

In brief

**Clemens Center to hold party**

**ELMIRA** | The Clemens Center will hold a "Simpsons" 20th anniversary party fundraiser from 5-7 p.m. today. The event will include a film screening, refreshments and cash bar. Tickets are \$20. For details, call 734-8191.

**Colleges to offer auditor training**

**CORNING** | Corning Community College and Broome Community College are partnering to offer a 36-hour, non-credit course for contractors and building trade professionals who wish to learn how to conduct home energy audits. The course, scheduled for Jan. 25-30 and Feb. 1, will include a two-day field experience and will cover basic fuel consumption analysis, estimating R-values, heat loss calculations and more. The cost is \$1,045 with 75 percent reimbursement available upon successful completion. Registration is required by Friday. For details, call the Broome Community College Continuing Education Office at 778-5012.

**Library to offer job workshop**

**HAMMONDSPORT** | The Fred and Harriett Taylor Memorial Library will host "Why Should You Hire Me?" from 7-8 p.m. today. The workshop, led by Dr. Dianne Mau, will cover job hunting online and in person, how to prepare for job interviews and more. Registration is required by calling 569-2045.

■ Staff reports

**Hospitals**

**CORNING HOSPITAL**

**Admitted | 01.12.09**  
• Winifred L. Dake, Westfield, Pa.  
• Barbara A. Robbins, Corning.

**Discharged | 01.12.09**

• Arnold G. Christian, Woodhull.

**ST. JAMES | HORNELL**

**Discharged | 01.12.09**

• Ernestine Kelly, Hornell.  
• Meghann Khork and infant daughter, Hornell.  
• Jessie O'Connor, Dansville.  
• Elossie Smith, Hornell.  
• Donna Spike, Hornell.  
• Timothy White, Bath.  
• Joreen Young, Hornell.

**Births**

**CORNING HOSPITAL**

**Wednesday | 01.13.09**

• A boy to Sabrina and Jake Smith.

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2010 elections



JASON COX | THE LEADER

**New York State Republican Chairman Ed Cox, right, was in Corning Wednesday speaking with local Republicans about the party's agenda for 2010.**

**State GOP chair: Good things ahead for party**

**BY BOB RECOTTA**  
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**CORNING** | New York State Republican Chairman Ed Cox is expecting big things this year. Cox was visiting the area to speak with local Republican leaders about the party's agenda for 2010. Cox said the atmosphere in both the state and the nation is right for Republicans to make big gains. "I think it's going to be a great year for us and we're just getting started now from the point of view of candidates," Cox said. "Those who are thinking about running can see this is going to be a great year. I think you're going to see great candidates coming out for governor, for the State Senate, for the Assembly, for Congressional seats." Cox said there's a wave of fiscal conservatism sweeping the country as a result of number of factors including New York's current fiscal crisis, President Barack Obama's economic stimulus package and the contentious debate over health care reform. He said this anti-tax,

anti-spending mood plays to Republicans' strong suit. "The forgotten New York taxpayer is in revolt," Cox said. "You cannot increase taxes any more without driving more businesses, more jobs out of New York state. We need to get some fiscal discipline. That's what the Nov. 3 vote was about and that's why Republicans were elected overwhelmingly. The people in New York state understand we stand for fiscal discipline." Cox also said New York also has to repeal regulations, which are preventing job growth in the state. He pointed to natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale as a potential boon for the state. "It's a huge industry that's being held up by a Democratic government in Albany that is more concerned about regulation than it is in economic development," Cox said. "The industry is booming in Pennsylvania, but not here because of the lack

of action on the part of the Democrats in Albany. We can do better as Republicans." U.S. Rep. Eric Massa, D-Corning, said New York state should proceed slowly with drilling in the Marcellus Shale. "At the end of the day I can think of nothing more important as a representative of this district than protecting the natural water and aquifer of the area," Massa said. "I have not met anyone yet who does not agree with me that burning domestically produced natural gas is a better alternative to burning Saudi crude oil, but at the end of the day, if you can't sink a well, then you have nothing." Massa said the recent draft environmental impact statement released by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation left too many unanswered questions to move forward with drilling.



MASSA

SEE GOP | 5A

**No tax hike for H'port**

**Village approves flat rate for new budget**

**BY MARY PERHAM**  
leaderbath@yahoo.com

**HAMMONDSPORT** | Hammondsport property owners will see little change in their tax bills later this year, after village trustees unanimously approved their 2010-11 budget Monday. The \$560,000 budget calls for a tax rate of \$8.64 per \$1,000 assessed value – the same as the current tax rate. Village spending next year will increase roughly \$22,000, but will be offset by anticipated revenues of \$514,000 and more than \$45,000 from the village reserves,

according to the preliminary budget report. Salary increases next year are pegged at 3 percent, although police department costs for two part-time officers will drop from nearly \$59,000 to \$52,000. The village police chief retired this year, and was replaced by a sergeant. The village board will receive no pay increases next year. Trustees also approved a 2010 water department budget of \$255,858, a decrease of \$5,406 compared to the current water budget of \$261,264.

SEE TAX | 5A

**County unsure on fate of old voting machines**

**BY MARY PERHAM**  
leaderbath@the-leader.com

**BATH** | Steuben County officials are split on who has custody of the 800-pound lever voting machines now of limited use to anyone but historians. The question before the county Legislature's Administration Committee is who actually owns the machines: the towns that bought

them or the county that inherited them through state mandate? County Administrator Mark Alger told the committee this week the towns paid for the lever machines and they should get them back. Roughly 144 machines are still located in polling places through the county, according to the county Board of Elections.

SEE MACHINES | 5A

**Police blotter**

**Yates Sheriff**

charged Sunday with third-degree assault.

**FAILURE TO APPEAR**

**GENEVA** | Shane M. Wolf, 18, of Clifton Springs, was charged Wednesday with failure to appear in court.

**AUO**

**BARRINGTON** | Jeanne M. Coriano, 52, of Cameron, was charged Tuesday with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

**THURSTON** | Christopher A. Kitchen, 33, of Hornby Road, Corning, was charged Monday with third-degree assault.

**FREMONT** | Anthony D. Harvey, 24, of Old Big Creek Road, Fremont, was charged Tuesday with third-degree assault.

**Corning City**

**Steuben Sheriff**

**FAILURE TO PAY**  
**CORNING** | Brandon M. Bennett, 31, of Catlin Road, Beaver Dams, was charged Tuesday with failure to pay a fine.

Accident on I-86



JASON COX | THE LEADER

**No serious injuries were reported when a sedan and tractor-trailer collided around 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 86 near the Coopers Plains exit. Additional information was not immediately available.**

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