

# SPORTS & OUTDOORS

in the Western Mountains of Maine



Sugarloafers participate in the Blessing of the Skis on the hill last year.

(Contributed photo)

## Blessing of the Skis and Boards planned

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — The public is urged to bring their skis and boards to the Jean Luce Timing Building at the base of Comp Hill at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6 as members of the Sugarloaf Area Christian Ministry seek a blessing of safety on their gear and mountain. "Join us as we also express our thanks to our Sugarloaf Ski Patrol," Rev. Pam Morse, of the ministry.

A panel of "elite" judges will be presenting awards for

the following: oldest pair of skis, oldest skier/rider, youngest skier/rider, largest family group, most decked out snowboard and ugliest skis/board.

For the first time, the Sugarloaf Ski Club will be offering one of their burger/dog cook-outs immediately following the Blessing. Have lunch with an \$8 donation to the Ski Club Scholarship Fund for local aspiring athletes.



Phillips students Jackie Plog and Shyan Frye are fitted for skiing equipment by Scott Dolan, the new manager of the Outdoor Center. Sugarloaf personnel visited all local MSAD #58 schools recently in anticipation of this year's winter recreation season and fitted equipment for Ski/Skate Program.

## Local gem finds new glory after 35 years

By David Hart  
Irregular Staff

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — There are benefits to wherever you live and raise your children. However, schools may not capitalize on the resources available like they do here at MSAD #58.

Now in its 35th year, the Ski/Skate Program offered to MSAD #58 students may have new meaning for some schools in the district.

In Phillips and Kingfield schools this season, the program will double in size increasing from four to five sessions to nearly 10.

Ski/Skate is a program where students sign up for snowshoeing, skating, Nordic skiing, and attend these professionally instructed sessions at the C.V. Touring Center. Students can also choose to enjoy snowboarding and alpine skiing at one of the east coast's most spectacular resorts. Students learn the fundamentals of their choice and apply their learning later that day in a chaperoned period after the lesson. This "free ski" time is managed by school staff and by many volunteers.

"I have chaperoned for the past 10 years and thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to spend time outside of school with my students," said Kingfield principal Marco Aliberti in a letter to the Sugarloaf Ski Club.

Much of this is brought on as a result of their physical education instructor who is now voluntarily working part-time. Long-term gym teacher Dennis Olsen has taken the winter off this season. Rather than replacing his services where he instructs at the Phillips and Kingfield schools, Sugarloaf may be an outlet where students can get winter outdoor physical activity. This activity provides long term benefits that can lead to a mutually beneficial relationship.

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## A peek at Roadrunner hoops



By David Hart  
Irregular Staff

SALEM — The 2009/2010 Roadrunners girls' and boys' basketball teams are in the process of concluding their preseason scrimmages and practices and soon to start their regular season.

MTA boys' coach Mike DeRaps says he's coming into the season with experience, speed and has a team that can shoot. If a game was today, he has four seniors who will be his starters. Lincoln Dyer, Joey Lampron, Jim Barker and Jarred Blood will all take the opening tip with sophomore Tyler Hupper getting the nod.

"Barker, Blood and Lampron should shoot very well off the press," DeRaps said. "We're going to look to run," he added, saying he expects a high speed offense.

DeRaps said he looks for Kenny Moir to come around after missing some preseason events and has some great outside shooters off the bench like Alex Shaw and Aaron Jalbert. Keenan Dock will also contribute with his ball handling, DeRaps said.

"Our goal is realistic this year. Although there are

only eight teams to qualify, we're shooting to be one of them in the post season," DeRaps said.

"We have the experience to try to get in it, but it depends on the boys and how hard they'll work."

DeRaps said he felt comfortable that his starting five are tough inside the paint, strong off the boards, and have strength and quickness.

The boys' coach also spoke of some of his younger prospects as benefits down the road. Freshmen Ian James and Ethan Boyd are showing great promise and sophomore Parker Kennedy may be in the best shape of all of the team, DeRaps said.

The boys will start their season opener against last year's Western C champions Dirigo on Dec. 4 in what is considered a challenging game.

"They have showed that they're smart with the ball, have worked hard and played a good summer season," DeRaps explained. "You just have to cut down on the turnovers and shoot when the time is right... They're tough kids; they're good kids and really fun to work with."

MTA Girls' head coach Doug Lisherness will not bring a highly experienced team on the floor this year. "It's going to be a rebuilding year," Lisherness explained.

He did speak of some very promising young prospects that have greatly impressed him.

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