



# The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 20 | 2007

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## Super staph bug confirmed in C-PP

BY BOB RECOTTA  
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RIVERSIDE | A case of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) has been confirmed in the Corning-Painted Post school district. Acting Superintendent Mike Ginalski said a child at Calvin

U. Smith Elementary School was diagnosed Thursday with MRSA, a bacterium that spreads through close skin-to-skin contact. In reaction to the diagnosis, the district sent a letter home with all students Friday. The letter warned parents about the presence of the bacterium and

detailed steps the district has taken to eliminate the threat. "Fortunately, all along, our custodial staff has used the universal cleaning precautions which addressed MRSA," Ginalski said. "It's the same cleaning procedure we've been using for quite some time." Gail Wechsler, public health

For more information about MRSA, visit the New York State Health Department's Web site at [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us)

coordinator with the Steuben County Health Department, said MRSA is more common in the Southern Tier than

people realize. "Right now, there are certainly many people out there who are colonized with (MRSA), but

it's infinitely less communicable than the common cold," Wechsler said. MRSA received national attention this week when Ashton Bonds, a senior at Staunton River High School in Moneta, Va. died after

SEE BUG | 8A

## WEST ENDS ANOTHER STREAK



Above | Corning West fullback Ben Mauer celebrates after scoring a touchdown against Corning East late in the first half. West won 35-20. Right | Vikings running back Austin Rose returned from a Week 2 injury to rush for 132 yards and a touchdown Friday.

Full coverage on 1B

Photos by  
Eric Wensel



## Spitzer targets project in Bath

BY JOE DUNNING  
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ALBANY | Funding for a sidewalk for senior citizens in Bath is among numerous projects recently eliminated by Gov. Eliot Spitzer. Assemblyman Jim Bacalles, R-Corning, said Friday Spitzer is unfairly targeting projects submitted by Assembly Republicans in retaliation for opposition to his new policy allowing illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. The Bath project, spearheaded by the Bath Rotary, is already complete. Bacalles said some \$5,500 in grants to build a sidewalk from the Lakeview Apartments senior center to a nearby retail center were among \$700,000 in projects in 21 Assembly dis-



BACALLES

tricts pulled by Spitzer. Another local grant - \$2,000 for the Town of Hartsville to purchase computers - was also eliminated. "The Village of Bath, the Town of Hartsville and their residents have been cheated of grant money that had been promised to them," Bacalles said. "Gov. Spitzer is showing his true colors by taking away this money from area residents. We can now see that his hopes and promises to the people of New York are nothing but fallacies and lies."

SEE BATH | 8A

## Accused pedophile remains elusive

BY JOHN ZICK  
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BATH | Anthony Kroeger was not in the custody of Chicago police when he missed a court appearance Tuesday, and the accused pedophile's whereabouts are unknown, authorities said Friday. "For everything we know, he's not in custody," Steuben County Assistant District Attorney Brooks Baker said Friday. "It's apparent ... he is not in custody." Early this week, the Steuben County Court Clerk's office received a call purportedly from Chicago police saying Kroeger had been held there in connection with an incident at O'Hare International Airport. The incident would have explained Kroeger's court absence, but immediately authorities planned for the possibility the call was a ruse. Now, police believe Kroeger



Kroeger

was likely never in custody. However, Baker said a reliable source told authorities Kroeger has recently been in the Chicago area. Currently, the U.S. Marshal Services, Illinois authorities and the Steuben County Sheriff's Office are investigating Kroeger's disappearance, but there are no guarantees the fugitive is in the country.

SEE PEDOPHILE | 8A

CORNING-PAINTED POST SCHOOL BOARD

## Input sought on superintendent

BY BOB RECOTTA  
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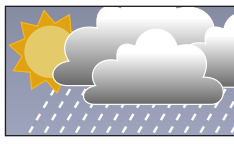
PAINTED POST | Residents of Corning-Painted Post school district will soon get their chance to speak out on a new superintendent. Board President Bill Carlson said he plans to consult with residents next month as part of the district's search for a replacement for Judith Staples, who retired this summer. "What we agreed to do is provide the opportunity for the public and in-school organizations to communicate with board," Carlson said. "This gives them the

chance to communicate their feelings and the characteristics they are looking for in their profile for a superintendent." Carlson said there would also be two public meetings Nov. 12 and 14 for residents to give their thoughts on a new superintendent. He said a time and location for the meetings hasn't been finalized. After the meetings, Carlson said the school board will analyze the data and compare it with a profile developed by school board members.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT | 8A



TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



A FEW SHOWERS  
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