

The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

THURSDAY | AUGUST 23 | 2007

50 CENTS

Costs rise for C-PP projects

BY BOB RECOTTA
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PAINTED POST | The Corning-Painted Post school board recently discovered the maintenance work being performed this summer will cost more than originally thought.

The school board approved \$91,000 last week in change orders for work being done this summer at district schools as part of the district's ongoing maintenance schedule.

Brian Trott, an architect for Clark Patterson Associates – the firm that designed the projects – told the board at last week's meeting it needed to approve the changes in order to complete the maintenance project.

Trott said while contractors were doing work in the 900 corridor at East High School, they discovered many of the walls in the hall, including those in 12 classrooms, were only built as high as the drop ceiling.

State law requires the walls to extend all the way to the building's deck, which would cost an additional \$51,000.

An additional \$30,000 was needed to fix the roof at Kent Phillips Elementary School.

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Big Flats taxes may decrease

BY JOHN ZICK
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BIG FLATS | Property taxes in the town of Big Flats will not increase – and may even decrease – in 2008, town Supervisor Mary Ann Balland said Wednesday.

Officials unveiled the town's preliminary 2008 budget Wednesday during a board meeting at the Big Flats Town Hall.

The preliminary budget does not call for a tax decrease, although Balland said the spending plan will likely be trimmed before it is approved.

"The first shot is everyone's wish list," Balland said. "I can say there will be no tax increase."

This year's tax levy is \$2.81 per \$1,000 of property value. Balland said next year's budget could drop the levy up to six cents per \$1,000.

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A CIRCUS OF SCIENCE



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Entertainer delights big crowd at Little Gather

THE LEADER STAFF

Buffalo entertainer Nels Cremean brought his comedy-variety act, "In Jest," to the Corning Museum of Glass on Wednesday morning.

"Little Gather" concludes next Wednesday with a performance by magician and vaudeville performer David Moreland. The show, which is free and open to the public, starts at 11 a.m. There is also a show at 10 a.m. for large groups; reservations are requested and can be made by calling 974-3306.

Also at CMoG: the "Botanical Wonders: The Story of the Harvard Glass Flowers" exhibit continues through late November; and the "Curiosities of Glassmaking" exhibit goes through late October.

The first 2300 Degrees of the fall is Oct. 18, and will feature a concert by Ithaca band The Horse Flies. The "Draw and Discover" and "Families Explore" series also return this fall. For a complete line-up, call 937-5371 or go to www.cmog.org.

Above | Nels Cremean gets some help from audience members to climb his "World's Shortest 15-foot Unicycle." Below | Nels, as the Professor, talks about gravity while juggling. Bottom | Children react to getting sprayed with water.



Protesters plead not guilty

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | Five war protesters each pleaded not guilty to criminal trespass charges Wednesday in Bath Village Court.

Daniel J. Burns, 47, Ellen Grady, 44, Richard T. Saddler, 42, Mark C. Scibilia-Carver, 54, and Christopher Tate, 46, appeared Wednesday before Village Justice Chauncey

Watches to answer charges of third-degree criminal trespass.

All five live in the Ithaca-Trumansburg area.

Third-degree criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor, is punishable by up to 90 days in jail time and a \$500 fine.

The charges stem from an Aug. 6 incident in the district office of U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr.,

SEE PROTESTERS | 14A



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

War protesters stand in front of the Bath Police Department Wednesday afternoon.

14 troops killed in Black Hawk crash

Mechanical failure suspected

BY KIM GAMEL
 Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD | Fourteen U.S. soldiers were killed Wednesday when a Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a nighttime mission in northern Iraq, but the military said it appeared the aircraft was lost by mechanical problems and not from hostile fire.

It was the Pentagon's worst single-day death toll in Iraq since January and indicated how forces are relying heavily on air power in offensives across northern regions after rooting out many militant strongholds in Baghdad and central regions.

But extremists are striking back.

A suicide truck bombing against a police station in the northern oil hub of Beiji claimed at least 45 lives – 25



AP FILE PHOTO

This file photo shows the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a mission near Tall Afar, Iraq.

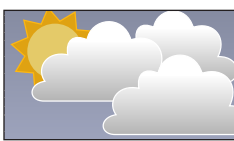
policemen and 20 civilians – amid a series of deadly attacks north of the capital.

The growing bloodshed in the north carries a mixed message. It suggests some success for the U.S.-led security sweeps seeking to reclaim control of areas in and around Baghdad. But it also highlights the

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TODAY'S LOCAL WEATHER



PARTLY SUNNY
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