



Three Rivers News



www.threeriversnews.net

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, March 17, 2010 – Volume 9 Number 19



FELIX BLINN, POST SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON AWARDS JOSH CLEMENT A CHECK FOR \$500.00 UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS FIRST SEMESTER AT UNIVERSITY OF MAINE. Penquis Valley Seniors College bound should see your guidance counselor for this year application.

FISH CHOWDER SUPPER with BAKED BEANS, SALADS, BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS
SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH 5:00 TO 6:30PM
METHODIST CHURCH 9 FRONT STREET
BROWNVILLE JUNCTION
5 TO 6:30 ADULTS \$8.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$4.00

This is Abby, who is the sweetest, friendly little girl! She is spayed and up to date on vaccinations. She is the perfect pet, craves



attention and loves to be held! Call Mary Jean @ 943-5116 to come see her at the shelter!

The Penquis Valley High Class of 2010 is presenting the play Alice in Wonderland on March 19th and 20th at the Milo Town Hall. Performances will begin at 7pm. Admission is \$5 Single, \$15 Family, Children under 5 are free.

THANK YOU FROM PAWS!

Paws WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO CAME TO OR DONATED TO OUR Spring Yard Sale!! Thanks to you we raised \$499!!! Yes, that's FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE DOLLARS!!

We are so grateful! Also, found a set of keys and whoever they belong to can get them from the Milo police. Elaine Blethen won the Hobnobber's gift certificate, and Nell Hamlin won a copy of "Up on the Farm".

The Kitties and Puppies would like to Thank Sandy and Donna for all the tireless work they do in putting these sales on!!

If you are looking to adopt a cat, please call 279-0174 to set up an appointment!!



Girl Scout Troop 712 from Milo would like to give a big "thank-you" to Val Robertson and Jane Phaneuf for arranging the Tea Party for them on February 11, 2010, at Hobnobbers Restaurant. The girls were working towards the Cookie Connection Badge and learned about owning a restaurant and working as a waitress. They also learned about the place settings at the table for a full course meal from appetizers to dessert.

Two adults and six girl scouts enjoyed a delicious dessert from the dessert menu and hot cocoa. Pictured are:

Megan Robbins, Alana Nickerson, Mom-Melissa Brasslett, Tiffany Young, Troop leader Debbie Young, Jamie Brasslett, Lanie Badger, and Lydia Farnsworth.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The *Three Rivers News* is published weekly by the Three Rivers Kiwanis Club and Three Rivers Community Alliance. 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, Sandees, Milo Exxon, Rite Aid, Elaine's Café and online at WWW.THREERIVERSNEWS.NET. 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, e-mailed to, val@threeriversnews.net or call 943-2324.

Nancy Willinski, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to nancy@threeriversnews.net 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

To learn more about Three Rivers Kiwanis go to:

<http://www.threeriverskiwanis.org/>

Dear Editor:

I've been meaning to write this letter for some time, but have kept putting it off for one reason or another. It's time to put thought to paper.

I want to write about Val Robertson, one of Milo's most recognizable personalities. I have to admit up front that I'm a big Val fan. While I consider her a friend, that's not really relevant to this letter. Instead, I want to applaud her for all her efforts on behalf of our town.

Val is the first to step forward when a community dinner is needed. Whether it's manning the skillet or Bar-B-Q-ing the chicken, Val is the first to arrive and last to leave. She delivers meals to shut-ins, goes out at night to rescue stray cats or injured dogs, volunteers for community celebrations and town projects, and helps with Key Club, Kiwanis, and various civic organizations.

Val has a vested interest in the health and growth of our town. She attends meetings and holds town officials accountable. She lends her voice to those uncomfortable or unable to raise their own. She owns a new business that helped convert an old landmark into a pleasant, useful building. Over the years, Val has done much more than I've listed, all the while laughing and maintaining her good-natured demeanor.

Now, I know some people are skeptical of Val; she does elicit strong opinions. In a small town, that's not hard to do. However, regardless of personal feelings, I hope we

can all agree that Milo is a better place because of Val Robertson. Her example should be emulated by all of us.

As she works to make her business grow, she continues with those things that benefit our town. If you see her around, say thank you to her. If you get the chance, pay a visit to Hobnobber's Pub; the food is great, and you'll be supporting a very deserving lady.

In closing, I hope Val knows her work, attitude, and commitment have made Milo a better town. Moreover, her example of civic duty serves as a daily reminder of what it means to be a responsible citizen.

Respectfully,

Tony Hamlin

Editor's Note: Thank you Tony...I'm rubber and you're glue....

Hi, Val and Nancy,

Besides being a MHS 1967 graduate you may recall my blog *Growin' Up in Maine* with stories about Derby and Milo from the 1950's and 60's. The most recent tale ends with a riddle that requires knowledge of Milo history to solve. Maybe you could publish the riddle challenge in an upcoming TRN edition with a link to the blog post.

The story is about an unnamed person who built a huge, custom, homemade snowmobile in Derby, yet as a clue to his



identity I revealed that this same person was also the contest winner who wrote the slogan "Milo, a Friendly Town". I'd love to know how many of your readers know the answer and can name this person.

(Growin' Up in Maine By Jim Degerstrom Born 1949 in Milo, Maine

Three generations of the Degerstrom family lived in Derby, Maine from the early to late 1900's. This small railroad town was more like a suburb of Milo with 2,800 combined population. This blog features childhood memories of *Growin' Up in Maine* during the 50's and 60's in Derby (pop. 300) which is a suburb of Milo (pop. 2500) and about one hour north of Bangor. Visitors are welcome to share stories of Maine.

Homemade Apple Pie and Snowmobiles

My best friend and neighbor *Growin' Up in Maine* lived less than a block away just around the corner on Church Street in Derby, Maine.

What did homemade apple pie and snowmobiles have in common in 1960? His Mom made an awesome homemade apple pie, and his Dad built one of the first snowmobiles in our neck of the woods in their garage.

Built from scratch, that homemade monster snowmobile was an engineering marvel! The photo here is similar and huge, yet modern and factory built. I prefer that homemade version.

The numerous tote roads and trails throughout Maine growing up in the 1950's were highways to adventure during all four seasons. In winter you never saw folks zooming along through the backwoods on snowmobiles. Were they illegal in Maine? No. It's because snowmobiles were not invented until later, after suitable light duty engines were developed.

Oldtimers will likely remember the Bombardier Ski-Doo, the earliest and best known snowmobile brand that was first sold in 1959. The homemade snowmobile being built next door was unlike those dual front ski and rear drive single track snowmobiles popular today. My neighbor's prototype was a dual track front drive with a rear bench on skis for the driver and passengers.

Envision a normal power lawnmower with the engine mounted on wheels and a standard u-shaped handle with motor controls at your fingertips. Now picture that lawnmower 5 times that size with a car engine and dual tracks like a tank instead of wheels, yet with that same handle, only really heavy duty.

The custom bench on four skis was towed behind the engine contraption and attached to rotate like a trailer hitch. The bench was long enough for several passengers to straddle the width with the driver up front and in control.

I don't recall if the homemade snowmobile was built in a single season, or if it took two. My best friend's Dad was very ingenious, because he did not have the luxury of store bought parts, so he hand-crafted many of the components in his design. Most memorable were several versions of the slats on the tracks made by hand and destroyed on test drives until a working solution was discovered.

Being witness to those experiments and delightful destruction as the huge monster was cranked up and put into gear was matched only by the day it finally worked! Did it really work? YES. What an amazing sight seeing that homemade monster snowmobile plowing through the snow and anything or everything that got in its way on the fields between Church Street and the railroad tracks!

Who was this legend of Derby? I usually don't name names in my stories, yet here's a clue. If you know the history of Derby and Milo, years later he was the contest winner who wrote the slogan "Milo, a Friendly Town". Until the horrific Main Street fire in 2008, that slogan was seen on the True Value Hardware storefront as you entered town on Route 16.

<http://www.mainestories.blogspot.com/>

Milo Historical Society Program Will Feature Tom Harrigan's Natural History Collection

The Milo Historical Society is pleased to invite the public to a program featuring a presentation by Tom Harrigan on Thursday, March 18, at 7 PM in the dining room of the Milo Town Hall. Mr. Harrigan and his wife, Nancy, have traveled the world with a keen interest in ancient cultures and natural history. They are eager to share their stories, photos, and collection of fossils, minerals, and Native American artifacts with the

community. Tom has amassed a sizable collection of educational vignettes, each giving a concise and informative lesson on a particular ancient artifact. He has created his own personal museum featuring shelves and drawers full of ancient relics and unique collections. Tom has a dream for the future of finding a fitting home for his collection in the town of Milo, so please join us for this opportunity to view a sampling of this fascinating collection.

Brownville Elementary 1st Annual Cardboard Sled Derby Was a HIT!!!



What a beautiful day for our sled competition! We had 14 single sleds and 2 double sleds that participated. The kids all had fun and the winners are pictured:



Back Row: 1st Place Double – Tegan & Colwyn Johnson, 2nd Place Double – Adam Stetson & Morgana Vick

Front Row: 2nd Place Single – David Bucci, 3rd Place Single - Corey Ouellette, 1st Place Single - Brooke McKenzie.

Best in Show was also won by Brooke McKenzie!

Door prizes were won by Tegan Johnson – Sled donated by Dover True Value & Sydney Fowles – Pizza donated by Robins in Brownville. Additional donations by Three River's Redemption and Milo True Value.

Can't wait till next year, to see all the wonderful sled ideas!"

Three Rivers Kiwanis, Milo-Brownville March 10, 2010 Regular Morning Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:45 a.m. There were eighteen members present at the early morning meeting at Hobnobbers. We had two inter-clubs: Dover with three members, Orono with four members, and two members of the Key Club. We also had a visitor, Clay Savage, who submitted his application for membership. Our Lt. Governor, Larry Wade was in attendance, and we had two guests, cousins of Bonnie Hurley.

Eben led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Edwin offered the Morning Prayer. Mike Harris has a birthday on March 12, and Walter & Linda Lougee have an anniversary on March 16. A reminder also, that Don Harris & Dottie Brown have an anniversary coming up on March 17.

We had seventeen happy/sad dollars-Nancy thanked all those who participated in the prospective member dinner which was held the night before; Clay enjoyed the dinner and hearing all our Kiwanis involvements; for Larry Wade attending the dinner; for the Key Club serving at the dinner; and for Val Robertson for putting on such a delicious meal; an announcement that Andrew Barnes wants to spend another year in Milo as a VISTA volunteer, but it costs \$5000 to keep him here, and so far only \$2500 has been donated to the cause, Barb Baker is looking for further donations from Kiwanis or its individual members.

Ethelyn Treworgy reminded us of the upcoming 5th Wednesday meeting which will be held at Hobnobbers at 6 o'clock and will consist of dinner and a Yankee Swap of birthday presents. Each member attending is asked to bring a gift wrapped as a birthday present. Cost for dinner is \$12.00 plus tax and tip.

This was our regular business meeting, but because of installation taking place not much was reported. However, it was noted that Bobby Ellison is looking for a new Fry-O-Later for his famous fried potatoes that are served at our auction and canoe race later in the year.

George Barton and Ethelyn Treworgy make up the nominating committee and they will be looking to fill a few board of director positions for the term starting in October. Our annual meeting is scheduled for April 24, so the prospects have to be announced prior to that date.

Lt. Gov. Larry Wade installed the following officers:
Nancy Harrigan, Secretary
Heidi Finson, President
Jan Barton, President-Elect
George Barton, Past President & Board

Member

Heidi presented a plaque to George and thanked him for his service as our president over the past year and a half. George accepted it graciously and thanked the club for its

cooperation and all the wonderful things the club has done during his tenure.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Harrigan, Secretary



Brownville Pee Wee Teams Grades 1 - 3

Milo Free Public Library News

Judith D. Macdougall

March came in like a little lamb and the month seems to be continuing with mild sunny weather. It does seem as if we are about a month ahead in our spring season this year. I've noticed the shoots of some bulbs by the side of the house have begun to appear. I think they are daffodils. The tulips at the post office have also begun to show above the ground. What fun! It's not often that in Maine we begin to have spring weather before the calendar tells us it's spring. Well, we can't do anything about it. We'll just have to take it, like it or not.

Last Friday we held our librarians' luncheon at Hobnobbers Pub. There were 10 of us present. We had invited two trustees, Joanne and Theda, as we knew these ladies might be free at lunch time, and they did accept our invitation. We thought the trustees might enjoy meeting the substitutes in a relaxed atmosphere and getting acquainted with those they did not know well. We had a lovely luncheon and interesting conversations. Some of us chose the dessert special-apple cobbler. It was delicious with a wonderful crumble crust over the apples and topped with French vanilla ice cream. I am so glad we thought of having monthly lunches because we all enjoy these get-togethers so much. On several Saturdays substitutes have had to work together if Pam and I cannot be present. Through the lunches the subs have come to know each other well and are comfortable together.

For the last two years Pam has been bar-coding the library collection. This past year Dearle expressed an interest in learning to barcode, too, in order to help Pam. Pam enthusiastically taught her the basics, and Dearle has bar-coded most of the juvenile and adult paperbacks. She is now working on the western paperback books on the back wall. The two of them have bar-coded over 12,000 books these last two

years. Most of the books upstairs have been bar-coded except for the paperback preschool picture books, and Pam is working downstairs on the non-fiction titles. With enough books bar-coded, Pam is beginning to enter the circulation of books into the Library Soft system. The books are being checked out in two ways now. -manually and through the electronic system. This two-way system is a little slower, but soon all the books will be bar-coded, and we will be doing everything on the one electronic system. Pam is getting lots of practice and will eventually be teaching all the staff how to use the new system.

On Wednesday we had 15 Kiwanis Kids show up. Val and Natalie were the adults who conducted the meeting. Val read the book *The Big Fat Cow That Goes Kapow* by Andy Griffiths. The book features 10 silly short stories told in rhyme. Val checked that the Kids knew what was meant by rhyming words. She then proceeded to read the story, leaving the children to fill in each final rhyming word. As the Kids ate their snacks of crackers and cheese or peanut butter and drank their juice boxes, they had a wonderful time filling in the rhyming words. It was a great way for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders to wind down after a busy school day. For a craft the Kids made bracelets and necklaces from foam beads. Camille Cramer and Madeline Ruffin, Key Club members, helped downstairs and also brought the children upstairs to choose books. This section of the hour kept Pam and me busy, especially as we tried the dual system for several of the children. Pam still has lots of library cards to distribute for both adults and juvenile patrons before we can become electronic more consistently. All in all we do enjoy the Kids from the Kiwanis Kids Korner and missed them when they stayed at the Milo Elementary School last fall.

Library Winter Hours
Mon. & Weds. ---2:00-8:00
Friday 1:00-7:00
Saturday 2:00-4:00
Telephone 943-2612



Under the direction of BJ Bowden, Guidance Counselor, the Civil Rights Team at the Cook School recently presented a puppet show about hand washing to the whole school. The team is addressing several topics of concern to children and doing a fantastic job. The Civil Rights team includes Natasha Leighton, Haley Morel, Kortnie Stone, Jordan Prendergast, and Emma Nutting.

Kindergarten Registration, Screening and Orientation

Brownville Elementary

Kindergarten Registration April 27, 2010

Parents need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunization record to the school to complete registration forms. If there are guardianship issues, documentation of custody is also required. If you need further information, please call the school 965-8184.

Kindergarten Screening May 27-28, 2010

At the time of registration, appointments will be made for screening. Students will have a vision and hearing screening, a speech screening and an academic screening. The process takes between an hour and an hour and a half. This is important information for us to use to plan a program for the children.

Kindergarten Orientation June 2, 2010

Students will be invited to ride the bus to school for a tour and a visit on June 2. Parents are invited to attend as well and will have an opportunity to ask questions about kindergarten and our school.

Marion C. Cook

Registration & Screening April 27, 2010

Parents need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunization records to the school to complete registration forms. If there are guardianship issues, documentation of custody is also required. Students will also have a vision and hearing screening, a speech screening and an academic screening on this same day. The process takes between an hour and an hour and a half. This is important information for us to use to plan a program for the children. You will be contacted at a later date to ride the bus and visit the classroom.

If you need further information, please call the school at 943-2196.

Milo Elementary School

Kindergarten Registration April 27, 2010

Milo Elementary is going to have registration by phone on April 27. At that time appointments will be made for screening. Please call the school at 943-2122 for more information.

Kindergarten Orientation May 19, 2010

Students will be able to ride the bus to school for a tour and a visit. Parents will need to bring a copy of the child's state birth certificate and immunization record, and will need to complete registration forms. If there are guardianship issues, documentation of custody is also required. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions about kindergarten and our school.

Kindergarten Screening To be announced

Students will also have a vision and hearing screening, a speech screening and an academic screening on this same day. The process takes between an hour and an hour and a half. This is important information for us to use to plan a program for the children. If you need further information, please call the school at 943-2122.

COOK SCHOOL NEWS

Justin, Sonny, and Emma were honored as Terrific Kids at our March 12th assembly.



Mrs. Nott: Justin D. is my terrific kid this week. He has been with us since the beginning of February and has fit into our classroom very well. He works very hard in everything he does. He is a very nice boy and has been a good friend to everyone!

Mrs. Johnston: Sonny is my Terrific Kid this week. He always remembers his planner and homework, and is trying hard to be a responsible member of our classroom. He is almost always kind and helpful to others, and is working hard to master his math facts!

Miss K.: Emma is a Terrific Kid every day. She does her best on all of her assignments. Emma works quietly and is an exceptional role model. Emma always has her planner signed and does her homework. Thank you, Emma.

Bus Kids: Jacob, Justin D., Haley B.

Caught Being Good Prize Winners: Mackayla H., Alyssa, Jimmy, Sonny, Justin B.

Birthdays: Emma, Scott, Donnie, LuCreshia, Mrs. Baker

Congratulations to all of our Terrific kids.

Milo Free Public Library News

Judith D. Macdougall

I'm sorry there were no columns for the last two weeks, but I was ill with bronchitis. I was not in the library most of that time and consequently had nothing much to write about for the column. I found being sick a great waste of time and have been very lucky not to be ill too often.

Even though I was not able to attend the Three Rivers Readers Book Club, they did have a meeting on February 16th. Margaret Pinette, one of our substitutes, has a key and opened the library for the group. There were six members present, and David Ziemer led the discussion on the book The Golden Age by Gore Vidal. It was an interesting book. I enjoyed reading about the political figures and politics of the 30's, 40's and 50's as I was familiar with the names. I was

very surprised to learn that FDR was hoping for a battle site on which he could demand that he be allowed to run for a third term. Of course, the attack on Pearl Harbor granted him this wish, and the citizens were convinced that they should not change horses in mid stream. The Golden Age referred to the years of 1950-1955. Economists seem to be in agreement that this was a golden age in the United States. The economy was doing well as was production after World War II. Next month we will be reading The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon. The story is told from the point-of-view of an autistic boy, Christopher Boone. Roberta Laverty will be the leader of this session.

For the first time in nearly a year, the Kiwanis Kids Korner met at the library on Wednesday, February 24th. Last fall they met at the Milo Elementary School with Jan Barton and Cathy Graves, as Val Robertson was not able to conduct the sessions at that time. Pam and I were very pleased when Val came to us two weeks ago to say the Kids would be returning to the library. On that Wednesday they arrived to enjoy snacks of grapes, peanut butter and crackers, popcorn and apple juice. Val, Frank Cochrane and Natalie Hitchcock were the adult leaders, and Ethan Harrell arrived to represent the Key Club. Val read the story Red Ted and the Lost Things by Michael Rosen. Red Ted was a teddy bear who accidentally got left on a train forgotten by his young owner. He ended up in the compartment of lost things. A stuffed alligator befriends him, and the next day he and the alligator manage to leave the compartment of lost things. Through various adventures Red Ted and his friend the alligator find their way back home to Red Ted's owner, Stevie. This book is told in the graphic style with many pictures and speech balloons. Afterwards the Kids made flowers from construction paper, and they will complete cardboard window boxes over the next few weeks.

On March third the Kiwanis Kids were back but without Val to lead them. Natalie Hitchcock was the adult in charge with help from Frank Cochrane and Key Club members Camille Cramer and Madeline Ruffin. The craft under Natalie's direction involved making a Native American Talking Stick. This craft involved tying feathers to one end of a fairly straight stick and attaching a loop to one end. As the young crafter explained to me the member who held the stick at the family table was the one allowed to talk. A great way to let children take a turn to tell of their day's events. This was a neat and useful craft.

We received these back-ordered books this week.

Atherton, Nancy	AUNT DIMITY DOWN UNDER
Bradley, Carol	SAVING GRACIE (from a puppy mill)
Fielding, Joy	THE WILD ZONE
Lustbader, Eric Van	THE LAST SNOW
Palmer, Michael	THE LAST SURGEON
Parker, Robert	SPLIT IMAGE
Spindler, Erica	BLOOD VINES
Steel, Danielle	BIG GIRL
Robb, J.D.	FANTASY IN DEATH

Library Winter Hours

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

Friday 1:00-7:00

Saturday 2:00-4:00

Telephone 943-2612

MILO RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Men's and high school boys basketball open gym.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00 - 7:30

Starting Tuesday March 9th
Penquis Valley High School

March 5, 2010
To The Editor:

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Bernard Jones Post #92 in Brownville Jct. is looking for eligible males in the Brownville and Jct. who are interested in joining the SAL.

If you're interested in joining or learning more, please stop by the Legion building at 75 Railroad Ave on **Saturday, March 20, from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.** There will be a Legion representative present to give details regarding the Sons, answer any questions you may have and to sign you up. If you are not sure if you are eligible, stop in and ask the representative for more details.

The mission of the Sons is to support veterans and their families and the policies of our parent organization, The American Legion. Virtually everything that involves the Sons could be grouped under three areas: (1) support for veterans and their families, (2) promoting patriotism and Americanism and (3) promoting programs which benefit the youth of our country.

JUNIOR AUXILIARY ATTENDS PROJECT LINUS

The American Legion Junior Auxiliary attended the all-day Project Linus event held in Dover-Foxcroft on February 20th. Some of the girls put quilts together, while others helped tag and label the quilts and blankets. Project Linus is one of the Junior Auxiliary's favorite projects. They help with tagging and labeling the quilts all year and have helped at the all-day event for the last three years. Cathy Jordan, Marge Damon (Senior Auxiliary members) and Ginger and Melissa Weston helped the girls at this event. Thanks ladies!!



For nearly forty years I have been an educator in rural Maine. In all those years there has never been a time when money flowed freely but we have always managed to offer the students in our district an adequate education. For more than thirty years in M.S.A.D. #41 we have been able to offer music, art, and physical education classes in kindergarten through 8th grade and the state required fine arts and physical education courses in grades 9-12. We have moved ahead with the times and have computers available to all students. We offer library services to all students; we have a full time school nurse. There are middle school and high school athletics offerings for the three seasons.

Moving into the second decade of the 21st century, due to the sad state of the economy in the great state of Maine, the Governor tells us that we must cut and cut, as subsidy from the state will continually decrease. While school systems in southern Maine may be able to go to the taxpayers and have everyone give "just a little more" that is not the case in central, eastern, and northern areas of our state. In my district there is little industry and there are few small businesses; many citizens are either on welfare or live on retirement incomes. Over 70% of our students receive free or reduced lunch. The town managers and members of the boards of selectmen attend school board meetings to regularly remind the board that the towns have no surplus and are also looking to curb spending in order to make ends meet in this dreadful economy.

So, what do we do? Let's consider some options for our small district:

1. We could cut art, music, physical education and library services for all elementary students. Using this option will not meet even a quarter of the nearly half million dollars that will need to be trimmed from our already lean budget.
2. We could cut teaching positions. In a district that is in one of the lower paying areas of the state, that would mean at least ten positions (six more than the cuts previously mentioned) in order to meet the goal.
3. We could limit early intervention services offered to students who enter school not ready to meet the state's standards and increase class size at all levels. Remember, this district has a population in which not all students come to school ready to learn.
4. We could cut athletics. We're nearly an hour from any city. No movies. No roller skating. No shopping. No form of entertainment to speak of. Should we consider taking away the only forms of competition and entertainment available to not only our students but the citizens who follow sports, as well? Again, we'd be nowhere near the cuts necessary to meet the shortage created by the state's reduced share of funding and the payment of penalties to be redistributed to "in compliance districts" such as Bangor and Cape Elizabeth.
5. Special education. Now there's an area where the costs are great to meet the needs of a few. We could trim costs in this area and then be in violation of federal and state mandates to provide ALL students with a free, appropriate public education – including, when necessary, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech/language therapy, additional educational technician support. We are fortunate in our area to even be able to find qualified professionals to meet some of these requirements. What's the cost of a legal suit against the district for non-compliance?

Will the state allow schools to NOT provide programs outlined in the Maine Learning Results? Try as we may, we already do not

offer any form of foreign language in our elementary (that's kindergarten through 8th grade) classes. We have very limited offerings in the areas of visual and performing arts at any level.

Then there is the regionalization. We tried. Of the four districts in our last consolidation effort, only one community in the four districts voted to approve the plan. This involved M.S.A.D. #41, M.S.A.D. #68, S.A.D.#12, and School Union 60. Why would people think that a district that would stretch over 100 miles from end to end with one superintendent, one central office, and one of a variety of other administrative positions would provide an effective educational program for all students? And now, since we couldn't find a partner and "pretend savings" to keep the Governor and Commissioner of Education satisfied, we face over \$100,000 in penalties – held over from last year. And how much more this year? Let me say again, the penalties paid by districts like M.S.A.D. #41 will be redistributed to places like Portland and Hampden – places that already had the required number of students so were not required to reorganize. Those large school systems are designated as "in compliance" and were required to do nothing to meet the state's guidelines. It certainly does seem that even in education in Maine the rich get richer.

We will somehow meet the cuts in our district and provide the best education we can with the limited funding available to us but at what cost? My husband frequently says "You can't go back to the old days" but that is just where we are going to be as we look at our educational system over the next few years. What difficult decisions for administrators and school boards to have to make! What substantial cuts will provide the least harm to our students?

I understand that education is not the only department that will take a huge hit in these difficult times and our citizens will suffer due to the cuts in other areas, too. I believe it is one area where we, as a state, need to determine what "education" looks like and the state needs to pay for it. Whatever is deemed essential to a child's education should be funded by the state. If districts want more, let the local school board determine what is important to their students and include those programs in their budgets to be funded locally.

Supposedly, this is what the current Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula does but what the state in its wisdom deems adequate, school systems find inadequate. Currently programs like art, music, computer, AP classes, support for literacy and math skills are not considered necessary under EPS and yet they are necessary if schools are to meet the Maine Learning Results and students are to meet the standards on Maine's educational assessments. Anyone involved in education in Maine knows that the EPS system has never worked for rural Maine schools. It penalizes places with high property value as it equates property value with the district's ability to pay. Let's consider student enrollment. If a district has low student enrollment, it receives less funding. Now, according to EPS, the system should be able to provide a quality education with fewer staff and students should still be able to make Adequate Yearly Progress on state assessments. There is no consideration for the number of students who need extra academic, behavioral, and emotional support; there is no consideration of programming for gifted students. There is just a formula that says if you have a certain number of students in your school system, you only need a predetermined (by Maine's Department of Education) number of teachers and support staff. If your community's students are in need of additional supports, too bad.

As an administrator who works from kindergarten to grade 12 it is an impossible task to decide whether the middle and high school

students should go without all extracurricular activities or the elementary students who need support in literacy should be left behind because something has to go.

How do our district's students compete in the future? What kind of skills will they be lacking as they apply to colleges and search for good paying jobs to support themselves and their families? What kinds of business and industry will want to locate in an area where the educational system for the children of their employees and their future work force is minimal at best?

Maine – thousands of miles of magnificent seacoast, awesome mountains, rolling hills, woods and forests, lakes and streams – the way life should be, a vacationland for all, something to offer for every outdoor enthusiast. This part of Maine is a hundred plus miles away from the cities and jobs of southern Maine. Maine should provide its children with adequate educational opportunities no matter in what part of the state they live. What is more important than the future of our children?

Susan R. Worcester

Director of Student Services

M.S.A.D. #41

Several people have commented to me about beginning a writer's group here in Milo. The group would meet once a month for an hour with a tentative location at Hobnobbers. If anyone who is interested in writing poetry, plays, stories, essays or anything else would like to be part of this group...no fees at all...please call Victoria Eastman at 943-2400.

2006 Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie 5.9 Cummins Diesel, Crew cab, Leather, Heated Seats, low miles, Asking \$4800, contact: nne75tra@msn.com/ 302-258-0724.

**What is Prayer?
A Day of Exploration and Discovery
Saturday March 20, 2010
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

You are invited to join the members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Brownville Junction for a time of asking questions about prayer and meditation. This is NOT a lecture, rather it is a time of exploring types of prayer and meditation, such as lectio divina, prayer beads/rosaries, The Stations of the Cross, walking meditation, prayer through art and music...Together we will learn from each other's experiences. We will close with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at around 12:30 to which all are invited.

St. John's is found on the corner of Center and Henderson Streets in Brownville Junction. For more information, please contact The Rev. Nancy Moore at 943-5168 or brownvillestjohn@gmail.com. RSVP would be helpful, but you can come without it.



THE BACK SECTION

Brought to you by the Three Rivers Community

www.trcmaine.org



TRN WEEKLY POLL

Will you be attending your Town Meeting this year?

Yes	42.9%
No	28.6%
Not from the area	28.6%

Total votes: 49

NEXT WEEK:

Have you taken down your christmas lights yet?
Visit our website to vote!

SUDOKU

9								
5		3	4	2	9			
		1		5	7			
	4	5		9			6	3
		7				8		
1	9			6		4	2	
			1	3		6		
			9	7	4	3		2
								4

THREE RIVERS NEWS WEBSITE

The Three Rivers News Website has been completely redesigned! Our website now contains all the information that was on the TRC News Section. This includes: links to local media articles from the Bangor Daily News, WABI-TV, and more; free online local obituaries; along with press releases and other local news items.

Visit our website today to sign our new guestbook, take the weekly poll, or submit information to us for either the print edition or the website!

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

THINK SPRING!!!!



Featured Business



Sutton's Tractor

369 Maple Road, Atkinson
207.327.1436

Sutton's Tractor specializes in tractor and equipment repair and maintenance for large and small machines. In addition to service by a John Deere Master Technician with over 18 years of experience owner, Bob Sutton, also offers sells parts and John Deere tractors for your convenience. Additional contact numbers are : 207.327.1744 and 207.717.6096. Get your John Deere green here !

<http://www.suttonstractor.com/>

Want your business featured here? Email Judy at jmorrison@trcmaine.org.

TOWN WARRANTS AND REPORTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2010 Town Warrants for **Brownville and Milo** are available at www.trcmaine.org
REPORTS COMING SOON!

This section is brought to you by the Three Rivers Community. For more information, visit www.trcmaine.org.
Contact: Seth Barden - sethen@trcmaine.org | Phone: 207.478.1735 | Fax: 609.482.1735

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Monday, March 15

5:30a - Indoor Walking
 9:00a - Monday Morning Quilters
 11:45a - Meals for ME
 7:00p - Alcoholics Anonymous
 7:00p - Sebec Selectmen
 7:00p - Brownville Town Meeting
 7:30p - Pleasant River Lodge #163

Tuesday, March 16

5:30a - Indoor Walking
 9:00a - Womancare Outreach
 11:30a - Mt. Katahdin Senior Citizens
 5:30p - Milo: Senior Line Dancing
 6:00p - Recreation: Open Gym
 6:00p - Write Me A Story Class
 6:30p - Post #92 Bingo
 6:30p - Milo Selectmen
 7:00p - United Methodist Women

Wednesday, March 17

5:30a - Indoor Walking
 6:30a - Three Rivers Kiwanis
 9:30a - WIC Clinic
 10:00a - Church Thrift Shop
 10:00a - Sebec Quilters
 10:30a - Neighbor To Neighbor Warming Center
 5:00p - Group Strength Class
 6:00p - Sons of Post #41
 6:00p - Wednesday Night Quilters
 6:00p - Yoga Class
 6:30p - Boy Scout Troop #115
 7:00p - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, March 18

5:30a - Indoor Walking
 11:45a - Meals for ME
 4:30p - Tae Kwon Do Class
 6:00p - Boy Scout Troop #112
 6:00p - Brownville Snowmobile Club
 6:00p - Recreation: Open Gym
 6:30p - BJHS Card Party
 6:30p - Brownville Selectmen
 7:00p - Milo Historical Society Meeting

Friday, March 19

5:30a - Indoor Walking
 11:45a - Meals for ME
 12:00p - Three Rivers Senior Citizens
 6:15p - Post #41 Bingo

Saturday, March 20

No Events Today.

Sunday, March 21

2:30p - Milo : Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do
 6:00p - Alcoholics Anonymous
 6:00p - Brownville Junction : Scrapbooking
 7:30p - Alcoholics Anonymous

PUBLIC NOTICES

Milo and Brownville Recreation Departments Open Gym !

Open Gym beginning Tuesday, March 9 ! Tuesdays and Thursdays will be Open Gym for Men's and high school boys basketball between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. at Penquis Valley High School. FMI contact Richard Martin (207-943-7326) or Dean Bellatty (207.965.8419)

2010 Brownville Town Meeting

The Annual Brownville Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 15th at 7pm at the Brownville Elementary School.

SCHEDULE:

11:45 AM - Call to Order and Election of the Moderator
 12:00 PM - 5:00PM - Polls Open for Municipal Election
 6:30PM - Public Hearing regarding Acquisition of Certain Portions of Land Under and Beside the Knight's Landing Road
 7:00PM - Open Town Meeting

~~~~ Fish Chowder Supper, March 27 ~~~~

<http://www.threeriversnews.net/2010/03/Fish%20Chowder%20Supper.pdf>

New Three Rivers News Website

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

Check out the newly updated website! It now contains what used to be the News Section here on TRC.

Neighbor To Neighbor Warming Center/ALL ARE WELCOMED!

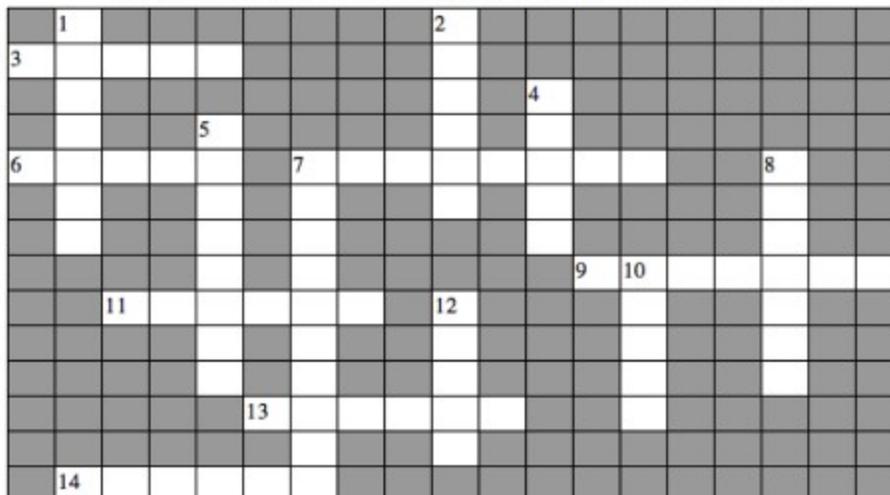
10:30 to 2:30 P M WEDNESDAYS Park Street United Methodist Church Milo FEBRUARY & MARCH Would you like to share a hot meal & fellowship on these long Winter days? Come at 10:30 for coffee--stay for lunch at noon. Serving a hot meal to our guests each Wednesday the Center is opened. Snacks available all the time the Center is opened. Are you looking for a way to pass the time? The Warming Center will have cards, games, puzzles & craft supplies. Other special programs & activities if there is interest. There are books, magazines & newspapers in the reading corner. The Center has no restrictions as to age, income or denomination. For more information call Merna Dunham at 943-2353 or Hope Dyer at 943-7785.

Hobnobbers Pub Specials Newsletter

<http://www.hobnobberspub.com/specials.php>

Hobnobbers Pub now has a newsletter for specials! Sign up today to get notified about daily and weekly specials.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Puzzle from: CrosswordPuzzleGames.com

ACROSS

3. Color to be worn on this day.
6. Month in which St. Patrick's day takes place.
7. Funny rhyme.
9. Kiss this stone for good fortune.
11. Small plant with three part leaves.
13. Some communities hold one of these for the holiday.
14. Capitol of Ireland.

DOWN

1. Country where St. Patrick lived.
2. St. Patrick drove these out of Ireland.
4. Luck of the _____.
5. Clover with four leaves.
7. Small magical creature.
8. A pot of gold can be found at the end of this.
10. _____ Charms.
12. St. Patrick is also called St. _____.