



The LEADER

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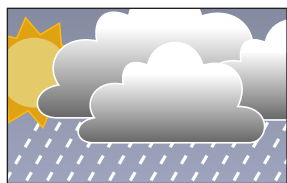
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Corning to close N.C. plant

Subsidiary company manufactures fiber optic cable

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HICKORY, N.C. | A cable maker says it will close a plant in North Carolina and move some of the jobs to another location in the same city, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Corning Cable Systems said it would close the optical assembly plant in Hickory by the end of the year, the *Hickory Daily Record* reported.

An undetermined number of people will lose jobs and an official said about a third of the plant's work force will be sent to a larger facility also in Hickory.

Corning Cable Systems CEO Clark Kinlin said the changes are part of a cost-cutting initiative. Kinlin also said a large plant under his division will close in the Dominican Republic by the end of 2009.

Kinlin said the company wouldn't disclose the number of employees or the number laid off for competitive reasons. The firm once employed 3,000 workers before a slide in business began in 2001.

The cable systems firm is a subsidiary of Corning Inc. and employs about 10,000 people worldwide. The parent firm said last week it is cutting

3,500 jobs because demand is down for glass used in flat-screen televisions and computers.

The cable company has three facilities in Hickory - a headquarters and two manufacturing plants, including the optical assembly operation.

Another Hickory-based communications equipment company said last week it will lay off 230 workers at plants in Catawba and Statesville because the economy has resulted in weakened demand.

CommScope employs 825 people in the Catawba plant and 150 at Statesville.

50 laid off at Erwin plant

THE LEADER STAFF

ERWIN | Approximately 50 union workers at Corning Inc.'s diesel plant in Erwin found out Tuesday they were being laid off, according to Mike Walker, president of the United Steel Workers Local 1000.

SEE ERWIN | 8A

UPGRADES TO CONTINUE IN GAFFER DISTRICT



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

The Centerway Commerce building will likely apply for an \$850,000 state grant to help rehabilitate the historic building.

Commerce building could be next on list for restoration job

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | Another Market Street building may be restored with the help of a state grant program.

City officials will likely apply for an \$850,000 Restore New York grant in early March for the Centerway Commerce building, commonly referred to as the Fleet Bank building.

The grant, if approved, would be coupled with \$1.3 million in private funds to renovate the historic four-story building, located adjacent to Centerway Square.

The City Council will vote March 2 on applying for the grant.

The building, assessed at \$605,600, is owned by LLC Centerway Commerce, which purchased the site in early 2004.

"It's one of the most prominent buildings in the downtown," said City Manager Mark Ryckman. "It's certainly a historic landmark and the effort to restore it would be a great benefit to the entire city."

Mayor Tom Reed said it would be the third time the city has applied for the Restore New York grant pro-



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

The second floor of the Centerway Commerce building.

gram. The program has been a great asset to the city, Reed said.

The first Restore New York grant aided the restoration of the Henkel building, located at 72 E. Market St., by developer J.D. Young.

The \$1.78 million project received a \$961,716 state grant and a 10 percent match from Three Rivers Development Corp. The

SEE COMMERCE | 8A

Stable landfill rates expected until 2010

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | Landfill rates for individuals and haulers will remain the same for at least a year, thanks to two environmental initiatives at the Steuben County landfill.

County Public Works Commissioner Vincent Spagnoletti said Tuesday the carbon credits the county now earns from burning methane gas and the county's share of revenues from an electrical generator run by the gas will benefit consumers for some time to come.

The two projects will stabilize costs at the landfill, Spagnoletti told the county Legislature's Public Works Committee.

Spagnoletti said the county now charges an average of \$40 per ton to collect garbage. Chemung County average charges are \$55 per ton, while Allegany County collects an average of \$35 per ton and is supported by property taxes.

A change in rates could be considered some time in the spring of 2010, but any increases during the lifetime of the current landfill are likely to be far less than originally

estimated, Spagnoletti said.

It now costs about \$7 million annually to operate the landfill system, which includes transfer stations in Erwin, Hornell and Wayland.

Many county legislators point to the county-run landfill as a self-sufficient local service run on fees collected from users, with no cost to taxpayers.

The new revenues are expected to keep costs down for consumers and still support the landfill for decades.

Estimated revenues from the

SEE RATES | 8A

Stimulus could bring \$380M to district

BY JOE DUNNING
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WASHINGTON | Several local projects could move forward with funding from the proposed federal economic stimulus package now being debated in the Senate.

Under the House version of the bill, the 29th Congressional District could receive nearly \$380 million of the \$3 billion New York state would receive, U.S. Rep. Eric Massa, D-Corning, said Tuesday.

The money would be used for a variety of projects involving education, infrastructure, clean water, affordable housing and economic development.

The most notable local project identified to receive funding is the conversion of U.S. Highway 15 into Interstate Highway 99, just south of Painted Post. Nearly \$85 million would be spent to expand a 5-mile stretch of two-lane highway into four lanes.

Massa said I-99 has been labeled a priority because all of the preliminary work has been completed. Other projects being considered for funding could also begin soon once the money is received, he said.

"These projects are directly targeted because of their quick turnaround," Massa said.

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INSIDE

Read more on the national stimulus package on page 5A.

Paterson expected in Hornell

THE LEADER STAFF

HORNELL | Gov. David Paterson is planning to visit Hornell this morning.

Mayor Shawn D. Hogan said Paterson's office has confirmed a visit today at City Hall, but the exact time of the visit is not

known.

The governor is scheduled to be in Binghamton today for a town hall meeting on the state budget. That event is in the afternoon.

While in Hornell, the governor is expected to discuss the state's health care system - specifically Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus - with local officials, Hogan said.

Paterson's appearance was initially expected to be this morning at St. James Mercy Hospital, but the venue was later changed to City Hall.



PATERSON