



**US Senate hopeful  
tours North Country  
business/Page A3**



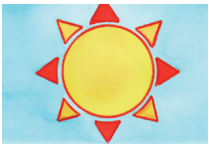
**Trio of local women  
make good friends,  
artwork/Page A7**



**Drivers hit track  
for weeknight  
races/Page B1**

**Thursday**

August 12, 2010



Sunny;  
high in  
upper  
70s.

**Page A2**

# PRESS-REPUBLICAN

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24 Pages

## Several irons in the fire

Options, feelings on fire towers expressed at public meeting

**By ALVIN REINER**  
Staff Writer

KEENE VALLEY — Speakers were passionate about their feelings concerning plans for the Hurricane and St. Regis fire towers.

Most North Country residents attending a hearing

### TO COMMENT

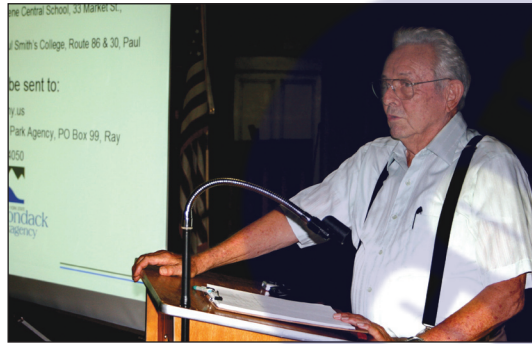
Comments can be sent to: APA\_SLMP@gw.dec.state.ny.us; James Connolly, APA, P.O. Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977; or call 891-4050.

### OPTIONS

Adirondack Park Agency Natural Resources Planner Kevin Prickett outlined the options, which are, basically:

► Alternative 1: Reclassify the base areas (0.25 acres) to Historic, reclassify the balance

See **TOWERS** Page A5 ►



Staff Photo/Alvin Reiner

**Melvin “Stubby” Longware of Elizabethtown** made an impassioned presentation at the Hurricane Mountain Tower meeting held in Keene Valley.

## Malone A&M to be sold

► Pending sale leaves workers at beverage distributor unsure over employment future

**By DENISE A. RAYMO**  
Staff Writer

MALONE — A&M Beverages in Malone is being sold, but its 30 employees won't know for a while if they will keep their jobs.

Saratoga Eagle, a subsidiary of Try-It Distributing Co. of Buffalo, is acquiring the beverage-distribution business, but the sale has not been finalized, said Saratoga Eagle President Jeff Vukelic.

“We're in negotiations for the purchase of the business, but I can't comment any further than that because it's not complete.”

A&M Beverages was owned by Jeffrey Abbott, who was also the company president. His wife, Janine, was vice president of the firm, which has been in business here since 1963.

But Mr. Abbott's sudden death in July 2009 and Mrs. Abbott's death just five months later put ownership and the future of the company in flux.

The Abbotts are survived by a daughter, Kimberly, and a son, William.

Kimberly Abbott has been running the Malone company since her mother's death.

Also among the survivors is Janine Abbott's mother, Janet (Smith) Johnson, who reportedly became executrix of the family's affairs when Janine died.

The parties involved are under a gag order not to discuss details of the pending sale.

Kimberly Abbott declined to comment, citing the gag order. But several people with knowledge of the situation say there is a dispute over control of A&M because the Abbott children oppose the impending sale of the business, which was founded by their father's family generations ago.

Saratoga Eagle bought Ruch Distributors Inc. in Albany in April and had purchased Northern Distributors of Queensbury in 2005.

See **A&M** Page A5 ►

## FAIR-FEATHER FRIEND



Staff Photo/Alvin Reiner

**Jonas Borkholder of Adirondack Bird Refuge and Rehab** holds a broad-winged hawk named Sam Fran. Sam Fran and other animals are part of the Conservation Area of the Essex County Fair. **For today's fair schedule, see page A5.**

## Bangor Fire Dept. getting new station

**By DENISE A. RAYMO**  
Staff Writer

NORTH BANGOR — Construction is under way on the new Bangor Fire Station, which Fire Department officials designed to meet their existing and anticipated space needs.

“We really stole ideas from a lot of other stations,” said First Assistant Chief Jerry Dumas. “We visited a lot of places all over northern New York and talked to a lot of people.”

### MORE SPACE

The 9,800-square-foot, four-bay, drive-through station at the corner of Route 11 and Brockway Road will have room for eight vehicles and includes a special spot for the Rescue Squad ambulance, which is the most used one in the fleet.

Dumas said a wall will enclose it so when the overhead door is opened to deploy or return the ambulance, the entire bay will not be plunged into extreme temperatures in the winter and summer.

### INSIDE AMENITIES

The bay area features radiant-floor heating, a commercial kitchen and a large meeting room that can double as a space for department fundraisers.

Dumas said there will also be offices for the chiefs and other department leaders, an administrative office and a small lounge for firefighters.

The building will be fully compliant with federal Americans with Disability Act regulations, he said.



Staff Photo/Denise A. Raymo

**Crews from Tim Lamica Construction begin work** on the roofing for the new Fire Station for the Bangor Volunteer Fire Department on Route 11. The site is about a mile west of the current building and could be ready for occupancy by Thanksgiving.

### HOW TO HELP

Donations are still being accepted to help pay for the new Fire Station for the 28-person Bangor Volunteer Fire Department.

Anyone wishing to help may send a check to the Fire Station Fund, Bangor Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 391, North Bangor, NY 12966.

### FUNDING

The project will cost about \$535,000, and the fire company took out a \$300,000 loan through the State Office of Emergency

Management to help pay for it.

Bangor got a 2.5-percent interest rate for the 20-year loan.

The structure has been a long time in coming, with some volunteers working since the late 1990s to get a new station house built.

Fundraisers, donations and grants allowed the fire company to buy the piece of land for \$18,000.

### TOO SMALL

The department has outgrown its existing building, which was donated by the Town of Bangor in 1957. It had been the town garage.

See **STATION** Page A6 ►

## Officials gearing up for prison closure

► Ideas mulled over use of site in Lyon Mountain

**By ANDREA VanVALKENBURG**  
Staff Writer

DANNEMORA — As the closure of Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility looms, state and local officials are already discussing possible future uses of the site.

Officials gathered recently for a special meeting to share ideas about development of the site.

“I can't believe it can't be used as a central storage (for the six upstate prisons),” Dannemora Town Supervisor Americo “Ves” Pivetta said. “I think it'd also be perfect for a youthful offender home.”

Pivetta said the latest closure is the third crippling blow to the town since the 1960s when, first, Republic Steel closed mining operations and, later, the Lyon Mountain school shut down.

“We're in a time where we have to get some help ... and we should start (planning), the sooner the better.”

### VALUABLE SITE

Sen. Betty Little (R-Queensbury) agreed that advanced planning is needed and suggested that a steering committee be formed to begin the collaborative process.

Since 2006, she said, the location has undergone \$2.6 million in renovations at some of the site's 20 buildings, which include garages and dormitory areas.

The area, which has its own sewage system, recently had its 14-acre property assessed for \$5 million, she said, making it

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this first  
online  
at noon  
yesterday.

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**Garvey's Summer Clearance Event**

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