



SIMON WHEELER / STAFF PHOTO  
Brennen Weber makes his way Tuesday afternoon through the creek running out of its banks near his grandmother's house on Station Road in Danby. "We asked the county to dig it out last year, but they couldn't because of the DEC and their invisible fish here," Weber said of the classified trout stream. "We haven't had fish here in about 20 years."

# FLOOD REPAIRS SLOWED

## Local officials await permits from the state

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While crews continue to repair roads damaged by severe flooding in Tompkins County Sunday night, some work is on hold as local officials await permits from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The DEC restricts construction on waterways defined as trout streams — areas designated as trout habitats — leaving some local road crews, like those who will repair damaged bridges traversing the Cayuga Inlet, waiting for emergency permits.

"We are seeing if there is a possibility of obtaining emergency repair permits for the area," said Jon Negley, district manager at Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District, adding the county is applying to the DEC for other permits to begin later repair projects.

Sunday night's flash floods caused between \$500,000 and \$800,000 of damage, as estimated by the county Emergency Management Office, well below the Feder-

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## \$500K to \$800K

Estimated flood damage costs this week

## 12,500

Number of trout stocked in Cayuga Inlet, which stretches from Ithaca to Spencer, this spring

**"You can invest in the large-scale dredging program, but you should still invest in upstream detention and water quality improvements for flood mitigation stream function and as a habitat as well. You have to respect those flood plains, especially with these recent events."**

SCOTT DOYLE  
SENIOR PLANNER, TOMPKINS COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Damaged train tracks could reopen Saturday

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After sections of railroad track were damaged in flash flooding this week, Norfolk Southern, which owns the line, is aiming to have it up and running as early as Saturday morning.

In at least two areas of the line that runs through Newfield and Danby, known as Ithaca Secondary, sections of track about 30 feet deep and 100 feet wide were washed away.

"We've been working around the clock to get that line reopened," said Dave Pidgeon, public relations manager for Norfolk Southern, on Thursday.

The line has been out of service since Sunday, when severe thunderstorms and flash flooding hit southern Tompkins County.

To fix Ithaca Secondary, crews are working to make sure the ties and ballasts are fully restored at a safe level.

"Before we reopen the line, we will certainly test

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# Legislature expected to extend session to next week

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ALBANY — The state Legislature is expected to extend its legislative session into next week as lawmakers and Gov. Andrew Cuomo remain divided over key issues.

The session, which started Jan. 7, was scheduled to end Wednesday, but the sides are still at a stalemate over how to address rent-stabilization laws that expired Monday for New York City and its suburbs.

The rent impasse stalled other pieces of legislation that could get resolved before the Legislature leaves the Capitol for the year, such as an extension of the

property-tax cap and legalizing mixed-martial-arts contests.

The Republican-led Senate was planning to break for the weekend on Thursday night, and the Democratic-controlled Assembly was planning to do the same on Friday afternoon.

"There are conversations that are taking place that are positive," Senate Deputy Leader Thomas Libous, R-Binghamton, said. "They are focusing on language and before that wasn't happening. I think if we take a little break, go home for the weekend and come back, I think we can close down what has to be done. It takes time."

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Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan arrives for a meeting at Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office at the Capitol in Albany on Thursday.  
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