

**IN BRIEF**

**Group to present open-mic night**

**WATKINS GLEN** | The Watkins Glen Writers' Group will present a themed evening open-mic at 7 p.m. today at Storylines Bookstore and Cafe. The evening's theme will be "Hidden Meanings." All individuals interested in sharing or listening to literary, musical, or other artistic work related to the theme are invited to participate. For details, call 546-4703.

**Center to hold movie screening**

**ELMIRA** | The Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers will screen the film "A Life Apart: Hasidism in America" at 7 p.m. today. The film explores the lives of the Hasidim and their customs including matchmaking, yeshiva education and traditional dress. Admission to the film is free. The center is located at 1008 W. Water St. For details, call 734-8122.

**Relay for Life kickoff slated**

**CORNING** | The Corning-Painted Post Relay for Life Committee will hold its 2009 kickoff event from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Southeast Steuben County Library. New and existing teams and any interested community members are invited to attend. The event will provide information about the 2009 Relay to be held June 19. For details, call 734-1553, Ext. 4.

**Dinner theater auditions slated**

**CORNING** | First United Methodist Church will hold public auditions for the upcoming dinner theater production of "The Reckoning" at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the church's Cheney Lounge. "The Reckoning," a humorous look at personal shortcomings, will be staged in the round on Feb. 21 as part of the 2nd annual Mardi Gras celebration. Parts are available for 11 adults, and most parts have fewer than 10 lines. The play will be directed by Rick Svers. For details, call 962-4608.

**Guthrie to offer scholarships**

**CORNING** | The application deadline for Guthrie's 35th annual Health Professions and Guthrie Employee Scholarships is Friday. Applicants for the Health Professions Scholarship must be high school seniors who plan to enter an accredited college, university, hospital-based nursing or allied health program with careers in health professions, including hospital administration or a planned career in medical research, in the summer or fall of 2009. Applicants for the Guthrie Employee Scholarships must be high school seniors who are the children of Guthrie employees and who plan to enroll in an accredited junior college, college, or university in the summer or fall of 2009. Any career interest is allowed for these scholarships, and students may apply simultaneously for a Health Professions Scholarship if all the criteria for that scholarship are met. Students from local districts in New York and Pennsylvania are eligible. Applications are available at school guidance offices, the Guthrie Human Resources Departments, Guthrie Clinic Administration Offices, and the Guthrie Healthcare System Administration Office. For details, call (570) 882-3004.

**Staff reports**

**TODAY'S MEETINGS**  
**School Board**

**6 p.m.**  
Campbell-Savona Central  
Campbell-Savona High School, large group instruction room  
Canisteo-Greenwood Central  
Canisteo-Greenwood High School, 84 Greenwood St., Canisteo

**County Legislature**

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

# More than 2000 come out for Sorge benefit



The Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Big Flats was filled to capacity Sunday afternoon with supporters of the Sorge family. The facility hosted a benefit for the Sorges' restaurant, which burned down recently.

JASON COX | THE LEADER

## Local businesses supplied food, items for event

BY BOB RECOTTA  
rrecotta@the-leader.com

**CORNING** | Less than a month ago, the community was stunned when it heard Sorges' Restaurant, a community fixture for more than 50 years, had burned to the ground. On Sunday, community members came out to show their support for the Sorge family.

More than 2,000 people packed the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center Sunday to attend a benefit held for the Sorge family.

The benefit was organized by many of the Sorges' fellow restaurateurs, including Billy Spaulding of Corning Catering, Kirk DeClemente of DeClemente's Restaurant and Tommy Pieri of Pieri's Central Restaurant.

"When I heard about the fire, I put myself in their position," DeClemente said. "My livelihood, my life gone. I had to do something. It's a community event. It just shows how wonderful

Corning is. People come together whenever someone is in need."

DeClemente said about 100 local merchants donated items to the silent auction and raffles. They also sold 2,000 tickets, with people still buying tickets at the door.

Corning City Councilman Hilda Lando, D-3, who was also on the committee that planned the benefit, said more than 200 volunteers from the community helped make the benefit a success.

"I always knew this was a wonderful community," Lando said. "This proves it. What an amazing turnout."

Among the community members who came out for the benefit was Fran Bates, who has owned Fran's Bridal Shop for more than 50 years.

"My daughter was great friends with Theresa Sorge," Bates said. "They were in each other's weddings. I've known Joe and Mike Sorge all of their lives. I was devastated over their loss."

Joe Sorge, who co-owned Sorges'



THE LEADER | JASON COX

**Joe Sorge, right, who co-owned Sorges' Restaurant thanks Bill Spaulding owner of Corning Catering Inc. who helped organize the benefit.**

Restaurant with his brother Mike, said he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from his community.

SEE BENEFIT | 5A

## SCIDA to assist in brown field development, OKs 10% match

BY MARY PERHAM  
leaderbath@yahoo.com

**BATH** | Local economic development groups are willing to redevelop nearly 500 acres of unused land in Painted Post, Erwin and Riverside, but the question remains whether the state will have the money to fund the project.

The state's Brownfield Opportunity Area grant,

which pays for the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites, is in jeopardy of not being funded in the next fiscal year.

That didn't stop both the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency and the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board to go ahead Thursday and apply for brownfield funding.

SCIDA board members

approved without hesitation appropriating \$10,000 as the required 10 percent match of local funds if the grant application is approved.

Later that day, regional planning board members followed that pledge for a local match by agreeing to hold public reviews before submitting plans to develop several acres in Erwin, Painted Post

SEE BROWNFIELD | 5A

## SCIDA, Urbana to conduct water study for businesses to join municipal supply

BY MARY PERHAM  
leaderbath@yahoo.com

**URBANA** | Plans to connect two wineries to the Hammondsport municipal water supply have been resurrected following an agreement to study the plan.

The Steuben County Industrial Development Agency has agreed to split with the town of Urbana the \$10,000 cost for the study, which will examine the impact of running water lines to several businesses along state Route 54A, including Bully Hill and Heron Hill wineries.

The idea was initially raised in 2005, but gained little momentum. The project recently received support from U.S. Rep. Eric Massa, D-Corning, who has

met with local officials.

Massa said Friday he "strongly supported" water districts in Urbana as a way to help the wine and local tourism

industries and residents.

"It's my No. 1 priority," Massa said. "I never make any guarantees but only the one that I will work around the clock for my district." Massa said the water district is among local projects he

SEE WATER | 5A

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