

LAKE PLACID NEWS



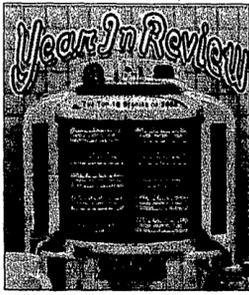
LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK • HOST OF THE 1932 AND 1980 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

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SPECIAL PULLOUT: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



STELLAR PERFORMANCE



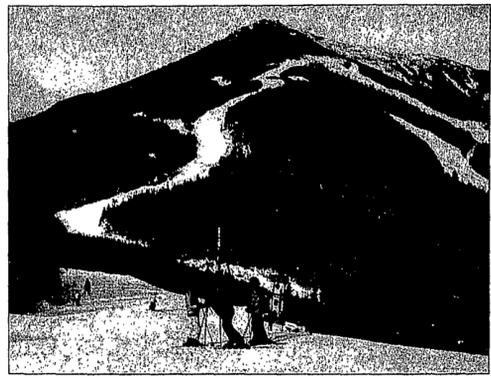
See Sports, page 15

Billy Demong takes 1st, 2nd in Austrian Nordic Combined World Cup events

WHITEFACE POSTCARD PAGE

Photo special highlights a mountain visit

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W'ton Zoning Board says no to development

HEATHER SACKETT
NEWS STAFF WRITER

WILMINGTON — The Wilmington town Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously denied an application for a controversial townhouse development near the beach at its regular meeting on Dec. 17. The project, which would have required a density variance from the ZBA, has some residents questioning what kind of development — if any — is appropriate for Wilmington's future.

"What this town is having is, quite frankly, a wonderful discussion about where we wish Wilmington to be 10 years from now," said Zoning Board member Jerry Bottcher.

The 36-unit townhouse development on 10 acres near the town beach was submitted by First Columbia, a Latham-based real estate development company. First Columbia was seeking a variance from the zoning board because Wilmington's land-use code allows for a maximum of 20 units on 10 acres.

A group of residents who were opposed to granting the variance spoke out against the project at a public hearing last month and recently threatened to file an Article 78 lawsuit against the town if the zoning board granted the variance.

According to Bottcher, who owns the Hungry Trout Motor Inn and Restaurant, the community is divided between those who would like to see growth for the town and those who want it to stay the way it is.

"There is a segment that has no attachment to business or tourism that have a wish to see no development there," he said. "That is certainly a voice to be heard. There is also a voice from the business community and those involved in tourism that would like to see managed growth that would positively affect our business climate."

Larry Hegele and his wife Rose Ann Cooney own Whiteface Suites and Cabins, a property adjacent to the proposed project. They have been two of the most vocal opponents to the project, saying it would violate the land-use code.

"I think it's a good thing," Hegele said about the denial of the project. "We are glad."

Greg Kato, a Jay-based public affairs representative for First Columbia, said he is discouraged by the lack of community support for the project, which according to him would bring 150 jobs to Wilmington over the next five years and \$7.5 million in new development during one of the worst

See W'TON ZONING BOARD Page 8

SKATE INTO 2009



PHOTO ABOVE, RICHARD ROSENTRER, PHOTO BELOW, NAJ WIKOFF/LAKE PLACID NEWS
Above, visitors enjoy a skate around the Olympic Oval. Below, Christie Sausa, who helped organize the New Year's Eve skating event, now in its second year.

Family-oriented event slated at the Olympic Oval New Year's Eve

NAJ WIKOFF
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

LAKE PLACID — Would you like something different and fun to do this New Year's Eve — an event that the whole family can enjoy? Then grab your skates, your friends, your kids and come to the Olympic Oval for a skating party that begins at 10:30 p.m. and goes through midnight to 12:30 a.m. There will be music, free refreshments, lots of ice and no alcohol. Best yet, 100 percent of the admission fees and money taken in from skate rentals will be used to help area children learn how to skate or

participate in figure skating, speed skating or hockey.

The event is the brainchild of 18-year-old Christie Sausa. Two years ago she heard guests at her family's motel ask what there was to do on New Year's Eve, things that they could do with their families or that did not involve going to bars. Christie likes to skate. She thought, why not have a skating party? Last year, with the help of ORDA, CYC (Connecting Youth and Community Coalition of Lake Placid and Wilmington) and a lot of volunteers, she tried out the

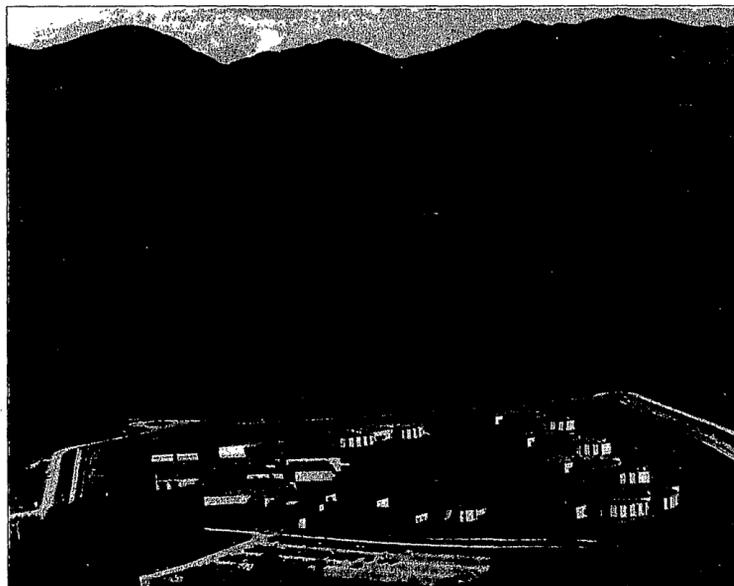


idea and it was a huge success — nearly 800 people showed up.

Once again ORDA is donating the ice, a Zamboni to clean and prepare the ice, and an EMT for safety. CYC is helping with promoting and financially supporting the benefit.

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Nowhere to run: Looking back at a prison escape



LAKE PLACID NEWS FILE PHOTO
An aerial view of the Federal Correctional Institution in Ray Brook.

Editor's note: The end of the year usually has people looking back at the course of the past 12 months and lots of newspapers publish a Year in Review special, such as the one inserted in this week's Lake Placid News. This week also includes a story that revisits an escape from the Ray Brook Federal Correctional Institution in 1982, the idea for which came when some old photos of law enforcement officials with bloodhounds and the search effort were found in the News archives. The prisoner was eventually captured in Lake Placid.

Prison officials kindly put the Lake Placid News in touch with someone who worked at the prison at the time of the escape to give us a first-hand account of the incident.

HEATHER SACKETT
NEWS STAFF WRITER
LAKE PLACID — When convicted murderer Barrington Stephens escaped from the

medium-security Federal Correctional Institution in Ray Brook in 1982, law enforcement officials, tracking dogs and local residents, aided by the rugged and harsh Adirondack landscape, returned him quickly to justice.

According to the Lake Placid News report, Stephens escaped on the night of Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1982 and was apprehended three days later in Lake Placid on the morning of Friday, Oct. 1, 1982. The Jamaican resident was serving a six-month sentence at Ray Brook for illegal re-entrance. But he was scheduled to be released to state authorities on Oct. 1 to serve a sentence of 25 years to life for second degree murder and second degree criminal possession of a weapon.

At the time, prison officials did not provide information about how Stephens breached



LAKE PLACID NEWS FILE PHOTO
Dog handler Leo Brown with Barney, the bloodhound

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