

IN BRIEF

School board candidates sought

PAINTED POST | Nominating petitions for the Corning-Painted Post school board are now available from Karen Dutcher, district clerk, at the administration building, 165 Charles St. To qualify as a candidate for the school board, a person must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, a qualified voter of the Corning-Painted Post school district and have resided within the district for at least one year immediately preceding the election. The deadline for filing the completed petition with the district clerk is 5 p.m. April 30. The election will be held May 20.

Poet, harpist to visit Gatherings

CORNING | Peaceful Gatherings will hold an event titled Poetry, Song and Silence for Peace from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday in the community room of the Southeast Steuben County Library. The event will feature poet Edward Dougherty and harpist Maryalice Little.

H'heads school board meets Mon.

HORSEHEADS | The Horseheads school board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at Ridge Road Elementary School.

14 to graduate from Firefighter 1

ELMIRA HEIGHTS | The Chemung County Fire Advisory Board will hold a ceremony for 14 graduates of the Spring 2008 Firefighter 1 training program at 6:30 p.m. today in the Thomas Edison High School auditorium.

Civil Service group to meet

ELMIRA | The Chemung County/City of Elmira Regional Civil Service Commission will meet at 3 p.m. Tuesday in the second-floor conference room of the Hazlett Building.

Business leader to speak at MU

MANSFIELD, PA. | Award winning educator and business leader Michael Robinson will deliver a lecture titled "Mansfield University Developing Leaders: Real World Application", at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Laurel Manor B Lounge.

C-S school board to meet Mon.

CAMPBELL | The Campbell-Savona school board will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the board room.

Cemetery group will meet

PRESHO | The Presho Cemetery Association will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Presho United Methodist Church.

■ Staff reports

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



JASON COX | THE LEADER

More than 400 government officials and employees from Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties spent Thursday learning more about issues impacting the region.

Shared services, wind farms highlight event

BY SARAH GROSSMAN
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CORNING | Riverside Mayor William Cornell enjoyed the chance to network Thursday with elected officials and government employees from the area during the Southern Tier Central Regional Leadership Conference.

More than 400 officials from Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties attended workshops at Corning Community College. The event annually attracts members at every level of government including clerks, city planners, justices, highway superintendents, and county legislators.

"It seemed like a good idea to get everyone together and every year the conference grows," said Marcia Weber, executive director of Southern Tier Regional Planning and Development Board.

Also part of the event was a trade show where vendors from area companies and state agency representatives mingle with the government employees, said Thomas McGarry, STC economic coordinator.

Topics discussed at this year's conference included shared services, the budget process, the Department of Environmental Conservation and wind farms.

"I learned a lot about the

inspections for the DEC," said Ray W. Acomb, highway superintendent for the Town of Avoca. "It helped to find out more about spills and to get emergency numbers."

Acomb has been attending the event since taking office 10 years ago. The conference is a chance to share ideas with others who work in other towns, he said.

Ames R. Crans, deputy supervisor and council member in Town of Woodhull, was at the event for the first time.

Crans said he felt it was his duty to attend.

"The conference gives us information to make decisions with," he said.

Freight train derails in Palmyra, dumps coal

GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

PALMYRA | In what might be called a case of destructive déjà vu, a CSX freight train derailed Thursday morning in the town of Palmyra — not far from the site of similar derailment almost five years ago.

According to the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, 20 cars jumped the tracks spilling tons of coal. There were no injuries and the cars were carrying no hazardous

materials, deputies said.

CSX officials were at the scene Thursday to investigate.

The company has been dogged by crashes and derailments in Western New York in recent years, including the

Palmyra incident.

In late August 2003, 15 of 90 cars on a CSX train derailed in Palmyra.

Palmyra fire officials briefly evacuated 14 people living near the track as a safety precaution.

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Massa challenges Kuhl to debates

THE LEADER STAFF

CORNING | Democrat Eric Massa has challenged U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. to an aggressive debate schedule prior to the general election in November.

Massa wants to face Kuhl, R-Hammondsport, in one debate in each of the eight counties that make up the 29th Congressional District.

"Now that Randy Kuhl has announced his intention to run for re-election, he owes it to the voters to join me in public debates," said Massa, a Corning resident. "I will adjust my calendar to accommodate him so we will not infringe on his schedule."

Kuhl said Thursday Massa is rushing things a bit. While Massa declared a second run at Kuhl last year, the incumbent announced just last month he'd seek a third term.

"At this point we're just starting to organize the campaign," Kuhl said Thursday. "I look forward to the debates, like I have in the past. It's much too premature at this point."

Kuhl also said both he and Massa could face primary



KUHL

MASSA

opponents. If that happens, there would be only two months in which to schedule appearances, Kuhl said.

Massa also criticized Kuhl for changing the format of his public town meetings that begin today. Instead of holding public forums at town halls, Kuhl is inviting constituents to speak with him in a more personal, confidential manner.

Kuhl said his staff will be on hand to assist residents in what will be more of an office-like atmosphere. He said numerous residents requested the change in format.

"It's quite unfortunate that Randy Kuhl has decided to hide behind his staff by holding closed-door meetings rather than having an open and transparent dialogue with the public," Massa said.

BATH

Police: Liquor store owner chases down rum thief

THE LEADER STAFF

BATH | The owner of a West Steuben Street liquor store thwarted an attempted theft Wednesday, chasing the perpetrator from the store and leading to his arrest.

Steven J. Ordway, 29, was charged Wednesday afternoon with petit larceny.

Marlea Sherwood, the owner of Sherwood's Wine and Liquor, said she was talking to a friend at about 12:10 p.m. in front of her store when she saw Ordway walk into the shop.

Sherwood said Ordway took a bottle of rum from a shelf and fled the building.

"I grabbed a pricing gun and took off after him," Sherwood said.

Ordway then ran down West Steuben Street toward the Steuben County Office Building as bystanders tried to stop him.

"He slipped and fell on the bottle and broke it," Sherwood said. "Then he got up and walked away. I stood on the corner and watched him walk up Steuben Street, then I called the police on my cell phone."

Village police arrested Ordway a couple of blocks away near the Bath Ambulance garage.

Ordway was taken from the scene by Bath Ambulance to the Ira Davenport Hospital where he was treated for cuts he suffered when he fell with the bottle in his hands.

TODAY'S MEETINGS

Village board
Noon
Hammondsport
Village Hall

School board committee
7 a.m.
Bath
District office

East High Drama presents

Les Miserables

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& Cameron Mackintosh

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