



# 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 23, 2010 – Volume 9 Number 20

## PENQUIS STUDENTS MEET WITH SENATOR COLLINS IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A group of students from Penquis Valley High School in Milo met this week with U.S. Senator Susan Collins in her Washington, D.C. office. The students and their teacher were in Washington to participate in the Close Up Foundation student program which gives students a first-hand opportunity to experience the inner-workings of the federal government.

During the meeting, the students took the opportunity to Senator Collins about her service in the United States Senate, as well as questions about government and current legislation pending before Congress.

"I was delighted to meet with the Penquis students and talk to them about the issues we're working on in the Appropriations, Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees," said Senator Collins. "I spent a week in Washington as a senior in high school, and I fondly remember meeting Senator Margaret Chase Smith. That meeting changed my life and inspired me to get involved in public service."

Following their meeting with Senator Collins, the students were given a tour of the U.S. Capitol by a member of the Senator's staff. Meeting with Senator Collins were: Carolyn Bess, Russell Carey, John Kearns, Brian Russell, and Shelby Weston.

Photo (left - right): Brian Russell, John Kearns, Carolyn Bess, Senator Susan Collins, Shelby Weston, and Russell Carey



**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!**

## 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!!



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 Brasslet, Lanie Badger, and Lydia Farnsworth.

**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**

## Marion C. Cook School Team Wins College Knowledge Bowl!

On March 20, 2010 the first Maine College Knowledge Bowl for elementary and middle school students took place in Newport. It was sponsored by the Maine College Circle, in partnership with the Youth Aspirations Project. Schools competed in the morning with four rounds of questions about colleges, college majors and more. Middle schools competed in the afternoon. The purpose of this event was to promote the opportunity of higher education for younger Maine students and to celebrate some aspiring Maine students. The students spent a lot of time on their own studying for this event. Students from Brownville Elementary came in 4th, and they are to be congratulated as well. The winning team in each division received a \$1000 award to be spent at the discretion of the team members and their school administration to promote the opportunity of higher education at their school. Second prize was \$500. Third prize was \$250. Both teams went with their advisor and school counselor, BJ Bowden. Thank you Miss BJ for providing this opportunity for several soon to be college students! See last page for picture!!!

**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](http://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](mailto:val@threeriversnews.net) or call 943-2324.

Nancy Willinski, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to [nancy@threeriversnews.net](mailto: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/>

## Winners of the Rec. Dept. Raffle.

JSI \$50.	Judy Macdougall	Milo
Smith's Grocery & Lunch \$15.	Bill London	Milo
Total Image Salon \$20.	Penny Case	Milo
Joe's Repair Shop \$20.	Randy Heath	Brownville
Hospitality Hair & Nails \$10.	Debbie Hayes	Brownville
Hospitality Hair & Nails \$10.	Erica Coburn	Milo
Field of Dreams \$25.	Shelly Baker	Brownville Jct.
The Junction General \$50.	Pass Steve Beals	Milo
Wildwoods \$20.	Eric Durant	Brownville
NAPA Auto Parts Case of Oil	Steve Jay	Brownville Jct.
The General Store & More \$25.	Jamie McCleary	Brownville
Milo House of Pizza \$10.	John Kearns	Brownville
C&J Variety \$20.	Zoe Berry	Milo
Robinsons Fuel Mart 2 Large Pizza's	June Marsh	Milo
Elaine's Basket Cafe \$25.	Greg Dyer	Dover Foxcroft
Maine Savings \$30.	Mike & Ruth Witham	Milo
Simple Sacks Blanket	Shirley Varney	Brownville Jct.
Jim Karpowicz \$10.	Ed McCorrison	Milo
Split Ends Solon 5 Tanning Sessions	Logan Small	Brownville Jct.
Fitastic for Women 1 Months free Memb.	Linda Crocker	Bradley
CC Polaris Fusion Sled Part	Bobby Robinson	Brownville Jct.

## 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

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.malnestories.blogspot.com/>

The Scout Pack #111 from the Milo-Brownville area were shown how to tap Maple Trees and then take the syrup collected and make Maple Syrup by the staff of Bob's Sugar Shack in Dover-Foxcroft on Wednesday March 17th. After the wonderful tour they were treated with ice cream with Maple Syrup topping.



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 who would like to be part of this group...no fees at all...please call Victoria Eastman at 943-2400

When you return bottles at C&J's you can help Cub Scout Pack 111 by donating the money for your returnables. Just ask for the donation to go to Pack 111. Thank you for your help.



**LOGAN S. DEWITT**

April 2, 1997 – March 19, 2003

**LOGAN'S WORLD**

Logan would let the sunshine in  
 To warm the coolest day.  
 A thundercloud could never win  
 To keep this boy from play.  
 And Logan wisely spent his time  
 On each important thing.  
 There'd always be Red Trucks to climb  
 Or fire bells to ring.

Fondly remembered by his Dad, Steven DeWitt  
 & Grandparents , Edwin & Ellen DeWitt

**Brownville Elementary School Fights Youth Tobacco Use, Joins National Kick Butts Day Initiative on March 29, 2010**

Dover-Foxcroft — Young people from Brownville Elementary School are joining thousands of kids across the country who are taking part in Kick Butts Day (KBD), a nationwide initiative that makes kids into leaders in the effort to stop youth tobacco use. As part of the Kick Butts Day celebration, Brownville Elementary Civil Rights students will, as they've titled it "Take a Stand Against Smoking."

Throughout the year, young advocates take part in a variety of activities to protect kids from tobacco, including working with elected officials to develop policies that reduce youth tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, and educating their peers about tobacco companies' deceptive marketing practices.

To promote their message of taking a 'stand' against smoking, the students will use a crazy shoe theme to engage their fellow students. They invite all students at Brownville Elementary to enter sneaker designs that 'tie-in' with the anti-tobacco message and compete for prizes. Civil Rights students have 'paired-up' to create lesson plans unique to each grade level in an effort to best educate fellow students on the dangers of tobacco use.

Sixth grade Civil Rights student Blake Morrison is glad to be part of the effort. "I think tobacco awareness helps kids see the dangers of smoking and drugs. It shows everyone they are risking getting lung cancer or badly damaging their lungs."

Shannon Bishop of the Piscataquis Public Health Council, a local Healthy Maine Partnership, says a mini-grant provided to Brownville Elementary through their public health coalition to address youth advocacy has gone a very long way this year. "I am amazed at the level of involvement these students and Ms. Bowden have demonstrated in one school year. There's no doubt they are extremely passionate about addressing youth tobacco use and other factors our young people face."

Starting March 25th, elementary, middle and high school students across the country are organizing KBD events to fight youth tobacco use. Young people will participate in a variety of KBD activities such as: surveying tobacco advertising in their communities; urging local officials to support anti-tobacco ordinances; and tossing caps, hats, jackets and other items carrying tobacco brand names into giant dumpsters.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing more than 400,000 people every year. Every day, more than 4,000 kids try their first cigarettes; another 1,000 kids become addicted smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result.

In Maine, Big Tobacco spends \$59 million marketing in the state each year. That's almost \$162,000 a day. Sadly, 1,400 kids under 18 become new daily smokers each year in Maine, and 9.2% of male high school students use smokeless or spit tobacco.

For more information about the KBD event at Brownville Elementary School, contact BJ Bowden at 965-8184. For information on the national initiative, visit the KBD website at [kickbuttsday.org](http://kickbuttsday.org).

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A son, Maddox Michael Kimball, to Kyra and Joshua Kimball of Corinth on March 07, 2010. Wt. 8 pounds 14 ounces.

A daughter, Lilette Rose Smith, to Aleesa Byrne and Brent Smith of Milo on March 16, 2010. Wt. 6 pounds 2 ounces.

The Climate Action Club is a student-run club at Lincoln Academy that provides opportunities for people in our school and community to directly fight global warming. We have completed many successful campaigns in the past, but now we need your support to help us take our work to the next level!

We eliminated vehicle idling on campus, and established battery and printer cartridge recycling programs. We installed 6 vending misers, motion sensor that turn off the vending machine when no one is around, saving \$600 per year. We also designed and sold 1900 reusable bags in our community.

Now the Climate Action Club is a finalist in the Best Buy @15 Community Impact Challenge. We are in the running for \$5000, which we would use to incorporate renewable energy into our school. This act would not only make our school more Eco-friendly, but also inspire our community to consider renewable energy as a viable option.

The CAC is 1 of 15 ventures competing for in this challenge. The winners are determined by a online public vote, and so we need your help to get us in the top 5 so we can win the \$5000. To learn how to vote, please visit [www.cac15.info](http://www.cac15.info). Thank you for your support!

### **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.

### **Milo Free Public Library News**

Judith D. Macdougall

I don't think I have ever seen Spring come to this part of Maine before it has arrived on the calendar. How amazing! On Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day, in the morning the temperature was 69 degrees in the sun in our backyard. Wow!

I hope you all have noticed that the 2009 Milo Annual Report has a lovely colored picture of the library on the cover. Betty, the town clerk, had shown it to me a month or so ago, and I was really pleased to see it there. It certainly emphasizes that the library is in the center of town. It is often the first building that people see when they go on the



internet to check out Milo.

The library has been a busy place this past week. Lots of groups have been meeting downstairs. On Monday evening the library trustees met. There were 5 trustees plus Pam and I. My report caught the trustees up on various library events since their last meeting. I especially brought to their attention that the new Friday hours are working out well. Patrons who are able to come in from 1:00-2:00 are happy, and the early closing does not seem to have inconvenienced anyone. Our custodian, Joel Green, has been making several changes for the better of which I also apprised them. We had correspondence from the former Milo Knitting Group that they would no longer be using our meeting room as they needed more room and have changed their place and date. They will now be meeting at the Milo Fire Department on Tuesday evenings.

On Tuesday evening the Three Rivers Readers Book Club met downstairs. There were eight of us present to discuss the book The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon. Our leader was Roberta Laverty. She mentioned that the title is a quote from Sherlock Holmes which connected with the hero of the book, Christopher Boone, who was an admirer of Sherlock Holmes. Christopher has Asperger's Syndrome which is a higher form of autism. Christopher was brilliant but could not bear to be physically touched in any way. As he was very literal, he also could not lie. A teacher in our group felt that the author had really nailed the aspects of Aspergers by describing Christopher and his adventures in solving the mystery of the dog in the night-time. Autism was discussed and the various degrees of the condition. The book for April will be Digging to America by Anne Tyler. It was suggested by Margaret Pinette, who will lead the discussion.

On Wednesday afternoon nine Kiwanis Kids met downstairs with Val Robertson, Frank Cochrane and Key Club members, Camille Cramer and Ethan Herrell. Val read a juvenile census book to them and discussed the 2010 census and what it means. Val is working on the 2010 census and could really answer any questions that they asked. The Kids finished up their flowering window box and left it in the library. It is lovely. It has lots and lots of gorgeous foam flowers in a very well decorated box. Frank brought up two Kids at a time at Pam's request in order that Pam could make out their new green library cards. The library has been moving toward electronic circulation for the past two years, and Pam is now making individual personal library cards for everyone to carry. The children were really excited to get their own cards and carefully put them into their pockets or backpacks. Pam and Dearle have now bar coded about 12,090 books and nearly 200 patrons have individual green library cards.

On Wednesday evening the Spanish trip fundraising group met downstairs to discuss the final financial aspects of the Spanish trip. They find the room and the library very central for their meeting place.

Library Winter Hours  
 Mon. & Weds. 2:00-8:00  
 Fri. 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**

**Three Rivers Kiwanis, Milo-Brownville**  
 March 17, 2010 Regular Morning Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 AM. There were nineteen members present at the morning meeting at Hobnobbers's. We had an inter-club from Dover with six members; Key Club has two and Builders Club had one. It was announced that new member Clay Savage had been formally accepted by the board.

Eben led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Edwin offered the Morning Prayer. Susan Almy's birthday is on March 20 and Rachel Almy's birthday is on March 21. We collected ten

happy/sad dollars - George is happy that Heidi is now at the podium running the meetings; Frank is glad that Red Sox season is opening in a couple of weeks. Camille announced that Key Club is having a Blood Drive on March 26 from 2 to 7; appointments can be made with Katie Joyner or Camille.

A committee to run the canoe race will be scheduled soon Bobby has already contacted some of the sponsors from last year. The board has agreed to reimburse the Milo Library for \$60 worth of books that were not returned by the school children who borrowed them as part of our reading program. Also, a \$500 donation was made to the VISTA program in hopes of keeping Andrew Barnes in the area for another year to continue the project with the youth that he started last fall.

Laurel is gearing up for the calendar sales; the information has to get to the printer by June 1; she will have forms at a future meeting.

Speakers chairs for April are Dick and Cathy Graves; and for May Richard Mullins and Jeff Gahagan.

It was agreed that the Builders Club can sponsor and collect the monies for the refreshments at the Variety Show on May 7.

Our speaker was Bob Pushard, Editor of the Piscataquis Times, a free weekly newspaper. He also has local weeklies in Somerset and Sebecook areas. The papers have a total of 4 employees and our paper comes out on the newsstand on Thursday afternoons. Bob is looking for local people to submit stories, pictures, event announcements and editorials. The cost of the papers is supported by advertisers; the three papers have a circulation of over 17,000; and the papers are printed in Presque Isle. The general tone is a conservative message of "hard work and making our own way". They have a website at SVWeekly.com. Thank you, Bob, for sharing your story with us.

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



Kaela, Kelena, and Justin were honored as Terrific Kids at our March 19th assembly.

Mrs. Nott: Kaela is my terrific kid this week. Kaela always comes to school in a good mood and ready to start her day. She always pays attention during lessons and puts forth her

best effort. She is a good friend to everyone and a great role model for our kindergarten friends.

Mrs. Johnston: Our T Kid is Kelena Spencer. Kelena has many attributes of a Terrific Kid. She remembers her planner and homework, works to complete assignments on time, uses her time wisely, and tries hard to be a good friend to all. She loves to read and share her thoughts about her reading!

Miss K.: Justin is working hard on all his academics. He is practicing reading at school and at home. He has set a goal to edit his written work without a reminder. Justin is willing to help around the classroom before and after school. He arrives with a smile, a signed Planner, and a good attitude. Good job Justin!

Bus Kids: Demetrius, Kyle, Frank

Civil Rights Team Award: PeaceKeeper Award: Ethan Neal for helping to clean up after breakfast.

Caught Being Good Prize Winners: Kyle, Sonny P., Bridgette, Aubrey, Dakota

Birthdays: Mrs. J, Miss Stacey, Dakota H.



To The Editor: 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



Congratulations to all of our Terrific kids.

Mr. Perkins was surprised with a baby "shower" of cards and song. We are all awaiting the birth of Derek and Lil's baby girl. Masons Timmy Osnoe, Dennis Green, and Keith DeWitt visited the Cook School to explain the Books for Bike program.

Students hand in grade level appropriate reports about books that they have completed at home. For each report submitted, students receive a chance in a drawing for a bike. A bike for girls and a bike for boys will be given out at EACH grade level K-5. This program has caused a lot of excitement about reading. The drawings will be held on April 16th.

Mr. Osnoe led the kids in a sing-a-long to conclude their presentation.

Thank you Masons.

Moving into the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:brownvillestjohn@gmail.com). RSVP would be helpful, but you can come without it.*



GREAT JOB  
BROWNVILLE  
ELEMENTARY STUDENTS  
BRIANNE, HARLEY,  
RACHEL AND MASHILLA.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE BOWL CHAMPS!  
MARION C. COOK SCHOOL  
BRIDGETTE, SHA-LYNN, HARMONY, CASSIDY





# THE BACK SECTION

Brought to you by the Three Rivers Community

[www.trcmaine.org](http://www.trcmaine.org)



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

### Monday, March 22

- 5:30a - Indoor Walking
- 9:00a - Monday Morning Quilters
- 11:45a - Meals for ME
- 6:30p - Atkinson Selectmen
- 7:00p - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00p - Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club

### Tuesday, March 23

- 5:30a - Indoor Walking
- 9:00a - Womancare Outreach
- 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

### Wednesday, March 24

- 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 - Wednesday Night Quilters
- 6:00p - Yoga Class
- 6:30p - LaGrange Selectmen
- 6:30p - Order of the Rainbow
- 6:30p - Boy Scout Troop #115
- 7:00p - Overeaters Anonymous
- 7:00p - Bowerbank Selectmen

### Thursday, March 25

- 5:30a - Indoor Walking
- 11:45a - Meals for ME
- 4:30p - Tae Kwon Do Class
- 6:00p - Boy Scout Troop #112
- 6:00p - Post #92 Meeting
- 6:00p - Recreation: Open Gym
- 6:30p - BJHS Card Party

### Friday, March 26

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

### Saturday, March 27

- 5:00p - Fish Chowder Supper

### Sunday, March 28

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

~~~~ 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.

## IN MEMORIAM

Roger K. Merrill  
April 15, 1957 - March 19, 2010



MILO - Roger K. Merrill, 52, beloved husband of Nancy (Sill) Merrill, died March 17, 2010, at a Dover-Foxcroft hospital with his loving family by his side. He was born April 15, 1957, in Milo, the son of Vesta (Ellis) LeBretton. Roger was employed by Moosehead Manufacturing for many years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and especially enjoyed playing horseshoes, earning the nickname "Roger Ringer." He is survived by his wife, Nancy; his mother, Vesta LeBretton; a stepson, Jimmy Trott; a brother, Robert and his partner, Carol and her son, Alex; two sisters, Marcia Merrill and Bonnie Waterhouse; step siblings, Florence Hildreth, Thomas LeBretton and his wife, Joan, and Stephen LeBretton and his partner, Pepper; mother-in-law, Madeline; sister-in-law, Debbie and her husband, Don; brothers-in-law, Jimmy and his wife, Sarah, and Bobby and his wife, Donna; nieces, Tammy and her husband, Jeff, Dawn, Kristi and her partner, Jason, Bobbi and Joy; nephews, James, Tony and his partner, Jillian, and Duane and his partner, Jodi; great-nieces, Jessica, Sasha, Tasha, Tiffany, Courtney, Ashley and Kasey; great-nephews, Jeff, John, Joseph, Ryan and Garvin; and a great-great-nephew, Connor. He will be remembered by his large extended family, including many cousins from Maine, Oregon, Florida and Arizona; many good friends; and his beloved dog, Maddie, whom he adored. Roger was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Arthur and Elnora Ellis; and his stepfather, Charles LeBretton. Friends are invited to share memories and fellowship 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at American Legion Hall, Milo. A graveside committal service will be held at a later date in the family lot at Evergreen Cemetery. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to American Diabetes Association, 80 Elm St., Portland, ME 04101-3045. Arrangements are in the care of Lary Funeral Home. Messages of condolence and memories may be expressed at [www.laryfuneralhome.com](http://www.laryfuneralhome.com).

## TRN WEEKLY POLL

Have you taken down your  
christmas lights yet?

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Yes                  | 75.4% |
| Its not July yet!    | 14.0% |
| They never come down | 7.0%  |
| No                   | 3.5%  |

Total votes: 57

### NEXT WEEK:

Have you filed your taxes?  
Visit our website to vote!

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