

Committee OKs tentative '12 budget

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | The Steuben County Finance Committee endorsed Wednesday a \$186 million spending plan that carries an average property tax increase of 1.7 percent.

The preliminary 2012 budget now heads to the full Legislature for review next week.

The average tax rate is down .10 cents, from \$8.76 per \$1,000 to \$8.66 per \$1,000.

Steuben officials traditionally report the tax increase, because they believe it gives taxpayers a more accurate picture of county spending. Next year's levy is pegged at \$46.7 million, nearly \$700,000 more than

the current levy of \$46 million.

Key items in the preliminary budget include:

■ The state-mandated Medicaid program will cost Steuben County taxpayers \$21 million next year, a \$3 million increase.

■ Cuts and additional revenues totaling more than \$717,000, based on average departmental spending during the past five years, and the decision to eliminate six vacant, funded positions.

■ Nine county employees took advantage of an early retirement package, which also reduced costs.

■ Outside agency funding will remain at 2011 levels, Alger said.

SEE **BUDGET** | 10A

Forum on renewable energy Sat. at CCC

THE LEADER STAFF

A free symposium, titled "Energy Security: Building Our Future in the Southern Tier," will be held Saturday at Corning Community College.

The event will run from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the Commons and will explore "the critical need for energy conservation, efficiency and renewable sources of energy and how to bring them to the Southern Tier," according to a press release.

It's presented by People for a Healthy Environment, a Chemung

County-based environmental group, and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Steuben County, the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition and the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative.

Highlights include keynote speeches by Bill McKibben and Joseph Robertson.

McKibben is an author and environmentalist who has written extensively on global warming and founded 350.org, the grassroots climate change awareness campaign that

SEE **FORUM** | 10A

Police blotter

Corning City

COMPLAINTS | 11.08.11

11:22 a.m. A woman said she was nearly struck by a car on Market Street.

1:35 p.m. A man said someone took his debit card from Wegmans and used it at WalMart.

2:34 p.m. A woman said a car had been parked on Watauga Avenue since Nov. 3.

5:06 p.m. A woman said someone was following her on Pritchard Avenue.



BILL BOLAND | SPECIAL TO THE LEADER

This reader-submitted photo was taken at last year's dedication of the new handicapped-accessible walkway at Veterans Memorial Park in Corning.

S. Tier to honor veterans with ceremonies, dinners

BY DERRICK EK
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Here's a glance at some of the observances that will be held across the area to commemorate Veterans Day. Friday's holiday marks the day the Armistice that ended World War I was signed in 1918.

■ **Corning**
Corning's annual observance, led by the VFW and American Legion, will begin at 11 p.m. today at the new Veterans Memorial Park on Park Avenue, when local veterans will stand guard during an overnight vigil that will feature the display of 2,000 candle lanterns honoring veterans.

At 10:40 a.m. Friday, a ceremony will dedicate the new park – formerly called the Civil War Monument or Soldiers and Sailors Monument – as Veterans Memorial Park. A community-wide effort has

upgraded the park in several phases over the past two years.

Approximately 300 colored, engraved bricks, laid in the shape of an American flag, will be among the new amenities unveiled. Also, U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, will present a flag that flew over the nation's Capitol to Corning Mayor Rich Negri, and it will be raised on the new illuminated flagpole.

Then, at 11 a.m., the traditional Veterans Day observance will begin. Highlights will include remarks by retired U.S. Army Col. Greg Hollister, of Hornell, who served in Iraq, as well as a wreath laying and rifle and cannon salutes.

The Corning Elks Lodge, located at the corner of First and Walnut streets, will host a Veterans Day luncheon from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday. Soup, sandwich and dessert is \$5, but veterans eat for free.

SEE **VETERANS** | 3A

In brief

Notre Dame to host open house

ELMIRA | Notre Dame High School will hold its annual open house from 1-3 p.m. Sunday. The event will include student-led tours, exhibits and opportunities for discussion with faculty, students, parents and administration. Information about tuition and financial aid will also be available. At the end of the afternoon, a drawing will be held for one \$2,000 and two \$1,000 scholarships for new students attending during the 2011-2012 school year. The school is located at 1400 Maple Ave. Call 734-2267 or visit www.notredamehighschool.com.

Habitat seeks partner family

PENN YAN | Yates County Habitat for Humanity is seeking an eligible Yates County partner family for its next home, located at 3334 Skyline Drive in Penn Yan. Habitat will hold an open house and informational meeting for interested families at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Skyline Drive home. Partner family requirements will be explained and applications will be available. The application deadline is Nov. 21. For details, call (315) 536-9159.

Savona to flush fire hydrants

SAVONA | The Village of Savona Water Department will be flushing hydrants on Monday and Tuesday. Water may be cloudy during that time.

Holiday house tour slated

MONTOUR FALLS | The Schuyler Hospital Auxiliary will host a holiday house tour from noon-4 p.m. Dec. 11. The tour will feature three homes each in Watkins Glen and Montour Falls, plus deluxe lakeside hotel suites and recently renovated loft apartments, a hospital press release said. Locations will not be announced until the day of the tour. Advance tickets are \$15 per person and are available at the Schuyler Hospital Gift Shop, Wags to Riches, the Seneca Lake General Store, Famous Brands Outlet and Montour Pharmacy. Day-of-event tickets are \$20 and will be available only at the Watkins Glen Public Library – where the tour kicks off.

■ Staff reports

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