

## Pellet plant working after fire

BY JOHN ZICK  
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**TUSCARORA** | A fire Wednesday evening at the InstantHeat Wood Pellet Inc. factory on State Route 417 caused minimal damage and slightly disrupted production, plant manager Scott Drake said Thursday.

According to Drake, the flames were extinguished within minutes of ignition and fire crews completely smothered smoldering debris approximately three hours after the blaze sparked.

The plant was back producing wood pellets, an alternative heating fuel, Thursday. Drake said the fire disrupted service for "maybe eight hours."

Drake said the filtration unit that caught fire suffered only minimal damage.

The fire was small and maintenance crews at the plant had a plan to extinguish the fire. Drake said a passerby, not a plant employee, called firefighters for assistance.

Drake said the type of fire that struck the plant is "not uncommon."

Fire crews said something within the filtration system caused friction, which started the blaze.

## Survivors: Teens were confronted before crash

BY BEN DOBBIN  
Associated Press Writer

**CHILI** | Five teenagers whose car veered off a country road at high speed, killing the driver and two passengers, had been spooked by a man who pounded on their car window and a motorist who tried to block their car and then gave chase, the two survivors say.

Two girls injured in the Memorial Day weekend crash told police that two carloads of teens had stopped at a popular hangout on the outskirts of this Rochester suburb when a man in his early 20s "came running out of the woods and started pounding his fists" on a side window of their car.

Moments later, according to Rachael Devries, 15, and Christina LeMura, 16, another man drove up in a sport utility vehicle and tried to block the road. Brian Sayasith, 17, who was driving their car, steered around the SUV and took off "very fast" with the SUV in pursuit, Devries said.

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## GOOD NEWS



PROVIDED TO THE LEADER  
Carol Rubin, auxiliary treasurer (left) and Marilyn Custer-Mitchell, chief operating officer of Corning Hospital.

## Guthrie Auxiliary donates to Corning Hospital

### THE LEADER STAFF

The Guthrie Corning Hospital Auxiliary recently donated \$94,000 to Corning Hospital through proceeds raised from the annual Valentine's Ball, House Tour, Fashion Show, Bridge Marathon, Love Cones remembrances, Pop Can Fun Run, lobby sales and "Hospitality Cookbook" sales. The amount raised is a record donation. Proceeds will be used to purchase ultrasound machines for the Breast Care Center.

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**TICK**  
Lillian Tick has been named "2007 Volunteer of the Year" by members of the Auxiliary of Corning Hospital at a recent volunteer recognition event at the Corning Country Club. She received a gift of Steuben crystal as a token of appreciation for her commitment and service

to the hospital and the Corning area community. Since 1996, her diligence, perseverance, and guidance of the entire auxiliary organization have resulted in a financial gift of over \$700,000 to Corning Hospital. Under her leadership, the auxiliary has won the HANYS (Healthcare Association of New York State) Advocacy Award annually. In addition to her service to the hospital, she finds time to volunteer for the Red Cross and the Health Ministry.

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The Campbell Lions Club Chorus of New York performed at the 7th annual Lions Clubs International Performance Festival July 3, held during the 90th annual Lions Clubs International Convention in Chicago, Ill. at the McCormick Convention Center. The event was attended by approximately 15,000 Lions from around the world.

This chorus performed three songs. The first was a

George and Ira Gershwin favorite, "Strike up the Band," followed by the signature song of the Big Apple, "New York, New York." Their final song was a Lions original. Written by Lion Babette Perednia with words by Lion Bob Everett the song, "Hasten the Day", is based on Helen Keller's speech that challenged Lions to become knights of the blind. The songs were performed before hundreds of Lions in attendance.

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The Charles E. Wescott American Legion Unit #173 held installation of officers in June. Nominated to serve for the 2007-08 year were Mary Jane Orr as president, Jackie Summers as first vice-president; Janet Bruce as second vice-president; Joyce Marshall as secretary; Linda Slack as treasurer; and Irene Hall as sergeant-at-arms.

## Protesters invite Kuhl to meeting

### Group wants to talk stance on Iraq war

BY MARY PERHAM  
leaderbath@yahoo.com

**BATH** | Roughly a dozen anti-war protesters left an invitation Thursday for U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., to meet with them to discuss his stance on the war in Iraq.

The group, local representatives of Americans Against Escalation in Iraq, want Kuhl to attend their "Take A Stand Day" town hall meeting set for 7 p.m. Aug. 28 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath.

The meeting is part of the nationwide "Iraq Summer" campaign designed to put pressure on congressional leaders now backing President Bush's policies in Iraq.

The anti-war activists said they want Kuhl to explain his backing of war policies that could lead to prolonged combat in Iraq.

Thursday's visit to Kuhl's office was at the least the third anti-war demonstration

at the congressman's office in the last month. Five protesters were arrested Aug. 7 when they refused to leave the office as it was closing for the day.

Other issues are the growing suicide rate among U.S. soldiers in the war-torn country, and questions about the integrity of a report expected in September from Gen. David Petraeus, U.S., commander in Iraq.

Wayne Wells, of Cameron Mills, said as long as Kuhl supports Bush, he should be held accountable for Bush policies "which make the U.S. look weak and evil."

But so far, Kuhl has refused to answer calls and declined other meetings with the protesters, according to Cyril Mychalejko, spokesman for the group.

Mychalejko said Kuhl replied in writing to an earlier invitation from group member Christopher Tate for a

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ROB PRICE | STEUBEN COURIER ADVOCATE  
Protesters arrive at U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr.'s office in Bath.

### IN BRIEF

#### Village office to close next week

**HAMMONDSPORT** | The Hammondsport Village Clerk's office will be closed next week. The office will reopen at 9 a.m. Aug. 27.

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**SAVONA** | Savona Village offices will be closed from Monday through Sept. 4.

■ Staff reports

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