

## Kuhl announces regional airport grant

THE LEADER STAFF

WASHINGTON | U.S. Representative John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. announced Monday that Elmira/Corning Regional Airport will receive a \$835,512 grant from the Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration.

"These funds will provide the opportunity for more people and businesses to visit the area by aircraft and open the door for economic growth in the Elmira and Corning communities," said Kuhl, R-Hammondsport.



KUHL

The grant will help pay for the second phase of a plan to improve the terminal access road and drainage at the airport. The improvements to the terminal access road will ensure safe aircraft operations, Kuhl's office said.

The airport is owned and operated by Chemung County and is staffed by 17 county employees.

## Horseheads project is on schedule and under budget

BY BOB RECOTTA  
rrecotta@the-leader.com

HORSEHEADS | The Horseheads High School auditorium, which has been closed for a year for renovations, should be open by the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

Todd LaBarr, project manager for Watchdog Building Partners, told the Horseheads school board Monday the project was both on schedule and

SEE PROJECT | 5A

IN BRIEF

### Village clerk's office closed Fri.

HAMMONDSPORT | The Hammondsport village clerk's office will be closed Friday.

TODAY'S MEETINGS

#### School Board

7 p.m.  
Avoca  
Cafeteria

7 p.m.  
Bradford  
School Library

#### Planning Board

7 p.m.  
Hammondsport  
Village Office

7 p.m.  
Wayne  
Town Hall

6:30 p.m.  
Big Flats  
Town Hall

#### Town Board

7 p.m.  
Prattsburgh  
Town Hall

7 p.m.  
Urbana  
Town Hall



JASON COX | THE LEADER

Firefighters work to control a fire Monday in four Pace Manufacturing silos in Erwin.

## Firefighters battle blaze in Pace Manufacturing silos

BY ANTHONY AFFISSO  
The Leader staff

ERWIN | Firefighters worked to control a fire in four Pace Manufacturing silos Monday.

A contractor was doing welding on the roof of the building and unintentionally ignited animal feed, officials said. Addison, Painted Post, Coopers Plains and Forest-View Gang Mills fire departments all responded

to the scene.

"We had to contain the fire and extinguish it using foam," said Pete Bierwiler, Forest-View Gang Mills fire chief.

There was no extensive damage and no one was injured, Bierwiler said.

Firefighters put water on the smoldering bins, but were forced to pull back and wait for expert advice on how to avoid an explosion.

According to Lydia

Botham, executive director of Land O' Lakes, soybean bins were smoldering and a total of four bins caught fire.

"All of our employees are safe," said Botham. "We would like to thank all of the fire companies for their quick response."

The plant, located at 894 Addison Road in the town of Erwin, is adjacent to Corning Inc.'s Diesel Technology Plant.

IN BRIEF

### Health fair set for Tuesday, June 24

MONTEREY | The Schuyler County Office for the Aging will host a health fair from 1-4 p.m. June 24 at the Monterey Baptist Church, county route 16. Many area agencies will provide information on health and

wellness. There will also be blood pressure screenings and door prizes. A senior congregate meal will follow at 4:30 p.m. Those 60 years old and older are requested to give a \$2.50 donation. For those under 60 years old, the cost is \$3. Reservations are requested by June 18. To make a reservation, call 535-7470.

## Have a Ball!!



## Be a Mentor!

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Register for a Mentoring Orientation June 26 at 7:00pm, Corning Library.

Call Steuben County Youth Mentoring Program 776-9631, ext. 2608 or lynner@co.steuben.ny.us

## Mom agrees to plea deal in baby's death

THE LEADER STAFF

ELMIRA | A 23-year-old Elmira woman admitted Monday that she accidentally suffocated her 6-week-old baby in November.

Summer Cook agreed to a plea deal in Chemung County Court that will greatly reduce the number of years she may face in prison. She pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide and could face 1.3 to four years in prison when she is sentenced on Aug. 4.

She was indicted on second-degree manslaughter and faced 15 years if convicted.

Cook told the court she was highly intoxicated and asleep on a couch with the baby on her chest, said Chemung County Assistant District Attorney John Thweatt. The baby died when it awoke and Cook put her hand over her face to quiet her.

"She just wanted the baby to stop fussing and carrying on," Thweatt said.

He said Cook did not intend to kill her baby but "failed to appreciate the risk" of her actions.

She is being held in the Chemung County Jail with no bail set.

## Silver lining to Widmer's cutbacks?

BY EMILY MCAUL  
GateHouse News Service

NAPLES | Village officials are trying to figure out how recent production cuts at Widmer's Wine Cellars will affect the rest of Naples.

Bonds to build a proposed water filtration plant would be paid back by water customers, and the winery currently accounts for 36 percent of all water billing, according to Mayor Will Sherwood.

Plant manager Glen Curtis estimates a 20 percent drop in production as Widmer's discontinues less-popular wines. Widmer's owner, Constellation Brands, announced in April that it would cut 30 jobs at the plant - about one-third of its work force - by the end of May.

Despite the lost jobs and potential lost water revenue, Sherwood is looking for a silver lining.

The idea of tapping Widmer's existing industrial wastewater treatment plant for use in a municipal sewer project is possible.

Naples currently has no sewer system, making it costly and difficult for businesses to handle wastewater.

Estimates are a new sewer system would cost the village more than \$13 million.

The first step would be to get Constellation to agree to share the facility. The town and village would share the operating costs for the treatment plant with the winery.

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