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The Laconia Daily Sun

TUESDAY

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LACONIA, N.H.

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Town Meeting in Sandwich carries on an old, old Granite State tradition

Carroll County community still holds annual gathering, modeling direct democracy

BY GABRIEL PERRY
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN



Residents of Sandwich, in traditional Town Meeting format, vote on the warrant using placards, on Wednesday night. (Gabriel Perry/The Laconia Daily Sun photo)

SANDWICH — In the traditional style, the voters of Sandwich congregated at the central school on Wednesday evening. Their task: make sure the small Carroll County town keeps on running.

Sandwich is included on an ever-shrinking list of New Hampshire towns that still run Town Meeting the old way. Voters gather all together — in Sandwich on Wednesday it was in a basketball gym that served as meeting-house — and debate and decide on how the town should, or shouldn't, spend its money.

In New Hampshire, towns can vote two ways: in SB 2 towns, a reference to Senate Bill 2, which passed in 1995, voters gather twice. In the first, to deliberate on the articles to be included on the Town Warrant, and again to submit their ballots, voting for each item. In the second, older tradition of Town Meeting — the sort that still occurs

see SANDWICH page 8

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Ke-NO: Meredith votes down game of chance at Town Meeting

BY BOB MARTIN
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

MEREDITH — Town Meeting lasted for about 4.5 hours Wednesday, and while the majority of time was spent on the budget and related seven warrant articles, there was plenty on the warrant for spirited

discussion among the roughly 250 audience members.

Keno ban passes by 3

The closest vote of the night was opting out of Keno in Article 20, which passed 99-96 by secret ballot vote following comments from supporters of the game of chance in

town, as well residents against it.

A "yes" vote in this case prohibited the operation of Keno games within the town. Keno was not allowed in Meredith bars leading up to the vote, but House Bill 737 required municipalities to bring the decision to the

see KENO page 10

Passport to the World Travel Show

March 28
at The Margate Resort
See our ad inside today's paper!

1 person dies in crash
Sunday in Belmont

see page 5

Council approves \$20K
for Belknap Mill repairs

see page 7