



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The textures of winter in north Franklin County.

(Steve Mitman photo)

What's your favorite food at lunch at the Stratton Elementary School?

By David Hart



Keegan Rolbiecki, of Stratton: "Smiley fries and chicken nuggets."



Jared Clukey, of Carrabassett Valley: "I like milk, smiley fries and the chicken nuggets."



Rollie Zagnoli, of Carrabassett Valley: "Smiley fries and ice cream."



Czari Cochrane, of Carrabassett Valley: "Popcorn and ice cream sandwiches."



Maddi Chamberlin, of Carrabassett Valley: "Nachos."

COMMENTARY

Green, at any cost?

By David Morris

Today we are faced with many issues regarding the previous ecological misuse of our planet. In our mad dash to correct the maligning of our environment we are grasping at alternative sources of energy: mainly wind, solar and hydro. Wind power is the concern of this letter, and Harley Lee's project on the Redington Range is the center of that concern. I wonder if, in our rush to seek alternatives to foreign oil, we may be overlooking our most valuable local natural resources.

In Maine we have, by some claims, 14 peaks over 4,000 feet and eight of them are found in our Longfellow Mountain Range. The bulk of this range overshadows Kingfield, Eustis, New Portland, New Vineyard, Strong, Philips, Madrid, Rangeley and Carrabassett. It is, by most accounts, the "Heart of the Western Mountains." Redington Range, the location of the proposed wind turbines, sits at the center of these peaks.

Should these wind towers be built, they would exceed the highest peaks, dominating Sugarloaf, Abram, Crocker and Spaulding. It is the claim by wind entrepreneur, Harley Lee, that little will be

seen from the surrounding towns. I'm not convinced. It is obvious that Eustis Ridge in Eustis would have a full view as well as some areas in unorganized townships such as Madrid, Langtown and Dallas Plantation. It has been difficult to discern to what extent the other organized towns mentioned above will see these towers, but in some locations they all will see them. This is not the contention of Harley Lee but my concern here is to a certain bias in representing the facts.

On the other hand, Carrabassett resides so deeply in it's valley that Sugarloaf provides an umbrella effect, shielding the township from the unpleasant viewing of these towers, until one ascends Sugarloaf. Carrabassett, however, with Sugarloaf at the helm, is the largest beneficiary of this project. Does Carrabassett really need lower taxes? It is my understanding that it already has one of the lower tax rates in the state and due to previous annexations is already one of the largest townships in Maine. It becomes questionable whether this is about the environmental Green we need or the financial "green" that has gotten us in

— Please see **Green** on page 23

Legislative Report

How to influence legislation

By Rep. Tom Saviello
District 90

Recently, I published how a bill becomes a law and what a roll call vote is. Friends have asked me now to write something on how you, the state citizens, can actually influence legislation. How can you help me know how to vote on an issue? How you can influence my decision?

Let's start at the beginning. Before we go into session the first year, we legislators are allowed to put as many bills as we like in for consideration. This is the first place you can make a difference. You can actually suggest an idea for me to put in. My bills on Veterans' plates and Toothaker Pond are direct results of constituents' ideas. HOWEVER, it is too late for this to happen this session. The addition of new bills is no longer allowed unless you have special permission from legislative leadership. The chances are slim to none of getting a new bill in this year. But keep this in your "bonnet" for future years.

Your second chance to act on legislation comes once a bill is introduced to the legislative committee. You can call, write, visit or e-mail your legislator and/or senator with your ideas about the bill. You can tell us if the bill is good or bad and suggest any changes that might be made. I like hearing from you. As many of you know I try to get back to you with a comment. I DO NOT like getting "form" letters or e-mails that you simply signed and sent on. Additionally, I like to hear from my constituents. I really do not read letters from Portland voters. Somehow, I do not think they would understand what affects our district.

Your third chance to participate is when the bill goes to hearing. During this time, you have the chance to come to Augusta and testify in person. You can also send in written comments to the committee. You can come down personally and talk to your local representative or members of the com

— Please see **How To** on page 23