



# The LEADER

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## District makes do as facilities take back seat

BY BOB RECOTTA

As recently as six months ago, the biggest challenge facing the Corning-Painted Post school district was developing a facilities plan that addressed the district's deteriorating middle schools and needs at other buildings.

However, a series of events – including the public's rejection of two district budgets and the early retirement of Superintendent Judith Staples – have pushed facilities out of the limelight and onto the back burner.

School board president Bill Carlson said facilities aren't likely to top the board's agenda for the foreseeable future.

"I think it's safe to say there will not be a vote on any facilities issue this year," Carlson said.

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*"We've got our finger in the dam. When it rains, that's not to say we don't have a leak here or there."*

Bob Rossi, NSB principal



An eighth-grade science room was one of the areas to receive work through the district's ongoing maintenance plan. The room still lacks many of the features necessary in science labs.



PHOTOS BY JASON COX | THE LEADER  
Newer lockers have been added, but the ones in place when Northside Blodgett opened in 1922 are still used.



## Corning Inc. to help fund IB program

### Company pleased with C-PP test score results

BY BOB RECOTTA  
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**CORNING** | The Corning-Painted Post school district will receive financial support from the Corning Inc. Foundation for the International Baccalaureate program.

Kristin Swain, president of the Corning Foundation, said Friday the organization would provide a \$330,000 grant for the IB program. The money will cover many of the program's costs for the next two school years.

"The decision was made based on our previous partnership with the district," Swain said. "We've been funding the Quantum Leap initiative and, most recently, we've awarded a grant to support the IB program implementation in the two middle and two high schools."

Mike Ginalski, Corning-Painted Post acting superintendent, said some of the money will help cover costs the district could not meet this year because it is on a contingency budget. The grant relieves costs that would have to be shouldered by taxpayers.

"We have been having conversations with them throughout the fall on ways to help with some staff development costs," Ginalski said. "We're still early in the implementation of the program. There is still a need for intensive staff development."

Ginalski said the two-year commitment will also fund curriculum development and alignment.

Ginalski said the district must pay \$88,000 a year to belong to the IB program and buy tests. Most of the \$600,000 the district spent on the program this year went to staff development.

Swain said the Corning Foundation provided \$1.8 million from 2003 through the 2006-07 school year to start the IB program. She said the early success of the program influenced the Corning Foundation's decision to continue funding.

"Test scores for the students at the high school level have been strong, comparable to other school districts

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## Spitzer stumps for override on SCHIP

BY BOB RECOTTA  
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**ELMIRA** | With a vote scheduled this week to override President George W. Bush's veto of the expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance program (SCHIP), supporters of the program are rallying to sway a handful of congressmen to change their votes.

Democratic Gov. Eliot Spitzer was at Southern Tier Pediatrics in Elmira on Saturday to urge the constituents of U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, to voice their support for the program.

"We are mired in a debate in an effort to insure the 400,000 kids in the state of New York that don't have health insurance, 10,000 within Congressman Kuhl's district alone," Spitzer said. "Yet, somehow we can't find it within ourselves to provide a little bit of financial assistance



BOB RECOTTA | THE LEADER

Gov. Eliot Spitzer speaks to a gathering at Southern Tier Pediatrics Saturday about the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Despite bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, President George W. Bush vetoed the bill.

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