



Three Rivers News



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SPONSORED AND PUBLISHED BY THREE RIVERS KIWANIS CLUB AND THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
TO PROMOTE AND SERVE THE TOWNS OF BROWNVILLE, MILO, LAGRANGE, MEDFORD, AND ORNEVILLE

LIVE SIMPLY-LOVE GENEROUSLY CARE DEEPLY-SPEAK KINDLY

Monday, July 30, 2007 Volume 6 Number 39

HELP AREA KIDS GO TO SPAIN!!

The coming week is a busy and important time for the students from Penquis who are earning their way to a trip to Spain....How can you help? Well, I'm glad you asked!!

- ☺ On Friday, August 3rd, the students will be holding a **BAKE SALE** at The Milo IGA.
 - ☺ On August 4th, there will be a **CAR WASH** from 10am-3pm at The Camden National Bank parking lot.
 - ☺ Also on August 4th, a **YARD SALE**, Maine's favorite summer activity!! It will be held at the Milo IGA parking lot from 8am-4pm..here is a chance to buy some wicked good stuff and donate to a great cause!
 - ☺ Rain date for the Car Wash and Yard Sale is August 11-same times, same places.
- Donations for all events are graciously accepted, and can be made by contacting Deanna Sherburne.

Tara's Fund

Submitted by Vikki Carey

For all who would love to help, a fund has been established for Tara Hayes Lilly at Maine Savings to help with her expenses for an up-coming trip to Switzerland. She has been battling a vicious cancer since her diagnosis in April and has now been accepted in a cancer trial in Switzerland - hopefully in September. Our tiny little towns have been generous with their prayers and gifts for Tara but many people have asked if there is a way they can further help. This fund could certainly help lift the financial burden Tara's family will soon be facing. A gift to support this mission can be sent to

**Tara Lilly's Fund
Maine Savings Federal Credit Union
PO Box 447
Milo, Maine 04463**

Dear Citizens of Milo,

I am writing this letter to clarify the issues surrounding the special town meeting scheduled for August 1. In my four years of serving the citizens of Milo, I've tried to keep in mind what is in the best interest of our town, a town where I grew up and in turn raised my children.

Last year at this time, I spoke in front of another special town meeting called to raise additional funds for our Police

Department. We had a new police chief and I felt it very important to support his efforts to put his own stamp on the Department. The citizenry voted the additional funds. This past February at a budget committee meeting there was a move to cut ten thousand dollars from the police budget. I again spoke in support of the Department and the committee approved a budget of \$161,000, an increase of approximately \$23,000(16%) from the previous budget. At that meeting the budget committee asked the chief if he could run the Department with that amount and he told them that he could. The Town later ratified the \$161,000 at the Town Meeting in March.

In late March, my fellow selectmen and I became concerned that the police budget was going in the wrong direction at an alarming rate. I initiated a discussion at the next selectmen's meeting, which included the Town Manager, in early April. Much to my disappointment the spending accelerated in April with nearly \$2000 paid out in overtime that month. We had exceeded our allotted money for part-time workers, blown by the overtime budget, and spent about 60% of the year's fuel budget. Another discussion about the direction of spending in the Police Department among the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager ensued on May 17. This time the idea of going back to the Town for more money was raised. At that time several selectmen expressed concerns that asking for more money should be viewed as a last resort rather than inevitable. I was among that group. The Town Manager informed us that we had a \$27,000 payment coming to us from the state as reimbursement, as the state had just hired a Milo police officer who had recently graduated with honors from the Police Academy in Augusta.

As selectmen we informed the manager that we are obligated by law to spend what was approved at Town Meeting under each article of the warrant. In this case it was \$161,000. If we spent the \$27,000, the result would be a total of \$188,000. When informed of this, the Town Manager said this was past practice and that there was no reason to discontinue this. Several of us disagreed with her assessment. After checking with our auditor and another source, I was reminded that one of our jobs as selectmen is to ensure that we don't exceed the amount approved at Town Meeting. The only way to avoid this is if at

Town Meeting the selectmen get voter approval to spend gifts, grants, or other funds that come into a particular department. We had no such statement in our town report, and an argument can be made that to allow selectmen to spend money brought into a department in any fiscal year is unwise. A better method might be to carry surplus amounts into the next fiscal year and, if appropriate, use them to supplement department budgets or reduce taxpayer obligations in the following year. I conveyed this information to the Board along with my opinion that past practice does not make it right and one shouldn't point to wrong behavior to justify continued bad behavior.

As May turned into June, the spending continued and once again a discussion was initiated among the Board members and the Town Manager about the direction of the police budget. The consensus was that a special town meeting was indeed inevitable. No definite date was set; it was assumed that it would be in early fall.

At the July 11 meeting I pushed the issue once more as the budget was down to about \$3400 left to spend when the salaries of the three full-time officers were accounted for. By law if we exceed the amount approved by citizens at the annual town meeting, the selectmen are personally responsible. There are only two exceptions to this: road repair and general assistance. If we knowingly overspend and go back to the Town retroactively and get turned down, the expense is borne by the selectmen. With this knowledge, the Board set August 1, 2007, as the date for this special town meeting.

On the surface, the warrant articles that the Town is being asked to approve giving the selectmen the authority to spend additional income in any municipal department. Beneath the surface, however, are disturbing questions. Among them are:

1. Should the manager of any department who participated in the development of that department's budget be expected to stay within that budget?
2. Who is ultimately responsible for managing the departments and overseeing appropriate spending, and why was there a breakdown in the system?
3. Should a department that overspends its funds in seven months be given more public money to make it through the year?
4. If a department went back for more funds last year and is doing it again this year, is it unreasonable to assume that next year will be any different?
5. If a particular department can overspend its budget, why can't every department do so?
6. Are the taxpayers' wishes as expressed by votes at Town Meeting indeed final, or can town officials override those stated wishes?
7. Should we follow generally accepted accounting procedures?

I want to be clear that these are my personal opinions and do not necessarily reflect those of my fellow selectmen. However, I hold my fellow selectmen in the highest regard. To a person, they act in what they believe are the best interests of the Town of Milo. While we may not always agree, we respect each other's opinions and concerns.

Before closing, there are a few other facts that might be helpful to you as you analyze these issues. As selectmen we had never had a discussion over the need to add a fourth full-time police officer. It was mentioned on July 11 by one selectman in passing and no discussion or action followed that simple remark. As a result, at a brief Board meeting on July 23, we removed this article from the warrant. If there is to be consideration of this issue, it will be done with sufficient deliberation and citizen input.

The bottom line is that the meeting on August 1 is not a referendum on the police department, and I make no judgment here on that topic. For me the issue is one of accountability. I feel we have an obligation to live by the money the Town approves at the annual town meeting. If we add an additional @27,000 to the police budget now, the total for fiscal year 2007 will be \$188,000. We have another officer going to the academy

next year and we will have to pay \$15,000 for him to do so, plus pay his salary while he's away, as well as his replacement's salary while he's there. If we start next year at \$188,000 and add just the amount needed to send our officer to the academy, we will have a police budget of approximately \$215,000. That is up from \$138,000 in fiscal year 2006 for an increase of 56%! This would reflect an additional mil and a half on our tax rate.

A better approach might be to set the incoming \$27,000 aside into a carry-over account labeled "Academy Training," to have next year when we need it, and use what funds are still available to cover the Town's needs to the best of our ability. It will not be easy, but the responsibility to make it work rests with those officials being paid with taxpayer money.

As I told the police chief in open session, if in fact we do need to increase our police budget substantially, the time for that discussion is in November when the Budget Committee starts its deliberations. We need to make those arguments at that time and work through the appropriate process; and if we agree this additional funding is necessary, take it to the taxpayers in March for approval.

In my opinion, to do so now and in this fashion is an admission of our failure. As someone involved in town governance, I accept my share of this failure. However, I strongly believe the hard-working citizens of Milo should not unfairly bear that additional financial burden.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully, Tony Hamlin

To the Editors, Three Rivers News....

In regard to the upcoming Hearing and Special Town Meeting scheduled for Aug. 1, 2007:

Article 4-To see if the voters of the Town of Milo will vote that funds generated or donated to a particular Department be designated for use by that department to include

Re: Public Library-Fines, grants, donations, and Trust Fund income....

In my opinion, voting on this item may not be legal.

In my opinion, first consideration should be given to the Milo Free Public Library in respect to its Certificate of Incorporation, dated August 9, 1921. {Legal Name: Milo Free Public Library. Charter Number 19210009ND. Filing Type: Nonprofit Corporation(T-13) Re: State of Maine, Dept. Secretary of State} (Copies available through Dept.)

In my opinion, the following quote from our library's Certificate of Incorporation, refers to the Milo Free Public Library's Board of Trustees: "The real purposes of said corporation are...to acquire, hold and own by devise, bequest, purchase or gift all real and personal property necessary for the maintenance of said library within the limit provided by law, and to do all acts and things, and have all powers, rights and privileges that like corporations possess and enjoy under the law of the State of Maine."

In my opinion, the assets referred to in the above mentioned Article 4, under Public Library, are the property of the Milo Free Public Library's Board of Trustees, and decisions as to care and use are solely theirs.

I do not know of any law authorizing the Town Manager to take control of the Milo Free Public Library's entire financial assets, from April 2001-June 2002. I have not seen any mention of these monies in our town's annual reports for nearly 5 years. The assets included the Harry A. Snow Endowment, valued at \$20,000, April 2001; and the Harry L. Caldwell Fund, a bequest of

\$10,000(interest to be used for the purchase of books, as so stated in his will). In my opinion, the voters should be kept informed.

In my opinion, the financial records of our library's checking account, 1974-2002, taken from me by the Town Manager May/June 2002, are the property of the Milo Free Public Library, and should be returned to the library. These records are a part of the library's history. Not only do they contain the paper trail of the library's assets, but contain details about who gave what in memory of whom; for example: former librarian Grace Clapp, former assistant librarians, Jane Cook and Gladys Bradeen; and more recently our dear friend, Ruth Fletcher.

Catherine K. Ellison

Editors Note: As you can see from the heartfelt letters from two life-time Milo residents, the meeting on August 1 can be a vital step in empowering the citizens of Milo. I remember at one selectman's meeting one of the selectman, in frustration at the questions being asked and the negative responses from those asking the questions, threw his arms in the air and said "Where were all of you 5 years ago?" I wonder the same thing. Our town government is set up with checks and balances, and we elect selectmen to oversee the Town Manager, who in turn over sees the various town departments. But ultimately, we, the citizens are who they all answer to.

I think through complacency, the of governing of our town has become routine, and it is time to change the routine and rethink how our tax dollars are being spent. We have an opportunity to make department heads responsible for operating with-in their budget, and if things go wrong, fix them. Like any businessperson knows, if there isn't enough money to pay others, you work yourself. You cut back on expenditures; you do not ask a heavily taxed community for more money.

I ask that each one of you who cares to attend the meeting. You do not need to speak...just come and see our town government in action, form or reform an opinion and vote. We will be asking for a written ballot, so you need not fear the intimidation of being seen raising your hand. If we all do our part, perhaps our wonderful town can be restored to a feeling of trust and well-being.

Valerie Robertson

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Three River News is published weekly by Three Rivers Kiwanis. It is available Mondays at the General Store and More, Milo Farmer's Union, The Station Market, Graves' Service Station, Robinson's Fuel Mart, Reuben's Farmer's Market, The Restaurant, Milo Exxon, Rite Aid, Valerie Jean's, Milo True Value, and online at WWW.NEWS.TRCMAINE.ORG. Donations can be mailed to Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463.

All items for the paper are sent to us; we are not reporters, and we rely on the public for our articles.

Letters to the editor, social news, school news, items of interest, or coming social events may be submitted NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOON to the following addresses:

Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463 or e-mailed to, val04463@verizon.net or call 943-2324.

Nancy Grant, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to nancy2310@roadrunner.com or call 943-5809.

Please drop suggestions and comments into a donation box or contact one of us. We welcome your ideas. Opinions are not necessarily those of the editors unless otherwise stated. The paper is written, printed, and distributed by unpaid volunteers. Donations are used to cover the expense of printing, paper and materials.

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

We have received many inquiries from readers as to how they can get the Three Rivers News delivered 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 sign up to get the news delivered, send your name, address and a check for \$25.00 to:

Valerie Robertson
P.O. Box 81
Milo, Maine 04463

Nancy Grant
10 Belmont Street
Milo, Maine 04463

BINGO...BINGO...BINGO!!!

THE MILO AMERICAN LEGION POST 41 HAS BINGO EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT A MEAL IS SERVED FROM 5:00PM UNTIL 6:15 PM

BINGO STARTS AT 6:15 AND ENDS AT 9:30.

SEE YOU THERE!

The Milo Fire Department and Auxiliary will be having a Car Wash Saturday, August 11th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is to benefit Milo the Fire Dept and Auxiliary to participate in the Annual Maine Federation of Fire Fighters Convention in September. Rain date Sunday, August 12th

AREA SCHOOL NEWS



The La Grange PTO and Playground Committee are thrilled to announce the completion of the installation of the first phase of the new playground. Over \$10,000 was raised through fund raisers and donations to make this dream come true. Countless volunteer hours were put in by the wonderful parents and community members involved with the LaGrange Playground fund. We will be holding an Open House, a brief assembly and a

Ribbon Cutting ceremony beginning at 10 am on August 29. At that time, the children will be directed to "PLAY" on their new slide, fireman's pole, rock wall and climbing steps. We hope that you will join us for this special ceremony. Remember to clip the "Box Tops for Education" coupons and drop them off at your favorite school...each one is worth 10-cents!!

REMINDER-CLASS OF 1982 WILL BE HAVING THEIR 25TH REUNION SAT-AUGUST 4, 2007 AT "THE JUNCTION GENERAL STORE" IN BROWNVILLE. --BBQ @ 1:00PM CONCERT AND CAMPING IN THE EVENING. CALL KATHY@ 564-8429 OR JOHN @ 965-8786 FOR INFO.

Dear Brownville voters:

My name is Linda M. Coburn and I am running for Selectperson for the Town of Brownville.

I was born and raised in Brownville. I have been married for 45 years and have 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. I graduated from BJHS and Husson College.

I have worked in various businesses in Brownville through the years and I enjoy working with the public. I have been the Treasurer for the BJHS Alumni for 25 years. I was the Secretary for the Board of Selectmen for 9 years. My last position was working as an Office Clerk for the Town of Brownville for 8 years. I retired the first of this year. I have been on the Budget Committee for 11+ years, and I worked on the 175th Anniversary Committee, and I am presently working on the Brownville Days Committee. I feel that I have a good working knowledge of how the Town is run.

I hope that you will come out and vote on Aug. 9 at the Brownville Elementary School. Polls will be open from 1pm to 6pm. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office or call 965-2561 and one will be sent to you.

**COMPETE TO COMPLETE TRIATHLON '07
SWIM-BIKE-WALK/RUN**

Saturday, September 22, 2007, @ 9:00 a.m.

SWIM: The first leg of the journey, swim four lengths (equals 100 yards) in the PRYMCA pool. There are no restrictions on type of strokes; but fins are not allowed.

BIKE: The second leg pedal 2.8 miles on a mapped route around the town of Dover-Foxcroft. Any bike can be entered; but helmets are required.

WALK/RUN: The final leg is a one mile walk/run ending at the PRYMCA.

PRIZES:

First Place - 6 month Adult Membership

Second Place - 3 Month Adult Membership

Third Place - 1 Month Adult Membership.

All participants will receive a Compete to Complete t-shirt.

Registration Fee: \$20.00 members; \$25.00 non-members.

Must be 16 and older to register.

Registration starts July 16th - August 30th.

All equipment supplied by the participant(s).

Triathlon teams are acceptable.

Triathlon training begins July 16, 2007.

Registered non-member participants pay \$5.00 daily fee for use of PRYMCA facility while training for event.

PISCATAQUIS REGIONAL YMCA

Weston/Allen Wed

Erin Patricia Weston and Jeremiah David Allen were united in marriage on June 15 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in



Dover Foxcroft. Father James Robichaud officiated and Mrs. Stephanie Gillis provided the music. Erin is the daughter of Charles & Lynn Weston and a graduate of Penquis Valley High School and Husson College. She is employed in the area as a Occupational Therapist. Jeremy is the son of Tim and Barb Allen and a graduate of Penquis Valley High School. He attends the University of Maine at Orono and is employed by Atlantic Home Health.

Attendants were Maid of Honor, Casey O'Connor and Best Man, Derek Perkins. Bridesmaids were April Allen, Erica Lyford and Holly Washburn. Groomsmen were Michael Weston, Jordan Allen, and Lance Gerrish. Flower Girl and Ring Bearer were Hailey Reeves and Noah Allen. A reception was held at the Brownville Jct. Alumni Hall.

Following a honeymoon trip to Florida and the Bahamas, the couple resides in Brownville Jct.

The Yankees Win Championship

Joe Baker and his New York Yankees came from 4th place in the playoffs, battling their way back after losing their first game to the Sox in the first round, but going to to beat the Cubs on Tuesday evening, then upsetting the #2 team the Mets 6-5 to send them to the "big dance" on Thursday night against the Red Sox, but came up just short, losing a hard fought battle 7-2. Great job by all the teams and



coaches. Thanks to the Brownville Rec. Dept and the Milo Rec. Dept.

The Red Sox held off the Yankees 7-2 to bring home the Championship on Thursday evening in Brownville Jct.

The Red Sox



Three Rivers Kiwanis 2nd Annual Sebec River Race was held on July 21, 2007.

The race took place on the beautiful Sebec River From Sebec Village to Milo.

Winners:

Class I	
Earl Baldwin	1:19:33
John Carter	1:19:45
Class II	
No Entries	
Class III	
Don Wescott & Jen Wescott	1:17:00
Bob Miller & Mike Kelley	1:14:00
Class IV	
Barry Dana & Lori Dana	1:10:00
Peter Blood & Tom Cronkite	1:11:00
Mike Sproul & Mark West	1:13:00

Three Rivers Kiwanis would like to thank Joe Zamboni and his crew for all their work.

Milo Free Public Library News

By Judith Macdougall

Well the waiting is over! Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows is now released. The library had ordered two copies, and we hurriedly processed them on Monday so the first patrons on the list could pick them up. Wasn't I surprised when a short time later that day Donald Harris came in to give us a gift copy of the book, Then Sheilah Bissell dropped in and presented us with a 4th copy. We certainly thank Don and Sheilah for thinking of the library at this time. I don't have time to read the book right now as I really want to take time to savor it, so I am telling everyone who has read it, please do not reveal a single detail to me. Thank you.

The 6th week of the summer reading program is over. The incentives this week were code rings. Even little folks to whom codes and secret messages mean nothing were entranced to be wearing a ring. The poster contest will also come to a conclusion on Friday, July 27, and the posters will be judged on Saturday morning, July 28 by judges Merna Dunham, Allen Monroe and Gayle Shirley. Our summer reading program is well supported by community members. Our library is so lucky.

The reader this week was Kathy Dixon-Wallace. She has been associated with the summer reading program for many summers as a mother of members and as a community leader too. Kathy read to 10 children and to 7 adults. I was downstairs for just a few minutes as Kathy was doing a spirited reading of Froggy Gets Dressed.

The Get-A-Clue Summer Reading Program ends on August 10 with the final party. This year the weeks seem to have flown by. It seems like no time at all since Walter and I tied the yellow tape to the outside of the library.

Christopher Whitten gave us a large collection of science fiction and fantasy books this past week. They are in

perfect condition. Hard to realize they have been read at all. Pam checked them over and chose many for our Sci/Fi collection. She discarded any from a broken series, but we are offering those for sale. Sci/Fi lovers come in to see what has been donated to us. Thank you, Chris.

From Jackie Woods this week we received several mystery books.

Carrington, Tori	FOUL PLAY
Englert, J.F.	A DOG ABOUT TOWN
Ross, Ann	MISS JULIA STRIKES BACK
Sefton, Maggie	A KILLER STITCH

We also received a box of new adult titles from Baker & Taylor. We have finally finished processing them. We have been so busy with the summer reading program children and computer patrons that processing the books had to be squeezed into spare moments.

Bowen, Rhys	HER ROYAL SPYNESS
Deveraux, Jude	SOMEONE TO LOVE
Jance, J.A.	JUSTICE DENIED
King, Larry	THE PEOPLE'S PRINCESS
O'Reilly, Bill	CULTURE WARRIOR
Rendell, Ruth	THE WATERS LOVELY
Rice, Luanne	WHAT MATTERS MOST
Roberts, Nora	HIGH NOON
Silva, Daniel	THE SECRET SERVANT
Wickham, Madeleine (aka Sophie Kinsella)	THE GATECRASHER

One additional note! Our patrons enjoy magazines donated to the library by patrons who are finished with them, but if the magazines are very recent, I will think they may have been delivered to the wrong address. If you wish to donate your used magazines to the library via the book drop, why not X out your name with a black marker or mention to us that you are going to be making donations. This week I took two magazines back to the post office, where the clerks figured that the magazines must have been donations. We do like donations of magazines, especially specialty ones, but please let us know by marking them or telling us. Thank you.

Library Summer Hours
Mon. - Weds. - Fri. --- 2:00-8:00
Telephone 943-2612

Three Rivers Kiwanis, Milo - Brownville

July 18, 2007 Meeting

President Ethelyn Treworgy welcomed seventeen members to the weekly meeting on July 18th. In addition, several members of Dover-Foxcroft Kiwanis were guests.

Eben DeWitt led the Pledge of Allegiance and George Barton offered the Morning Prayer.

Birthdays this week included Madolyn Macomber on July 19 and Jim Macomber on July 22. Jim and Madolyn also celebrated their anniversary on July 20.

The Secretary read a note from the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute thanking our club and the area quilters for the quilted wall hangings that were made and are hanging throughout KPTI at the New England Medical Center.

Happy dollars were given for the progress on the sign for the Veterans Park; all the action this week at the Macomber

house; attending the H.O.G. rally last weekend; Yankees gaining on the Red Sox; and volunteers who maintain the Brownville Riverwalk.

The Canoe Race will be held on Sat. July 21 at 10:00 a.m. and volunteers are lined up to work on this.

Nancy Harrigan, Chairperson for the Senior BBQ's, has plans formulated for the suppers the latter part of August and will be looking for volunteers to provide needed items and assist at the suppers.

The JSI Golf Tournament to benefit Kiwanis projects is scheduled for Aug. 24.

The speaker for the day was Thomas Kittredge, director of Piscataquis County Economic Development Corp. Tom, a graduate of Brewer High School and Yale University, received his Masters Degree from Johns Hopkins Univ. He has just recently been hired in his role at PCEDC. The economic development council was formed about 10 years ago and works with Eastern Maine Dev. Corp. to obtain financial assistance and grants for projects, which enhance the quality of life in our county and encourage people to settle here. They are currently working on three grants - one to redevelop the Dover Moosehead Mfg. plan, another for Brownville to do a tourism development investment plan, and another for Greenville to study broadband and affordable high speed internet.

They have recently received intervener status on the Plum Creek concept plan.

PCEDC meets on a quarterly basis and the public is welcomed. The next meeting is in September with a representative from the PUC in attendance.

*Milo Garden Club's annual
Summer Fair, August 2 at Milo
Elementary School 11-1:30.
Perennials, plants, crafts, food,
"nearly new" table, raffle, silent
auction and a "by donation"
luncheon.
Come join us!*

**Public Hearing and Special Town
Meeting scheduled for August 1st
beginning at 6PM, at the Milo
Town Hall.**