

BRIEFS

New Roots staff votes to unionize

ITHACA — Instructional and non-instructional staff at New Roots Charter School have approved a vote to unionize.

The 32-member bargaining unit will be affiliated with the New York State United Teachers, the state's largest union, which announced the vote Thursday. The school union, named New Roots Charter School Instructional Staff, also will include teaching aides, kitchen workers and clerical staff.

Florida fugitive arrested in Ithaca

ITHACA — Tompkins County sheriff's deputies have captured a Pennsylvania man wanted for larceny in Florida.

Based on a fugitive-of-justice warrant, deputies found Shane A. Amati, 24, at a Town of Ithaca address on Monday, sheriff's officials said. Pinellas County issued the warrant on Jan. 30, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Amati was arraigned in Dryden Town Court and sent to Tompkins County Jail without bail.

Lansing discusses school budget

LANSING — Board of Education members looked at tax-rate increase scenarios of 4.25 percent and higher at a board meeting Monday night.

The scenarios were presented by Mary June King, the Lansing Central School District business administrator. According to King, a rate hike higher than 4.25 percent would allow the district to save money in its reserve fund for the 2014-15 budget year, she said.

In addition to other factors, the tax value of the Cayuga Operating Co., formerly known as the AES Cayuga Power Plant, is expected to decrease by \$12 million in the 2013-14 budget and \$14 million in the 2014-15 budget, she said.

LOTTERIES

N.Y. lottery: (518) 388-3300
On the Web: www.nylottery.org

N.Y. Daily (day): 1-8-7
N.Y. Win 4 (day): 6-4-4-9
N.Y. Daily (night): 6-2-6
N.Y. Win 4 (night): 3-9-5-9
N.Y. Take 5 (Wednesday): 4-24-25-26-36
N.Y. Pick 10 (Wednesday): 5-10-12-16-18-27-30-32-33-36-37-38-39-40-42-43-52-58-62-78
N.Y. Lotto (Wednesday): 19-31-37-40-43-54
Bonus: 4
Powerball (Wednesday): 03-14-20-34-48
Powerball: 21

FOR CORRECTIONS

The Journal attempts to correct errors in its news columns. To report a need for a correction or clarification, call 272-2321 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lansing land sale addressed

State would buy site from NYSEG

By Shawnee A. Barnes
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LANSING — Taxes, maintenance and liability were the focus of residents who gathered Wednesday at the Lansing Community Center to hear more about the potential sale of land to the state for a state forest.

The property in question is the 490-acre former Bell Station site just north of the AES Cayuga coal plant in the northwest corner of the town. It is owned by New York State Electric & Gas Corp., a subsidiary of Iberdrola, of Spain, and is assessed at \$2 million.

The property includes 3,400 feet of undisturbed shoreline, dense forest and agricultural lands.

"We'd pay fair market value for the property," said Ken Lynch, of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The state would in turn make payments to the town in lieu of taxes at an equal value, Lynch said. However, that number could go up or down, he said.

ON THE WEB

See photos of the former Bell Station site with this story at theithacajournal.com.

NYSEG pays \$57,390 annually in taxes, of which the Lansing Central School District receives the largest portion at \$39,400; the town gets \$2,743, and Tompkins County receives \$13,397.

The state needs the town board's approval for the sale to go through.

The DEC would manage the property, including the timber, and all liability would fall on the state. It would be different from a state park, Lynch noted, with no significant infrastructure or boat launch.

In response to Town Supervisor Kathy Miller's question of maintaining security on the property, Lynch said state rangers would take care of that, not the town.

To be designated as a state forest, an additional 10 acres would have to be included to reach the state's 500-acre minimum. Otherwise, it would be designated a wildlife



The NYSEG Bell Station property is under consideration to become a New York state forest. PHOTO PROVIDED

management property that does not pay local taxes, Lynch said.

It's still early in the process, and sale negotiations have not started with NYSEG.

"We've talked with them, and they're open to a proposal," said Andrew Zepp, executive director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust.

Miller told the crowd more public input will be sought if the plan proceeds, with public meetings scheduled before a board vote.

Students capture dancers



Ithaca High School ninth-graders Jessica Kuntz, left, and Lizzy King take pictures of 11th-grader Rose DeGroat on Thursday morning as she dances for the students in Judy Cogan's photo class.

SIMON WHEELER / STAFF PHOTOS



Ithaca High School senior Mané Mehrabyan poses for ninth-grade students Harmony Williams and Adele Lawless on Thursday morning in Kulp Auditorium at the school.

A grant from the Ithaca Public Education Initiative allowed photography teacher Judy Cogan to bring the Wassa PanAfrika Dance Ensemble USA in to dance at her annual event, where she organizes dancers to perform and model for her students. The other dancers were Ithaca High School students from a variety of dance disciplines. Cogan organizes the half-day event to allow students to work with models and lighting, experiment with photographic techniques and create images that illustrate the beauty of dance and movement.

ON THE WEB

» For more photos from the event, go to theithacajournal.com.

Bob Dylan to perform at Cornell

By Meagan McGinnes
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Bob Dylan will perform April 14 at Cornell's Barton Hall. FILE PHOTO

ITHACA — Rock legend Bob Dylan will take the stage April 14 at Cornell's Barton Hall, university officials announced Thursday.

Dylan's Ithaca concert will be shortly before the scheduled April 20 release of his new, limited-edition single, "WIGWAM" from the forthcoming "Bootleg Series, Vol. 10."

Student tickets will go on sale March 12. Other tickets will be set aside for alumni and the

general public on March 13 at Cornell ticket offices.

Dylan's upcoming tour will visit eight other colleges and universities, including the University at Buffalo. Other schools are the University of Massachusetts at the Amherst and Lowell campuses, the University of Rhode Island, the University of Delaware, Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, the University of Akron (Ohio) and Bowling Green State Univer-

sity in Ohio.

Dylan, 71, has been an icon in popular music and culture for more than five decades. With 59 albums, Dylan's songs are known to chronicle social issues with a blend of folk, rock and blues.

His newest album, "Tempest," debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard charts when it was released last September.

Dawes is the opening act for the concert.

WEEKEND WATCH

Festival of Black Gospel opens today

By Matthew Hayes
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ITHACA — The 36th annual Festival of Black Gospel, which features students from Ithaca College, Cornell University as well as other local and national groups, will take place at various locations around Ithaca this weekend.

The festival starts at 7 p.m. with Jonathan McReynolds performing at Cornell's Appel Commons.

At 9 p.m., a staged reading of the musical "Broken Chains" will

be held at Cornell's Risley Theatre.

Saturday will kick off with workshops from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ithaca College and conclude with a 7 p.m. concert at the State Theatre featuring Grammy nominee Anita Wilson and several other groups.

Sunday will feature a 4 p.m. closing service at the Calvary Baptist Church, 507 N. Albany St., featuring pastor Justin Bilson.

To learn more, visit ithacafbg.com.

Learn about a CSA

A Community Supported Agriculture Fair will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at Boynton Middle School, 1601 N. Cayuga St. in Ithaca.

The fair will educate people on the benefits of CSA and allow participants to meet with 25 farmers. There also will be a raffle.

The fair is free. For more information, call Avi Miner at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, (607) 272-2292, or e-mail agm32@cornell.edu.

Cayuga Landscape

Ithaca, NY

Flagstone Patios & Walkways

Design Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8-5

Garden Center Reopens March 2013

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