



# Three Rivers News



<http://news.trcmaine.org/>

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, November 26, 2007 Volume 7 Number 3

**December 1st**

There will be a craft fair at the American Legion in Milo from 9:00A.M. - 5:00 P.M. For those who need a last minute gift for someone special, there will be something for all ages. Hope to see you there.

## To The Editors:

With the recent announcement of the termination of Milo's Town Manager, a chapter has closed on a particularly difficult period in Milo's history. Personally, I think the chapter had a very happy ending, but not without some remarkable citizenship and conduct on the part of the serving Board of Selectmen, Tony Hamlin, Joe Beres, Rick Gallagher, and Chairman Jerry Brown.

For over two centuries, this country has served as a model to the world of a working government crafted upon the ideal, as described by Abraham Lincoln, of "government of the people, by the people, for the people".

Although we all understand that the defining characteristic of our democracy is a constitution that preserves us the right to govern ourselves, that doesn't mean that we'll put the effort forth to do so. Any review of election records will reveal that most of the time many of us, and sometimes most of us, don't bother to exercise the most basic right provided by our democracy - the right to vote and select who will administer and direct our governing..

Governing takes time and effort and most of us have other things to do. I served on the Penquis Valley School Board for many years and my experience in recruiting new board members is one I'm sure is shared by any one in local government who has tried to find people willing to put in some time. People don't want to serve for many reasons, "I'm too busy", "I don't have kids in school", "I've got kids in school", "No one will vote for me", etc. etc., but one excuse I heard really gets to the heart of the matter:

"I don't want to serve because I'll eventually vote for something that will get people mad at me".

I believe this is the single most powerful reason that many people avoid local government service.

Over the years I've realized a couple of things about serving in government: the higher you get in government the more you get paid and the greater the distance between you and the people affected by your governing actions. This means that if you are a U.S. Senator you'll make a lot of money and most of the people you govern will never have the opportunity to talk to you in person.

It also means that if you are a Milo Selectman, you won't make minimum wage and the people you're affecting will be sitting right across the table from you at every meeting. In addition, you've probably known them for many years, if not all your life and you'll see them regularly at the Farmer's Union, at Rite Aid or the gas station; they might live next door or around the corner. As a Selectman, you can be sure that your decisions will make some people mad at you, even when you are clearly trying to act in the best interests of the community and its residents. In addition, the good things that you do to provide services, attract business and apply the local ordinances clearly and fairly, will go largely without recognition.

Serving as a Selectman in a small town in Maine is brutally direct government, often full of emotion, overwhelming need, limited resources and sometimes, very hard feelings. No wonder people shy away from this service. That people chose to serve at all is remarkable and remains the reason this marvelous democracy has survived for so long.

What the Milo Selectman did in addressing the issues concerning our Town management was excellent governance. They focused on asking questions directed at assuring townspeople had adequate, fair and honest governance. When the going got rough, they didn't waver or get distracted. Their steadfast focus on the issues at hand, their persistence in getting answers, and their clear and direct actions to resolve the issues, have opened a new and promising future for Milo.

What they did wasn't easy, and I'm sure each of them lost some sleep during the last few months. I think it is remarkable that these Selectmen, basically volunteer leaders in a small community, had the courage and fortitude to tackle such a difficult and thorny problem.

I'm proud of these men and what they provide to the Town of Milo and the next time I see them at the grocery store, the ball game or the gas station, I'm going to thank them.

I hope you will, too.  
From: Jensen Bissell  
11/18/07

Tel. 943-5072

## Christmas Cancellation announcement from the United States Postal Service:

If you would like to have a letter from Santa to your child postmarked from the North Pole, put the letter you wrote "from Santa", in a stamped envelope that is addressed to your child, complete with the North Pole as the return address, and put it in a larger envelope, properly stamped and addressed to the address shown below. The



letter must arrive at the address by December 16<sup>th</sup>, but the earlier the better!

**North Pole Christmas Cancellation**

**Postmaster  
5400 Mail Trail  
Fairbanks AK 9979-99980**

**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, Elaine's Café 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](mailto:val04463@verizon.net) or call 943-2324.

Nancy Grant, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to [nancy2310@roadrunner.com](mailto: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.

**MILO RABIES CLINIC**

A rabies clinic is to be held December 8, 2007, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. for dogs and cats at the Milo Town Hall sponsored by the Town of Milo and Foxcroft Veterinary. Charge for rabies vaccine is \$8.00 and for distemper vaccine \$12.00. Contact: 207-943-2202

**The Penquis Journalism Club is hosting a staff basketball game on December 6 at 6pm at the Penquis Valley High School.**



The

**BROWNVILLE JCT American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a Christmas Craft Fair Saturday, Dec 8th at the Post home from 9:00 - 1:00. The Junior Auxiliary will also have crafts available.**

**SECRET SANTA**

The Three Rivers Kiwanis Club of Milo & Brownville will be serving as a clearinghouse for **Santa's Helpers** again this year.

**Donations** may be made at:

Maine Savings Federal Credit Union, Park St., Milo ME 04463  
or

Camden National Bank, Main St., Milo ME 04463

If any organizations or individuals wish to **adopt** children, please contact Santa's Helper Janet Richards at 943-2680. Requests for **Children Only (under 16)** will come to us from the Milo & Brownville Town Offices, the Milo & Brownville Elementary Schools & Head Start.

**Please remember that Christmas is a good time to get involved with caring for the needs of others, especially children.**

**CRAFT FAIR**

The LaGrange Fire Department is holding a craft fair on December 1, 2007, from 9 am to 4 pm at the Marion C. Cook School, 22 Howland Road.

Spaces are available for \$15.00; reserve your space by calling Jen Baker at 943-2402 or e-mail her at [jrbaker@surfmk.com](mailto:jrbaker@surfmk.com).

Have your picture taken with Santa from 11 to 1!

**Christmas Fair**

Park Street UMC 15 Park St,  
Milo, ME  
Saturday, December 1, 2007  
9:00a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Beef stew luncheon 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Homemade food, cookie walk,  
candy shoppe, crafts & gifts,  
cards, RAVA utensils, dry greenery arrangements.  
Benefit the Park St. UMW. Contact: Theresa Mudgett  
943-2502 or 631-4022

We would like to invite anyone interested in  
Downtown Revitalization to attend a Town Forum on  
Wednesday, November 28, 2007, at 6 pm in the Milo  
Town Hall Dining Room.

**Valerie Jean's American Bistro  
is offering "Tastes of The World"**

*On Sundays, it's Italian!*

*For \$9.95 you may enjoy -*

*Focaccia Bread and a Caesar Salad*

*Followed by your choice of:*

*Lasagna*

*Chicken Saltimbocca (Breaded breast, oven fried,  
and topped with ham and cheese)*

*Whole Baby Clams*

*(Steamed with garlic, butter and wine. Served over  
fresh pasta)*

*Roasted Vegetables*

*(tossed with a spicy tomato cream sauce and served  
over penne pasta)*

*Then on Wednesday, by reservation only, you may  
enjoy the cuisine of France!*

*Begin with French Champagne or Perrier*

*Then, Hors D'oeuvres-Chicken Liver Pate*

*(Served with French baguette, red onion, capers and  
cornichons)*

*Le Potage-French Onion Soup*

*(Created with sherry and thyme, topped with a  
crouton, gruyere and provolone cheese)*

*Entrees*

*Your choice of*

*Chicken Cordon Bleu*

*(Boneless breast filled with ham and gruyere  
cheese. Breaded and oven baked. Served with Dijon  
sauce and haricot verts)*

*Shrimp Francaise*

*(Shrimp flambe with Pernod, finished with Dijon,  
cream and tarragon. Served in a veal a' vent  
accompanied by haricot verts)*

*Finale*

*Profiterole|(Pate' a' choux filled with vanilla ice  
cream and topped with hot fudge.*

*\$30 per person Does not include tax or gratuity*

*There will be a bake sale to benefit Piscataquis  
Community High School's Class of 2008 Project  
Graduation from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on December  
16 at the Center Theatre in Dover-Foxcroft.*

*Come see the 1954 holiday classic "White Christmas"  
starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera  
Ellen. Purchase individually wrapped goodies, popcorn and  
beverages to enjoy during the show, or full-sized baked goods like  
pumpkin rolls and banana breads that can be enjoyed later at  
home with your holiday guests.*

**JEREMY AND JILL CAREY OF MILO**

welcomed their new baby boy Vegas James on November  
9, 2007. He weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces.

**GRAMMIE McCLEARY'S WEATHER**

November/December 1981

25-Cloudy-12° at 6:20 am.

26-Sunny-16° at 9:30 pm.

27-Snow-26° at noon.

28-P Sunny am Cloudy snow flurries pm.

29-Cloudy windy pm-27° at 5:40 am.

30-Sunny windy.

1-P Sunny am-32° at noon.

**Connections**

**Items Listed at CONNECTIONS on the TRC Site**

Use Connections to post your own free classified ads and keep in  
touch with friends and family members in both the Civilian and  
Military service. Submit your Connections by emailing  
info@trcmaine.org, mailing it to Connections c/o Izzy Warren; 6  
Kimball Street, Milo, ME 04463, or submitting it online at  
<http://www.trcmaine.org/connections/>

**Stuff**

**BY BRAIN AND BRAWN-The perfect gift for any  
Railroad Guy!!**

By Brain and Brawn - an account of how railroad tracks were  
maintained and of the men who did the job.

This paperback book is illustrated with over seventy  
archival photographs and enhanced with numerous pen and ink  
sketches and helpful diagrams.

It's a must read for every person who has ever worked  
for the railroad or has a friend or relative who was a railroad man !

It is available by mail at \$20 including state tax and  
shipping.

Orders can be sent to Moosehead Communication, 719  
Moosehead Lake Rd. Greenville, Maine, 04441.

Copies can also be obtained from Walter Macdougall, 75  
Sargent Hill Drive, Milo, Maine, 04463 (207- 943-2331) or Bob  
Roberts, 77 Elliottsville Rd. Monson, Maine, 04464 (207-977-3385).

**LAGRANGE : CRAFT FAIR**

The LaGrange Fire Department is holding a Craft Fair on December  
1, 2007, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Marion C. Cook School,  
22 Howland Road. Spaces are available for \$15.00. To reserve  
your space call Jen Baker at 943-2402 or e-mail her at  
jrbaker@surfmk.com.

Have your picture taken with Santa from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm !

**Military Service**

**THANK A SOLDIER !!!**

Something cool that Xerox is doing ... a great way to say thank  
you to our men and women in Iraq - if only in a small way.

Go to this web site : [www.letsaythanks.com](http://www.letsaythanks.com)

You can pick out a thank-you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq.

You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to some member of the Armed services.

How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one !!!

This is a great site. Please send a card. It is FREE and it only takes a second.

## Jobs

### **PENQUIS - COOK**

Penquis, a social services agency serving Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Knox counties for 40 years, is hiring a part-time (24 hrs/wk) cook to work in a child care setting in the Bangor area.

The cook is responsible for preparing healthy, nutritious meals and snacks and may perform tasks which could involve trash removal, shopping, and laundry on an incidental basis.

The successful candidate must be at least 18 years of age, with a high school diploma or equivalent, have three years paid experience working in a kitchen, and be able to use small and large kitchen equipment. Must read, write, perform basic math functions and lift and carry up to 50 pounds.

This position starts at \$8.45/hr.

Penquis offers an excellent benefits package and competitive wages.

An application form and job description are available from Penquis, 262 Harlow Street, P.O. Box 1162, Bangor, ME 04402-1162, Tel: 973-3500, TDD: 973-3520, from our offices in Lincoln, Rockland and Dover-Foxcroft, or from our website at [www.penquis.org](http://www.penquis.org).

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

In accordance with federal regulations, Penquis does not discriminate. Reasonable accommodations will be made for otherwise qualified persons with disabilities.

Please call with any questions : Kim Johnson, Human Resources Assistant

Ph: 207-973-3518, Fax: 207-973-3699

## Community Connection

### **LOOKING FOR OLD FRIENDS....**

Debra Conley Cole, Helena Goodine Green - would like email address for them if anyone has them ! Contact: Jimmy Evans [jimmyevs@aol.com](mailto:jimmyevs@aol.com) or 252.326.4091

### **LAGRANGE : CHRISTMAS BENEFIT DINNER OFELIA'S**

Community Resource Center's Christmas Benefit Dinner will be held Saturday, December 8 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

All you can eat !!! Menu : Southern BBQ-cooked by a Kentucky native ! Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Tea or Coffee (milk for the children).

Adults \$3.00 Children under 5 - 50 cents.

This will be the only opportunity to sign up for a Toys for Tot's gift through Ofelia's at LaGrange. ( Sign-up will also be available at our Glenburn Food Pantry on Pushaw Rqad through Dec. 12th.) Call early evening for more information, Bertie Williams at 943.5850

### **MILO : SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

To be held at the Milo Town Hall on December 6, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. to ratify overdrafts not addressed at the Annual Town Meeting in March of 2007.

Action will also be required for Milo's Public Library, Public Works Department, and the Fire Department to use funds generated by them.

## TRC Community Calendar

Visit <http://calendar.trcmaine.org/> for a full listing.

## Monday, November 26

9:00a Monday Morning Quilters  
11:45a Meals for ME  
2:00p Secret Santa application deadline  
2:15p Girl Scout Troop #299  
2:30p Milo - 4-H After School Chess Club  
4:00p Penquis Solid Waste Corp.  
6:00p Volley Ball  
6:30p Atkinson Selectmen  
7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00p Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club

## Tuesday, November 27

3:00p Girl Scout Troop #594  
5:00p D-F : Free Quit Smoking Workshop  
5:30p Line Dancing  
6:30p Post #92 Bingo  
7:00p Sebec Planning Board

## Wednesday, November 28

6:30a Three Rivers Kiwanis  
10:00a Church Thrift Shop  
1:00p Mayo Diabetes Support Group  
2:15p Girl Scout Troop #538  
6:00p K.I. Riders  
6:00p Wednesday Night Quilters  
6:00p Milo - Yoga Level 1  
6:00p Town Forum - Downtown Milo Revitalization  
6:30p LaGrange Selectmen  
6:30p Order of the Rainbow  
6:30p Boy Scout Troop #115  
6:30p Brownville Selectmen  
7:00p Overeaters Anonymous  
7:00p Bowerbank Selectmen

## Thursday, November 29

11:30a EAAA Outreach at Milo  
11:45a Meals for ME  
4:30p Tae Kwon Do Class  
6:00p Boy Scout Troop #112  
6:00p Milo Selectmen  
6:00p Post #92 Meeting  
6:30p Line Dancing  
6:30p BJHS Card Party  
7:00p Sebec - Open Mic Night

## Friday, November 30

11:45a Meals for ME  
12:00p Three Rivers Senior Citizens  
6:15p Post #41 Bingo

## Saturday, December 1

9:00a Milo : Christmas Fair  
9:00a LaGrange : Craft Fair  
10:00a Greenville : Plum Creek Development Hearing  
11:00a Ofelia's Mobile Food Pantry & Thrift Store  
2:00p Mayo Siblings Class

## Sunday, December 2

12:00p Karate Class  
1:00p Sebec : Monthly Scrap Booking Crop  
2:30p Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do  
2:30p Post #92 Auxiliary  
3:30p Square Dancing  
6:00p Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:30p Alcoholics Anonymous

## Milo Free Public Library News

By Judith Macdougall

School's out this holiday week and how busy the library has been! On Monday at 2:00 the first wave of teens and preteens flowed through the door to the computers. By 2:10 the second wave came, but, of course, they all had to wait half an

hour as everyone gets 30 minutes on our machines, anyway. A few minutes after the second wave, a new group entered. Hearing that they could have up to an hour wait, several chose to leave to return later in the day or evening. Our computers were busy all afternoon and half busy after supper, but due to a few rules instituted by our staff, computer use is fairly orderly. We expect the rest of the week might be just as busy on the days we are open.

The library trustees met on Monday evening downstairs in the library. Two new members have joined the board: Theda Cowing and Jerry Cole. Shirlene Ladd has resigned after serving faithfully for many years on the board. We shall miss her, but we are glad to welcome the new members. Other members present were Melanie Hussey, Chair, Joanne DeWitt, Secretary, George Fricke, Neil Hamlin and Elaine Tardiff.

Last week Pam and I purchased new YA (Young Adult) and juvenile books at Borders after hearing an exciting book talk. We hope that our young library patrons find them as interesting and exciting as they sounded to Pam and me. Actually, some adults might enjoy many of these titles too.

**DEADLINE** Chris Crutcher  
Ben has one year to live and wants to try to make his mark in the world.

**DISGUISED** Rita La Fontaine de Clercq Zubli  
This is a true story. Rita and her parents were imprisoned in an Indonesian Japanese Prisoner of War camp. Fearing for her safety, her parents disguised Rita as Rick. For 3 years she served as a translator disguised as a boy.

**THE LAND OF THE SILVER APPLES** Nancy Farmer  
A sequel to the SEA OF TROLLS

**GEORGE'S SECRET KEY TO THE UNIVERSE**  
By Lucy & Stephen Hawkins

George's adventure is a gripping adventure story while the reader gains many science facts. There are many actual color universe photographs and also B&W illustrations for the story plot.

**PEAK** Roland Smith  
A 14 year old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the peak of Mt. Everest.

**THE SEEMS-THE GLITCH IN SLEEP** John Hulme  
Something goes wrong with the Dept. Of Sleep but the Seems keep everything running smoothly. Becker Drane is one of the Fixers in this adventure. The Seems will be a series.

**A SWIFT PURE CRY** Siobhan Dowd (Shivon)  
Motherless Shell finds herself the center of a scandal in her small Irish town.

**SWORDBIRD** Nancy Yi Fan (12 year old author)  
This is a captivating tale about the birds of Stone-Run Forest and their quest for peace.

**Library Winter Hours**  
**Mon.-Weds.-Fri.---2:00-8:00**  
**Saturday 2:00-4:00**  
**Telephone 943-2612**

## Up On The Farm

By Valerie Robertson

Every year at this time I say to myself, and anyone else who is within earshot, "This is it. This is the year I'm actually going to die from the cold!" I absolutely hate being cold. I'm not saying I don't like winter. I love winter, especially a big ol' snowstorm, but I HAVE to be warm. So when I got the call from the Postmaster at the Milo post office asking me if I could fill in on a walking route in Milo, I said "Sure!", and immediately starting rounding up winter clothes.

Thankfully, most days were moderate, and with the exception of a lot of rain, the weather was warm enough to suit me. I absolutely loved walking the C.A.M. streets, (P for Prospect wasn't part of my route), and every day was filled with memories of who used to live in what house on Maple and

Albert Streets and of course, Clinton, Cove and Crescent each hold their own memories. Crescent is where my in-laws lived, along with Cheryl Jones and Kathy Rhoda, two dear childhood friends. Cove Street is where my dear friend Laurel lives, and of course I can't pass her house without thinking of Murrel.

But the most memory-spurring part of the walk is when I come up Clinton Street from Marty and Linda O'Conner's, passing the PAWS shelter, which many of you may know, is a house I spent a lot of my childhood in. The house was the home of Aunt Ida and Uncle George Donald, along with their kids, Dougie and Carol. So many childhood events took place in and around that house and neighborhood. As I walk along the beginning of Cove Street I am drawn back in time to 1961 when I would trudge along, up hill, in 5 feet of snow, heading for the corner of Main and Water Streets to wait for the bus. I must have been headed to the Derby Grammar School, although I don't know for sure.

Anyway, I think of how many times I walked in those same spots and marvel at how clearly I remember those old trips. I think it is wonderful to be able to relive and maintain childhood experiences, while getting paid. But there are aspects to delivering mail in a small town that can hold you up, things that are different from the rain, sleet, and dark of night that might interfere with this courier's appointed rounds. One such hold-up is friends who want to chat for "just a minute or two". Another is folks stopping to report animal issues or to ask about critters at the shelter. This is just what happened last Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. I was plodding along when Dickie Bell pulls up and asks if I'm still involved with animal rescue. I tell him I am to a degree, but that most issues have to go to Joe Guyotte, Milo's Animal Control Officer.

"Well" Dickie says, "This concerns chickens, a flock that has been dumped in the woods".

Now this is right up my alley. I asked, "Are you sure that a mother hen just didn't hatch a bunch of eggs and they are wandering around?"

He then explained that he had been hunting on the Hancock Road, which leads to the gravel quarry off the Lakeview Road, when he turned onto a tote road and was met by a group of 12 or so hens. They came from the brush on the side of the road and he could see where they had been bedding down at night. He returned a few times to give them bird food and they were friendly as well as hungry. The story sounded odd, even to me, but I told him when I was done work I would check the chickens out.

At around 2PM, I equipped myself with a net and a cage and headed to Mike Comeau's store for some chicken pellets. I told Mike what I was going to do and his response was, "Is that what you're wearing?". I looked down at my light-brown fuzzy jacket and said, "Yup, but I'm warm enough".

He responded, "You probably should put some orange on!"

What an idiot I am! I was headed deep in the woods, on a sunny, cold day during the last week of Hunting Season with a brown jacket on. I took a few minutes to grab a blaze orange vest, and headed for Lakeview. I turned onto the quarry road, then inched along looking for the tote road Dickie had described. I turned onto the road I thought might be the one, and sure enough, from my right a group of golden chickens ran into the clearing. I stopped my van, got out, opened the feed, scooped out a bowl-full and threw it to the ground. With a lot of excited squawking the hungry hens set about devouring the pellets as I quietly lifted one after the other from the

ground and placed them in the cage in my van. I had five securely contained and the sixth one in my hands when she realized what was happening and started screeching at the top of her lungs. The remaining 6 scattered, heading for a clump of bushes that turned out to be covered with the biggest thorns I have ever seen. I followed the chickens and a few yards from the road I could see what they had been using for a home. In the middle of the deadly bramble bushes was a lone fir tree, and under its bottom branches was a cleared out spot with eggs in it!!

I headed back for the tote road, which was no easy task, as the branches snagged me and impeded my progress considerably. I hoped that when I made it to the clearing of the road that I could lure the chickens out with more food, and snag them with the net. There was no way I could use it in the thorny branches.

I made it to the road with only a few gouges and was dismayed to see the chickens were still in the safety of their briar patch. All but one, who had gone to the other side of the road. Why did that chicken cross the road? That, my friends, is still an unanswered question.

It was now 3:30 PM and the sun was low and behind the trees. I noticed and recognized the movements that indicated the hens were headed to roost for the night. I decided to head back to town, feed and bed down the 6 hens I had, and return to the area I knew they were using to sleep. I know from experience that after dark chickens become very calm and I hoped I could quietly approach the remaining hens and snatch them as they slept.

I dealt with the chickens, secured my menagerie, grabbed a flashlight and headed back to the woods. I had gloves, heavier boots, and a fully charged cell phone so I felt well prepared. I drove down the road and turned onto the tote road, turned off my van and looked to my right towards the dark, dark woods. A little chill ran through me, but I hated the thought of the remaining chickens spending another cold night in the woods, and knowing how much fox and coyotes like chicken I gained some courage and stepped out of my van and shut the door. This is the part in a movie when you scream at the screen, "Don't do that, stupid!!" But I did.

I shined my light towards where I thought the hens would be, and sure enough, I could see 3 of them under the fir branch and two others near by. I walked into the woods, circled behind them and as quietly as I

could (picture a cow walking on frozen dried leaves) and was able to reach down and grab two of them, but the others went squawking deep into the woods. I decided I was doing more harm than good by driving them from what had been a safe spot for them. That added to the images in my head from the scariest movie I've ever seen, The Blair Witch Project, helped me decide to head home and return the following day.

I went home and looked closely at the hens and saw that they were missing a lot of feathers and decided to bring the barest 3 into the house for the night. I set them up in a dog pen and fed them. I felt bad that their friends were in the woods, cold and scared, but was glad the majority were well-fed, safe and warm.

The next day Katie was free to help me with the capturing of the remaining 3 hens. I told her we would wait til near night fall, then I would go in behind where I knew they would be roosting and she could snag them with the net. We arrived at the spot and I shone the light where I thought they would be, but no chickens! I headed into the woods to find them and told Katie to wait and I would tell her where they were and where she should go. Suddenly she said, "I see them."

I said "All 3 of them?"

She replied "There are 4, and I have 2 of them." I heard her go to the van, and then return to where the chickens were.

As I clawed my way out of the brambles to her aid, she was scooping up the last one. Catching chickens seems to come easily to her!

So I ended up with 13 young Buff Orpington layer hens. How they ended up in the woods is a mystery, but I think they had to have been abandoned there by someone. Chickens don't just run off, so I assume someone needed to get rid of them and did a really stupid thing. Whatever the reason, they were safe and warm and I was happy.

Coincidentally, Monica Warren had just contacted me to ask if I had any extra laying hens. I decided that since these gals were great layers she could have them. So Sunday morning the Warren's picked up their new pets. They are sharing them with some friends and I know the golden ladies will have wonderful homes. Sometimes things work out perfectly!!

