



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
Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009 Volume 8 Number 10



The Milo Garden Club will hold its next meeting on Jan. 13 at the Milo Town Hall at 1 p.m. Program will be on "Flower Arranging".

Cocoa

Your name was Semi Sweet Cocoa on paper, but to us



you were totally sweet. You brought joy and love into our lives for 18 years. We will always love you and miss you dearly.
Chris and Allen Monroe



*The family of Norma Horne would like to thank you all for the many acts of kindness extended to us during our recent time of bereavement:
Tom, Linda, Karen, Hap and Janet*

Public Hearing Notice to Comply with Title VI Requirements

Public Hearing Notice The Town of MILO

The Town of Milo will hold a Public Hearing on January 15, 2009, at 6:30 pm, at the ___Milo Town Hall to discuss an application being submitted to the State of Maine CDBG program for a Public Facilities Grant in the Historic Preservation Program. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, the Public Hearing will be on January 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Milo Town Hall. The purpose of the grant application is to repair the steeple of the Milo Historical Society's Free Will Baptist Church on the corner of High and Highland, replace the front steps and the handicapped ramp and repaint the building exterior. Public comments will be solicited at this Hearing and will be submitted as part of the application. All persons wishing to make comments or ask questions about the grant application are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Dr. Kenneth B. Woodbury, Jr., Piscataquis County Economic Development Council, 50 Mayo Street, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426 at any time prior to the Public Hearing. TDD/TTY users may call 711. If you are physically unable to access any of the Town's programs or services, please call Jeff Gahagan, Milo Town Manager at 207-943-2202, so that accommodations can be made.



4-H Youth Deliver Christmas Cards & Music

Jacob Hesseltine, Isaiah Hesseltine & Linda Whitten, members of the Milo Musketeers 4-H Club, made 140 handcrafted Christmas cards for the 30 residents who live at Pleasant Park Apartments in Milo. They also gave each resident a musical gift box that played holiday music.

Maxine, Joyce & Sophie, residents at the Garden Way Apartments and Marion from Milo Heights are four very special friends of the 4-H club who were very happy to see the 4-H youth. They each received handmade Christmas cards and a wreath for them to hang on their doors.

A special thank you to all the residents for the kindnesses that they showed to Jacob, Isaiah and me as we delivered our handmade goodies. Even though it was a very cold and windy day, every resident was greeted with a smile and warm greeting.

As the 4-H Club Leader for the Milo Musketeers 4-H Club, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Jacob & Isaiah for their willingness to make the cards and to deliver them. Without their help, this Christmas delivery would not have taken place. They were a ray of sunshine on a cold winter's day to these citizens. Congratulations for a job well done!

Members of the Milo 4-H Club encourage everyone in the community to become involved in community service. If you are interested in joining the 4-H program, please contact Linda Whitten at the Dover Extension Office at 1-800-287-1491.

Linda Whitten, 4-H Leader

FRIDAY -- JANUARY 9, 2009

THE PISCATAQUIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT 7:00 PM IN THE PISCATAQUIS ROOM AT MAYO HOSPITAL RESOURCE CENTER (DWELLEY AVE. ENTRANCE). ALL REGISTERED REPUBLICANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS. THEY ARE INFORMATIVE. IN ATTENDANCE ARE THE COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LEGISLATURE WHO WILL REPORT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AUGUSTA. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE MEETING. FOR MORE INFO CALL 965-2383

WELCOME LITTLE ONES!

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 or call 943-2324.

Nancy Willinski, 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 Willinski Virgil Valente Kirby Robertson

NEW ADDITIONS!!

Kennedy Marie Carey, daughter of Jill and Jeremy Carey of Milo born on December 26, 2008. Wt. 7 pounds 1 ounce.

Gavin Anthony Bavelaar, son of Lesly Chase and Jack Bavelaar of Corinna born on December 27, 2008. Wt. 7 pounds 6 ounces.

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!

GRAMMIE'S WEATHER JANUARY 1991

6-Snow 2 or 3 in.-35° at 12. 7-Dusting of snow sunny & windy. 8-sunny-14° at 5 am. 9-Snow flurries. 10-Sunny blustery 3 in. snow. 11-Sunny clouding up pm-6° at 9 pm. 12-Snow-6° at 12.

A BIT OF VETERANS' HISTORY

By Richard L. Graves Sr.

Willard L. (Lee) Leeman Sr. of Milo, Maine

A member of Joseph P. Chaisson American Legion Post 41, Past Commander and present 14th District Commander shares his memories as a 24 year career veteran of the United States Army. Lee started his military career January 13th, 1955, attending basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, original specialty training in Armor at Fort Knox, KY and switching to Military Police at Camp Gordon, GA. In May of 1967 he was assigned to the 720th Military Police Battalion, Company C at Long Binh, Vietnam (Near Saigon). His primary duty was convoy security, serving twenty four months, a double tour. He was subject to several convoy attacks and subjected to Agent Orange exposure. His worst memory of the war was loss of a senior NCO James A. (Papi) Condon and driver Spc. Lovell, killed with a remote controlled bomb that destroyed their jeep. SFC Papi Condon was a Korean War veteran and the oldest member of the unit. He didn't feel he could keep up as platoon sergeant, so Lee was assigned as temporary platoon sergeant and Papi was assigned intelligence missions. He had taken the same daily route to what they called the "finger" too many times, and the Viet Cong picked up on his schedule, setting an explosive device.

Lee Leeman returned to the United States in May 1969 during massive anti-war demonstrations. No hero welcome; in fact, it was recommended not to leave military installations in uniform. Lee finished his career as a Recruiter and eventually returned to Milo. Lee is presently being treated for diabetes and cancer related to his Agent Orange exposure.



MEALS FOR ME NEWS

We have a busy month so far: our halls have all been busy preparing for the holiday season. All of our halls held a make-a-snowperson party, using marshmallows, pretzels and other items. Everyone enjoyed this activity; several stated it was much better than playing in the snow. Dexter Hall had the Karaoke King come to play and sing. Jill reports that it went well.

Milo Hall had Mr. Banjo Man (Ron Coates) in on Monday in December for an hour of oldies and Christmas music. He was wonderful and all stated what a good time they had, how much they enjoyed singing along to songs they hadn't heard in years. They are anxious to have him back and are already discussing fundraisers.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MILO	Brownville
January 5, Happy New Year	January 4, Happy New Year
January 10, Birthday Party	January 11, Birthday Party
January 26, Chinese New Year	January 23, Chinese New Year
GUILFORD	DEXTER
January 7, Happy New Year	January 6 Happy New Year
January 14 Birthday party	January 27 Chinese New Year
January 28, Chinese New Year	

An Open Letter to the Maine Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations Committee and Financial Affairs and Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Dear Senators Diamond and Gerzofsky, Representatives Cain and Haskell,

Grim times call for grim actions; it is clear that the decisions about tightening our collective and individual "belts" are more than grim. There are few state governments, few counties, few towns and few households across this country and in Maine that aren't being affected – today – by the current national recession. The Governor's curtailment order assumes less than half of the \$140 million shortfall for 2009; the State is facing an even greater gap between revenues and programs as they now exist: \$838 million.

One cost savings proposal in the Governor's curtailment order is the closing of one of the dormitories at the Charleston Correctional Facility (CCF), for a total anticipated savings of \$450,000. This includes relocation of inmates, and the loss of at least 15 jobs at the CCF. This one budget cut makes up just about one-half of the \$1 million total cut assigned to the Department of Corrections in the curtailment order.

As decisions are made about what to cut and what to leave, it is essential that the Maine Legislature look beyond the simple surface of programs and services – not just the immediate and visible savings. For CCF, the surface impact of this recommendation is the savings of an estimated \$450,000 to be realized by closing the dorm and the loss of 15 or more local jobs, or relocation of these employees to other facilities to fill current vacant positions elsewhere in the state.

Below the surface, however, is a far more dramatic impact; one that demands the attention and recognition of the Legislature: the significant contributions that CCF makes to Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties through the restitution program. Restitution is community service performed by the inmates and ranges from one-shot projects like clearing the roofs of some public buildings from snow to roadside brush cutting, and to facility improvements like the recent renovations to the new Dover-Foxcroft municipal building, and including more than 16,000 hours in bridge maintenance for the Department of Transportation.

A review of the local CCF restitution projects over 2008 reveals more than 43,000 hours of staff and inmate hours spent on community projects in 18 communities in Piscataquis and northern Penobscot communities, reflecting a monetary contribution to these towns of approximately \$1,535,000. No small change here. These projects were all things that needed to be done, but where towns or organizations lacked the resources to make it happen. CCF stepped up, offering invaluable talent, time and labor to:

- o Build a handicapped ramp on the Milo Town Hall
- o Install siding on the Medway and Monson Town Office buildings
- o Build a maintenance building at the SeDoMoCha School Complex in Dover-Foxcroft
- o Build walls and doors at the Monson Historical Society
- o Paint the Town Hall and Police Department in Dexter
- o Construct and move the Stetson Food Pantry
- o Mow the Charleston cemeteries
- o Paint the Public Works Department in Brownville
- o Help in the construction of the Newport Cultural Center
- o Spring cleaning at Peaks Kenny State Park
- o Repair the skateboard park in Greenville
- o Paint the outbuilding and repair the dugouts at Piscataquis Valley High School in Guilford
- o More than 500 hours were spent helping to set up and take down at the Bangor Folk Festival – an event that brings more than \$6 million to the northern Maine area.

Our community partnerships with CCF enabled the projects to be done efficiently and with quality, and enabled the inmates to make a contribution – a real contribution – to our area and to the State. For these inmates, every day is a work day and a chance to "give back" while learning new skills and preparing for

a successful life once they have completed their sentence. No custodial care here, folks. No hotel. These inmates earn their "keep" through forest and land management, community service and the opportunity to learn new skills.

The work performed by CCF didn't compete with local business people as there simply were no town or grant funds available for the projects. **The \$450,000 budget "savings" to be realized from this recommendation would result in at least a three-fold LOSS to its surrounding communities, not to mention at least 15 jobs in this county with the highest unemployment rate in the State.**

As Mainers, we know that nothing is sacred during these lean times. We have been through this before and, no doubt, this won't be the last time. Everything that we fund with through the state budget process – which includes state and federal funds – needs careful examination with respect to need, efficiencies and effectiveness.

As Mainers, we also know that the effects of these budget reductions need to be shared – not one of us will be left untouched. Everyone needs to step up and contribute. It is important the budget cuts are made so that no one population group, or geographic area, or public service is disproportionately affected.

The Maine Legislature will need to make smart budget decisions that don't cut off our long-term vision and our ability to rebound quickly as the economy improves. I would offer the following suggestions to our Appropriations Committee and to the Legislature as a whole as you embark on this difficult and gut-wrenching obligation:

- o First, work to make cuts that position Maine better for the future, rather than just simply finding savings for today. Real, long-term savings should be our goal – not short-term or one-time actions. The economy and Maine's revenue situation will improve and – when it does – we want to be able to use new revenue for our most important priorities, rather than just using those revenues to do the same old things in the same old ways.
- o Second, take a targeted, performance-based approach to include looking closely at each agency, ask the hard questions about the priority of each expenditure and seek data about performance. Focus cuts, as much as possible, in areas that do not affect essential services.
- o Thirdly, propose key policy changes in each area so that we can control costs and make sure that our expenditures are truly needed for the public good.
- o And lastly and perhaps most importantly - be willing to be innovative; acknowledge and invest in areas that promise a return. A well-managed state doesn't simply choose between new and old programs, but between investments that work and recognizes those that have outlived their usefulness.

Piscataquis County has, over the past many years, contributed substantially to this State's budget savings.

- o Our residents have to go to Bangor for DHHS services as we have no local office in the county anymore. For many residents, this means not getting services that they are eligible for.
- o Piscataquis County has the highest unemployment rate in the State and recently, the area Career Center Services office was closed. Residents, if they can, travel to Bangor for job assistance.

§ The loss of even one job to our area is significant – 15 or more is substantial.

- o Recent changes within the Department of Corrections resulted in a loss of over \$400,000 in revenue from the boarding of federal prisoners which Piscataquis County officials relied on to reduce the tax commitment to communities.

§ Under the new consolidated jail system ordered by the state for cost savings, that federal boarding revenue now must be placed into a dedicated account and used only for the jail. This meant budget cuts for the county in order to avoid an increase in taxes.

- o The roads leading to and throughout our county are some of the worst in the State – making it difficult to market our area for business development because of the difficult in transporting goods and services in and out of the area.

It isn't that we aren't willing to share in the pain of this economic crisis. We are and we do. What we do need, however, is the acknowledgement by the Legislature of the impact of budget cuts to date upon our area resources and services. The ripples of this single recommendation to downsize CCF are substantial to our area and should be taken into account before any decisions are made. The minimum that we would request is to **suspend the cuts to the Charleston Correctional Facility for this supplemental budget and take up the Department of Corrections as a whole in the biennium budget discussions.** This will allow the Legislature as a whole and its relevant committees to do the research and ask the questions that could eventually have a significant impact on the Department of Corrections and our area. I ask that you not rush to pass a supplemental budget that contains cuts that will have a lasting negative effect on this facility and the many towns in our region.

Thank you for your service and for your time in thoughtful governing,

Susan D. Mackey Andrews### Dover-Foxcroft
564-8245 sdmandrews@aol.com

TRC Community Calendar

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

Tuesday, January 6

9:00a Womancare Outreach
11:30a Mt. Katahdin Senior Citizens
6:00p Piscataquis Writers
6:30p SAD #68 Board of Directors
6:30p Post #92 Bingo
6:30p Medford Planning Board
6:30p Milo Selectmens Meeting

Wednesday, January 7

6:30a Three Rivers Kiwanis
9:00a Milo : Career Center
10:00a Church Thrift Shop
6:00p Post #41 Dinner
6:00p Wednesday Night Quilters
6:30p Boy Scout Troop #115
7:00p Overeaters Anonymous
7:00p MSAD #41 Board of Directors
7:00p Post #41 Auxiliary
7:00p Post #41 Meeting

Thursday, January 8

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

Friday, January 9

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

Sunday, January 11

4

2:30p Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do

3:30p Sebec Freedom Riders Snowmobile Club Meeting

6:00p Alcoholics Anonymous

6:00p Scrapbooking

6:30p K.I. Riders

7:30p Alcoholics Anonymous

Three Rivers Kiwanis, Milo-Brownville

December 31, 2008

Regular Morning Meeting

There were nine members present for the morning meeting at Sandee's Restaurant. Josh and Camille were present from the Key Club and Doc Sherman from the Dover-Foxcroft club.

Eben DeWitt led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Heidi Finson offered the morning prayer, and Jim Lord provided the Thought for the Day.

Mike Comeau has a birthday on the sixth and Leeanne Pooler on the seventh. Lt. Governor Gary Nelson sent an email encouraging membership drives for District 2.

There were eight Happy/Sad dollars- Heidi and Camille are happy to play Santa's Elves; Jim is sad for Frank not being able to play golf in warm weather; Josh was sad to see the Builders Club event canceled due to weather; and George and Jan are happy to have spent time with grandchildren.

The next inter-club is planned for January 6th in Dover-Foxcroft.

Dick Graves introduced our newest member to be inducted today, Lee Leeman. Lee tried at 14 to become a Marine but was sent home, too young. He later joined the Army and served in Viet Nam. He has been a commander of the Milo Legion post and is now the District 14 Commander. Eben DeWitt conducted his 50th induction today with the induction of Lee Leeman. It is a pleasure to welcome Lee to our Kiwanis club.

Josh and Camille provided our morning program today with a What Key Club Is topic. Key Club is very active in the local High School and providing community service. One of the many goals of this Key Club is to inspire their members to continue their community service and become future Kiwanians. They are also mentoring and encouraging the Builders Club as future members of the Key Club. Josh and Camille shared their gratitude of having two excellent advisors, Val Robertson and Katy Robertson-Joyner.

Josh and Katie Karona recently visited the KPTI in Massachusetts and they have Key Club bears available to give to traumatized children. The Key Club recently had a Bring a Friend to Key Club day and had many visitors. They are making up new applications for potential new members.

One of the major fundraisers for Key Club is pizza and hotdogs at home basketball games. The Key Club is very active with events such as blood drives, food drives, MS Walks, and Woman Care Walks. They also collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, put up the community Christmas Tree, make cards for Veterans, deliver weatherization kits to needy families, participate in Kiwanis projects and more...

The Key Club has also won the Project Awake Award for its strong connection to our Kiwanis Club. The major emphasis for Key Club is reading through a Live to Learn district focus. Key Club members also visit the elementary school as regular readers to the children and actively collect books to give to children.

This is only a small sampling of the work that Key Club does in our community and we as a Kiwanis Club commend them for the great work they do and the positive role-models they are for other students. If you want to know more about the Key Club or the Builders Club, please make an effort to attend their weekly meetings. Thank you, Josh and Camille, for speaking at our meeting today. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Heidi Finson, Secretary