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Flyers close in on sweep



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- Bath taxes may rise 9.6%. 2A
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The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

MONDAY | APRIL 16 | 2012

75 CENTS

C-PP to finalize budget; 93 jobs to go

BY DERRICK EK
ek@the-leader.com

PAINTED POST | After months of number crunching, the Corning-Painted Post school board is expected to finalize a proposed 2012-13 budget on Wednesday that will

cut the equivalent of 93.5 full-time jobs.

The school board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Administration Building, 165 Charles St., Painted Post.

They will vote on a tentative \$87.65 million budget that includes a property tax levy of

\$47.65 million, a 1.78 percent hike that's the maximum allowed under the new state cap. The tax rate is projected at \$24 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

At the last school board meeting in early April, the relief of securing a \$5.3 million

grant from the Corning Incorporated Foundation was quickly followed by the sobering realization that the district was still facing \$5.45 million in cuts to close its budget gap.

According to figures provided

SEE **BUDGET** | 6A

If you go

WHAT | C-PP school board
WHEN | 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
WHERE | Administration building, 165 Charles St., Painted Post

Elmira Heights Couple help put out blaze

THE LEADER STAFF

ELMIRA HEIGHTS | An Elmira Heights couple may have saved the lives of an 18th Street family, firefighters said Sunday.

The couple, identified by Elmira Heights Fire Chief James Locker as Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Colitti, were driving down West 18th Street Saturday evening when they saw a porch on fire.

They pulled over outside the residence at 253 W. 18th St. and rushed to the scene, Locker said. Anthony Colitti used a floor mat and dirt from a nearby planter bed to fight the blaze. His wife alerted the family inside.

When firefighters arrived, they found the outside wall of the covered front porch was badly burned, but the blaze was almost under control.

"Had it not been for the actions of these people, this fire would have entered the attic space of the home in only a few short minutes most likely undetected by the family inside, which given the time of night could have resulted in a tragic outcome," Locker wrote in a press release.

Anthony Colitti suffered a minor burn to his hand and was treated by the Fire Department EMS, Locker said.

Fire crews remained on the scene for approximately one hour extinguishing the remaining fire and checking the building. An electrical malfunction in the light fixture on the front porch caused the fire, Locker said.

A family of three was home when the fire started. They were uninjured and spent the night elsewhere, he said.

Who will answer the call?



DERRICK EK | THE LEADER

From left | Rick Skebey, Steve Walters and Bob Young of the Horseheads Fire Department, one of more than a dozen departments that will be holding open houses to recruit volunteers.

N.Y. departments sound alarm: We need volunteer firefighters

BY JOHN ZICK
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CORNING | Volunteer fire companies across the state will make a major push this month to bolster their ranks, which have been thinning over the last 20 years.

As of last week, more than a dozen volunteer departments in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties were planning to hold open houses for this weekend's Recruit NY event. Participating departments will conduct demonstrations, discuss requirements and answer questions.

Since the early 1990s, the number of volunteer firefighters has fallen from approximately 140,000 to fewer than 90,000 today, according to officials.

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano,

SEE **CALL** | 6A



DERRICK EK | THE LEADER
An antique fire truck, used for parades, sits in the Horseheads Fire Department.

Recruit NY

Chemung County

- Horseheads Fire Dept., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 739-3814
- Town & Country Fire Dept., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 739-7134
- Elmira Heights Fire Dept., 1-4 p.m. Sat. 733-6580
- Webb Mills Fire Company, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat. 732-1028
- Southport Vol. Fire Dept., Sun. 733-7599

Schuyler County

- Montour Falls Fire Dept., Noon-2 p.m. Sun. 535-7265

Steuben County

- Arkport Hose Co. No. 1 Inc., Saturday. 295-7750
- Bath Vol. Fire Dept., 10 a.m.-4p.m. Sat. 776-6909
- Coopers Plains-Long Acres Fire Dept., Sun. 962-8213
- Kanona Volunteer Fire Co., Sun. 776-9002
- Pulteney Fire Dept., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun. 868-3003
- South Corning Fire Dept., Sunday. 937-5866
- Troupsburg Fire Dept., Sat.-Sun. 525-6303
- Wayland Fire Dept., 1-4 p.m. Sun. (585) 278-8918

* Note: From recruitny.org. Call for open house hours. More departments could be added.

Pa. drilling Expert: Treat all oil, gas waste

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH | A former top environmental official says Pennsylvania's successful efforts to keep Marcellus Shale wastewater away from drinking water supplies should be extended to all other oil and gas drillers.

"It's the same industry. It is the same contaminants. And the goal should be the same," said George Jugovic Jr., who was formerly the Department of Environmental Protection's southwest regional director. He's now president of PennFuture, an environmental group.

An AP analysis of state data found that in the second half of 2011 about 1.86 million barrels – or about 78 million gallons – of drilling wastewater from conventional oil and gas wells were still being sent to treatment plants that discharge into rivers.

The core issue is whether a problem in waterways has been solved, or if more needs to be done.

In 2010 health experts raised alarms when they found soaring levels of ultra-salty bromides in rivers and streams that are major sources of drinking water. The general view was that wastewater from Marcellus Shale gas drilling – polluted with heavy bromides from deep underground – was contributing to the problem.

High levels of bromides can contaminate drinking water with levels that exceed national safety standards and are potentially harmful. Though not considered a pollutant

SEE **TREAT** | 6A



TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



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forecast | **10A**

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