

From Matt in Mali

Dear everyone,
I'm in town for a few days and thought I would drop you a note to let you know what's going on in Mali... All is going pretty well for me in that I've been keeping very busy lately. A few days ago we started to repair the basketball court in my village and as you can see from the attached photo, one basketball hoop is finished. We have decided once again to pave the court and will hopefully be buying cement this week. Mali is a basket ball mad country and we need money for various things - books, clothes, and the basketball court. We have a Western Union here in Kates, but I don't know how we can receive money from the states, but I would like the logistics of it yet. Plus, I still have money left from what was given to me when I was home, so after that I'll open a bank account and we'll have money to be used. Thank you so much for your kindness and consideration... it is appreciated in ways that you don't even know.

I'll be spending Christmas Eve in my village so that I can go to mass and celebrate with my friends and family. On Christmas morning I plan on hitting to Kates to spend time with the other volunteers in the region... I think that about 20 or so are making the trip and it should be a fun time.

All in all, I am finding myself to be very happy here. My relationship with my homologue is becoming very strong and we enjoy each other's company. He has been very motivated to help me with my projects and has recognized where I am at as far as my language skills, and thus we communicate very well. A year ago, when I first arrived in village, I think that he was a bit frustrated with me because I would only be able to respond to him with "N'na fanam" - I don't understand. However, now that my Bambara and French has progressed fairly well, we communicate without title or no problems. He's a really great person who very well known and respected in the area.

Although I am happy here, the poverty still has a great effect on me emotionally at times. For example, the other day I was hanging out with a woman that I know and we were listening to some music. The song happened to be Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry" - which I think I also sang to you in one of my emails a little while back. Anyway, since I had translated the entire song, I was able to tell her all about the lyrics. After I had finished, she asked me, "Do women in America cry?" I responded, "Of course they cry, why wouldn't they?" To this she said, "Because they have money, they have no reason to cry." I said to her "This is very true, but money isn't everything." She seemed to understand what was getting at, but the honesty that I don't spoke with really blew me away. I believe that it is true; Americans have no reason to complain about anything because we do have money that allows us to have so many material possessions. There are so many things that we have that we don't even consider luxuries - television, running water, clean food, electricity, books - we have no reason to complain.

My friend Hava was really upset yesterday because she couldn't give me \$10 to buy her new clothes for the upcoming holidays. She had given me \$10 to go to the market to buy a new shirt, but she didn't do it. I had to have the extra money to spend on a new outfit. When I went to her house at night to chat, as I do every night, I knew that something was wrong because she wasn't saying very much. After she explained to me what had happened, my natural reaction was to buy her the clothes, but this was something that I have to be very careful with because if people know that I am doing this for them, they could really damage my reputation in village and make my work very difficult. I still may do it, but I need to talk to her first.

I suppose that this is all for now. I hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the time with your family and friends. Take care and stay in touch.

Peace and love, Matt

Here is my address for those of you that are stuck:

Matt's Address:
Mathews Pokrywka, PCVI
Corpus de la Paix - BP 4400
Kayes, Mali West Africa

Matt's Arena



From left to right - Kalidou Sissoo (my homologue), Mamady Kotoale (my mayor), Kalydiart Sissoo, and Issa Sissoko (chief of my village), in a Prigoue

Matt and his friends

The American Legion Auxiliary Post #92 in Brownville will hold a public breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. the first and third Saturday of each month beginning January 7, 2006. The menu will vary and the price will be reasonable. Hope you will join us at these times.

Now is the time of year when people evaluate and decide if a change is needed. Does not only your lifestyle, but also your job, require you to be in tip-top shape: does a slimmer, healthier you sound good? Then please consider the following classes:

Group exercise will help motivate you, offer socialization to keep you in the company of others with the same goal, and keep you on track to attain that goal. Also, improved quality of life. Here's what's offered:

10 for 10 Program
Pay \$10.00, lose 10# and get \$10.00 back! For 10 weeks you will give up a fitness regimen to burn calories and strengthen muscles to rev up your metabolism. You will receive a daily check list, tips and recipes. Find out how well your body runs when you pay attention to what it needs. What was once a chore, will now be a simple task!!!

Weight in on week 1 with a final weigh in on week 10. If you lose 10, you get \$10.00 back!!! The biggest loser will receive a certificate for a FREE 8 week session with Cindy Herbest! You can join this fitness class without participating in the 10 for 10!!!

Wed. Jan. 4 - March 8.....6:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. @ The Milo Elementary School... 10 weeks for \$25.00

YOGA
Come and find out how well your body responds to this 5000 year old technique. Not only will you become more flexible, but also stronger! This class will only compliment any sport you participate in. Whether it be skiing, swimming, jogging, walking or even snowskiing. Help to keep your body in shape, and injury free!!!

Wed. Jan. 4 - Feb. 226:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. @ The Milo Elementary School... 10 weeks for \$35.00 Any questions please call Cindy Herbest @ 943-2630

Here's to a better you in 2006

The Sports Corner

Penquis Boys Drop Second
By Bill Satel

Central 43, P-Ints 63-34
Milo, 43-19
The Patriots were held to a Luke Landry three pointer in the first quarter and trailed by 15 through the first half. They were unable to get a comeback attempt led by Kole Stevens fall short, as the side to give them a 4 point lead. Penquis lost the ball and Orono only to see the visitors pull away to the margin of victory.

Central playing a tight man-to-man defense and it led offensively by the perimeter shooting of Tyler Pines, as well as penetrating well and finishing.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Three Rivers News is published weekly by Three Rivers News, Inc. It is available Tuesdays at the Milo Farmer's Market, BJ's Market, Groves Service Station, Robinson's Fuel Mart, Reuben's Farmer's Market, The Restaurant, Milo, Exxon, Rite Aid, and Milo True Value. The paper can also be viewed online at www.threeriversnews.com. Donations are mailed to Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463.

Letters to the editor, social news, news items, or items of coming events may be submitted NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOON to the following addresses:
Valerie Robertson Nancy Grant
PO Box 81 10 Belmont St.
Milo, Maine 04463 Milo, Maine 04463
207-943-2324 207-943-5806

Please drop suggestions and comments into the donation box or contact one of us. We welcome your ideas. All opinions are those of the editors (unless otherwise stated). We will publish no negative or controversial comments. Donations are used to cover the expense of printing, paper and materials.

Valerie Robertson / Nancy Grant / Virgil Valente
Seth Burdick / Kirby Robertson
HOW TO RECEIVE
THE THREE RIVERS NEWS BY MAIL

We have free mailboxes for subscribers. You may have a mailbox at any of the Three Rivers News delivery to their mailbox each week. The news is available by subscription in 30-week increments. For each 30-week subscription we ask for a donation of \$25.00 to cover the cost of printing and mailing. If you would like to have the news delivered to you, please call, your name, address and a check for \$25.00 to one of the addresses above.



PAWS IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

IF YOU HAVE A FEW SPARE HOURS A WEEK, WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU! THE HOURS ARE VERY FLEXIBLE, and only an hour or two a week is an option.

CALL Julie Gallagher at 943-5083 FOR MORE INFO!!!
Three Rivers Ambulance Service Needs Volunteers

The Three Rivers Ambulance Service is looking for volunteers to join their ambulance corp. This is a one-call paid service and will also pay for education/training.

We have crew members educated as Emergency Vehicle operators, Basic EMTs/EMT Intermediates and there recently had two members successfully complete the Paramedic Course. There is also a volunteer fire department. If you are interested in any of these fields, please contact the address below for an application.

Three Rivers Ambulance Service
"Caring Community Since 1970"
PO Box 432
Milo, ME 04463

The battle between the two point guards, Nate Allen and Joey Kane, was good one

Allen and Stevens each had eight for Penquis. Pined led all scorers with 16 with four threes.

Quarter Scores:
Central 11 23 35 43
Patriots 8 13 20 34
Officials: Patterson and Prescott.

Penquis Boys Play Scrooge at Guilford

By Bill Sawtell
Guilford, December 21--Tony Hamlin's boys team put on one of the greatest displays of defense this writer has ever seen in crushing the PCHS Pirates 45-17 here, holding the home club to just a basket after one, five points after two, and eight points after three, and 17 in the game.

Alex Zwicker had many steals and played alert defense; while Ian Casey was shutting down PCHS big man Roy Burdin while Penquis was playing man. And Russ Berry played another fine all around game. Berry and Zwicker finished with 11 each to pace the Patriot attack.

Mike Wharrif led PCHS with eight.

Quarter Scores:
Patriots 6 17 35 45
PCHS 2 5 8 17
Officials: Berry and Webb

Patriot Profile: Ian Casey

President of the PVHS B&B at Honor Society and an officer in the Student Council, Ian began playing hoops as soon as he could hold a ball, his older sisters, Jessica and Alyson being "into it" (not to mention his dad).

Coach Tony Hines has been a great influence on the Patriot center, pointing out Ian's character and leadership on the team as being exemplary. "He's a good kid," says his mentor.

Ian plays on the golf team and tennis teams and likes bicycling. He's been a 3600 mile runner. Early on from the Patriot to the Acadia's last with his fraternal brothers.

Likes his dad, he likes history and scored well in the Advanced Placement Test

Ian can be a brawler and a bruiser on the court, but he's a mild-mannered gentleman off the court.

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MILO RECREATION DEPT. OFFERS FITNESS IN 2006

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Allen's Starring at UMKF

Jordan and April Allen, both recently graduated stars of Penquis Valley High School basketball brother and sister are now starting on their respective varsity teams at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

A freshman who has scored 18 points in a game against JORDAN was and twice been named Rookie of the Week there, Jordan was a 1000-point scorer at Penquis and played on last year's Eastern Maine runner's up team here.

A junior who set a new UMKF women's game three point record (seven) at a game in Vermont this fall, April has once been named Player of the Week at Fort Kent. She played on an Eastern Maine runner-up team here, too.

Both Allens are in the university's nursing program.

Five Railroaders Who Had Good Games in PVMS's Win over



PCMS (Guilford): Kiel Larson, Bryan Russell, Taylor Delano, Justin Artus, and Jerrell Arafin

BEARS ON THE BOARDS, WHO DO THE GOOD JOB, CALLING DOWN REBOUNDERS ON BOTH SIDES.

See here is Cole Stevens and Nate Allen, who played well in the Patriots' loss to Central at home.

Kole spearheaded a fourth quarter comeback. Both tied for scoring honors for the Patriots with eight.

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PCHS 2 5 8 17
Officials: Berry and Webb

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Lady Pats

At Orono, the Lady Patriots led by Mindy Dotley with (16) got outcranked in the 4th quarter to lose to the Red Riots 48-42. The girls played much better than they did at their home opener, and led the majority of this game, going into the 4th quarter with a 4 point lead (39-35). Christina Gerrish put up a nice 3 point shot and played a good game. Jenny Stetson stayed on her feet and it showed.... she had a lot of put backs to give her 12 points for this game before fouling out. Jenny also shot very well on the foul line. Jenny has got to be black and blue after every game, she plays with such intensity, but MAN she goes down a lot and it's got to hurt! The girls kept a somewhat comfortable lead throughout most of the game, but turnovers started to make things happen for the Red Riots and sure enough, here they come!

With 2:53 left to go in the fourth, Orono up by 2, Mindy had a great block that Orono got the ball in and scored a nice jumper from the side to give them a 4 point lead. Penquis lost the ball and Orono brought it up for the #10 for Orono go up to go by 6. Penquis had to foul to stop the clock and #14 for Orono goes on the foul line, makes the 1st bucket, misses her 2nd shot, Erica Lyford tries it out to Mindy, she grabs it, goes down the court but they are running out of time, Mindy shoots the bucket, misses, Erica Lyford fouls her on the line, she misses, Orono rebounds then travels. Penquis has another chance under their own basket, over and over again, but they just can't make it fall. The Lady Patriots lose a heart breaker 48-42.

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Captain, Christina Gerrish warning up before playing the Guilford Pirates.

Jenny Stetson and Erica Lyford get into position for a rebound against the Central Red Devils of East Corinth



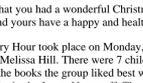
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PEEWEEES

Milo Fire Dept. coached by Mary Bess/Marilyn Lyford

from: David Cianci, Jonathan Harrington, Isaiah Bess, Trevor Lyford and Cody Larabee standing; Colton Larrabee, Joey Leighton, Chris Creech, William Dean, Tristen Beckett, Alex Zelkan and Tony Jay

Milo Fire Dept. played their pre-season game and lost a barn burner to Bailey Lumber 28-27



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GRAMMIE'S WEATHER

December 1992
26-Sunny windy.
27-Mostly sunny.
28-Sunny nice.
29-Cloudy.
30-Cloudy dusting of snow pm.
31-Sun windy.
January 1, 1993-M. sunny windy.

PAWS-your local animal
shelter-
PRESENTS:
TRAVIS COWING
AND
A REDNECK
NEW YEARS
PARTY.

At the Milo Town Hall

Saturday, December 31, 2005
Poker from 6-9 Then at 9 the
real fun begins as Travis
performs his world famous
adult comedy routing.

The theme of the party is:

"A Redneck New Year",
so trim up your mullet, put on
your shortest, Daisy Dukes,
(ladies, you too!) and come out
and PARTY!!!

The Poker Tournament starts at 6.
There will be a buffet, featuring some
of your favorite munchies, and the
party is B.Y.O.B.

Rides will be provided to and from the
event...

Call 943-2324 OR 943-2692

THE PENQUIS REPORT

<http://www.penquisreport.net/>

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS

The Penquis Report is a weekly podcast by independent podcasters located all over New England. Our goal is to share information about the Penquis Region and the state of Maine.

What is a podcast, you say? A podcast is prerecorded, syndicated Internet radio show that can be easily downloaded to your computer or iPod/mp3 player. Please visit our website for more information.

TRC ALLIANCE CORNER

BY SETH BARDEN

We have just added a new section to our site! Four Seasons Recreation! This new section will contain information relevant to recreation in each season.

Right now, we need your help in updating the Winter Recreation page! If anyone out there is associated with one of the many local Snowmobile Clubs, please contact us! We are looking for updated contact and meeting information, and if you have maps, we'd love to post them online.

Also as part of the Recreation Section, we have added a School Sports page. We currently have the upcoming schedule for Penquis Basketball there, and we would like to keep up-to-date with scores. If anyone is a regular at the basketball games and would like to email us scores after the games, please let us know!

The Three Rivers Community Alliance is a not-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteers from the communities it represents. TRC is not part of Kiwanis, but is its own organization. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Seth Barden at info@trcmaine.org, or 943-2425.

TRC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Two of Milo's Christmas Treasures



Everett and Freda Cook are shown setting up and readying the Milo Town Hall for their Christmas Dinner. Over 80 lucky diners are treated to the meal. This year marks the 9th time Everett and Freda have made Christmas a festive and delicious day for anyone who wants to attend. Happy faces, good friends and full bellies make for a good old-fashioned holiday.



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