



Noon News

The Weekly Newsletter of the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club
 P.O. Box 504 – Ripon, WI 54971 – www.riponnoonkiwanis.org
 Weekly Meetings Tuesdays at Noon at Ripon College's Pickard Commons
Serving the Children of the World

NOON NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

February 9, 2010

We Braved the Storm

Wimpy Ripon school kids stayed home today, but 16 hardy Nooners and three guests, recalling the days of their youth when they trudged two miles uphill through gale-force winds and three-foot drifts so that they could sip the nectar of education, relived their childhood by coming to today's meeting.

Guests

Tom Avery was the guest of **Mary**.

Kristy Sadlon brought her son **Leshon**, who was forced to stay home from school by evil Superintendent of Schools **Richard Zimman**.

We are happy to have Circle K president **Erin Hying** as a regular guest.

Happy Bucks!

Rich Scamehorn claims that he is happy to be back from a Florida vacation.

Barb Evensen has a bad news/good news Happy Buck. The bad news is that her mother had a heart attack. The good news is that it happened in the doctor's office.

Norm Loomer gave two happy bucks. He is happy for **Richard Zimman** that he can get a day off from work simply by declaring a snow day. He is also happy that **Tom Avery** and **Tonya Alling** have the courage to put their names and weights in the Commonwealth each week as part of Ripon Medical Center's "Lighten Your Load" program.

Tom Avery gave a buck for a disclaimer. He hates paperwork and wasn't paying attention when he signed the many forms for "Lighten Your Load," including the one that gave permission to publish his name and weight.

Mary Avery is happy that **Tom** was such a good sport on their Jamaica trip. (See report on today's program.)

Steve Sorenson is happy to report that his wife **Sue** called from the empty school parking lot to ask, "Is there a late start today?"

Leshon is happy that there is no school today.



Queen of Spades 50-50 Raffle

Emily Dinegan drew the lucky ticket, but with \$215 in the pot pulled the unlucky six of spades from the deck.

Next week there will be only 33 cards left, including six winners. Your probability of drawing a winner has risen to .176!



Emily Dinegan makes a bad draw while **Leshon Sadlon** smiles at her misfortune.

Program



For the second straight week one of our very own talented Nooners gave the program. **Mary Avery**, Associate Professor and Director of the Business Management Program at Ripon College, spoke on the topic, "Jamaica: It's not just for vacation anymore." For several years she has been taking students to Jamaica during Maymester to work in the Blue Mountain Project, which provides assistance to people in the impoverished area called Hagley Gap.

When most people think about Jamaica, they envision the vacation paradise depicted in the Sandals Resorts commercials. The paradise is on the north coast of the island nation, but most

tourists don't see the abject poverty—unimaginable by most Americans—on the rest of the island. Mary recounted the complaint of one tourist, "I didn't come to Jamaica to see all this poverty."

The black residents of Jamaica are descendants of slaves. The country was a British colony and bears characteristics of British culture—driving on the left, for example—but society hasn't evolved. The people who control government and business are white or brown, the brown people largely being of Indian descent.

Jamaica is a vacation paradise, but there is:

-Poverty.

-Lack of a "local economy."

-Violence, especially in Kingston, which is one of the five most violent cities in the world.

-A disjointed family structure in some areas. The marriage rate is very low. Women are responsible for child care.

Hagley Gap, where the students worked, is in the southeast part of the island. There are five rural villages with 3000 residents. The workers are farmers, who earn \$10-\$20 per day.

The students did construction, consulted for businesses, and educated children in practical business by helping them set up a lemonade stand. Mary taught a business class for adults.

Mary said that for the community the Blue Mountain project means empowerment, hope, education, and community building.

Know a Kiwanian who is Facing a Challenge?

If you know of a fellow Kiwanian who is ill, injured or experiencing a personal loss, please contact **Steve Sorenson, Helga Ridders, or Marge Burling.**

Coming Up

February 16 – **Pastor Mike Holba** will speak on the new community gathering place located in the former Flower Basket building.

February 23 – **Jill** from the Salvation Army will speak on their efforts in Fond du Lac County.

March 21 - Kiwanis International President **Paul Palazzolo** comes to Oconomowoc to speak on "Achieving Club Excellence." There is more information in the attached flyer.