

## Massa applauds energy bill

BY BOB RECOTTA  
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**CORNING** | Eric Massa, Democratic candidate for the 29th Congressional District, Wednesday hailed passage of a comprehensive energy bill that paves the way for increased offshore drilling.

Massa said the bill, which the House passed 236-189, with 15 Republicans crossing the aisle to vote with the Democratic majority, is a "key piece of legislation."

"I don't think it's the total solution we needed, but it's a major step toward energy independence," he said.

Massa said he backs the bill because it allows oil companies to drill for oil and natural gas 50 miles from the coast, while simultaneously requiring the companies to begin drilling on properties they've already leased.

The bill also repeals \$18 billion in tax breaks to oil companies over the next five years.

Massa said the bill also requires utility companies to generate 15 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and requires the government to replace 10 percent of the strategic reserve of light, sweet crude oil with oil containing higher sulfur levels.

The light, sweet crude, which would be released into the crude oil market, can be refined more quickly than the higher sulfur oil.

Massa said the bill could also create jobs in the 29th Congressional District.

"This bill directs \$20 billion in direct tax incentives to renewable energy and job creation in the renewable energy sector," Massa said. "A huge amount of money could be captured in western New York. Frankly, I was very happy to see this happen."

Massa's opponent, U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, voted against the bill Tuesday.

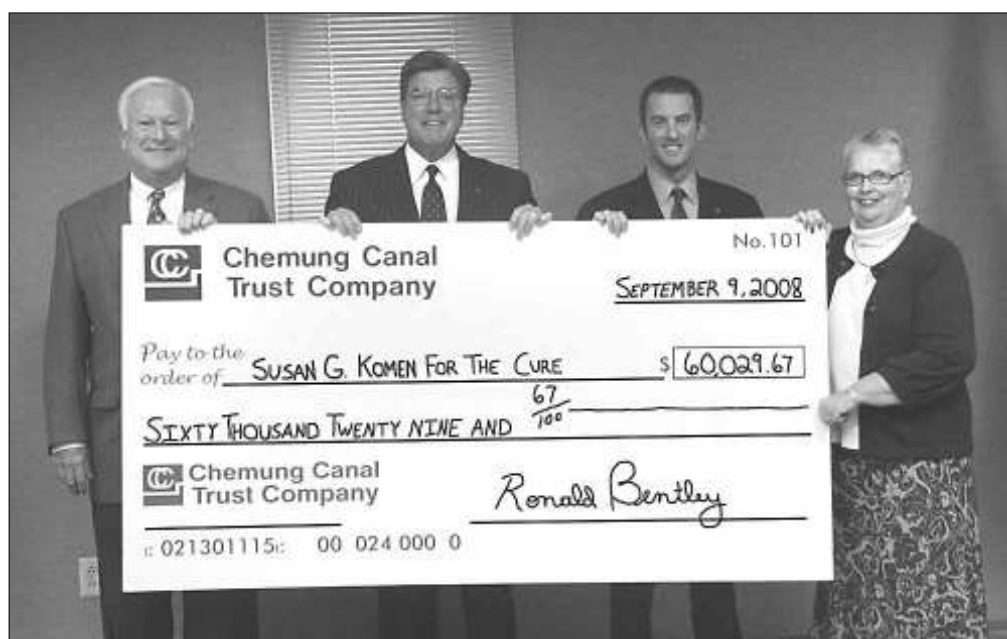
Massa said Kuhl was playing politics with the issue after spending part of the Congressional summer recess in Washington calling for Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to reconvene Congress to schedule a vote on offshore drilling.

House Republicans gave speeches on the darkened House floor.

"Over the last month to six weeks, members of Congress have gone to Washington to argue in an empty Congressional chamber while Congress was on their recess,"

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## TWIN TIERS FIGHTS CANCER



PROVIDED TO THE LEADER

Left to right: David J. Sheen, president of the Twin Tiers affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation; Ronald M. Bentley, president & CEO of Chemung Canal Trust Company; Scott T. Heffner and Cynthia L. Burdick. Heffner is the chairman of the race, Burdick is the race operations coordinator; both are employees of Chemung Canal Trust Company.

## Race for the Cure raises more than \$60K

### THE LEADER STAFF

**CORNING** | The 2008 Susan G. Komen Twin Tiers Race for the Cure raised more than \$60,000 to help continue the fight against breast cancer in the Twin Tiers and nationwide, officials announced.

"This year's Race for the Cure was a tremendous success," said Michael J. Wayne, vice president and director of marketing at Chemung Canal Trust Co., which sponsored the local race.

Nearly 1,300 participated in this year's Race for

the Cure. All of the funds raised will benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, with 75 percent of the proceeds remaining in the Twin Tiers for education, screening, treatment and research efforts.

## Tonello outlines plan for mending Albany's problems

BY JOHN ZICK  
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**ELMIRA** | State Senate candidate John Tonello outlined Wednesday his reform agenda that aims to eliminate "dysfunction" in Albany.

"In order to change Albany's culture of abuse and dysfunction, we can't just tweak knobs," Tonello said. "We must institute sweeping changes that return state government to the people."

Specifically, Tonello said, he would champion bipartisanship and reform the status quo.

Tonello, D-Elmira, is challenging state Sen. George Winner, R-Elmira, for the seat in the state Senate's 53rd District - which is comprised of Chemung, Steuben, Schuyler and Yates counties, as well as part of Tompkins County.

"George Winner has spent the last 30 years in Albany cultivating a reputation as an obstacle to change,"

Tonello said. "He relishes the very partisan politics and games that are destroying our state."

Winner said he has done much to change Albany for the better, including living up to a promise he made voters to pass the state budget on time.

Also, Tom Golisano's bipartisan Responsible New York organization - which advocates responsible state budgeting, real-estate tax

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## Disputed P'burgh land sale nearing completion

MARY PERHAM  
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**PRATTSBURGH** | Deeds are being drawn up to complete the disputed sale of property owned by the town of Prattsburgh to Kevin Cronk.

Town Supervisor Harold McConnell told board members Tuesday town Attorney John Leyden is completing the documents needed to transfer the town-owned 1.2-acre lot on County Route 74 to Cronk.

Several months ago, the town board opted to ask for bids instead of accepting for-

mer councilwoman Donna Campbell's offer to buy the land for \$1,000.

Campbell had been allowed by the town to use the lot, which is next to her property. Cronk lives across from the lot.

When the bids came in, Cronk was high bidder with \$2,100 and Campbell second with \$1,000. A third bid came in at \$900.

Campbell then notified officials she would consider a lawsuit against the town, charging the bid process was illegal.

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## Peers, friends mourn Tears

BY ROB PRICE  
Steuben Courier Advocate

**BATH** | Lola Tears, a fixture of Steuben County and local municipal government, as well as countless community service organizations, passed away at her home Sunday. She was 80.

Tears served in the Steuben County Legislature from 1994 to 2001 as a representative of Bath, Kanona and Savona. She drew high praise from her fellow legislators, who will adopt a resolution in her memory when they meet in regular session next week.

"She was great to work with," Chairman Phillip Roche said Wednesday. "She was one of those people who understood government ... just understood the process of how to get things down."



LOLA TEARS

"She was a true manager and a dedicated public servant," added Fred Ahrens, county attorney. "What sticks in my mind was more of her"

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