

LAKE PLACID NEWS



LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK • HOST OF THE 1932 AND 1980 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

VOL. 103, NO. 49 • 103RD YEAR

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19 — DECEMBER 25, 2008

THREE SECTIONS • 30 PAGES • \$1

Happy Holidays

The staff of the Lake Placid News wishes all of its readers a joyous and safe Holiday Season

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Yuletide Family weekend slated in Wilmington Dec. 20 and 21

See Visiting Lake Placid, page 23



NEW IN THIS ISSUE

LPHS Photo of the Week

See page 12



LPHS GIRLS HOCKEY ACTION

See Sports, page 15

Local schools face budget cuts

Lake Placid, Keene among districts to lose funds under governor's plan

HEATHER SACKETT
NEWS STAFF WRITER
LAKE PLACID — Gov. David Paterson's proposed education cuts of nearly \$700 million — 3.3 percent — in the 2009-10 budget did not spare Essex County school districts.

In a one-time \$1.1 billion Deficit Reduction Assessment, the budget proposes to cut money from each district, based on income wealth, property wealth and whether the district is considered high needs. Districts with the greatest need and least ability to pay will receive the smallest percentage reduction in aid.

Under the proposed budget, the Lake Placid Central School District stands to lose \$159,748 — 7.21 percent — in state aid for the next school year. That is the second highest cut in state aid for Essex County, other than Newcomb, which is looking at a 12 percent aid reduction for the 2009-10 school year.

Lake Placid district officials did not return phone calls for comment as of press time.

Keene Central School District is looking at a 6.3 percent cut — about \$42,000.

"(The cuts) were expected," said Keene Superintendent Cynthia Ford-Johnston. "In these tough times I wouldn't expect education to be spared. Sometimes it's good to be considered a wealthy school district because you don't get a lot in aid, but you aren't dependent on it."

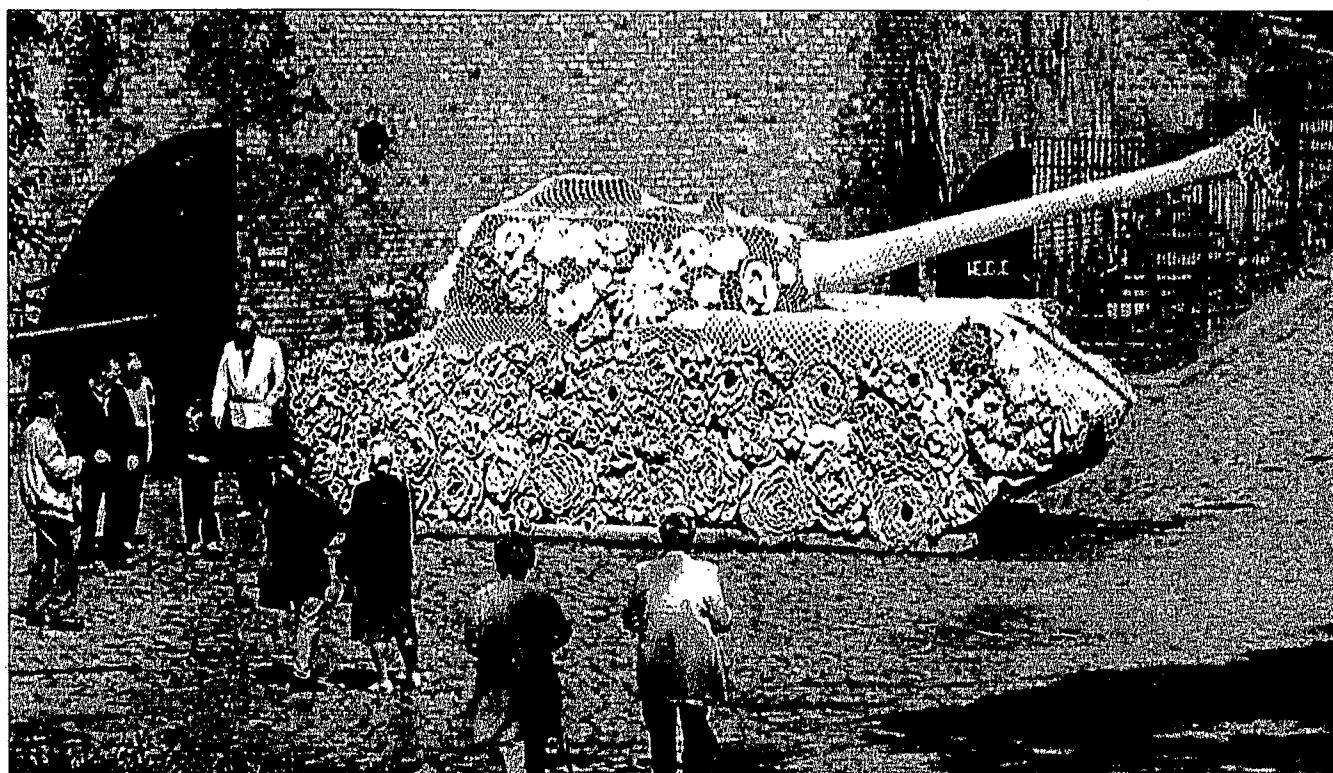
Essex County school districts as a whole stand to lose

See **SCHOOL BUDGET** Page 8

SPECIAL HOLIDAY SECTION



A 'RADICAL' IN OUR MIDST



Jerilea Zempel, of Keene Valley, above. Also pictured at top and at right is some of her "radical knitting."

Crossing borders as art

NAJ WIKOFF

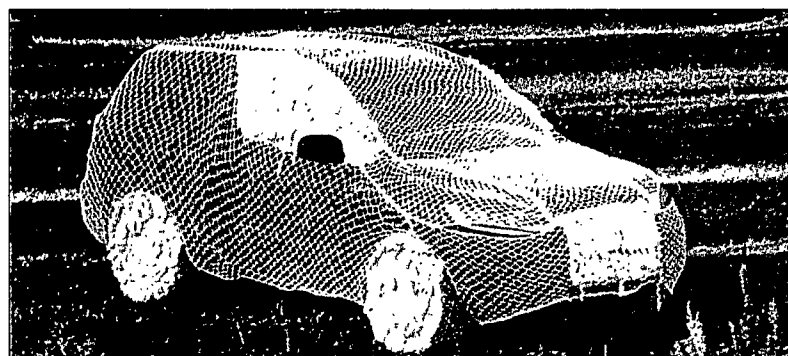
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

KEENE VALLEY — Jerilea Zempel got a call from the Financial Times of Finland asking for information about her art. She had a long, long drive home to Keene Valley. She had just finished two arduous weeks finishing and installing her art. She was tired. But more, the customs agents had gone through her laptop computer, her cell phone, her digital camera, her suitcases, her

rented Hyundai Santa Fe with a form fitting crocheted white cozy at the Cultural Capital Festival in Sackville, New Brunswick.

The delay at the Houlton, Maine crossing irked her. She had a long, long drive home to Keene Valley. She had just finished two arduous weeks finishing and installing her art. She was tired. But more, the customs agents had gone through her laptop computer, her cell phone, her digital camera, her suitcases,

See **BORDER CROSSING** Page 9



Clock is ticking for W'face Lodge to answer lien action

LAKE PLACID — Several local companies that say the Whiteface Lodge owes them money have filed a mechanics' lien foreclosure action against the lodging property in Essex County Supreme Court.

Andrew Chary Architect PLLC, Anderson Architecture Inc., Lake Placid Rental and Supply and Lamb Lumber Company LLC are named as the plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit. Together, they say they are owed a total of \$89,130.22 for work completed in 2007. The complaint, filed on Tuesday, Dec. 9 in Elizabethtown, says the Whiteface Lodge has 20 days to answer it.

According to the lawyer for the plaintiffs Yuri Gaspar, of the Lake Placid law firm Gaspar and Smith, the mechanics' lien was originally filed in April. Soon after, the owners of the high-end property T-Rex Capital LLC returned the property to its lenders, one of which was the now-defunct Lehman Brothers, cit-

ing a slow housing market.

The property was then transferred to new owners Whiteface Residential, LLC, Whiteface Commercial, LLC and Whiteface Canoe, LLC. According to Gaspar, the new owners refused to pay the liens and the plaintiffs are seeking the sale of the Whiteface Lodge at public auction. The lawsuit also involves third-party homeowners who bought timeshares from T-Rex after the lien had been filed.

T-Rex Capital bought the Whiteface Lodge from Lake Placid developer Joe Barile in 2007 for an unprecedented \$62.2 million. According to deeds recorded in the Essex County Clerk's office, the new owners bought the property a little more than a year later for about \$60 million.

Mike Straube, general manager of the Whiteface Lodge, said he would not comment on pending litigation.

—Heather Sackett



PHOTO/ALICIA BRANDES

The Lake Placid Middle School Chorus singing after the tree lighting ceremony at Mid's Park during the Holiday Village Stroll Saturday, Dec. 6. The chorus is directed by Kim Weems.

INDEX AREA, PAGE 2 • COMMUNITY, PAGE 3 • PERSPECTIVE, PAGES 4-5 • PUZZLES, PAGE 6 • SPORTS, PAGE 15 • CLASSIFIED, PAGE 18 • PLANNER, PAGE 24

INSIDE THE NEWS

- Keene woman in critical AREA NEWS, PAGE 2
- Local courts get grants AREA NEWS, PAGE 8

- New rules for parking meters AREA NEWS, PAGE 9
- Village, town consolidation AREA NEWS, PAGE 13

LAKEPLACIDNEWS.COM



SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS
SEE PAGE 18

HOW TO REACH US

(518) 523-4401
FAX (518) 523-1351
news@lakeplacidnews.com

