



SERVING THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS OF MAINE WHERE THE KIDS GROW STRAIGHT AND TALL AND THE WOMEN ARE ALL GOOD LOOKING.



Bill and Donica Bailey, of Phillips, pose with their new son, Cole Vincent Bailey, the first baby to be born at Franklin Memorial Hospital in 2009. At right is Jerry Cayer FMH COO.

FMH welcomes first baby of year

FARMINGTON — Franklin Memorial Hospital was pleased to welcome its first baby of 2009. Dr. Tara Aumand of Franklin Health Women's Care attended the birth of Cole Vincent Bailey, an 8 lb. 8 oz. baby boy who was born at 8:07 p.m. on Jan. 1. His parents are Donica and Bill Bailey of Phillips. Cole is the couple's first child.

As Franklin Memorial Hospital's first baby of 2009, baby Bailey was presented with gifts donated by area merchants including: Calico Patch, memory record book and onesie; Classic Gallery and Framing, picture frame; Cookies from the Heart, homemade cookies; Devaney, Doak & Garrett Booksellers, book "My Animals"; Franklin Memorial Hospital, baby sled; Hospital Gift Shop, \$50 gift certificate; Franklin Savings Bank, \$100 savings bond; Hannaford, \$20 gift card; Luce Studio, family session and color portrait; Mary O'Donal, knit sweater set; Trask Jewelers, feeding spoon; Village Scrappers (Quilters from Livermore), handmade baby quilt and bag; and Wal-Mart, \$25 gift card.

Endless Energy pitches annexation for wind farm

By David Hart
 Irregular Staff

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — Endless Energy Corporation of Yarmouth is back in the news with a new proposal for the consideration of the state legislature and the residents of Carrabassett Valley.

Members of EEC met with residents Monday, Jan. 5 at the Outdoor Center to discuss the details of the latest idea, part of a plan that has been in the making for decades.

A plan for a 90-watt wind farm was denied by Land Use Regulation Commissioners after staff approval, a similar plan is now still alive in the Western Mountains with a new audience.

According to a "Concept and Benefits" plan for a "Sugarloaf Community Wind Farm" EEC has recently presented the selectmen in town with the new task presented by president Harley Lee's desire to bring this long-term project to fruition.

Under what's considered a proposed Community Wind Farm, a public statement reads, "EEC is proposing a community-based wind farm in which more of the benefits of a wind farm will go to the local community. Under this structure, customers actually provide the capital for the project and benefit from much lower and stable-priced energy costs."

Endless Energy Corporation is proposing

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Kingfield town budget discussed

By David Hart
 Irregular Staff

KINGFIELD — The selectmen met last Monday afternoon, Dec. 29 and the majority of discussions revolved around the upcoming budget for 2009.

Administrative Assistant Greg Davis reported that the budget had not changed all that much. In typical fashion, outside requests were denied by selectmen including such appeals from the American Red Cross, children's centers, Community Concepts and other agencies.

The selectpersons present, Neal McCurdy and John Dill, did agree to present the voters on March 7 with the decision to either accept or deny a request from the Kingfield snowmobile club to fund \$3,000 toward trail improvements.

Davis noted that although most departments remained flat, heating oil, fuel and

sand and salt would raise municipal budgets in affected departments.

Board members also denied an employee matching benefit increase for town employees to jump from three to five percent although the Maine Municipal Association recommends the increase. McCurdy said that although the MMA recommended it, he felt the town was not ready to accept that kind of increase. Dill said that discussions regarding the matter can continue.

A date of Jan. 20 was set for a Special Town meeting to allow voters the opportunity to hear and decide if the selectmen should reduce their obligation to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. Originally, the cost for the project to build a wastewater treatment facility for the Poland Spring Bottling facility was estimated at \$1,040,000. Upon

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IRREGULAR Year in Review

(Part two of two)

Western Mountains — Projects that hadn't been heard from since last year were back in the news, as was school consolidation, which was finally put to rest. The wind power project north of Eustis was underway and both Saddleback and Sugarloaf greeted snow enthusiasts with large improvements over the previous season and lots of snow for Christmas. And the year closed with the loss of a 100-year-old Eustis landmark and well-known business.

July

The first issue in July reported that residents of Phillips rejected the proposed municipal budget effectively shutting down the town government and forcing the new town manager to take drastic actions. Despite rain, the 6th annual Kingfield POPS Festival was a success, as was Stratton-Eustis's

Family Fun Days. The Irregular inaugurated its extensive series "Maine energy and the future" in July. New Portland capped its year-long bicentennial celebrations in grand style with a massive parade lead by Nan Berry on her horse and included 15th Alabama Infantry reenactment. Backyard Farms in Madison announced that it planned to construct another greenhouse; the company was already the largest New England greenhouse. Mt. Abram began the installation of a wind turbine, making it possibly the only school in the state to use wind power to offset electricity costs.

August

Despite residents' desire to keep it open, MSAD #74 directors voted to close Central Elementary

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Present at the ground breaking for the new Franklin Savings Bank in Rangeley last August were (left to right): John Blanchard, H.E. Callahan general contractor; Peter Judkins, President and CEO of Franklin Savings Bank; Leenanna Wilbur, Rangeley Branch Manager; and Ken Haley, M&H Construction (subcontractor).