

**BENEFIT**

Continued from 3A

"It's unbelievable," Sorge said. "I used that same word the night of the fire. It's great to use that word in a different context today. You work every day, putting your nose to the grindstone, and sometimes you wonder if you are making a difference. I guess we made a difference."

**BROWNFIELD**

Continued from 3A

and Riverside, according to Southern Tier Central Executive Director Marcia Weber.

"We're moving on with the plan," Weber said.

The Brownfield Opportunity Program funding would be used in more than 30 sites throughout the three municipalities.

The parcels include the old Ingersoll-Rand foundry site, vacant property adjacent to Crystal City Cleaners near the Painted Post-Riverside boundary, and several locations on Victory Highway.

But officials weren't taking the project for granted.

SCIDA board member James Griffin warned the board the program funding could be a casualty as state lawmakers look to reduce the state's estimated \$15 billion budget gap at the end of the 2009-10 fiscal year.

"This is great work, but I don't think we'll get it," Griffin said, prompting board members to approve the matching dollars only if state funding is available.

Weber said her agency will continue to pursue the brownfields grant, and other state-funded programs.

"We haven't been told at this point that funding will be cut," Weber said. "And we will not stop until we do."

**WATER**

Continued from 3A

highlighted in a recent visit with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Jim Oberstar.

Extending Hammondsport's municipal water supply could also service other developments and some residents along state Route 54A.

Jim Sherron, SCIDA executive director, said Hammondsport's water system would benefit from the expansion because it is operating at far below capacity.

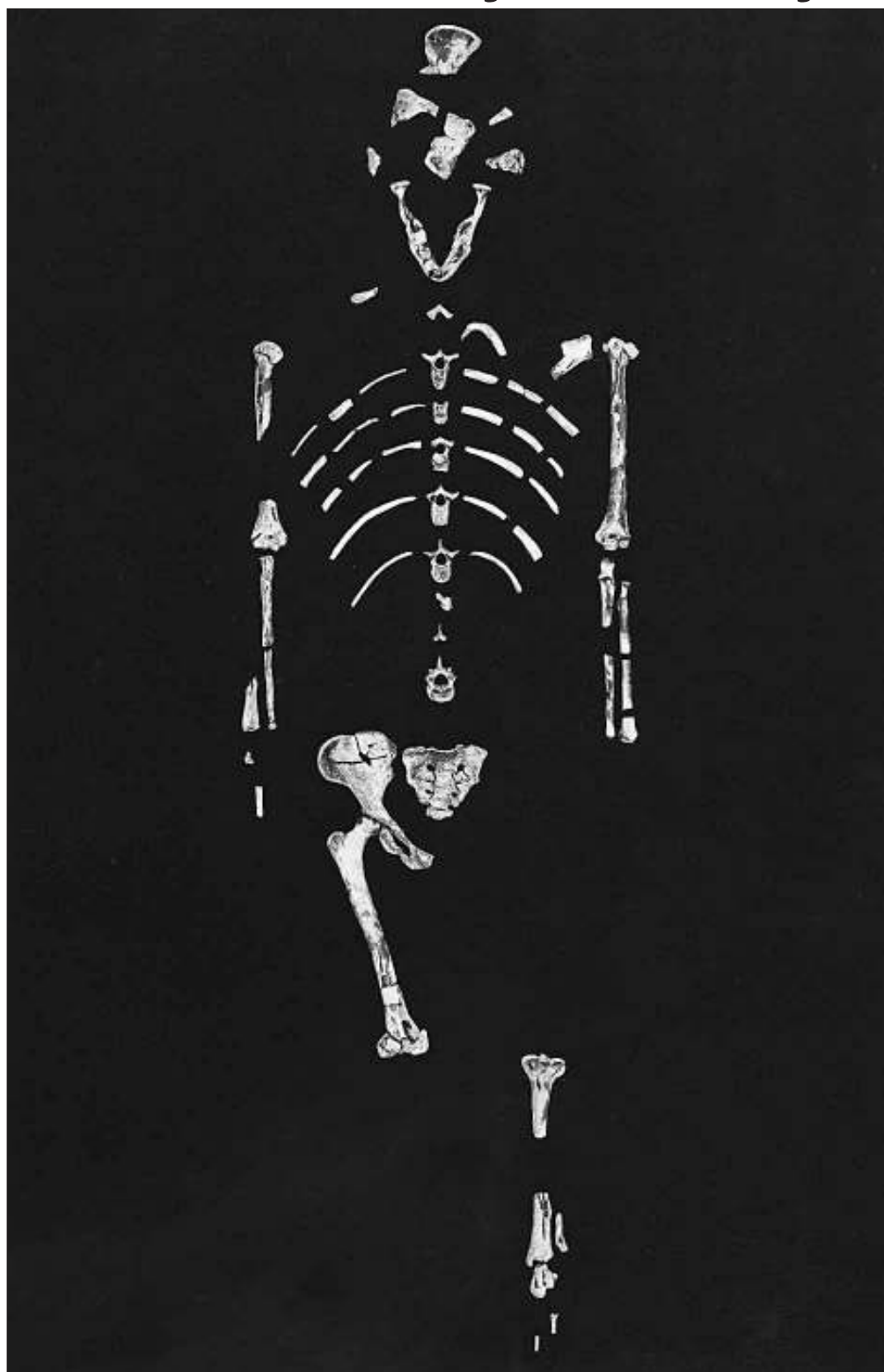
Urbana Councilman James Pressley said he was excited by Massa's strong support of the district.

"I am really happy that they're back on the table, because I've worked hard on this through the years," Pressley said.

**St. Joe's seminar set**

**ELMIRA** | St. Joseph's Hospital will offer a seminar entitled "The Good News about Knee and Hip Pain" at 11 a.m. Feb. 3 in the hospital's Cusick Room. The seminar is free and open to the public. To register, call 737-7809.

# Who loves ya' baby?



In this 1983 file photo, the fossil skeleton known as Lucy is seen on display at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Cleveland, Ohio.

## Seattle shows little love for Lucy fossil exhibit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SEATTLE** | Who loves Lucy? Far fewer people than a Seattle science center hoped when officials paid millions to show the fossil remains of one of the earliest known human ancestors.

Halfway through the five-month exhibit, the Pacific Science Center faces a half-million-dollar loss resulting in layoffs of 8 percent of the staff, furloughs and a wage freeze, President Bryce Seidl said Friday.

Lucy is a 3.2 million-year-old fossilized partial skeleton of a species with chimplike features that

walked upright. The discovery in 1974 in Ethiopia forced a major revision of theories about the evolution of Homo sapiens.

The fossil exhibit was successful at the first stop on the tour - Houston in 2007, but the expenses have other museums reconsidering the planned six-year, 10-city tour.

The Seattle center's staff redesigned the Lucy exhibit, adding a large section on Ethiopian history and artifacts, an audio tour and interactive displays in which visitors can put themselves in the shoes of a fossil hunter.

"It's a powerful story of evolution and culture and

history ... but we're not getting the attendance we need for an exhibit of this scale," Seidl said.

The center had hoped to draw 250,000 visitors during the exhibit that ends March 8, but only 60,000 have come. Seidl blamed the recession, which has cut into arts and museum revenue nationwide, as well as December snowstorms that curtailed travel within and around Seattle.

The Lucy show cost the center about \$2.25 million, Seidl estimated. That includes a \$500,000 fee to Ethiopia, which plans to use the money for cultural and scientific programs.

**DEATH NOTICES****Louis N. Pecaro**

**BATH** | Louis N. Pecaro, 83, formerly of River Street, Hornell, died Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 at the Bath V.A. Hospital.

He was the former owner of a news stand and served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Calling hours are 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday at Dagon Funeral Home, 38 Church St., Hornell.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Wednesday at St. Ann's Church.

Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Phillip D. Bennett**

**CORNING** | Phillip D. Bennett, 76, of 1444 county route 5, Addison, died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009 at Corning Hospital.

He was a retired pipe fitter for Corning Inc. and served

in the Navy during the Korean conflict.

Survivors include his wife, Glenda F. Bennett of Addison; two daughters, Lisa Amidon of Hornell, Norma Hoffmann of Addison; a sister, Frances Longwell of Prattsburgh.

Calling hours are 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at H.P. Smith & Son Inc. Funeral Home, 1607 Main St., Woodhull.

Services will be held there at 11 a.m. Thursday, the Rev. Kit Tobin officiating.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

**Robbie March Vaughns**

**ELMIRA** | Robbie March Vaughns, 59, of Water Street, died Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 at Arnot Ogden Medical Center.

Arrangements are in complete at Acly-Stover Funeral Home, Corning.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

## House speaker to resign amid ethics allegation

BY RODRIQUE NGOWI  
Associated Press Writer

**BOSTON** | Massachusetts' House speaker said Sunday he would resign amid allegations a close friend used their relationship to push ticket-scalping legislation and paid off legal bills for the speaker's in-laws.

In a letter to colleagues Sunday, Democrat Salvatore DiMasi said his resignation as a state representative and as speaker would be effective at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

"No matter what the critics and cynics will say, all my actions as state Representative and as Speaker were based solely on what I thought was in the best interests of my district and the people of the Commonwealth," DiMasi said in his letter.

He said he would call for a caucus Wednesday to choose his successor.

DiMasi has not been accused of any wrongdoing in the criminal investigation of his friend, Richard Vitale. He had won re-election as speaker earlier this month, despite questions into his involvement with Vitale, who once served as his campaign treasurer.

Vitale has pleaded not guilty to concealing his work as a lobbyist and having contact with the speaker while pushing ticket-scalping legislation on behalf of brokers. Earlier this week, court documents revealed Vitale also paid

\$7,500 in legal debts accumulated by DiMasi's in-laws in September 2007.

DiMasi had earlier repaid an unusual \$250,000 third mortgage he received from Vitale on his Boston condominium after the loan was disclosed by *The Boston Globe*. That loan could have been illegal if Vitale were a lobbyist, since the state's conflict-of-interest law prohibits members from accepting anything of value from lobbyists.

No direct allegations have been made against DiMasi, who has said he never spoke to Vitale about the bill.

Vitale has denied acting as a lobbyist. His attorney said the work he did for the Massachusetts Association of Ticket Brokers was exempt from the state's lobbying registration requirements.

Attorney General Martha Coakley said Vitale was paid \$60,000 in lobbying fees by ticket brokers interested in changing the state's scalping laws. She said Vitale communicated directly with DiMasi before the bill passed the House last year. The legislation died in the Senate.

DiMasi had been the House speaker since 2004, after his predecessor resigned under his own ethics cloud. He was first elected to his seat representing Boston's North End in 1978.

DiMasi played a key role in enacting a landmark 2006 health care law that requires virtually everyone in the state be insured.

**OBITUARIES****DeFORREST N.****HILLIGUS**

DeForrest N Hilligus, age 77, of 5435 Cty. Rte. 41, Hornby Rd., Beaver Dams, passed away Thursday, January 22, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer surrounded by his loving family at the family homestead in Hornby. DeForrest was born July 19 1931 in Dundee, NY. He is the son of the late Olyn and Edna (Harrison) Hilligus. He married Helen Confer June 18 1955 in Lockhaven, PA.

He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War from January 5, 1951 to November 18, 1954 as a Machinist Mate 3rd Class obtaining several distinguished medals for his service. He was employed by Corning Glass Works,

Corning, NY as a machinist, retiring with 37 faithful years of service. DeForrest was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and brother who enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He had many hobbies which included gardening, photography, predicting the weather, and the first snow of the winter. He enjoyed the stars and planets and working on his John Deere tractor. He always had a "Honey Do" list a mile long. He was a Jack of all trades who figured out any problem anyone had. He loved to hunt and trap and especially enjoyed being together with his wife Helen doing their ceramics.

He is survived by his wife, Helen (Confer) Hilligus; six daughters: Crystal (Wayne) Bills of Hornby, NY, Robbin (Renn) Shepherd of Tyrone, NY, Meshael (Ron) Nelson of Corning, NY, DeAnne (Jerome) Rarrick of Hornby, NY, Stephanie Sikes of Houston, TX, and Leslie (Dan) Kirk of Hornby, NY; three sisters: Patricia (Dick) Woodard of Dundee, NY, Annette Bruno of Geneva, NY, and Ilene Scott of Dundee, NY; and brother Duayne Hilligus of Houston, TX. DeForrest also is survived by 18 grandchildren, 22 great grandchild-

dren and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, four brothers and three sisters.

Calling hours will be Tuesday, January 27 from 3-5 pm at Carpenters Funeral Home, LLC., 14 E. Pulteney St. Corning, NY. A Funeral Service with military honors and Committal will be held immediately after calling hours at 5:00 pm with Rev. Richard Hurd officiating. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in DeForrest's name to the Hornby Volunteer Fire Co., 4838 Hornby Rd., Beaver Dams, NY 14812, or Southern Tier Hospice and palliative Care, 11751 East Corning Rd., Corning, NY 14830.

**JAMES E FOX**

James E. Fox, age 71, passed away after a two year battle against cancer, the morning of Saturday, January 24, 2009, in the comfort of his home. James is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Stasia (Stella); His son, Alan Fox of Pulteney; His daughter and son-in-law, Elaine (Fox) & Douglas Miller; and his grandson, Bradley Miller with

whom he shared a special bond.

James's services have been entrusted to Bottoni-Wood Funeral Home, 4 Mechanic Street, Prattsburgh, New York, 14873. Calling hours will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday, January 27th from 4:00pm - 6:00pm with services officiated by Rev. Donald Peek to immediately follow. Friends and family of James are invited to sign the guestbook and share memories @ townsendwoodfuneralchapel.com

**WINIFRED L CADY**

Winifred L. Cady, 82, of 391 Brookfield Road, Troupsburg, entered into rest on Saturday, January 24, 2009, at Corning Hospital.

Born in Troupsburg on April 29, 1926, she was the daughter of John B. and Mary F. Hopper Dempsey. She was a 1944 graduate of Troupsburg Central School.

On July 21, 1944, Winnie married Milton L. Cady at St. Mary's Rectory in Rexville. Milton preceded her in death on June 15, 2001. When first married, Winnie had worked as a nurse's aid at St. James Hospital in Hornell and later for Corning Glass Works. Most of her married life was

spent as a homemaker and partner on the family farm.

She was a communicant of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Rexville, as well as a former member of the North Fork Grange.

Also predeceasing Winnie were her brothers, John and Terrance Dempsey and her great grandson, David Cady.

Surviving are her sons, Milton "Mike" (Carolyn) Cady Jr. and Bruce (Maureen) Cady, both of Troupsburg, her daughters, Judy (Henry) Black of Healdsburg, CA, Jane (Verlyn) Belisle of Fairport, NY, Joyce Watt of Caledonia, NY, Carol Jones of Webster, NY and Sonya Cady of Scio, NY, 13 grandchildren and 12

great grandchildren.

She also leaves her brother, Matthew (Onalee) Dempsey of Troupsburg and sisters, Elizabeth Walker of Baton Rouge, LA and Mary Ellen Celli of San Francisco, CA.

Friends may call on Monday evening from 6-8 PM at the H. P. Smith & Son, Inc. Funeral Home, 1607 Main St. Woodhull, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Rexville. Rev. Robert Kanka and Deacon Robert McCormick will officiate.

Burial will be in Brookfield Cemetery, Brookfield, Pa.

Memorials may be made to the Troupsburg Ambulance Association or the Troupsburg Fire Department.

**OBITUARY & DEATH NOTICE POLICY**

- *The Leader* publishes death notices free of charge. Obituaries are paid advertisements.
- The deadline for death notices is 8 p.m. every day. They may be faxed to 936-9939. Death notices will only be accepted from funeral directors.
- Paid obituaries may be submitted:
  - Weekdays | Between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, by calling 936-4651.
  - Weekends and holidays | Between 9 a.m. and noon by calling 936-4651, Ext. 652.
- Paid obituaries may also be faxed during the above hours to 962-0782.
- To e-mail obituaries: [c\\_service@the-leader.com](mailto:c_service@the-leader.com)