

BRADFORD SOFTBALL TOPS ARKPORT

SPORTS, PAGE B1



HORSEHEADS ROLLS PAST BINGHAMTON

SPORTS, PAGE B1

THUR FRI SAT
59/47 61/47 71/42

Complete forecast, A8

Local sports
roundup.
SPORTS, PAGE B3



The LEADER

Thursday, May 5, 2016

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LOCAL

Erwin yard waste site opens Sat.

The Erwin yard waste drop-off site will open this weekend. The town will accept grass clippings, leaves and branches 9 a.m.-noon every Saturday through Oct. 29. Branches must be separated from grass/leaves. No bags are allowed.

Tioga Downs unveils summer concerts

A disco group, rock band and country music legend will take the stage this summer at Tioga Downs Casino in Nichols.

KC and the Sunshine Band, known for hits such as "Get Down Tonight", will perform July 9. Tickets are \$25, \$35 and \$45.

Grand Funk Railroad will perform a concert to benefit The Southern Tier Veterans Support Group on Aug. 13. The rock group is known for hits such as "We're an American Band", "Time Machine" and "Walk Like a Man". Tickets are \$15 and proceeds will be donated to the group. Tioga Downs owner Jeff Gural will match all ticket sales.

Kenny Rogers will close the concert season Sept. 4. "The Gambler's Last Deal Tour" will include several of his 24 No. 1 hits. Tickets are \$35, \$45 and \$55.

All concerts begin at 8 p.m. and tickets are on sale at the Tioga Downs gift shop and all Ticketmaster locations. For more information, visit www.tiogadowns.com.

'American Pickers' to return to NY

"American Pickers" Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz are seeking places to visit in New York. The History channel's popular documentary series filmed at two Southern Tier locations last year. The show follows Wolfe and Fritz as they hunt for valuable antiques - from motorcycles, classic cars to one-of-a-kind vintage memorabilia, according to a casting call sheet. If you have a large, private collection and would like to be featured on "American Pickers", send your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to americanpickers@cinetflix.com or call (855) OLD-RUST.

Advice..... A6 LocalA2-A3
Business A5 Nation/World A4
Classifieds B5 Obituaries .. A5
Comics..... A7 State..... A3

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WORK ON SITE

CCC nursing center project underway



Site work is underway at the location of the future CCC Health and Education Complex on the corner of Denison Parkway and Chemung Street. ERIC WENSEL/THE LEADER

\$6M complex first of many plans for former hospital site

By Jeffery Smith
jsmith@the-leader.com

Site work is underway on a \$6 million project to build a downtown facility for Corning Community College's nursing and other health-related programs.

The Health and Education Complex is expected to open in August 2017, in time for fall classes, said Kristen Morse, a CCC spokesman.

"On Denison Parkway, we will have a vibrant presence on the corner of Chemung Street," said Katherine P. Douglas, CCC president. "People will see the college as they are coming into town. It is an invitation to come into town and go

up the hill."

Steve Dennis, city planning and economic development director, said city officials are pleased crews have started the demolition and site preparation at the lot, which is located on Chemung Street, across from the former hospital.

"It will be a gateway project for the college and it is certainly a higher and better investment use of the site," Dennis said.

The 21,000-square-foot building is the first phase of the redevelopment of the former Corning Hospital site. Actual construction of the complex is expected to begin in August.

The \$8 to \$10 million demolition of the large hospital building at 176 E. Denison Parkway is expected to begin in the coming months and be completed in early- to mid-2017, said Phil Roche, Guthrie Corning Hospital board chairman.

Rochester-based Riedman Companies, which has agreed to purchase the property once the building is razed, unveiled a \$30 million site plan in early April.

Also in the works are two large residential apartments, a one-story bank and a two-story office building, according to Riedman officials.

The next phase will be the

SEE CENTER, A8

PROPOSAL NIXED

Chickens can't roost in S. Corning

By Stephen Borgna
sborgna@the-leader.com

South Corning residents will not be allowed to keep a small flock of chickens on their property.

The village board could not find support for a motion to direct the code enforcement officer to review other municipalities that allow the housing of chickens on residential property.

Public support for the proposal was also lacking. "Feedback was in the

SEE CHICKENS, A8

TAX CREDIT

Program rewards those who hire vets

By Jeffery Smith
jsmith@the-leader.com

A two-year extension of the state's Hire-A-Vet tax credit, which encourages businesses to hire veterans, is one of the highlights of the 2016-17 New York state budget.

Brandon Gardner, a Bath VA spokesman, said the VA staff works with veterans daily to help them find jobs.

"We work with representatives from the state Department of Labor and Workforce to help veterans link with area businesses

SEE PROGRAMS, A8

PAROLE HEARINGS LEGISLATION

Robie family: Law would ease pain of reliving son's murder

By Stella DuPree
sdupree@the-leader.com

ALBANY - Holding a photo of their son, Dale and Dori Robie renewed their call Wednesday for a law that would give parole boards more leeway in scheduling hearings.

Derrick Robie was four years old in 1993 when he was brutally murdered by Eric Smith in a wooded area near the Robie residence.

"The loss of a child is an

ultimate parent's nightmare," Dori Robie said Wednesday. "The loss is intensified when the death is at the hands of a killer."

Smith, who was 13 at the time, was sentenced in 1994 to nine years to life in prison for second-degree murder. He is incarcerated in Collins Correctional Facility outside Buffalo, where he was recently denied parole for an eighth time.

Under the current law, he will again be eligible for

parole in April 2018.

That's too soon, say the Robies.

"For the parents of a murdered child, (the healing process) is constant turmoil, especially bringing the terrible details of the worst time of your life up to the surface again and again," Dori Robie said.

They are backing a law that would allow parole boards to extend the period

SEE HEARINGS, A8



Dale and Dori Robie, holding a photo of their son Derrick, are seen at Wednesday's news conference. In the background from left | Sen. Tom O'Mara, Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano. PROVIDED TO THE LEADER

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Corning, NY

LGBT RIGHTS NORTH CAROLINA

US government: NC LGBT law violates civil rights

By Emery P. Dalesio
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A North Carolina law limiting protections to LGBT people violates federal civil rights protections and can't be enforced, the U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday, putting the state on notice that it is in danger of being sued and losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding.

The law, which also requires transgender people to use public bathrooms that conform to the sex on their birth certificate, has been broadly condemned by

gay-rights groups, businesses and entertainers, some of whom have relocated offices or canceled shows in the state. Several other states have proposed similar laws limiting LGBT protections in recent months.

In a letter to Gov. Pat McCrory, the Justice Department said federal officials view the state law as violating federal Civil Rights Act protections barring workplace discrimination based on sex. Provisions of the state law directed at transgender state employees violate their anti-discrimination protections, the letter said.

"The State is engaging in a pattern or practice of discrimination against transgender state employees and both you, in your official capacity, and the state are engaging in a pattern or practice of resistance" of their rights, the letter said.

McCrory's spokesmen did not respond to email and text messages Wednesday. In the past, the governor has defended the law and said he didn't think it would have any financial impact, either on the economy in general or on federal school funding in particular.

But shortly after it was

passed, PayPal reversed plans to open a 400-employee operation center in Charlotte, Deutsche Bank froze expansion plans near Raleigh and convention officials reported some meetings were avoiding the state. Nearly 200 corporate leaders from around the country, including Charlotte-based Bank of America, have urged the law's repeal, arguing it's bad for business because it makes it more difficult to recruit talented employees.

The Justice Department has also notified the 17-campus University of North Carolina system that the state

law violates Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, which bars discrimination in education based on sex, the letter said. That could lead to North Carolina losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal school funding.

The letter effectively serves as a warning to the state to proceed at its own peril or risk being sued.

It has not been uncommon during the administration of President Barack Obama for the Justice Department to weigh in on hot-button civil rights issues. In March, the department sharply discouraged state court

administrators from jailing defendants who can't pay court fines for petty offenses. The letter to North Carolina doesn't have the force of law, but it puts the state on notice that its actions are being watched and run afoul of federal civil rights laws.

The letter seeks confirmation by Monday that "the State will not comply with or implement H.B. 2, and that it has notified employees of the State and public agencies that, consistent with federal law, they are permitted to access bathrooms and other facilities consistent with their gender identity."

IN BRIEF

Tribune Publishing rejects Gannett's 'opportunistic' bid

Tribune Publishing Co. on Wednesday rejected Gannett's more than \$388 million buyout offer, saying it's too little for the company that owns The

Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and other newspapers.

USA Today owner Gannett wanted to buy Tribune Publishing so it could expand its USA Today Network, an effort to unite USA Today with its more than 100 local daily newspapers.

It made an unsolicited offer last month of \$12.25 per share for Chicago-based Tribune Publishing, which it said had refused to have meaningful discussions about a deal.

But Tribune Publishing said Wednesday that "after thorough consideration" its

board decided the proposal from Gannett Co., which is based in McLean, Virginia, understates its true value and is not in the best interests of its shareholders.

Hiring at slowest

pace in 3 years

WASHINGTON — U.S. companies added jobs at the slowest pace in three years in April, a private survey found, a sign that slower growth and volatile financial markets could be weighing on hiring.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that businesses added 156,000 jobs in April, down from 194,000 in March. Manufacturers shed 11,000 jobs, after losing 3,000 the previous month. Services firms added 166,000, down from 189,000.

PROGRAMS

From Page A1

and provide assistance with resume writing skills, job development groups and career scope testing," Gardner said. "Currently, a third of our workforce here at the Bath VA Medical Center are veterans."

State Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, co-sponsored

the creation of the Hire-A-Vet credit in 2013.

"It's an investment in the future of returning veterans," O'Mara said. "It's a tough economy all around, but the impact has been especially hard on veterans returning home during this recession to a weak private-sector economy."

Federal labor statistics from 2012 show that unemployment reached

a staggering 20 percent for veterans under the age of 30 who had recently returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Beginning in 2014, businesses became eligible for the state tax break after employing a post-9/11 veteran for one year, O'Mara said. The credit equals up to 10 percent of a veteran's salary - 15 percent of a disabled veteran's salary

- with the credit capped at \$5,000 for a non-disabled vet and \$15,000 for a disabled vet.

O'Mara said wounded veterans have a particularly difficult time finding jobs.

"We believe this tax credit is a worthwhile way to recognize their service and we hope it will help encourage economic opportunities and jobs for returning military men and

women who have so much to offer," O'Mara said.

Gardner said in addition to working with veterans to help them gain local employment, the VA assist them in applying for educational benefits.

"Including the Post 9/11 GI Bill, in order to go back to school to enhance skills in preparation for entering the workforce," Gardner said. "We are very supportive of

efforts to increase veteran employment."

Gardner said the training and experience veterans bring to the civilian workforce are looked upon very favorably by employers.

To find out more about the credit from the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs visit <http://www.veterans.ny.gov/content/hire-vet-credit>.

HEARINGS

From Page A1

between parole hearings from two to five years for offenders convicted of violent felonies.

The Robies say this would spare them from reliving the events of their

son's death every two years.

"... We start a letter campaign months before we are scheduled to meet with the parole commissioner," Dori Robie said. "The week of the parole hearing is painful, trying to wrap your head around the idea that the killer may

be set free.

"What would we do?"

They were joined in Albany by families of other violent crime victims and local lawmakers Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, R-Corning.

"Every time there's another parole hearing

for one of these violent criminals, throughout the months, weeks and days leading up to the hearing, the families of the victims have to relive the horror of the crimes that took the lives they cherished," O'Mara and Palmesano said in a joint statement.

"No family should have to

go through that nightmare every two years, particularly in cases where the Parole Board determines that nothing will change within the next five years that would reverse a parole denial."

The legislation is sponsored by Sen. Kenneth P. LaValle, R-Port Jefferson,

and Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr., D-Sag Harbor.

It is currently in the Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee in both the Senate and Assembly. It must be approved by both houses of the Legislature and signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo before becoming law.

CORNING INCORPORATED RETIREES MONTHLY COFFEE PROGRAM

Corning Retirees To Hear Rural Metro Program
Wednesday, May 11th, 2016 • 10am-11am



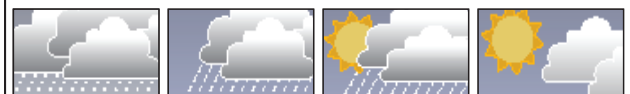
Location: Riverfront Cafe
Speakers: Rural Metro Ambulance Service personnel

AT THEIR MONTHLY COFFEE PROGRAM, OUR SENIORS WILL LEARN ABOUT THE SERVICES, EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES THAT ARE ROUTINE FOR RURAL METRO AMBULANCE SERVICE PERSONNEL. IF YOU WONDER WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO WHILE AWAITING THE EMERGENCY CREW'S ARRIVAL, COME TO THIS ONE AND FIND OUT.

The CIRG Programs are open to all Corning Incorporated retirees, their spouses and friends. FREE Parking in the company's garage west of the arch.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today
M. cloudy, showers
High | 59
Low | 47

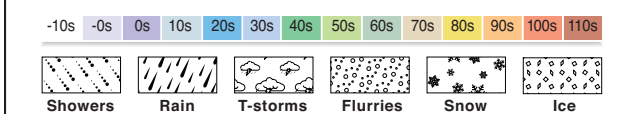
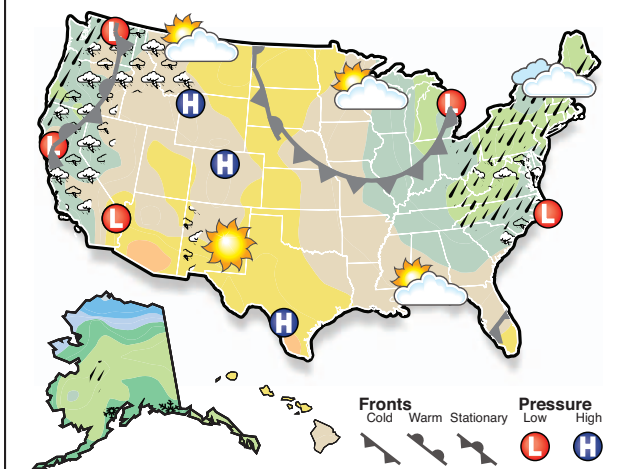


Friday
Cloudy, showers likely
High | 61
Low | 47

Saturday
P. cloudy, chance of showers
High | 71
Low | 42

Sunday
M. cloudy, chancer of showers
High | 59
Low | 44

Monday
P. cloudy
High | 65
Low | 39



MOON PHASES				SUNRISE SUNSET	
First	Full	Last	New	Sunrise today	Sunset today
				5:58	8:12
MAY 13	MAY 21	MAY 29	MAY 6	Sunrise Friday	Sunset Friday
				5:57	8:13

CHICKENS

From Page A1

negative," Mayor James Thomas said. "What response there was wasn't

in support of it."

Village resident Lon Fiscus approached the board in March about keeping a small flock of chickens in his yard for eggs and as pets.

"We just want to have

farm-fresh eggs," Fiscus said previously. "We buy from the farmer's market now at \$3.50 a dozen; it's probably not going to be any cost savings, but it would be nice to know where the

source of our food is coming from."

The neighboring Town of Corning currently allows chickens on residential property, village officials said.

CENTER

From Page A1

construction of a 41,860-square-foot, three-and four-story building that will house 90 apartments, facing both Denison Parkway and Chemung Street, officials said. The 1,500-square-foot bank will also be built in

that phase.

That work will likely start in 2017 and is expected to take 9 to 12 months to complete, officials said. People are expected to be able to rent apartments in January 2019.

By then, work on a 20,250-square-foot, three-story apartment building facing East First streets will be underway,

officials said. The building will house 38 apartments.

The apartments and other businesses include the needed parking locations, a dog park and green space, officials said. The construction date of the two-story office space is currently unknown.

"We are definitely pleased that Guthrie and the developers are moving

forward," Dennis said.

The two residential apartments will be built by Purcell Construction, which renovated Corning Free Academy into Academy Place.

The site has been vacant since July 2014 when the new \$146 million Corning Hospital opened in East Corning.

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