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## College planning for adults

SKOWHEGAN & WILTON — Adults considering college are invited to participate in free college-planning workshops sponsored by the Maine Educational Opportunity Center.

Unlike student financial aid programs, which help students to overcome financial barriers to higher education, MEOC provides valuable support services to help students from low income and working families successfully enter college since 1991.

The first workshop will be held at the Wilton CareerCenter, 865 US Rte. 2E, on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m.

The second is planned for Skowhegan CareerCenter, 98 North Avenue, Suite 20, on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 10 a.m.

MEOC helps adult students overcome class, social, academic and cultural barriers to higher education. MEOC services include: assistance in choosing a college; tutoring; personal and financial counseling, career counseling, assistance in applying to college; workplace

and college visits; and assistance in applying for financial aid.

All MEOC services are free. Call 1-800-281-3703 to register.

## Contra dance planned

FARMINGTON — West Farmington Dance recently announced that the next Contra dance is set for Saturday, Jan. 10, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Fairbanks School Meeting House, 508 Fairbanks Road, two miles north on Route 4 from the center of Farmington.

The dance will feature the Franklin County Fiddlers with John McIntyre calling. Admission is \$6 each with a maximum of \$15 for a "family." A beginner/brush-up workshop will be held at 7:30 p.m. free of charge with admission.

All are welcome; partner not necessary.

For more information, call 397-2241 or e-mail [dance@starleft.org](mailto:dance@starleft.org) or visit the Web site [www.starleft.org/dance](http://www.starleft.org/dance).

## BUDGET continued from page 1

completion, the selectmen were pleased to announce the debt obligation of only \$610,000.

In other business, the board accepted a bid of \$10,000 from Chuck Twitchell to build a new handicap accessible ramp for Webster Hall to meet ADA standards. The new ramp, according to selectmen will not replace the old one, but rather add another accessibility route to meet ADA compliance.

## WIND continued from page 1

that Carrabassett Valley annex approximately 10,000 acres in the upper half of Redington Township. This land, the statement says, is owned by Redington Mountain Windpower LLC, an EEC affiliate, and by Dallas Company, a timber company. The annexation would not include land owned by the U.S. Navy used for its SERE school.

"Procedurally," an announcement by town officials states, "annexation of Redington Township by the town would require a favorable vote of the State Legislature to then allow a vote by Town of Carrabassett Valley voters."

The board of selectmen has stated that they are not making recommendations regarding the merits or faults of this proposal. However, they feel that due to the potential benefits to the community and surrounding area this proposal should be brought before the citizens of the town (and surrounding communities) for further discussion.

This annexation, according to an EEC Concept and Benefit Plan, could benefit Carrabassett Valley in several ways:

The plan says that it would provide significantly reduced electricity cost for pre-paid locals by as much as 50 percent. However they note that the savings would likely result in a 33 percent savings due to projected transmission costs.

The statement also includes offers to Boyne's Sugarloaf and Sunday River operations and suggests a

After many sessions in selectman's meetings, the board accepted a written labor policy for town employees. It also set the date of Jan. 20 for additional talks on the transfer station budget.

The selectmen agreed to hear future dialog about the possibilities of Wi-Fi Internet access for area businesses and residents as a possible TIF expense. A list of names willing to research such possibilities will be presented to the selectmen at future meetings.

\$40 million savings over the life of the contract.

Also the statement includes a reduction in property taxes stating that \$140 million can be added to the town's tax base. This, as identified by EEC staff, could reduce the town's tax rate from 6.2 mils to 4.9 mils in the first year — a 21 percent decrease. "Alternatively, some of these savings could be applied to other important uses such as education," the statement reads.

According to the statement for town consideration, "Carrabassett Valley is a resort town that uses large amounts of energy. This project can generate prodigious amounts of clean power to run the town while reducing its environmental impacts."

The statement says that Carrabassett Valley can become a showcase of renewable energy. Wind farms often become tourist attractions and will give visitors one more activity to enjoy in the region.

EEC also states that annexation would put more of the Hut and Trail System under town control and might simplify permitting for that section of the trail as well as an additional hut planned near EEC's wind farm. "EEC has already granted an easement for the trail to cross its lands and looks forward to other joint actions."

EEC reminds residents that a positive vote of the selectmen will not mean the annexation is final. It will only continue the process to see if the legislature approves and the ultimately control of the town voters to approves of such a project.

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