



Pictured are members of the Kingfield Elementary School girls' (with some boys) Elementary School basketball team: (left to right) Coach Tom McCafferty, Chad Fenwick, Mikayla Lisherness, Miranda Dumont, Danya Vandry, Jacob Thomas and Amos Withee (sitting).

**By Laura Dunham
Special to the Irregular**

KINGFIELD -- When there were only four girls who signed up for the Kingfield Elementary School Basketball team, Coach Tom McCafferty recruited boys to see if they would be willing to play with the girls.

The boys' basketball coach, Tammy Thomas, said she was impressed with the boys who said they would play with the girls to help make up a team. For each game, two boys from the boys' basketball team stepped up to

help fill the girls' ranks.

"The boys were very respectful," said Thomas, "that they were playing with girls. My hat goes off to McCafferty for seeing these four girls, Miranda Dumont, Danya Landry, Mikayla Lisherness and Mariah Ross, through the basketball season and giving them a chance to play ball."

There was a large turnout on Monday night, Jan. 26, at the Kingfield gym as these "boys and girls" took to the floor against the Strong team.



Local speedsters

Local girls Elly Bengssten, Emily Listowich, Czari Cochrane, Lee Foden, Leika Scott, Lexi Bullen and Anna Mulhearn at the J4 speed training camp at Sunday River recently. They trained on Monday and had radar guns put on the boys and girls, achieving speeds of up to 61 mph. On Tuesday they did timed runs, but not actual races. Also attending from Sugarloaf's S/CVA program were Briggs Williams, Charlie Thompson, Kyle Farrington and TJ Welch.
(Betty Ann Listowich photo)

The animal pelts have been replaced by synthetics, the leather boots with plastic, and the wooden skis with space-age materials. The idea, however, is the same. There is a special satisfaction in accessing ski terrain by your own effort and determination.

The Saddleback Mountain Challenge taps into that same sentiment. This promises to be a unique experience either as competition with other mountaineers or just for the accomplishment itself.

The first place finishers, in both the men's and women's division, will receive a 2009-2010 Saddleback Mountain Season's Pass. There will also be silver and bronze prizes. For all participants there is a commemorative t-shirt, spaghetti dinner and celebration in the fireplace room in Saddleback's beautiful post and beam lodge.

Registration for this event will be on Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No lift pass is required to enter the race, but there is a \$25 registration fee. All competitors must have ski mountaineering equipment deemed appropriate by race officials. It is recommended that interested participants scout the route prior to the event, not the day of the event. Saddleback Mountain welcomes ski mountaineers, but asks that anyone climbing the mountain to check in with Mountain Operations.

A map of the route is available for viewing on the web at, www.saddlebackmaine.com or call 864-5671.

Saddleback to host ski mountaineering race

RANGELEY — On Saturday, Feb. 28, Saddleback Mountain will be hosting the first annual Saddleback Mountain Challenge. This event is a classic ski mountaineering race. Competitors will navigate a route that gains approximately 1,800 vertical feet, is over seven miles long, includes green, blue, black and double black terrain and encompasses the entire skiing boundary of Saddleback Mountain. This is a monster of a race that will resonate with the sturdy, experienced ski moun-

taineer.

Ski mountaineering is the earliest form of skiing. In the beginning of skiing there were no lifts to access alpine terrain. A few hardy souls would attach animal pelts to the bottom of their wooden skis to provide forward glide and backward grip. They would then climb to where they wished to ski, remove the "skins" and descend.

Today, those hardy souls are called ski mountaineers.

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Franklin County Animal Shelter

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PET OF THE WEEK

Remember the show "Lavern and Shirley", remember Penny Marshall as Lavern, remember how Lavern wore a big L, drank Milk and Pepsi and was not always the 'nice one'. Well, Lavern lives here, and if we look hard we could probably find Shirley, Lenny and Squiggy.

If your home is open to one cat full of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness than come meet Lavern and her cats of characters at the Franklin County Animal Shelter.

New Dogs: 09-61 - Altered male Brindle Plott mix from Farmington; 09-75 - Male Black Lab mix from New Sharon.

FYI - We are open to the public and awaiting your visit. Inside our walls we have lots of beautiful cats and dogs waiting for you to find your forever love. The staff and residents appreciate your support of and interest in the shelter and look forward to your visit.



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