

IN BRIEF

Bath resident arrested in Fla.

PALM BAY, FLA. | A prominent Bath resident was one of two men arrested on misdemeanor charges of lewd indecent exposure Friday, Palm Bay police report. Garth Murray, 78, is accused of propositioning an undercover officer at a city park and then exposing himself. He was arrested during a police sting in response to complaints about sexual activity between different men at Castaways Point Park and AIS Trails, according to *Florida Today*. Murray is a retired veterinarian who is a former chairman of the Bath Republican Committee. He has also been an officer with the Steuben County Fair for many years.

Relay for Life kickoff to be held

CORNING | The Corning-Painted Post Relay for Life Committee will hold its 2009 kickoff event from 6-7:30 p.m. today 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 have fewer than 10 lines. The play will be directed by Rick Sivers. For details, call 962-4608.

IAAP to meet in Big Flats Feb. 2

BIG FLATS | The Elmira-Corning chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 2 at the Big Flats Community Center. The meeting will include dinner catered by Minier’s of Big Flats and a presentation by Delia Gardner titled “Office Ergonomics.” The cost of the program is \$14 including dinner or \$7 without dinner. Registration is required by 4 p.m. Friday. To register, e-mail wilsonvj@cmog.org.

Valley Folk to throw ‘rent party’

ELMIRA | Valley Folk will hold “The Most Fabulous Rent Party” at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Attendees should bring a dish to pass with a serving utensil for the buffet supper and a beverage. Coffee and tea, paper goods, cutlery and plates will be provided. Musicians will be on hand during the event and attendees are encouraged to bring songs and unplugged instruments. Any style of music is welcome. Donations will be accepted to help cover rent expenses for the coming year. Valley Folk is located at 254 Baldwin St. For details, visit www.valleyfolk.org.

Auditions for ‘Alysa of the Fields’ slated

CORNING | Auditions for the audio book “Alysa of the Fields” by Corning author Tina Field Howe will be held from 2-4 p.m. Sunday and from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the 171 Cedar Arts Center Drake House. Parts are available for males and females ages 10 and older. Individuals who can speak with mid-western U.S. and “refined” British accents are needed. Acting experience is not required. For details, call 936-1455.

TODAY’S MEETINGS

Fire district
6-9 p.m.
Caton District 1 | Public vote
Caton Fire Dept., Caton Road, Corning
Town board
7 p.m.
Big Flats
Town Hall

Caton to vote on spending \$315K



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Bob Smith, left, chairman of the Fire District Board, speaks during Tuesday’s public hearing in Caton.

Residents will decide fire truck purchase

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CATON | Town residents will vote tonight to decide if \$315,000 should be spent by the Caton Fire District to purchase a pumper/tanker fire truck.

The vote will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Caton Fire Hall.

The Caton Fire District held a public hearing Tuesday night to discuss the cost

and value of purchasing a new fire truck.

Bob Smith, chairman of the Fire District Board, said the truck would replace two older trucks, a 1990 and 1995 pumper.

“The (two) trucks are getting to the point that it makes sense to get rid of them when they can still be sold,” Smith said. “We are trying to get on a system where trucks are rotated before being kept too long.”

IF YOU GO

What | Public vote on fire truck purchase
When | 6-9 p.m. today
Where | Caton Fire Hall

If the purchase is approved by voters the two older pumper/tankers will be sold, raising an estimated \$40,000 to \$80,000.

The Fire District has \$185,000 in a capital re-

serve fund to minimize the cost impact. The district has also applied for a United States Department of Agriculture grant.

“I totally support the purchase of this truck,” said Fire Chief Rick Button.

The new truck carries 250 more gallons of water than the two older trucks combined.

The vehicle would provide

SEE TRUCK | 5A

Snow may delay recycling pick-up

CORNING | The city Department of Public Works will suspend this morning’s recycling pick-up until Thursday if the expected snow storm intensifies as predicted. Garbage pick-up will continue as normal. Residents with questions can contact the Department of Public Works at 962-0340, Ext. 301.

Short-story contest deadline is Friday

CORNING | The deadline for the Southeast Steuben County Library Friends of the Library short story contest is 6 p.m. Friday. Guidelines and additional entry forms are available at the library. Each submission must be accompanied by an entry form. Winners will be announced at

the Writers’ Tea and Award Ceremony to be held at 7 p.m. March 2 at the library.

Church to host Robert Auler

CORNING | Robert Marshall Auler will give a piano performance at 6 p.m. Sunday at the First Methodist Church. Auler will also give a free piano master’s class to any interested individuals at 3 p.m. at the church. Both the concert and the class are open to the public. The church is located on the corner of First and Cedar streets. For details, call 962-4608.

Vignettes to hold benefit sale

CORNING | Vignettes Retail Store will hold an after-inventory sale from Sunday through Feb. 14. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the

American Cancer Society. Vignettes is located at 87 W. Market St. and is open from 10 a.m.-5:50 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

171 Cedar to host workshop, concert

CORNING | The 171 Cedar Arts Center will host Simple Gifts, a folk music duo, for a workshop and concert on Sunday. Linda Littleton and Karen Hirshon use 12 instruments to play a variety of ethnic music including Irish jigs and Scandinavian Twin Fiddling pieces. The duo will hold a one-hour workshop at 2 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to play with them. The workshop is free for 171 members and \$5 for non-members. The duo will perform at 4 p.m. in the center’s Drake Theatre. Tickets to the performance are \$20 with discounts offered for members and students. For details or tickets, visit

www.171cedararts.com or call 936-4647.

Church to host Super Bowl party

BEAVER DAMS | Grace Lee Memorial Wesleyan Church will host a Super Bowl party at 5 p.m. Sunday. The Super Bowl will be shown on a large screen, and there will be a special half-time video presentation of “Power to Win 2009!” featuring Derrick Brooks of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The free event will also include food and door prizes. The church is located at 2075 Chambers Road. For details, visit www.glmwc.com or call 962-3225.

■ Staff report

Massa supports Obama’s stimulus

BY BOB RECOTTA
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WASHINGTON, D.C. | Despite his reservations, U.S. Rep. Eric Massa, D-Corning, said he supports President Barack Obama’s stimulus package.



Massa said Tuesday morning he hasn’t looked over every line item of Obama’s proposed \$825 billion economic stimulus package, but agreed that the federal government must take bold action to kick-start the nation’s economy. “The sad reality is that if we do not act we will be looking at double-digit unemployment very soon,” Massa said. “Every economic expert that’s testified before Congress – Republican, Democrat, conservative, progressive – agreed we must act decisively.”

Massa said the House could vote as early as today on a stimulus package. He said the package contains money to aid local school districts and for projects such as the completion of interstates 86 and 99.

He did express regret, however, that the bulk of the stimulus package was being financed through deficit spending. Prior to being elected,

SEE MASSA | 5A

Man with 15 pounds of pot gets probation

THE LEADER STAFF

ELMIRA | An Elmira man who pleaded guilty to possessing 15 pounds of marijuana was sentenced Monday to alternating weekends in jail and five years probation.

James A. Shope, 35, will spend every other weekend in jail for four months. Also, he was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.

Chemung County Judge Peter Buckley imposed the light sentence because he said Shope has been performing community service since his arrest.

Shope, who owns a painting and drywall company, has been painting the John Jones Museum in Elmira, among other charitable projects.

Police found 15 pounds of marijuana after pulling over Shope on March 18, 2008. The drugs had an estimated street value of \$130,000, police said.

The maximum sentence Shope faced was 5.5 years in state prison.

The District Attorney’s Office told WETM TV Channel 18 it was disappointed with the sentence because it sent the wrong message.

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gift sets - soaps - candles

25% off

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