



# 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

Tuesday, Sept 9, 2008 Volume 7 Number 44

## Happy Birthday Katie Vail Robertson-Joyner!!

(Or is it Joyner-Robertson?)

### Hey Guys and Gals!! Are You Ready For Some Football?

Ok, maybe in these parts it's called soccer, but Milo Rec. needs you! Fall Rec. Soccer is forming and coaches are desperately needed!! There is a meeting this Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at The Milo Town Hall and we would love for you to attend!! Come alone, or as a team! If your time is limited, bring along assistants! We all know a great team has many coaches. Help make a difference in the life of a kid and have tons of fun to boot! (No pun intended)

### Don Harris presents Eleanor Heath with a check for \$874.



American Legion Post 41, Milo, is proud to present Eleanor Heath of Milo a check in the amount of \$874.00. She was the winner of our Labor Day 50/50 drawing.

The Bean Supper, silent auction and raffle was very successful and a good time was had by all. we wish to thank all who supported our cause.

### Key Club with Camille

*It's that time of year again when school's starting, the weather is changing, and fall sports have begun. With everything beginning its also the time for the Penquis Valley Key Club to start back up. What's Key Club you ask?*



*Key Club is a community service organization made up of Penquis Valley High School students eager to serve their community. The Key Club meets every Thursday at the Penquis Valley High School in room 13, at 11:45. The Officers of the club include, Josh Clement - President, Katy Korona - Vice President, Camille Cramer - Secretary, Hanna Backus - Treasurer, Paige McGuiness - Historian, Kelsey Ottmann -Bulletin Board Editor, Katie Joyner-Robertson and Val Robertson as advisors.*

*Our first meeting was held this past Thursday, September 4th. 30 plus students showed up curious about joining the group. Discussed at the meeting was such as the purpose and priority of Key Club, our relationship with our Three Rivers Kiwanis family, and upcoming events.*

*Our first project for the Key Club term of '08-'09 will be providing childcare at the Brownville PTO meetings for the 5th and 18th of September. Right off we received 7 possible volunteers willing to help. Other events scheduled to follow so far include blood drives for the community and book drives for the elementary schools.*

*Penquis Valley Key Club is proud to support, serve and update our community every chance we get. After all, our motto is....Caring - our way of Life.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Camille Cramer  
PVHS Key Club Secretary

### Caring for Afghanistan, one injured child at a time

by Air Force Lt. Col. Leslie Pratt  
American Forces Network  
KABUL, Afghanistan

**Editor's Note: Rebekah is the daughter of Milo's own Gerry Demers. This is an amazing story about an amazing woman!**



The Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) at Camp Phoenix near Kabul evokes images of the 70s TV show, M\*A\*S\*H. All the stark theatrical elements are there – personality, humor, human drama and a keen sense of duty. Except, the Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors at the TMC aren't acting. And the casualties are all too real. Air Force Airman First Class Rebekah Crawford, assigned from Wright-Patterson, relishes the camaraderie and spirit of her team. And, she depends on it.

"We're a unique crowd here," she said. "We're from all branches and come from all over the country, but we all have a common goal. So, when we focus our energy, we make amazing things happen. Are we making a difference here?" she asked. "You bet. "The primary mission is troop medical care in direct combat

support of Task Force Phoenix soldiers who patrol much of central Afghanistan. But, Crawford and her team also spend much of their 'space available' time caring for Afghan kids with traumatic injuries. "We have kids come in almost daily and we're authorized to treat life, limb and eyesight threatening injuries. That's exactly what we do." Sometimes the work is heart wrenching and emotional.

The TMC often treats disfiguring burns. "After the first time I treated a burned child, I went back to my hut and had a good cry." Crawford explained. "I really like helping out the kids and it's easy to grow really fond of them because we have to sort of share their pain." The hallmark of a second degree burns is excruciating pain. She explained burn injuries are especially painful compared to other types of trauma due to the prominence of nerve endings in the epidermis of the skin. Among the many complications associated with burns is the susceptibility to life-threatening infections. "Burns are deadly and require a lot of care and attention," she said. Like the crews of many combat support medical outfits, Task Force Phoenix medics often venture into unorthodox areas and perform procedures which might normally be done by nurses or physicians in traditional stateside environments. "We don't necessarily practice medicine or anything like that, but it gets pretty hectic here sometimes and it's an all hand on deck team effort," Crawford explained while cleaning herself up. It requires us to develop a skill set pretty quickly and the Army does a great job of training us." She had just assisted a physician and 3 other technicians with the grizzly task of debreeding the arms, legs and stomach of a 4-year-old boy with second degree burns over 60 percent of his body.

For kids in Afghanistan, a common occurrence is injuries from boiling water in tea pots which get upset on fires in small rooms of their homes. According to Crawford it's been a problem for a long time and will continue to be. "All we can do is help as best we can until the infrastructure of Afghanistan develops more and they can minimize accidents and better treat more patients like this." During the extremely painful debreeding procedure, she managed to comfort the small boy with encouragement and kindness. After the skin was removed the medics administered an intricate sterile wash in the austere conditions of the hot and dusty hut. She then assisted with the application of soothing cream designed to provide a protective barrier and promote healing of the exposed tissues – just as soothing and cool as the thickly applied ointment was her tenderly applied compassion.

"Kids need to see confidence and get assurance from us. They need to know someone cares." For their strength and sanity, the medics must erect a permeable but rigid wall between themselves and their kids. "You can't separate yourself from the situation and you have to feel for that child." Crawford explained. "On the other hand, you can't become too attached, especially not knowing what's in store for these kids when we walk them to the gate and release them." It's very difficult to know the eventual outcome of many cases. "Hopefully they come back, and many do. A lot of times we'll get our hugs and kisses. That's when we get our true reward and see the contributions we're making here." Saddened by what she had just done and seen, Crawford was also encouraged and upbeat. "We saved his life and this little guy can now grow up." She said, adding, "He could be known for greatness in his country some day. You never know." She wiped away a tear, a Ctrl-Alt Del for her emotions and her professional decorum. Next, preparing the small hut space for the next small patient. Her mentally exhausted teammates also gathered themselves and pitched in. Smiles soon returned to everyone's face. Like the 4077th characters in M\*A\*S\*H, Crawford and the rest of the Camp Phoenix TMC gang miss their kids, homes and families. Yet, they soldier on here despite nearly daily encounters with horrific suffering and pain. Selflessly giving lifesaving care and compassion are the story lines for every episode of TF Phoenix, T\*M\*C.

**Editor's Note: Our friend Moe Hanson put it perfectly:**

Gerry,

What an awesome testimony of caring and compassion.....I know you are deservingly proud of her!

God Bless Her,

Moe

## 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

### 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](http://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 Willinski, 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 Willinski Virgil Valente Kirby Robertson

## AREA SCHOOL NEWS

You can help our schools just by shopping!!! The Box Tops for Education Program pays your town's school 10-cents for each and every coupon clipped!! When choosing your product at your grocer, look for the Box Tops for Education logo, use the product and then clip and save the Box Tops coupon. You can drop them off at your local elementary school, put them in the special box by the registers at the Milo Farmer's Union, or slip them into the money slot in the Three Rivers News display boxes.

## COOK SCHOOL NEWS



Mackayla Hamm, Bree-Anna Badger and Kyle Estes were honored as our first Terrific Kids of the year at our September 5 assembly.

Mrs. Nott: Mackayla is my terrific kid this week. Mackayla is new to our school this year and is in the first grade. She has done a great job fitting into our classroom and has been a great help and role model to our new kindergarten students. Mackayla works very hard in all she does and we are glad to have her at the Cook School! Congratulations and welcome, Mackayla!

Mrs. Johnston: Bree-Anna has had a wonderful first 2 weeks. She has come into second grade and is adjusting very well. She is very conscientious about getting all of her jobs done, and doesn't let others distract her from them. She comes in every morning with a smile. At the end of the day, while she waits for her bus, she asks what she can do to help out. I enjoy having her in my class!

Miss K.: I have had a wonderful time getting to know Kyle. He follows directions and does his best on his assignments. He enjoyed discovering properties of seeds in Science class. Kyle completed all of his homework and had his Planner signed each night. Kyle has a wonderful attitude and a sweet smile. Congratulations Kyle.

"The Relatives Came" to the second and third grade classroom. The students read the book, wrote about imaginary summer vacations, worked on predicting and mapping skills, made a story board and a comic strip about the events of the story. On Friday the relatives came, with blankets and traveling snacks, and shared their favorite books with the students. This wonderful event was enjoyed by all.



**GRAMMIE McCLEARY'S WEATHER**

September 1987

- 9-Fog rain-56° at 5:18 am. 10-M sunny am M cloudy pm-52° at 9:30 pm. 11-Cloudy-58° at 2 pm. 12-M cloudy-50° at 5 am.
- 13-Rain-50° at noon. 14-P Cloudy P sunny-clearing late pm.
- 15-Sunny windy-34° at 5:22 am.

**BROWNVILLE ELEMENTARY  
TERRIFIC KIDS**

K-Hunter Hall 1-Camron Bailey 2-Faith Sickler 3-Wyatt Keller 4-Jordan Durant 5-Walker Clark 6-Kala Hall



**M.S.A.D. #41  
SCHOOL LUNCH MENU  
SEPTEMBER 2008**

8-Chicken nuggets, sweet potato wedges, bread slice, applesauce and milk every day.
9-Fish sticks, scallop potato, peas, roll, fresh fruit.
10-Toasted ham & cheese sand., tomato soup and fruit cocktail.
11-Macaroni/cheeseburger, yellow/green beans, vanilla pudding and mandarin oranges.
12-Ham pizza, garden salad and pineapple tidbits.
15-Cold cut combo, Maine broccoli w/cheese and fruit cocktail.
16-Baked ham slice, Maine baked potato, peas, bread slice and pineapple tidbits.
17-Pancakes, sausage patties, Maine hash browns and sliced pears.
18-Soft taco, rice pilaf, green beans and Maine apple.
19-Italian sandwich, Maine potato wedges, M&M cookie and diced peaches.
22-Chicken burger in a bun, winter blend veggies and applesauce.
23-Ravioli, green beans, bread slice and fresh fruit.
24-Popcorn chicken, rice pilaf, green/yellow beans, dinner roll and pears.
25-Turkey & gravy, mashed potato, buttered carrots, dinner roll and peaches.
26-Pizza, carrot sticks, frosted white cake and pineapple tidbits.
<b>MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE</b>
<b>K – 6 LUNCH - \$1.75      BREAKFAST - \$1.00</b>
<b>7-12 LUNCH - \$2.00      BREAKFAST - \$1.00</b>
<b>ADULT BREAKFAST - \$1.25    ADULT LUNCH - \$3.75</b>
<b>REDUCED LUNCH - \$.40    REDUCED BREAKFAST – FREE</b>
<b>ALL RETURNED CHECKS WILL BE CHARGED A \$10.00 FEE</b>



## Milo's Terrific Kids

**Mrs. Carey** - There is sooooo much to learn for our new kindergarten children - like rules, routines, friends names and fun games, but these new children are doing just great! This week we would like to honor one little girl who is especially sweet and kind to her new classmates. We are happy to have Emaleigh Chadbourne in our kindergarten family.

**Mrs. Walker** - WE are pleased to honor our first TK of the new school year. Hip- hip-hooray!!! He comes to school early each morning and is one of the last to leave our room each night and is a great helper putting up the chairs each night. He is adjusting well to our new schedule, making new friends and is learning a new routine and laughing with us all day. He loves to sing the ABC'S with the teacher pointing to the letters. He also likes the New York Yankees!!!! Go team.... Congratulations to Zakary Mills.

**Mrs. Hayes** - Ainsley and Ryan have worked very hard this week to follow our classroom rules and to do their best at work time. They help to clean up and wait politely for directions from their teachers. They stand in line without bothering other friends. They listen at story time. We are happy to have both of these children in our kindergarten class. Thank you for being terrific kids.

**Mrs. Barden** - Our first terrific kid is such a big help in our room. She knows where everything is and will help her teacher very quickly. She has a great big smile and we are soooo glad she stayed with us! Hooray fo our terrific kid, Heaven Ames.

**Mrs Tardiff & Mrs. Hussey** - - This girl is polite and kind. She works hard and always has a smile on her face. It's great to see such a happy girl. Congratulations Catherine Cianci!

Tenesha is a wonderful first grader! She works hard, listens carefully, and is a good friend to her classmates. We are so proud of her! Congratulations Tenesha Trahan!

**Mrs. Bessey** - Our terrific kid this week has come in everyday with a smile on his face and a good attitude in hand. He has been very respectful and eager to get his work done. He was so eager one day he did his homework before he went home. OOPS! Our terrific kid today is Sonny Natalino.

**Mrs. Mills** - Our terrific kid has started the year with a bang. He comes in each morning ready for the day. He is kind to his classmates and teachers. He works hard on each job he has to do. His attitude has been GREAT!! I hope this continues all year long because it is sure great to have Julian Maxcy in our class.

**Mrs. Whitney** - 4whitney's Terrific Kid for this week has been on task, polite and a great example to all the younger 3rd graders. We appreciate the great example for all to follow! Congratulations, Colin Beckett!!

\*\*Welcome Mr. Dean to Whitney's World,, he will be with us until the end of October. You probably have seen the BIG man already!!!!!!!

**Ms. Patton** - Ms. Patton's 4th grade Terrific Kid this week is Jason Lewis. Ms. Patton's class is working very hard at staying on task, and not chit chatting during the day. Jason can always be looked at as a positive example for this. He stays focused on his work throughout the day and does a great job at not talking in line. Jason is also very eager to learn and is very enthusiastic about sharing all the new discoveries he reads about!! Congratulations Jason Lewis!!

**Mrs. Knowlton** - 5K is off to a TERRIFIC start to the new school year! We have 17 TERRIFIC kids in our room and it sure is hard to choose just one! Our FIRST TERRIFIC kid for this year is TERRIFIC TIFFANY!! Tiffany Young is a sweet, sweet girl who comes into our room with a big smile on her face every day! She always gives 100% effort to what we do and has really surprised me with her reading skills! Great job TERRIFIC TIFFANY!

**Mrs. Gillis** - This boy's a trusting and true-blue friend, He's a treasure who's willing to share and lend, He enjoys Maine nature and catching trout, My vote is for Triston without a doubt. Congratulations, Triston Frost!

**Mrs. Clukey** - It is very difficult to name a terrific kid this early in the school year because it seems like everyone is on their best behavior. However there was one young man from 6c who has shown he meets all the credentials for a terrific kid. He has been thoughtful, respectful, and friendly to his peers and to staff members. He has been enthusiastic and responsible for getting himself organized and ready to get to work. I can already tell he is a very capable and inquisitive learner. These attributes are all included in the description of Donato Cedrone - 6C's terrific kid this week.

**Ms. Dixon-Wallace** - It has been a very hard choice in DW6, everyone has been terrific. After a great deal of thought Kyle Rogers has come out on top as this week's Terrific Kid. Kyle has worked very hard this week on his math, especially with challenging himself with multiplication. Kyle is a good friend to all and always has a smile on him face. I am very happy to have Kyle Rogers as our first TK of the school year.



## WHAT'S UP DOC?

By: Dr. Kevin Chasse

**Q:** It seems like I am tired all the time. Exercise is the last thing I have the energy to do.

**A:** As funny as it sounds, exercise is exactly what you need to do. It gives you more energy. So next time you are feeling tired, so get some exercise. Start slow! You may be surprised how great you feel afterwards.



Keep sendig in your questions!

Dr. K

[drchasse@verizon.net](mailto:drchasse@verizon.net)

## Milo Free Public Library News

By Judith D. Macdougall

We are very pleased with this column to be able to announce that one of our library trustees, George Fricke, has written a book and has presented a signed copy of it to our library. The title of the book is Fighting the Fog and Winning: 20 Years of Minor Mishaps at Sea in New England and Nova Scotia Waters. It has been published by Moosehead Publications in Greenville and costs \$16.95.

George writes in a very easy, comfortable manner about sailing various boats, about whales and sharks, of men overboard and other calamities. He mentions in his introduction that this book is for dreamers, for those who stand atop Cadillac Mountain and dream of sailing the waters spread out below. He tells of trips with friends, trips that were chartered as jobs and pleasure trips with his wife. He speaks of buying his older wooden schooner, Sundhet, and with his son-in-law and two sons sailed his new purchase from Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts to Maine.

George started sailing at the age of 15. Introduced to the United States Power Squadrons, an organization devoted to safe boating education, George immediately became involved in teaching, and taught boating safety, seamanship and navigation until he moved away from the Maine coast in 1994. He has owned a variety of cruising sailboats, including a couple of antiques that he has restored.

He has also cruised in the Caribbean and Chesapeake Bay area, and has chartered in French and English inland waters.

This book is for those who are interested in Maine, coastal waters and sailing. To read this book is to have a friend beside you telling you of the pleasures of sailing, but also reminding you by his own experiences of how to be careful while enjoying the sea.

Sometime over the Labor Day weekend we had several boxes of books deposited outside the library door. I did not even notice them until Dean Henderson, library janitor and also cemetery sexton (I walk in the cemetery weekday mornings), asked me what I wanted to do with them. I was completely confused until I had a chance to see what he was talking about. Someone had left 3 big boxes of books by the library door. I took the boxes of books into the building that morning and went through them later. We encourage folks to think of the library for all book donations as there could be treasures among those books for us. However, if you follow some guidelines you could save yourself a lot of packing and carrying. The following are types of books that are of no use to us (and many libraries). Encyclopedias over 10 years old, textbooks, medical books over 5 years old, and Reader's Digest Condensed Books. These books are not useful in our library and do not sell at book sales. In fact, at one book sale we could not give away encyclopedias that were 20 years old and in lovely condition. Medical information is updated quickly so we try for newer medical books. As far as Condensed Books are concerned, I would think they would be so useful for busy folks who want a quick read or at camp, etc. but they do not circulate nor do they sell at book sales. Torn and dirty books, as a matter of course, should be weeded out before bringing books to be donated to the library. We do enjoy receiving donated books and are always pleased to look through books that you no longer need, but if you follow these guidelines and weed before you bring your donations to the library, it will make things easier on you and on the library staff.

We are now on winter hours which means we are open on Saturdays 2:00-4:00. Many patrons find these two hours more convenient during the winter months.

### Library Winter Hours

Mon. - Weds. - Fri. --- 2:00-8:00

Saturdays 2:00-4:00

Telephone 943-2612



### REFLECTIONS FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

#### Sue Mackey Andrews, Candidate for Senate District #27

School reorganization is a conversation happening throughout the State of Maine, at dinner tables, over work breaks, at McDonald's and just about everywhere else. It certainly is a topic that I have heard about on the campaign trail. Emotions and feelings are high, opinions are many and so are people's concerns and worries.

School reorganization was first announced after the Governor's 2<sup>nd</sup> inauguration in 2007, in response to state budget shortfalls and declining student populations. The intent of the school reorganization legislation was NOT to combine schools – but to reorganize school administrative services to save money by combining these functions across multiple school districts. The word "consolidation" is often used interchangeably with "reorganization." This conjures up all kinds of concerns – like, "Will my child be bussed to Dover-Foxcroft?" or, "Will they close my community school?" The quick answer is, simply, "No." School reorganization was meant to consolidate the business functions of the school administration into one entity, across a number of school administrative units. These partnerships will become a new entity – a Regional School Unit or RSU – by July 1, 2009, the date of full implementation.

The only things being "consolidated" across school administrative units who choose to partner together are the administrative functions of the Superintendent, and those of finance, transportation, curriculum, facilities and special education.

Just about a year ago, I was appointed to the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) as a community

representative for Dover-Foxcroft. Each town was to appoint three members to the RPC – one from the community, one School Board member and someone from the municipality (Town Manager or Selectman).

We started meeting as a region on September 29, 2007. Partners all came to the table and, one by one, most quickly left within the first month. The poor technical assistance provided by the Department of Education coupled with the unrealistic timelines and incomplete legislation has made this more than a challenging responsibility. At every meeting, the foundation shifted underneath us. Members changed, legislation changed, some timelines changed. Recent amendments by the Legislature in January 2008 created more changes, some of which were helpful to our rural area. Most specifically, new language provided for an Alternative Organizational Structure or AOS which offered greater opportunities for local control of schools.

The RPC continues to meet every other week despite these challenges and we were delighted when MSAD #41 returned to the RSU #18 "table" as partners in June.

This legislation continues to be highly controversial. I have several opinions of the legislation – all of which I have spoken about publicly for more than a year. *To put it simply, this is the worst legislation that I have seen in the past 18 years of my national work in the education and health fields.* While the legislation continues to be fraught with challenges, it is more the process that I believe has been the biggest issue. The process was and is disrespectful to people in the local communities. The people closest to our schools were not consulted beforehand – people like our Superintendents, School Board members, parents and other residents in the local communities.

Secondly, the amount of time to enter into meaningful discussions, establish partnerships and create a meaningful and viable plan is grossly inadequate. In order to avoid penalties for our towns, the RPC is now working against the clock to develop a plan which reflects the AOS structure and now includes MSADs 41, 68, Bowerbank, Greenville, Shirley, Beaver Cove, Kingsbury Plantation and Lake View Plantation.

The RPC has developed a Vision Statement which, in part, reads:

**Our vision is to provide a community-based education system with a broad base to meet the diverse needs of all students.**

**We wish to create more opportunities for students;  
cost savings is second.**

**We do not intend to sacrifice instructional quality and Availability in this regionalization opportunity.**

While the plan that we are writing doesn't require any focus on educational quality or accessibility, the RPC believes it is essential that we keep kids and their educational needs in the forefront of all of our planning, discussion and decisions.

We recognize that school reorganization is a county issue – it not isolated to one town or school district. We have a history of partnerships across county lines in rural Maine which has helped to ensure services for some of our most vulnerable children, vocational educational opportunities, and adult education. The RPC is committed to maintaining our positive relationships throughout this process and maintaining our county focus. As our population forecasts a continued decline, it will be these

partnerships that permit us to maintain and hopefully expand educational opportunities for our children while being cost-effective and efficient for the taxpayer.

Why is this all important? First, we are working in a tight timeline to ensure that a plan is completed and submitted to the Department of Education by mid-November with a public referendum scheduled no later than January 27<sup>th</sup>. In early December, members of the RPC will be holding public hearings so that voters can learn about the reorganization of administrative functions directly. It is really important that each voter attend a public hearing to understand the plan and why your vote is essential.

Education is the key to economic recovery and vitality.

Secondly, our failure to submit a plan and have this plan approved by the voters means penalties for our towns. For MSAD #41, the penalty for year #1 would be \$107,814; for MSAD #68 it would be \$178,466. None of our towns can afford this. We need more money for education of our children, not less.

Piscataquis County has the highest school drop-out rate in the state, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest poverty rate, and the highest unemployment rate. The RPC understands that we need to respond to these three challenges through a high quality, diverse and community-based educational opportunity for all of our children; one that uses our individual and collective strengths and makes the most of our assets and resources to break this negative cycle.

While I am not happy with the demands and timeline of this legislation, I am committed to making sure that we partner together for the long-haul for the good of our children and our other citizens. Along with the other members of the RPC, I am working hard to ensure our regional compliance and will continue to advocate for important improvements of this law once elected as your State Senator.

As a rural area, we have all been negatively affected financially by the changes in the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding. My voice and vote on behalf of our rural District in the next Session of the Legislature is needed to correct this imbalance and advocate for continued improvements in the law which respect the unique characteristics and diversity of rural Maine.

Right now, the development of our reorganization plan is providing the opportunity for us to all work together and to better understand what our next steps in educational advocacy for our region are. While our meetings may have been forced by legislation, our partnerships are forged together in the commitment to a high quality community based and owned educational system for all. Our reorganization plan marks a beginning, not an end, of the process that we all need to know more about and speak up loudly on behalf of our children and our communities. It would have been a lot easier to sit on the sidelines and throw barbs at the legislation. Even though I have opposed this legislation, I have chosen to be part of the solution and work locally in partnerships for our future.

This legislation was one of the major reasons I decided to run for the State Senate. The voice of rural Maine has been silent for too long in Augusta.

*All RPC meetings are open to the public and folks are encouraged to attend. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month and move our meetings between Milo, Dover-Foxcroft and Greenville. The meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> will be in Greenville at the Middle/High School Library, and October 3<sup>rd</sup> will*

be in Milo at Penquis High. The meeting to review our final plan and vote to send this forward to our respective School Boards for submission will be on October 16<sup>th</sup> in Dover-Foxcroft at SeDoMoCha. Meetings are from 6-8:00 p.m.

## Maine Project Learning Tree and Williamsburg Demo Forest Workshop

Milo, Maine Maine Project Learning Tree (PLT) is offering a PreK-8 educator workshop on Friday, October 10 from 8:30 to 3:00 at the Milo Town Hall, 6 Pleasant Street, for area teachers and community leaders. The workshop, the first official event at the Outdoor Classroom with views of four mountain ranges, will focus on the 180-acre Williamsburg Demonstration Forest with miles of learning trails and a new Outdoor Classroom. We'll have tree id and measurement activities plus activities that connect history with the current forested landscape - all of which you can apply to a forest in your town. Workshop facilitators include Gordon Moore, Maine Forest Service Regional Forester and Pat Maloney, Maine PLT Coordinator.

Sign up today and join area teachers and community volunteers to learn about the most recently published Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide plus the tremendous work of the Piscataquis County Soil & Water District. Explore the Guide and its correlations to the revised Maine Learning Results. Discover how best to use the PLT curriculum with your students to enhance their understanding of environmental issues that relate to their community.

Project Learning Tree is an internationally recognized environmental education program. Through hands-on, interdisciplinary activities, PLT provides students in grades PreK-12, with opportunities to investigate environmental issues and encourages them to make informed and responsible decisions. Maine PLT is an education program of the Maine Tree Foundation and the American Forest Foundation.

For more information or to register before the October 6, 2008 deadline contact: Pat Maloney, 626-7990 / [mf@gwi.net](mailto:mf@gwi.net) A \$25 workshop fee covers the preK-8 PLT Activity Guide and many other resources to take home. Dress for outdoor activities & bring a lunch.

### Conservation District Presents 2008 Conservation Awards (PCSWCD press release)

Each year the Piscataquis County Soil and Conservation District (PCSWCD) recognizes a landowner who has implemented conservation practices on their land and a teacher who has been outstanding in working with students to educate them about our natural resources. This year's award winners are the Blueberry Ridge Farm in Sebec, owned by Lester and Olive Buck, as Piscataquis County's 2008 Outstanding Cooperator of the year; and Mrs. Judy Chase Thompson of SAD #41's Brownville Elementary School as Piscataquis County's 2008 Outstanding Conservation Education Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Judy Chase Thompson has been a science teacher for about twenty-five years, and has always worked to help children become good stewards of their environment. While working at the Middle School, she worked to create the "Schoodic Lake" experience for her students, testing water and fish, and learning how to protect this lake in our area. It was a wonderful experience for several years.

Upon coming to Brownville Elementary School, Judy took teacher training so her students could attend the Challenger Center in Bangor. This year she was involved with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and took her class to Little Lyford Pond for two days, where she and the students hiked the area and participated in education programs. She's also been working with the AMC to come to the school and help with the school's nature trail in the spring. The children will be marking the trail as they learn the plants and trees on the trail.

This year she also (during an ocean unit) brought crayfish to the classroom for the children to study. In the spring the class went to Bar Harbor to "Dive in Theater" and to Thompson Island to explore tidal pools. Mrs. Thompson is an excellent science teacher and conservationist. She works very hard to help her students learn more about the area in which they live.

Blueberry Ridge Farm began in 1970 when Olive and Lester moved to Sebec from the dairy farm they had in East Dover. They started harvesting blueberries in 1971 on 25 acres. They have since cleared an additional 25 acres. Their family has always pitched in and helped out on the farm, including their daughters and their husbands, Nancy and Lou Sidell and Lorraine and James Caitlin, as well as their grandchildren, Janelle, Tania, Janie, and Barry.

Over the years Lester and Olive have attended many meetings and trainings to learn more about raising blueberries, based on the latest research. They have participated in the Blueberry Integrated Crop Management Program through the PCSWCD since 2006, and are also in the United States Department Of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Services(NRCS) Environmental

Quality Incentives Program to assist with rock removal. They have managed their woodlots on their 180 acres, and have been told they have one of the most beautiful woodlots around, with some very old pine trees and even a cedar that has been dated as approximately 400 years old! At one time they kept their own bees to pollinate the blueberry fields, but they now rent the hives.

Lester and Olive have been very active over the years in local community organizations as well, since they were married in 1945. Lester was born in Atkinson and has worked in mills throughout our county. Lester was awarded as the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Farmer of the Year in 1982. Olive was born in Milo and has worked at Dexter Shoe and Hibbard Nursing Home. She has been active in 4-H, and has served as a leader in the local club as well as serving as a leader in the Piscataquis County Junior Leaders Club. She is a past president of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Board, and an associate supervisor of the PCSWCD Board. She also served for several years on the Farmer's Home Association Board, and was a selectman in Sebec.

### TRC Community Calendar

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

#### Monday, September 8

9:00a Monday Morning Quilters  
11:45a Meals for ME  
6:30p Atkinson Selectmen  
7:00p Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00p Order of the Eastern Star

#### Tuesday, September 9

9:00a Womancare Outreach  
1:00p Milo Garden Club  
3:00p MSAD #41 Technology Committee  
5:00p Milo Water District  
5:30p Line Dancing  
6:00p Lake View Assessors  
6:00p Milo Area Writers Group  
6:00p P.A.W.S. Trustees Meeting  
6:30p Post #92 Bingo  
7:00p Sebec Historical Society Meeting  
7:00p Sebec Village Associates

#### Wednesday, September 10

6:30a Three Rivers Kiwanis  
9:00a Milo - VA Advocate  
9:00a Milo : Career Center  
10:00a Church Thrift Shop  
6:00p Wednesday Night Quilters  
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, September 11

11:45a Meals for ME  
4:30p Tae Kwon Do Class  
6:00p Boy Scout Troop #112  
6:30p Line Dancing  
6:30p BJHS Card Party  
7:30p Composite Lodge #168

#### Friday, September 12

9:00a Milo : Career Center  
11:45a Meals for ME  
6:15p Post #41 Bingo  
7:30p Piscataquis Lodge #44

#### Saturday, September 13

No Events Today.

#### Sunday, September 14

2:30p Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do  
 6:00p Alcoholics Anonymous  
 6:00p Scrapbooking  
 6:30p K.I. Riders  
 7:30p Alcoholics Anonymous

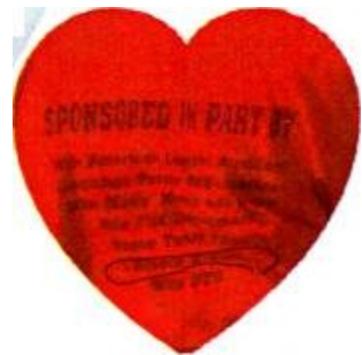


Dear Kiwanis members, We would like to thank you for your donation to support the TEAM MILO Special Olympians. This year we had 7 students participating in the Special Olympics under the banner of "TEAM MILO" (Together Everyone Achieves More): 3 athletes from the elementary level, 3 from the middle school/high school level and one former student,. Each student was allowed to enter 3 events and a few extras, such as relay race, Bocce and bowling.

The athletes did their best during the events on a hot Saturday. On Saturday, we had 2 athletes awarded a gold medal for their bowling scores that they did on Thursday at the Bangor-Brewer Bowling Lanes.

The track and field events our athletes participated in produced the following awards:

- 100 M Walk- 1 gold medal, 1 silver medal
  - 25 M Walk- 1 gold medal
  - 10 M Walk- 1 gold medal
  - Standing Long Jump- 4th place ribbon
  - Running Long Jump- 1 gold medal, 1 silver medal, 1 bronze, 1 4th place ribbon
  - 50 Meter Dash- 1 silver medal, 1 4th place ribbon
  - 100 Meter Dash- 1 gold, 1 6th place ribbon
  - 200 Meter Run- 1 gold medal, 1 silver medal
  - Softball Throw- 2 gold and 2 silver medals
  - Shot Put- 1 bronze medal and a 4th place ribbon
- Thank you once again for your continued support. /



*Linda Howard*  
 Linda Howard, TEAM MILO Head Coach