass is \$47.



Tom Blumer makes a putt on the 18th green as teammates (from left) Bud Amann, Tom Reed and Eric Wensel watch Wednesday afternoon during the Bill Griffiths Pro-Am.



Helen Alfredsson, Tom Tranter and John R. Kuhl Jr. wait to putt on the seventh green.

Muccini under fire for budget remarks

BY JEFFERY SMITH
jsmith@the-leader.com

CORNING | A councilman's reasoning for suggesting an earlier start to the city budget process next year has upset city staff and several employees.

Councilman Frank Muccini, R-5, has asked City Manager Mark Ryckman to begin the budgetary time frame earlier.

Lengthening the process would provide additional time to work on the spending



MUCCINI

plan, Muccini said.

It would also help stop city department heads from padding their budget an extra 10 percent, Muccini said, because it would give the council more time to scrutinize the department heads' proposed spending plans.

"We won't have a room of people sitting around next year wondering what is being done," Muccini said during a public meeting Monday night.

"The budget process is set by the Corning City Charter," Ryckman responded.

"You don't listen, if we

SEE MUCCINI | 7A

Taking care of their own Farmers chip in to help family after tragedy

BY DERRICK EK
dek@the-leader.com

The family of Cliff Kent Sr., a local dairy farmer killed in a tractor accident last week, is going through an incredibly tough time.

Kent's calling hours and funeral were held last weekend, and the family is dealing with financial and legal matters.

On top of all that, his two sons have been trying to keep the farm running, but

are facing a tall task.

Although they've always helped out, Kent was the mastermind and backbone of the operation, especially when it came to crop management, said his son, Cliff Kent Jr.

But this week, a group of fellow farmers and longtime friends got together to help the family plant 120 acres of corn and other crops needed to sustain the dairy herd on several large swaths of land

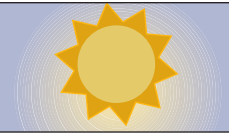
SEE FARMERS | 7A



Curtis Kent and Cliff Kent Jr., sons of the late Cliff Kent Sr., repair a fence on the family's farm.



TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



HOT, WINDY
WETM 18 Storm
Team seven-day
forecast | 8A

YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S LEADER

Advice	3C	Crossword	4C	Movies	5D	Sports	3B
Business	1C	Horoscope	3C	Obituaries	5A	TV listings	3C
Classifieds	7C	Local	2A	Opinion	4A	Weather	8A
Comics	4C	Lotteries	3A	Police	2A	wknd.	1D

HOW TO REACH US

TELEPHONE: (607) 936-4651
FAX: (607) 936-9939
ONLINE: www.the-leader.com

MONDAY 10:00 - 4:00
Excludes Mattresses and TV's and Clearance. See Store for Complete Details.

20% Off*
ALMOST EVERYTHING IN
STOCK & SPECIAL ORDER

Division of The Corning Building Company "Since 1848"
CBC Plaza, Park Ave., Corning, NY 962-2476
www.cbcfurniture.com
"NOBODY DOES IT BETTER!"