



SOFTBALL | 1B
**CCC swept
 by Monroe**



TRACK | 1B
**Hawks
 earn sweep**

ONLY IN PRINT

■ **Guess Who: People Wall** 2A
 ■ **Reps' Report** 3A
 ■ **Good news** 3A
 Stories found only in today's print edition.



The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 4 | 2012

75 CENTS

Corning's Patterson Bridge to be replaced **\$32M project will begin this summer**



Funding put into this year's budget

BY JOHN ZICK
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CORNING | A \$32 million project to replace the aging Patterson Bridge in downtown Corning is expected to begin this summer under expedited funding announced Tuesday by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The bridge is currently at risk of being closed because it is structurally deficient by federal standards. It was last inspected in 2011.

The bridge is a vital link between the city and the Village of Riverside and is imperative to the city's downtown commercial district, according to state officials. It carries more than 17,000 vehicles daily.

"It's an improvement that we've known was needed for several years," said Corning City Manager Mark Ryckman.

Plans had been in place to replace the 50-plus-year-old bridge in fiscal year 2013-14, but the money for the project was accelerated and included in the 2012-13 budget under the "New York Works" initiative. It was part of a \$107 mil-



THE LEADER FILES

Top | A \$32.2 million project to replace the aging Patterson Bridge in Corning will begin this summer under expedited funding announced Tuesday by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Above | The Patterson Bridge is considered structurally deficient by federal standards and was in danger of having to be shut down.

"Transportation will play a key role in turning around the fortunes of upstate New York manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and every other sector of the economy. This year's budget, especially the New York Works initiative, establishes a stronger state commitment to upstate job creation and economic growth."



Sen. Tom O'Mara

lion investment in the Southern Tier. The Patterson Bridge project is the single largest project in the region.

The project will be overseen by the state Department of Transportation because the bridge carries a state road - State

Route 352. Local officials expect traffic to be detoured during the project. It wasn't immediately clear how long it will take to complete.

The \$107 million in expedited funding will be used to refurbish 155 miles of roadway and 23 bridges in the Southern Tier.

A second major Southern Tier project will be a State Route 17/I-86 conversion in Tioga County. The project will upgrade a portion of Route 17 to meet interstate standards

SEE PROJECT | 6A

Police: 3 men tried to take girl to Md.

BY JOHN ZICK
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BATH | Three 18-year-old men who were allegedly unlawfully taking a 16-year-old Ontario County girl to Maryland were arrested in the act Monday when state troopers stopped their vehicle in Bath.

The unidentified 16-year-old Shortsville girl met one of the men during an online chat, and they made plans to meet in New York, according to Bath-based New York State Police.

On Monday, the girl rode the bus to school, where she met the men,

according to police. She willingly got in their vehicle with plans to go to Maryland, troopers said.

After the girl left with the men, someone contacted the Ontario County Sheriff's Office, which issued an Amber Alert.

Approximately 10 minutes later, a uniformed trooper in Bath spotted the suspects' Hyundai SUV and stopped the vehicle near Exit 39 on Interstate 86.

After an investigation, the men were taken into custody. Arrested were Travis M. Kuhne, of



KUHNE



JOHNSON



HALL

SEE MEN | 5A

Council to consider street plan in May

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | The Corning City Council will consider adopting a 14-year street maintenance plan at its next meeting, set for May 7, that would increase city taxes about 2 percent annually to upgrade ailing city streets.

The \$30 million plan

would mean annual tax increases for residents of near 2 percent for street work alone, said Myron Crispino, chairman of the city's Infrastructure/Finance Committee.

The increase would not cover other potential expenses in future budgets such as health

SEE STREET | 5A

Man faces prison in child porn case

THE LEADER STAFF

ROCHESTER | A 38-year-old Steuben County man pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to possession of child pornography. Bert Tohafjian, 38, of Tuscarora, faces up to 10 years in prison when he is sentenced on a date to be determined.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Marissa J. Miller, Tohafjian was

found in possession of more than 600 images of child pornography, including some that depicted prepubescent children under the age of 12 and others that depicted violence against children. He was arrested during an undercover Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigation of an online peer-to-peer file-sharing program.

Corning Inc. featured in tonight's 'NOVA'

THE LEADER STAFF

GANG MILLS | Corning Inc.'s Sullivan Park research facility will be featured in an episode of "NOVA" airing tonight at 9 p.m. on PBS/WSKG.

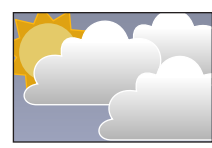
The two-hour special, titled "Hunting the Elements," will include footage from host David Pogue's visit to Sullivan Park last summer. Pogue's website describes the pro-

gram as "a fast, funny journey through the 118 elements that make up us and our universe."

Pogue and his film crew spent a day at Corning Inc. taking part in Gorilla Glass strength demonstrations, pouring molten glass in the Advanced Materials Processing Lab, and doing experiments with ClearCurve optical fiber.



TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



CLOUDY, COOLER, WINDY
 WETM 18 Storm
 Team five-day
 forecast | **10A**

YOUR GUIDE TO TODAY'S LEADER

Advice	7A	Food	10A
Calendar	9A	Local	2A
Classifieds	5B	Obituaries	6A
Comics	8A	Opinion	4A

Police	2A
Puzzles	7A
Sports	1B
TV listings	8A

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