



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

School budget set for voters

By David Hart
Irregular Staff

SALEM — The MSAD #58 school board met last Thursday and voted to approve the 2010 budget of \$10,157,642. The budget is set for the referendum process coming soon.

This budget, as determined, is not up nor is it down in terms of how it will hit local communities. The state has imposed new changes to include new standards which add line items to the budget not previously included. These items include State Agency Clients, for example, which will appear to have added costs, but in actuality, future revenues should offset costs to make the budget very similar to last year's budget of \$9,833,262.

State Agency Clients are a line item nearing

\$300,000 yearly.

In terms of taking care of business, the board reduced the amount of early release days from eight as suggested in the proposed budget to five. Eight is the current amount that nearby MSAD #9 has. Superintendent Quenten Clark noted that Rangeley has 35 early release days, nearly one every week. Now, five early release days include the final day of school.

The board also reduced the services of guidance at Mt. Abram High School by eliminating a part-time role held by Cindy Thomas.

"Nurses are not councilors," staff member Mike Ellis argued, they can talk to students,

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New revitalization committee named

By David Hart
Irregular Staff

KINGFIELD — Members from a group calling themselves the Kingfield Downtown Revitalization Committee were heard at the selectmen's meeting on Monday, May 4.

The group's desire was to become an official advisory committee to the town. Selectmen Neal McCurdy questioned if this group was different from past groups, namely Kingfield Business Alliance or Mt. Abram Economic Development Association.

From the newly formed group, Cindy Gilmore said much of their objectives are similar, but it's an entirely new committee. A paper was circulated describing some of the group's goals and objectives.

Selectman chair Heather Moody said she

was hopeful that at least half of the members were residents of Kingfield. "It's my understanding that only half of this group are Kingfield residents," Moody spoke of the committee, "but I would like to keep it at least one half Kingfield residents," she explained.

Freeman resident Bill Gilmore said it's the willingness of a group of people who are trying to put some energy into something. This is regardless of where they live, vote or work. As a volunteer group nothing is guaranteed, he said. "If you don't have that fire in your gut, nothing ever happens," Gilmore said, and more then ever this core group is trying to bring ideas to this community. He also explained that any expenses would have to be

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Gov. Baldacci signs LD 213

Rep. Tom Saviello (U-Wilton), Rep. Jarrod Crockett (R-Bethel), Sen. Deb Plowman (R-Penobscot) and First Sergeant John Maynard joined the Governor recently in ceremonially signing LD 213, "An Act To Allow Military Reenlistees To Obtain a Veterans Registration Plate." The bill, sponsored by Rep. Saviello and cosponsored by Rep. Crockett and Senator Plowman, allows a person who served at least one tour of duty in the United States Armed Forces and who reenlists into the United States Armed Forces to be eligible to receive veterans' registration plates for vehicles and motorcycles upon application. It also adds reenlistees to those eligible to receive the special commemorative decals for medals awarded. First Sergeant Maynard was the driving force behind this bill becoming law.

(Shawn Roderick photo)



Former Kingfield teacher, CVA instructor, Kingfield principal and long-time resident, David Holmes, stands in the basement of a historic building that houses the A.G. Winter grist mill that was saved from being lost about a decade ago or thereabouts. (David Hart photo)

Historic mill needs new home

By David Hart
Irregular Staff

KINGFIELD — "This could be a memorial of all the mills here in Kingfield, this is not a duplication of any one mill; but it could be a tribute to all of them," historian and resident David Holmes said recently.

Holmes was referring to a concept to recreate and duplicate one of the very first mills established in Kingfield.

According to a statement Holmes created, the first mill in the area was a grist mill built by Solomon Stanley on or before 1810. Stanley, a significant part of

Kingfield history, settled here in 1807 and was responsible for starting the very first commercial operation in what became Kingfield.

The original mill was quickly washed out and rebuilt a few years later along with a saw mill whose foundation still stands today on the Carrabassett River. The mill changed ownership thereafter falling into the hands of William King (Maine's first governor) and then the French family.

The grist mill, which ground corn and

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Backyard Farms to hire 75 new workers

MADISON — As part of its expanding operations, Backyard Farms, the largest New England greenhouse grower of vine-ripened tomatoes, will begin hiring 75 employees this month to work at its new greenhouse, which has been under construction since October 2008.

With its second greenhouse coming on line this summer, Backyard Farms will have a total of 42 acres of year-round greenhouse growing space, employing about 175 people.

Additionally, the company announced it has opened a corporate office in Portland, which is the new home for the company's senior-level business strategy, sales, marketing and finance functions.

"Given the current challenging economic environment, we are particularly proud to be adding jobs to the state of Maine that has consistently been very helpful to and supportive of our business," said Roy Lubetkin, president and chief executive officer, Back-

yard Farms. "By this fall, our new greenhouse will enable us to almost double our production of year-round, tomatoes-on-the-vine and offer new tomato varieties."

Governor John Baldacci praised both the company's expansion in Madison and the establishment of its office in Portland, stating, "I am pleased that Maine has been able to help Backyard Farms become a local business leader. The continuing growth of Backyard Farms and its contributions to Maine have been a real success story for the state and reaffirms our rich agricultural history."

Since its first crop in 2007, Backyard Farms has produced more than 30 million pounds of tomatoes for sale across the Northeastern U.S., approximately 35 percent of which were sold in Maine.

Applications for positions at the greenhouse can be accessed through the "Employment Opportunities" tab at www.backyardfarms.com.