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The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

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Drug bust nets 15

Elmira PD makes arrests

BY JOHN ZICK
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ELMIRA | Fifteen suspected drug dealers were arrested Thursday in and around the city as part of a statewide initiative targeting drugs, guns and gangs.

In all, approximately 90 people were arrested statewide as part of Operation Thunder and Lightning, which targeted criminals in the Syracuse, Rochester and Elmira areas. The initiative was organized by the state Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force.

Elmira Police Chief Scott Drake III said 19 arrest warrants had been issued locally. Fifteen people were in custody as of Thursday morning. Of those 15 people, 14 were charged with felonies and face more than 20 years in state prison.

"(Thursday's) arrests deliver a significant blow to the elaborate organizations that funnel heroin, cocaine and other drugs into our communities," state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said. "Ridding upstate communities of such criminal activity is a priority of my office and involves targeting everything from street-level dealing to top-level criminal enterprises."

Thursday's local arrests came on the heels of Operation Crack Hammer, a sweep two weeks ago that led to the arrests of more than 20 suspected drug dealers in the Elmira area. In all, approximately 40 suspected drug dealers have been arrested as part of the operations.

Drake dubbed Thursday's operation as "phase two" of Crack Hammer. He said additional arrests are expected.

Drake said, like Crack Hammer, Thunder and Lightning apprehended dangerous individuals, many of

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Elmira Police Chief Scott Drake III, left, speaks with reporters Thursday after announcing the arrests of 15 suspected drug dealers. State police Sgt. Michael McDarby looks on.

ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

AT A GLANCE

Charged were:

- Michael A. Whitty, 46, of Elmira, with second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance (CSCS) and third- and fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (CPCS), all felonies.
- Robbin J. Walbum, 39, of Elmira, with two counts of third-degree CPCS.
- Robert J. Layton, 46, of Elmira, with second-degree conspiracy, a felony.
- Roger F. Johnson, 40, of Elmira, with second-degree conspiracy.

- Ronald L. Austin J., 41, of Horseheads, with second-degree conspiracy.
- Ronald Hokett, 53, of Corning, with second-degree conspiracy.
- Thomas D. Schaffer, 31, of Big Flats, with second-degree conspiracy.
- Lamar E. Bell, 23, of Elmira, with second-degree conspiracy.
- Grant L. Freeman, 20, of Elmira, with second-degree conspiracy.
- Gregory S. Loyd, 37, of Elmira, with second-degree conspiracy and two counts of third-degree CPCS.

- Wesley Schuyler, 27, of the Lake View Shock Camp, formerly of Elmira, with second-degree conspiracy, second-degree CSCS and third- and fourth-degree CPCS.
- Francis P. Harnett, no age given, of Painted Post, with second-degree conspiracy.
- Jean L. Senat, 48, of Bath, with second-degree conspiracy and third-degree CPCS.
- Paula Ray, no age given, of Horseheads, with seventh-degree CPCS.
- Jessica L. Bachert, 23, of Elmira, with second-degree conspiracy.

D-R will hire permanent replacements

BY SARAH GROSSMAN
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PAINTED POST | Dresser-Rand Group Inc. will begin hiring permanent replacements for striking employees, officials said Thursday.

Thursday's announcement followed a meeting with the union that represents the approximately 415 striking employees who walked off the job Aug. 4. Union members claim D-R committed unfair labor practices and has not negotiated in good faith.

Before Thursday's meeting, union officials were notified in writing of the revised offer and the decision to hire permanent replacement workers if it was not accepted, company officials said.

The revised offer does not include a \$2,300 ratification

bonus that would have been awarded if a labor agreement was reached before midnight Tuesday, company officials said.

Union members overwhelmingly voted down a similar proposal Aug. 3.

Both sides said they were disappointed with the lack of progress during Thursday's negotiations.

The company's revised terms and the hiring of permanent replacement workers were not discussed at the meeting, company officials said.

"We didn't make much movement at all," said Steve Coates, president of Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Local 313. "It doesn't look as though the

SEE D-R | 8A

Addison woman killed in accident

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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ADDISON | An Addison woman was killed during a one-vehicle accident Wednesday night on county Route 2.

Penny L. Berglund, 53, of Addison, was pronounced dead at the scene by Steuben County Coroner Steven Copp.

Troopers said Berglund was the passenger in a 1994

Chevrolet Blazer driven by Alex M. Wood, of Addison.

Wood lost control of the Blazer while entering a sharp curve at about 7:18 p.m., about a half mile from Tobin Road.

Troopers said the vehicle spun out of control and rolled over several times before coming to a halt just off the roadway.

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U.S. health agency: Girls suicide rate up

BY GREG BLUESTEIN
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA | The suicide rate among preteen and young teen girls spiked 76 percent, a disturbing sign that federal health officials say they can't fully explain.

For all young people between ages 10 to 24, the suicide rate rose 8 percent from 2003 to 2004 - the biggest single-year bump in 15 years - in what one official called "a dramatic and huge increase."

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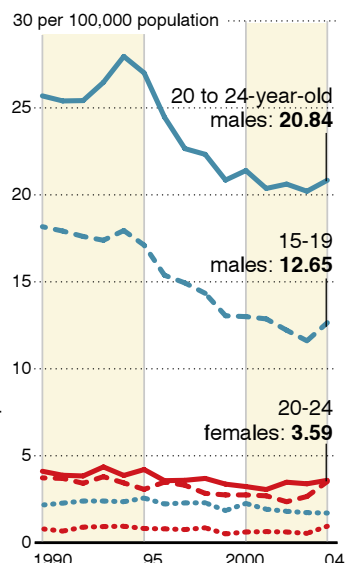
Overall suicide rate down

Between 1990 and 2003 the suicide rate for 10- to 24-year olds declined 28 percent. That rate increased 8 percent from 2003-04 - the highest one-year climb in 15 years.

U.S. suicide rates

GENDER	AGE	10-14	15-19	20-24
Male	20-24	12.65	20.84	3.59
Female	20-24	3.59	20.84	12.65

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention / AP



Anti-war demonstrators' trial set to begin

BY ROB PRICE
The Steuben Courier-Advocate



KUHL

BATH | U.S. Rep. John Kuhl Jr. has been subpoenaed to testify in the trial of five Iraq war protesters charged with criminal trespass during a demonstration at his office.

The trial begins with jury selection today at 9 a.m. in Bath village court.

However, a court clerk said Thursday it was not known whether the order had been served.

Kuhl said Thursday morn-

ing he wasn't aware of the subpoena.

The defendants - Daniel J. Burns, 47; Ellen Grady, 44; Richard T. Saddler, 42; Mark C. Scibilia-Carver, 54, and Christopher Tate, 46 - were each charged with third degree criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor. They are all from the Ithaca area.

The defendants would represent themselves during the trial, Tate said Thursday in a

press release.

According to Tate, on Aug. 6 the group went to Kuhl's office to deliver petitions containing about 3,000 signatures that asked the congressman to vote against additional funding for the Iraq war.

Police said the group was involved in anti-war demonstrations throughout the day at the office. At 5 p.m. a staff member asked the group to leave because the office was closing for the day.

When the protesters refused, village police were

summoned and ordered the group to disperse. When the order allegedly was refused, the demonstrators were arrested without incident.

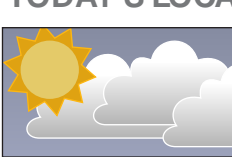
Tate concurred with the allegations in his press release, which was e-mailed Thursday to area media.

"At the end of the business day, Kuhl's office manager requested that the five leave the premises but they declined to do so in light of the urgency of their

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