

Gale loses GOP primary

Houde, Skinder win District 1 nominations

By **MATTHEW McCORMICK**
Staff Writer

One of the hallmarks of Charles Balyeat's campaign to capture the Republican nomination for the Sullivan County District 3 House seat has been a promise to put Sunapee first.

Sunapee On Tuesday, the town's voters reciprocated.

The Sunapee Budget Advisory Committee Chairman defeated one-term incumbent Harry Gale in the Republican primary for the seat by 79

votes in the one-town district.

Of the 569 Sunapee residents who turned out at the polls, 246 cast their ballots for Balyeat and 167 voted for Gale, the Sunapee Town Moderator. Balyeat will take on Democrat Suzanne Gottling in the November general election. Gottling ran unopposed.

Plainfield, Grantham and Cornish voters gave the Democratic nominations for the two House seats in Sullivan County District 1 to Matthew Houde of Meriden, who received 523 votes, and Carla Skinder of Cornish, who received 464 votes. The third candidate for the seat, Robert Grimley of

Grantham, received 238 votes. Incumbent Democrats Charlotte Houde-Quimby and Steve Prichard did not seek re-election.

No Republican opponent will be on the November ballot to oppose Houde and Skinder, making them the likely victors of the general election.

"I had a lot of fun campaigning. I met lots of wonderful people and I look forward to working for the community," said Skinder.

Balyeat attributed his victory to widespread discontent over high county taxes in Sunapee, which, though it has 9 percent of the county popula-

District 3- R

Balyeat — 246
Gale — 167

See **GOP** - Page A6

tion, pays a quarter of Sullivan County taxes.

"Everyone's tired of being overtaxed," he said.

The nominee said Gale did not adequately address those concerns during his two-year term.

"I think we've not been represented for the past two years," Balyeat said.

Several Sunapee selectmen agreed. Amid claims that Gale did not act on legislation favored by the board to bring tax relief to the town, Sunapee Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Stephen White and Selectman Richard Leone signed on to Balyeat's election committee. Some board member favored an effort to secede from Sullivan County.

"I have sworn that if I win, I will support the town of Sunapee first," Balyeat said. "My next issue will be to help the county and then help the state. That's what I think didn't happen ... it cost him (Gale) the election."

But Balyeat said his commitment to addressing the concerns of Sunapee and its Select Board would not make him a puppet of town officials. "If they (the board) have

the edict from the town and they want me to submit legislation, I will do it," he said. "But that doesn't necessarily mean I'll go like clockwork with the selectmen one, two, three. If I disagree with it (the legislation), I will tell you."

In the District 1 race, Skinder and Houde said discussions with voters swung more toward issues affecting the state as a whole.

"Consistently, the education funding issue was discussed as well as access to health care," said Houde. "I was glad the issues that concerned me resonated with the people in the community."

In uncontested primaries the winners were:

• Incumbent state Sen. Bob Odell, R-Lempster, and Carroll D. "Dave" French, D-Langdon, for Sullivan County's District 5 Senate seat.

• Republicans Joseph Norman Feuer of Marlow, Robert "Rob" Kasper of Walpole and Sheldon S. Sawyer of Walpole will face Democrats Daniel Adams Eaton of Stoddard, Tara Sad

of Walpole and Lucy McVitty Weber of Walpole for the three House seats in Cheshire County District 2.

• Republicans Beverly T. Rodeschin and Henry P. Rodeschin, both of Newport, will face Democrats Peter E. Franklin of Newport and Arthur G. Jillette Jr. of Goshen for the three House seats in Sullivan County District 2.

District 1 - D

Houde — 523
Skinder — 464
Grimley — 238

• Philip Joe Osgood, R-Claremont, will face Democrats John R. Cloutier of Claremont, Larry Converse of Claremont, "Tom" Donovan of Claremont,

Raymond Gagnon of Claremont and Ellen Nielsen of Unity for one of the five House seats in Sullivan County District 4.

• Democrats Brenda Ferland of Charlestown and James G. "Jay" Phinizy of Acworth will run unopposed for the two House seats in Sullivan County District 5.

• "Mike" Prozzo, R-Claremont, will run unopposed for the Sullivan County Office of Sheriff.

• Marc B. Hathaway, R-Sunapee, will run unopposed for County Attorney of Sullivan County.

• Mark A. Pitkin, R-Newport, will face Cynthia P. Sweeney, D-Charlestown, for Sullivan County Treasurer.

• Donald S. Clarke, R-Claremont, will face "Jeff" Barrette, D-Claremont, for the County Commissioner seat in Sullivan County District 1.

• Robert N. Beaudry, R-Charlestown, will face Ethel Jarvis, D-Unity, for the County Commissioner seat in Sullivan County District 3.