



SOFTBALL | 1B
West in
Class A finals



WKND. | 1D
Fiddle jam
Events in Watkins Glen
State Park Sat. and Sun.



SPORTS | 1B
Rosettie signs
with Cornell



The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

THURSDAY | JUNE 4 | 2009

50 CENTS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Photos of Calvin Adams, top, and Jeffery Grinder, bottom, sit on a table as Maj. Mark A. Koss of the New York State Police, Hornell Police Chief Ted Murray and Hornell Police Capt. Mike Sexsmith answer questions from the media at the Hornell Police Department.

Escaped killers may have had guards' help

BY ANDREW DEMILLO
Associated Press Writer

HORNELL | Authorities say they haven't ruled out the possibility that Department of Correction employees helped two convicted killers escape from an Arkansas prison wearing guard uniforms made at the facility.

Correction Department Spokeswoman Dina Tyler said Wednesday officials are still investigating how Calvin Adams and Jeffrey Grinder escaped from the Cummins Unit prison over the weekend. New York police captured the escapees Tuesday after their car crashed in Hornell.

"At this point, we can't rule anything out," Tyler said.

So far, authorities don't have any evidence of "overt" help by staff, she said.

"We also have to look at more subtle ways. Did someone turn their head?" Tyler said.

Tyler says it's likely the pair may have had help from other inmates. Five correction officers have been placed on unpaid leave while an investigation is under way.

Adams and Grinder are weighing whether to fight extradition after their capture in western New York.

After a 20-mile car chase, state troopers and city police caught Adams and Grinder on Tuesday as they scurried on foot through a residential neighborhood in Hornell after abandoning their car.

They were jailed without bail as fugitives from justice. Adams, the driver, was charged with reckless endangerment.

The men, serving life sentences for capital murder, will be assigned lawyers at a court appearance scheduled for today. Prosecutor John Tunney said negotiations will likely begin today to determine whether they will fight extradition to Arkansas or

SEE KILLERS | 8A

H'heads chief hearing begins



Above | Horseheads Village Manager Marc Whitney (left) testifies during Wednesday's hearing for suspended Horseheads Police Chief Mike Barton. At right is Whitney's attorney, Jim Young. Below | Eugene Welch, attorney for suspended Horseheads Police Chief Mike Barton (right), questions the misconduct charges filed against the chief during Wednesday's appeal hearing.

Whitney testifies on charges

BY DERRICK EK
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HORSEHEADS | The attorney for suspended Horseheads Police Chief Mike Barton relentlessly attacked the legitimacy of the professional misconduct charges filed against the chief as his civil service hearing got under way Wednesday.

The man seeking Barton's termination, Horseheads Village Manager Marc Whitney,

faced a barrage of questions from Barton's attorney, Eugene Welch of Rochester.

Whitney resigned May 22, but the village is proceeding with the charges he filed against Barton. His resignation is effective July 23.

A neutral party, Elmira attorney John McGlenn, is hearing the case.

Barton testified about the circumstances that led to the charges against him. The hearing lasted more

than six hours before adjourning; it will resume at 10 a.m. today at the Holiday Inn Express in Horseheads. The hearing is open to the public.

During preliminary proceedings, Welch asked for the hearing to be dismissed on several grounds. He said village officials had "stone-walled" him and refused to provide a number of

SEE HEARING | 8A



Trial continues in Elmira stray-bullet murder case

BY JOHN ZICK
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ELMIRA | The prosecution continued to build its case Wednesday against a 24-year-old Elmira man charged in connection with the shooting death of a church deacon last summer on the city's Northside.

Demetrius Molina is charged with second-degree murder, attempted murder and several other felonies in connection with Maurice Davis' death. Davis, 51, was shot and

killed around 2:50 a.m. Aug. 1 in Hathorn Court in Elmira. He was asleep in his bed when he was struck with a stray bullet. He was an innocent bystander.

According to prosecutors, Molina and Romondo Ross, 24, of Elmira, both fired shots at the scene. Ross was convicted of second-degree murder in April.

Chemung County District Attorney Weeden Wetmore called nine witnesses Wednesday. In all, 19 prosecution witnesses have testified.



WETMORE

Wednesday's testimony was mostly that of police officers, who spoke to the jury about ballistic evidence, evidence collection

and the dimensions and angles of the crime scene.

Molina's defense attorney, Lawrence Fredella, continued his efforts to poke holes in the prosecution's case, asking state witnesses about other

possible suspects and addressing the fact they never found Molina in possession of the murder weapon.

Also Wednesday, Judge Peter Buckley twice warned spectators not to talk to jurors. Some spectators reportedly made contact with jurors. One juror was dismissed Wednesday morning, although the reason was not made public.

On Tuesday, Corning resident Jarvis Harvard, who said Molina was his "best friend," told the jury Molina fired

shots at the scene of Davis' death. On cross examination, Harvard admitted he initially told police and others that he never saw Molina with a gun. He said he lied initially because he didn't want to get his friend in trouble.

The incident that led to Davis' death began at Lando's in Corning early Aug. 1. According to witnesses, Ross got into an altercation with a South Carolina man.

SEE TRIAL | 8A

Coccho eyes run for mayor

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | Frank Coccho is thinking about making a comeback.

The longtime member of the City Council and former mayor is considering taking another run at the city's top elected post.

Coccho said he has not decided if he will run in the upcoming mayoral election.

"I haven't made a decision yet," Coccho said. "It's something I'm thinking about."

If he chooses to run, it could set up a rematch with the man who handily defeated him in the November 2007 general election, current Mayor Tom Reed.

Reed said Wednesday he is contemplating running for re-election.

SEE COCCHO | 8A



COCCHO

"I will make that decision by July 1," Reed said.

Coccho said he has heard rumors Reed is interested in running for U.S. Rep. Eric Massa's congressional seat in 2010. Massa, a Democrat, is serving his first term.

"If the opportunity presents itself, I'd be flattered and consider it," Reed said. "It's something I would think heavily about and I would seriously consider."

City Democratic Committee Chairman Hilda Lando said Coccho and other Democrats are thinking about running for mayor.

Gutierrez named to Corning board

BY KATHLEEN COSTELLO
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Corning Inc. announced Wednesday that Carlos Gutierrez, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, has been appointed to the company's board of directors.

Gutierrez qualifies as an independent director and will hold office until Corning's annual meeting of

shareholders on April 29, 2010, when it is expected that he will be nominated to serve a three-year term.

His appointment brings the number of Corning directors to 15. The size of the board has ranged from 13 to 18 directors since 1990.

Gutierrez, 55, served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce from February 2005 through January 2009. In that role, he also served as co-chair of the U.S. Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba. He

SEE GUTIERREZ | 7A

Apparent homicide discovered in Ithaca

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ITHACA | Authorities say a woman whose body was found by a bicyclist in a city park is an apparent homicide victim.

The victim is a white woman approximately 30 years of age but authorities say they do not yet know her identity. Authorities did not release any other information about the apparent killing.

A bicyclist found the body just before 9 a.m. Wednesday near a wooded trail in Cass Park, a popular

recreation area that sits along the southern shore of Cayuga Lake.

Ithaca fire officials and state police are looking into a possible link to a fire Tuesday night at 921 Taughannock Boulevard, a few miles from where the body was found, WETM reported online.

The fire was reported at 10:45 p.m. and was quickly extinguished, fire officials said.

Joining in the investigation are state police, Tompkins County Sheriff's deputies and Ithaca police.



TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER
MOSTLY SUNNY
WETM 18 Storm
Team seven-day
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