



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

Carrabassett Valley — Budget set, ready for town meeting

By David Hart
 Irregular Staff

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — Voters in town will see 57 articles on the warrant at this year's Annual Town Meeting on March 11. Voters will respond to 47 articles which relate to the town's proposed budget.

Voting for the municipal officers who are running will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the town office. The remaining warrant articles will be voted upon at the Outdoor Center starting at 7:30 p.m. Absentee ballots for the municipal election will be available on Feb. 10.

In summary, town manager Dave Cota says the municipal budget represents an increase in expenditures of \$40,293. This increase represents a 2.2 percent increase and now stands at \$1,879,750.

The two largest reasons for added expenditures are increased costs associated with the town's Communication Center Budget and the town's share of the Transportation System. Cota announced in a report, that the selectmen will be looking at appointing a committee to work with the police chief to assess cost containment in the future.

That budget is up \$14,672 which is consistent with past

practices, Cota explains. The town is responsible for the share of \$170,194 of the \$567,148 budget.

He also stated that after its first year of partnership with Western Maine Transportation, Sugarloaf and the state, and the ski season is over, they'll be looking at possible means of cost containment. The transportation budget is set for \$463,630 of which the town is responsible for \$117,072.

New to voters this year will be the voting on the 2009

— Please see **CV** on page 28



MSAD #58 school nurses (left to right) Wendy Pond RN, Madi Faraday RN, Kristin Rackliffe RN and Beth Luce RN stand in behind 90 pairs of sneakers donated to the district recently by New Balance.
 (Sandy Schniepp photo)

Area kids get sneakers

MSAD #58 — Recently New Balance donated 90 pairs of sneakers for children in the MSAD #58 school system who were in need of athletic footwear.

School staff determined a few weeks ago that some students in the district had inadequate athletic footwear, so the nurses asked New Balance for a donation. They contacted a "wonderful lady" at the Skowhegan office, Georgianna Wright, "Charitable Program specialist" and she helped push the donation through.

Wright worked at the New Balance factory for 25 years and over that time, hundreds of people came through the doors inquiring about donations, so she would direct them to the main office in Boston. After doing this for so long, she wrote a letter to the company's headquarters, stating in part, "If you ever need someone to help distribute these samples to the needy children of Maine, let me know." A few months later, the Boston office called and the position "Charitable Program Specialist" was created and Wright was named to it.

Working with Wright, MSAD #58 school nurses Wendy Pond RN, Madi Faraday RN, Kristin Rackliffe RN and Beth Luce RN secured this donation for district students.

Meet the Kingfield candidates

By David Hart
 Irregular Staff

KINGFIELD — Voters in the Town of Kingfield have three candidates running for one selectman's seat on March 7. After 12 years in office serving his town, Chairman John Dill is stepping down.

Residents Scott Hoisington, Raymond Meldrum and Merv Wilson have all announced that they're seeking the municipal officer's three-year term.

A Meet the Candidates Night has been organized as an informal gathering for interested residents to see and

hear those running for office. This gathering will occur on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at Kingfield Elementary School.

Candidates will be asked five to 10 questions which they will have been given ahead of time. Additionally, there will be a time allocated for some questions from the public.

Organizers say they anticipate that the event will run for one to one-and-a-half hours.

They also say the event is an informational night and not intended to be a debate.



Bert Dyer, Commander of the Norton Wuori American Legion Post #61, presents Eagle-head, hand-crafted canes to member Weikko Sillanpaa and Lorraine Savage (who accepted the cane for her husband, Sid Savage).

More eagles have landed

By Laura Dunham
 Special to the Irregular

KINGFIELD — American Legion members Weikko Sillanpaa and Sid Savage were presented with Eagle-head canes recently.

The Eagle-head, hand-carved canes are given to veterans, who have been wounded in their legs, as part of the Eagle Cane Project in conjunction with the Maine Wood Carvers Association and were hand-carved by Norma Wing of Vienna.

The presentation was part of the Monday, Feb. 2 meeting of the Norton-Wuori American Legion members and was preceded by a meatloaf dinner served by the Auxiliary members.

It was noted at the meeting that there is a need for help once a month at the fundraising American Legion bingo games on Saturday night at 6:30 p.m. If any veteran or auxiliary member is interested in coming to help, contact the chairman James Williamson.

Card chairman Sillanpaa gave a report on the cards he sent out to sick veterans.

Annual Town Meeting Schedule

AVON (639-5326) — March 14: 9 am, Avon Municipal Building
CARRABASSETT VALLEY (235-2645) — March 11: polls, 8 am to 6 pm, town office; annual meeting, 7:30 pm, Outdoor Center
COPLIN PLANTATION (246-5141) — March 28: 10 am, Stratton-Eustis Community Building
EUSTIS (246-4401) — March 6: polls 4-8 pm, town office; March 7, annual meeting, 9 am, community building
HIGHLAND PLANTATION (628-3662) — March 21: 9 am, Highland Town Hall

KINGFIELD (265-4637) — March 7: 9 am, Kingfield Elementary School
NEW PORTLAND (628-4441) — March 6: polls, 8 am to 8 pm, New Portland Fire Station; March 7: annual meeting, 8 am, Central School
PHILLIPS (639-3561) — June, details TBA
RANGELEY (864-3326) — June, details TBA
STRONG (684-4002) — March 6: polls (+ articles 1&2), 1-6 pm, Foster Building; March 7: annual meeting, 9:30 am, Foster Building