



JASON COX | THE LEADER

Congressman-elect Eric Massa stands in front of a Chevrolet Equinox Fuel Cell electric vehicle that he drove to Washington D.C. Monday morning.

Massa heads to Washington

BY BOB RECOTTA
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CORNING | It's been a long, three-year journey, but Congressman-elect Eric Massa is going to Washington.

Massa will take the oath of office today to become the 29th Congressional District's representative in the House of Representatives.

In previous conversations, the Corning resident has said the country's dire economic situation has bestowed upon him a sense of urgency about what needs to be done. He admitted Monday, however, he is excited about his new opportunity.

"I think it hit home when I was home packing my luggage," Massa said. "The next time I'll be back is two weeks from now and I was sitting there thinking through what I have to do. I was packing my bags and I was count-

ing the number of T-shirts I had to take. I had to stop and think, 'This is real.' That responsibility has now come home."

Massa's victory in November against U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, avenged a defeat in 2006. He became the first Democrat since Stan Lundine — who held the office through the mid-80s — to represent the district, where registered Republicans far outnumber Democrats.

Given the state of the economy, Massa said there will be no honeymoon for anyone in Washington.

"There's no doubt the people who have come up to me on the street have made it clear we are in a historic moment," Massa said. "We have one shot to get it right. It is about getting it right with our one shot."

Throughout his campaign,

Massa pledged to do his part in changing how Washington, D.C. operates. Monday, he took a symbolic step by traveling to Washington in a Chevrolet Equinox Fuel Cell electric vehicle.

Gary Stottler, manager of fuel cell vehicle service and support for GM, said the vehicle runs on hydrogen and can travel approximately 160 miles between fuelings.

"Why drive a hydrogen vehicle? It's to illustrate the kinds of technologies and jobs we can grow right here," Massa said. "That car is from Honeoye Falls. Why not be a champion for what we can do here in upstate New York?"

Stottler said currently there are 100 fueling stations nationwide. Unfortunately for Massa, there isn't one between Corning and Washington. Therefore, Massa had to change into another fuel cell car in Harrisburg, Pa.

Massa said his previous trips to the Capitol for orientation have been consumed by addressing the recession. He said he doesn't yet have an apartment in which to hang his hat once he gets to Washington, D.C.

"My apartment is my couch," Massa said. "There are no apartments or no anything until after the presidential inauguration. It's packed, but we'll find a way."

Massa said he'd hold local swearing-in ceremonies later this month.

"We're really focusing on constituent services," Massa said. "Ceremonies will be a way to mark the opening of the offices and get people knowing where they can go for help."

Massa said he will have offices on Market Street in Corning, in Pittsford and in Olean.

Dinner to benefit Sorge family

BY CHRISTINA ROSSETTIE
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CORNING | Several local restaurant owners and All Saints Parish have teamed up to plan a fundraising benefit to help the Sorge family, whose Market Street restaurant was destroyed by fire Dec. 27.

The benefit will be held from 2-8 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Big Flats.

Tickets for the benefit are \$10 and will be sold starting Wednesday at Spencer's Restaurant, Brow's Cigar Store, The Information Center and Wegmans.

"I have been on the street for a long time and when I saw the fire at Sorge's my heart sunk," said Kirk Declemente, owner of Declemente's Restaurant on Market Street.

Declemente said he enlisted the help of Tommy Pierri,

IF YOU GO

What | Benefit for Sorge family
When | 2-8 p.m. Jan. 25
Where | Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, Big Flats

owner of The Central Restaurant in Painted Post, and Bill Spaulding, who runs Corning Catering.

"From there it started to explode immediately," Declemente said. "The Wings of Eagles Discovery Center has been extremely gracious, they are donating the use of their hall for the day."

Jack Benjamin, president of Three Rivers Development Corp., is handling the proceeds, which will go directly to the Sorge family.

"It is all starting to come together," Declemente said.

SEE SORGE | 5A

Teen, 13, dies after skiing accident

THE LEADER STAFF

ULYSSES, PA. | A Virginia teen has been identified as the victim of a skiing accident Saturday afternoon at Ski Denton.

Pennsylvania authorities said Monday that Patrick Shire, 13, of Haymarket, Va., died when he struck a tree after going off a trail.

The cause of death was blunt force trauma, the Potter County Coroner's office reported.

The accident happened at about 2:45 p.m. Saturday, according to state police at Coudersport. Dusenbury pronounced dead at Charles Cole Memorial Hospital.

Ski Denton is located on state Route 6 in Ulysses.

Savona man sentenced for abusing young girl

THE LEADER STAFF

BATH | A 55-year-old Savona man was sentenced Monday to six months in jail for abusing a young girl.



DEMONSTOY

Demonstoy pleaded guilty in Steuben County Court to first-degree attempted sexual

abuse, a class E felony. He faced up to four years in state prison.

In addition to jail time, Demonstoy will serve 10 years probation and will be required to register as a sex offender.

According to authorities, Demonstoy had sexual contact with a 9-year-old girl in the spring of 2008.

Demonstoy had been free awaiting sentencing.

MLK breakfast celebration slated

BY MARY PERHAM
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CORNING | It's a time for hope in America, despite a troubled economy, wars in the Mideast, and crises in education and health care, according to Pamela Porter of Corning.

That hope will be the underlying theme of Porter's keynote speech at the annual Martin Luther King breakfast from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at the Radisson Hotel Corning.

"President-elect Barack Obama sends a message of hope, not only to people in the United States but around the world," she said. "As he said in his (acceptance) speech, change has come to America."

A New Jersey native, Porter has lived in the area for eight years. Porter is marketing communications manager for Corning Environmental Technologies and a minister at

Friendship Baptist Church.

"I'll look back at what has contributed to our success and at encouraging our children to take specific actions that can lead to their success," Porter said. "And at making improvements in the African-American community and the community at large."

When King made his famous "I Have A Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963, educators across the nation were hotly debating the nature vs. nurture theory — the idea that blacks were intellectually inferior to whites because of their genetic nature. Others believed nurturing: good education, sound health and decent surroundings, were more important than anyone's race or background.

And 45 years later, Obama, the son of a single white mother and African father, Ivy League-educated and successful in his careers, is set to become the first black president.

IF YOU GO

What: Martin Luther King Breakfast Celebration.
When: 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday
Where: Radisson Hotel Corning, 125 Denison Parkway East.
Donation: \$15 adults, and \$7.50 for youth 12 and under.
Theme: "Remembering Dr. King — As Change Comes To America."
Keynote speaker Pamela Porter
For more information, call 962-8398.

"In that speech, King said he looked forward to the day when a man was judged by the content of his character and not the color of skin," Porter said. "Now Barack Obama has had opportunities and he's made the most of them. That doesn't mean others have the same opportunities."

sessions begin at 1 p.m. in the Laura Beer Community Room. Adults and children age five and older are invited to participate in the program, which includes music and musical instruments and literature. The programs will be presented by Ivan A. Cornejo. Other sessions will be announced when scheduled. The series is free of charge. Children age eight and younger must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 936-3713, Ext. 503.

■ Staff reports

IN BRIEF

School board meeting slated

PAINTED POST | The Corning-Painted Post school board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Calvin U. Smith Elementary School, 3414 Stanton St.

BOCES board meeting to be held

PAINTED POST | The Greater Southern Tier BOCES board of trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m. today in building eight of the Coopers Plains campus.

CCC board of trustees to meet

CORNING | The Corning Community College board of trustees will meet at 6:10 p.m. Wednesday in the Business Development Center, Denison Parkway.

Library to hold programs

CORNING | The Southeast Steuben County Library will hold two roundtable programs on South and Central America Jan. 25 and Jan. 31. Both

TODAY'S MEETINGS

Town Board organizational meeting

6 p.m.
Campbell
Town Hall, Main Street.

Town Board, re-organizational meeting

4 p.m.
Bath
Village board room, 110 Liberty St.

Town Planning Board

7 p.m.
Bath
Village board room, 110 Liberty St.

Public Works Committee

9 a.m.
Steuben County Legislature
Legislative committee room, Steuben County Office Building, 3 E Pulteney St., Bath.

Town board meeting rescheduled

CAMPBELL | The Campbell Town Board 2009 re-organizational meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday has been changed to 6 p.m. Tuesday. The meeting will be held to take care of the 2009 re-organizational business.

STOP LEARN THE FIVE DEADLY MISTAKES THAT CAN KILL YOUR ACCIDENT CASE!

- What you need to know BEFORE talking to the insurance company
- Myths about Insurance Claims that simply are NOT true
- What you need to know BEFORE talking to any attorney
- How to find the right attorney for YOU
- Why honesty is ALWAYS the best policy for your case

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Homeowner's Corner
by **Matthew Smith**

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PAINT

While water-based (latex) paints are very popular, they cannot exactly be considered environmentally friendly. Just because they clean up with soap and water does not mean that there are not a lot of oil-based ingredients still in the can. In fact, conventional latex paints contain a variety of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as glycols, coalescing agents, alcohol, and mineral spirits. These ingredients can be toxic when released into the air. For this reason, beginning in the early 1990s, the federal government began cracking down on acceptable levels of VOCs. Now, every manufacturer has either a low-VOC or no-VOC formulation. These products are particularly helpful for homeowners with young children and family members with allergies.

If you're painting a nursery or a child's room, and you're planning to use low-VOC paints then be sure to stop into **THE CORNING BUILDING COMPANY**. We have a huge selection of all kinds of paints, including low-VOC options, as well as the brushes, rollers, ladder, tape, and other tools you need for any painting project. We also have a wide variety of tools and supplies for any other environmentally friendly project around your house. You can find our store at **346 Park Ave., CBC Plaza, Corning**, or call **607-936-9921**. You can also visit our websites, www.corningbuilding.com, and www.bathbuilding.com. We are open M-F 7:30-6, Sat. 7:30-4, and Sun. 10-2, and have a 2nd location in Bath, NY, on Washington Blvd.

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER.
GIVE YOUR HOME A TUNE-UP FOR THE NEW YEAR WITH PRATT & LAMBERT PAINTS

HINT: The first thing you sense about low-/no-VOC paints is that they have low to no odor.

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