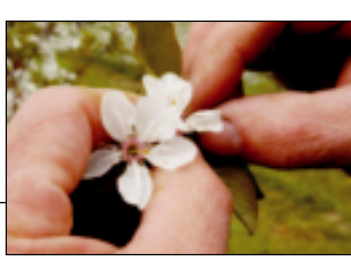


Not quite sure what to do this weekend? Let us help. D1



Apple and cherry growers enjoy a good start to the season. B1

Local dentist sentenced in child molestation case. B1

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THE WEATHER

Today: Rain developing early. Cool, damp. High 58, low 51.
Tomorrow: Rain early. High 57. Details, Page A6



ERIN R. COKER—COKER@POSTSTAR.COM

A Glens Falls firefighter looks over the edge of the Hotel Madden on South Street where a section of brick fell off the side of the historic building.

Madden facade collapses

Falling brick smashes through soup kitchen skylight

By DAVID IMAN II
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GLENS FALLS ♦ The Open Door soup kitchen on South Street is closed indefinitely after falling bricks damaged its roof and office skylight Thursday.

Marye Allen was sitting in her red Dodge Caravan in the public parking lot across from the Open

Door when she heard a "boom" and felt a subtle shock wave in the air.

"I turned around and could see dust ... filter out onto the street," the Johnsbury resident said.

Allen witnessed the aftermath of an approximately 20-by-2-foot section of the brick facade on the Hotel Madden's west wall falling away from the wood frame and

crashing onto the roof of the Open Door, which is connected to the hotel.

The incident occurred between 4 and 4:15 p.m.

Water seeping behind the bricks close to the hotel's roof caused them to loosen, said John F. Ward Jr., city code enforcement officer.

"The building itself is solid,"

he said. "There is no question about the hotel."

The missing bricks need to be replaced so water does not get behind the rest of the facade and cause it to fall, Ward said. For now, he has asked the building's owner, Peter Shabat, to drape a tarp over the exposed wood

Please see SOUP KITCHEN, Back Page

Frostbite future being discussed

By MAURY THOMPSON
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and GREG BROWNELL
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GLENS FALLS ♦ Mayor Roy Akins and Adirondack Frostbite owner Barry Melrose each said Thursday they are working to keep hockey at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

"We are a hockey town," Akins said. "Obviously, I'm going to do everything I can to keep the team here."

Akins said he has not yet had direct negotiations with the team's owners about a new lease, but has been discussing options with Richard Brosal, the United Hockey League commissioner. Brosal confirmed that he has been talking with Akins on issues regarding the team's lease.

Melrose, who owns the Frostbite along with Steve Levy, said there had been discussions involving the mayor, but declined to be more specific about what's happening.

"We're doing everything we can, Steve and I, to keep hockey in Glens Falls," he said.

Earlier this week, the fan message board on the Frostbite's Web site was alive with comments that the team had been sold. Asked if there was any chance of a sale, Melrose said "not at this moment," but wouldn't rule out a future sale.

Brosal said the current discussions did not involve a sale of the team.

Asked repeatedly if there is a possibility of either new ownership or new investors, Akins would not answer specifically, but said several times, "I don't care who pays the bills, as long as the bills are paid."

The current lease expires at the end of this month. Owners said last summer they were losing significant money and needed a better lease to keep the team afloat.

Earlier this season, Melrose and Levy brought in R.T. "Ted" Parfet Jr., the owner of the UHL's Kalamazoo Wings, as a financial backer of the Frostbite. Melrose said he couldn't say if that relationship would continue.

Melrose said he was "very hopeful" that there will be a solution that keeps hockey in Glens Falls.

"The main thing I can tell you is, the new mayor has been awesome," Melrose said. "He's been great to work with. I wish he was in office three years ago."

ALTERNATIVE FUEL OPTIONS



ERIN R. COKER—COKER@POSTSTAR.COM

College students from the University of Pennsylvania work to move in their one-person solar vehicle during Thursday's 2006 Tour de Sol at the Saratoga Technology and Energy Park in Malta. The solar vehicle, which took about two years to build, can reach speeds around 30 mph and weighs around 700 pounds with a driver.

Think 'outside the barrel'

Tech park hosts 'green' car show

By BRENDAN MCGARRY
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MALTA ♦ Growing up, Justin Carven loved tinkering under the hood. His romance with cars was matched only by his passion

for the environment.

So in college, Carven combined the two, and developed a fuel modification system that feeds on vegetable oil — which is even cleaner than biodiesel.

In 2001, his then-fledgling company, Greasecar Vegetable Fuel Systems, sold a couple dozen of the modification kits.

Now, with the price of gas skipping past \$3 a gallon and the cost of diesel trailing close

behind, Carven sells a couple dozen kits a day.

"We grin down at our shop, and get a little nervous because every time it goes up, we get slammed with calls," said Carven, one of about 40 exhibitors on Thursday at Tour de Sol, billed as America's biggest "green" car show.

The 18th annual event organized by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association was held at

Saratoga Technology and Energy Park.

Carven's patented fuel system typically costs about \$1,800 to buy and install, and hooks up to just about any diesel engine, from a Volkswagen Golf to a Ford F-350 pick-up. In fact, the bigger the guzzler, the better the savings.

Start the engine, let it run a

Please see CLIENTS, Back Page

Willie Nelson fans reminisce

Local men recall long-ago connection with star

By CHRISTINE MARGIOTTA
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QUEENSBURY ♦ Bob Cavanaugh went to Hillbilly Heaven one night, and there, he saw the Redheaded Stranger.

Hold on, now — Cavanaugh's no southern moonshiner who died and met an Irish guy.

He's a local barber, and the longtime owner of the Northgate Barbershop in Queensbury. And

yes, he indeed traveled nearly 30 years ago with pal Roy Thomas to "Hillbilly Heaven," otherwise known to the locals as the Brookside Restaurant in West Fort Ann.

And there, they saw the Redheaded Stranger — better known as country music legend Willie Nelson.

That evening, Cavanaugh and Thomas became bona fide Willie Nelson fans and even got to kick

back and have a beer with the famous country star at a bar in Glens Falls after the show.

The musical devotion has continued to this day, and this Wednesday, they will once again travel to pay homage to their musical hero when he performs at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

This time, Cavanaugh is showing up with a gift.

Please see WILLIE, Back Page



DEREK PRUITT—DPRUITT@POSTSTAR.COM

Bob Cavanaugh and Roy Thomas hold Cavanaugh's painting of Willie Nelson. They intend to give the painting to Nelson when he comes to Glens Falls for his performance at the Civic Center on Wednesday.



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GOOD MORNING! [05.12.06]

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Dear Abby.....B4 Local...B1,3,5,7,11 A2,3,B8 Stocks.....B6

SATURDAY

Thinking about checking out the new movie, "Poseidon?" Check out what the experts have to say about it ... and then see it for yourself.



