

BRIEFS

Weather service issues wind advisory

The National Weather Service has issued a wind advisory until 2 p.m. today for central New York and the Southern Tier, warning of gusts that could bring down tree limbs and cause isolated power outages.

Winds will be southerly at 20 to 30 mph, with gusts around 40 mph, then shifting to the southwest through the morning, according to the Weather Service at Greater Binghamton Airport.

Strong winds are expected across the entire area after a cold front passes.

Damage may be reported to the Weather Service at (877) 633-6772 or bgm.stormreport@noaa.gov.

New York State Electric & Gas Corp. said employees are on alert in case of service interruptions.

NYSEG customers should call (800) 572-1131 to report downed wires, which is the company's first priority to ensure safety.

Cornell electrical fire extinguished

The Ithaca Fire Department responded to a report of a fire when smoke filled Cornell's Goldwin Smith Hall around 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

The fire department worked with Cornell Environmental Health and Safety personnel to locate the electrical fire, which was in an elevator machinery room in the center of the building, according to Lieutenant Thomas T. Basher Jr.

The fire was quickly knocked down and firefighters cleared the building of smoke, according to a news release. There were no injuries.

The building was reopened by 10:30 a.m.

Traffic sign repaired at Caroline school

The traffic sign in front of Caroline Elementary School that warns drivers to slow to 35 mph when its lights are flashing is operational again.

The lights had been dark since the start of the school year. Ithaca City School District Communications Coordinator Kate Patterson said the lights were turned on Wednesday by the New York State Department of Transportation, which had delayed the process because it was waiting for a replacement part.

Forest Home bridge to close today

The Forest Home Drive Bridge over Fall Creek will be closed for reconstruction starting today.

The Tompkins County Highway Division advises travelers to follow the posted detour signs.

LOTTERIES

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

N.Y. Daily (day): 4-7-7
N.Y. Win 4 (day): 4-7-3-4
N.Y. Daily (night): 7-3-3
N.Y. Win 4 (night): 8-1-7-0
N.Y. Take 5 (Wednesday): 10-11-12-17-24
N.Y. Pick 10 (Wednesday): 3-4-10-13-14-16-19-27-28-30-41-42-49-53-54-66-67-72-75-77
N.Y. Lotto (Wednesday): 14-16-27-29-52-58
Bonus: 6
Powerball (Wednesday): 2-36-40-49-54
Powerball: 10

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 proposes tax increase

Public information meeting on 4% hike planned Saturday

By Shawnee A. Barnes
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LANSING — Lansing residents will see a 4 percent increase in their town tax rate next year, according to the proposed 2014 budget, which is scheduled for a vote after a public hearing Wednesday.

An informational meeting and presentation on the budget is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday at Town Hall, 29 Auburn Road. The public hearing is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, also at Town Hall.

If approved, the tax rate would increase from \$1.38 to

about \$1.43 per \$1,000 in property valuation. That translates roughly into a five-cent bump per \$1,000 or, for an average \$150,000 home, a \$10 increase next year.

The increase is due to increases across the board, Town Supervisor Kathy Miller said.

"The cost of services increases every year just as the cost-of-living increases," said Miller, adding that the town's total tax assessment has decreased, prompting the need to dip into the fund balance to keep the tax rate steady.

"Continuing to use (the) fund balance for this purpose every

year will deplete the fund balance and necessitate a large tax rate increase over the next few years. Our goal is to establish multi-year budget planning in support of stabilizing the budget to avoid drastic changes in the tax levy and tax rates," she said.

The Consumer Price Index, or rate of inflation, is 1.2 percent for the 12-month period ending in September. The town tax rate has not changed for the past several years.

The total amount to be raised town-wide through property taxes is \$1.7 million, a \$75,467 increase over last year. When

the special districts such as water and sewer are factored in, the budget is \$2.3 million. Only those within those districts pay the added cost for the service.

The total operating funds appropriations are projected to be \$4.8 million, while special districts are projected at \$1.4 million. Total appropriations projected are \$6.2 million. Although the Town Board approved a tax cap override, the budget does not exceed the cap.

The town's portion makes up 6 percent of the tax bill, with the school district, county and other districts making up the rest.

LIBRARIES GET AUDIOBOOKS

Technology grant pays for 23 digital books



Boynton Middle School students Alexander Simpson, left, and Reilly Donovan, both of Ithaca, use new digital audiobooks with Boynton teacher-librarian Annarose Foley, of Binghamton. IPEI PHOTO

Staff report

Ithaca City School District middle and high school libraries will have increased audiobook offerings thanks to a media technology grant facilitated by the Ithaca Public Education Initiative.

The 23 new digital audiobooks range from popular titles such as "The Hunger Games" and "The Maze Runner" to curriculum-based selections, including "The Lightning Thief" and "D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths," which are both currently read for sixth grade English Language Arts.

"Audiobooks are a viable alternative to the traditional method of read-

ing, giving students across the academic spectrum the opportunity to access and enjoy the benefits of the printed word," Annarose Foley, a Binghamton resident and teacher-librarian at Boynton Middle School, said in a statement.

The libraries, which loan out devices to play the audiobooks, are piloting the program before it expands to the district elementary schools.

The Phyllis B. Brodhead Library Media Technology Grant was created in honor of the former Boynton teacher and librarian by her husband and friends. The grant is designed to help library media centers keep current with technological advances.

Cornell extends early deadline

Staff report

Technical issues have forced Cornell University to extend its early decision deadline to Nov. 8.

The problems stem from the Common Application, which allows students to apply to multiple colleges with a single form. The non-profit company that offers the service processes a million applications a year for 500 institutions.

Since Aug. 1, however, users of the new applications have experienced numerous technical glitches, including problems with log-ins, compatibility with web browsers, uploading documents and submitting completed applications. More than 40 colleges have rolled back fall admissions deadlines.

Last week, university officials made the call to push back the early deadline. The Undergraduate Admissions Office sent emails to prospective freshmen in the system and also notified guidance counselors that submitted freshman applications to the university.

"We are aware of the anxiety prospective students may be feeling at a time when they should be filled with excitement at the future possibilities before them," Vice Provost Barbara Knuth said in a statement.

Not all students are experiencing problems. Alexandria Stryker, 17, of Horseheads, hasn't run into any glitches, but says she welcomes Cornell's decision.

WEEKEND WATCH

Veterans to be honored with parade

By Shawnee A. Barnes
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This year's annual Veterans Day Parade in Tompkins County begins at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The route will wind along South Cayuga Street to the VFW on West State/Martin Luther King Jr. Street and on to Corn Street.

The parade lineup begins at 1 p.m. at North and South Titus and Cayuga streets.

Elementary fundraiser is a 'five' clown act

The annual Circus Wunderbar, which raises money for Ithaca City School District elementary schools, is scheduled Sunday with shows at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. at Kulp Auditorium at Ithaca High School.

The Elementary School Fall Fundraiser features Hilby, the Skinny German Juggle Boy, and all funds go to the schools' Parent-Teacher Associations.

Circus Wunderbar was created by Michael Hilbig (Hilby) and is performed with a host of characters, guest stars and mystery guests. For more information, visit www.hilby.net. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

'Pies and bread' to aid Dryden society

The Dryden Town Historical Society's annual homemade pie and bread sale begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, in the lobby of the First National Bank of Dryden, 7 W. Main St. For information, call Mary Hornbuckle at (607) 898-3461.



Michael Hilbig, as Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy, left, and Janitor Jane, right, played by Sarah Blodgett, will perform in Circus Wunderbar on Sunday at Ithaca High School. PHOTOS PROVIDED