



BANGOR DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY AIMEE DOLLOFF

Volunteers with the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" project in Milbridge get pumped up before the demolition Tuesday of the Ray-Smith family home.

Volunteers

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Hancock Community Agency.

Feeding those who work on the project is no small task either, but it's important to keep the crew energized to finish the build on its tight seven-day timeline.

To keep stomachs from growling, 75 students from Penobscot Job Corps have worked three 14-hour shifts every day, according to Renae Muscatell, Job Corps business and community liaison.

Students served an average of 750 meals each day feeding the work crew and nightly visitors to the VIP tent.

Job Corps members became involved in the Milbridge project after impressing Roy Boothby of R.H. Foster with their cooking and food service skills last August at the Senior Little League World Series in Bangor. R.H. Foster also is a large donor to the project.

"The more experience our students have the better pre-

pared they are for the work force. Getting out of a classroom and into authentic work environments is a vital part of training," Valerie Moon, lead culinary instructor at Job Corps, stated Friday in a press release.

For Job Corps student Bruce Steven, the experience has been memorable.

"This has been a great training opportunity for me," Steven, 19, of Monson said in the press release. "I'm developing my leadership skills and learning the true meaning of teamwork."

Welding, facilities maintenance and carpentry students from Job Corps also have pitched in every day to help keep the grounds clean, haul materials, and assist with installing vinyl siding.

In addition to Broughman Builders Inc. of Ellsworth, numerous individuals, businesses, and organizations have given to the project.

"People have been overwhelming," Elizabeth Sutherland of Sutherland Weston Marketing Communications of Bangor said Friday. The public rela-



Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 15
Construction completed and furniture and appliances are moved in. Public spectator section open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 16
"Move That Bus" - new house revealed. The crowd will be filmed at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. when the bus is moved.

tions firm is assisting in organizing the production locally. "The response from the community has been overwhelming. I can't say enough."

For instance, Wal-Mart stores in this area started by donating a pallet of water bottles. That one pallet grew to five pallets

and \$10,000 in products to help stock the Ray-Smith house.

"The true community spirit is here," Sutherland said. "It's just that it's happening so quickly and it's happening so intensely, we don't have time to tell the whole story the way it should be told."

ABC comes to town with its production crew, and the project is created with the help of donations and volunteers.

"Here in Maine we were under the gun a little bit," Cramsey said. "It's not often that we have to go and make a general call during the week for volunteers, but it happened this week and Maine has really stepped up and answered the call."

People from throughout Maine, and some from out of state, showed up at the site to help work on the project, but skilled trim carpenters, tile installers, drywallers, painters and siding installers still are needed, according to Cramsey.

"Help us bring this family home," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GILPIN RAILROAD INCIDENT

The Orland-based acoustic rock band Gilpin Railroad Incident will perform at a private wrap party for the cast and crew of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." Although the party is closed to the public, people can catch the GRI from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday at Toziers II in Bucksport. The band members are (from left) Wayne Gross, Brad Radley, Chris Soper, Becky Bowden and Sharla Hamor. Not pictured is Amy Hopkins.

Orland band to perform at 'Extreme' cast party

BY AIMEE DOLLOFF
OF THE NEWS STAFF

A local band will have a rare chance this weekend to perform for the cast and crew of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" at the show's private wrap party.

"Extreme Makeover" has been in Milbridge for the past week building a home for the family of Brittany Ray, Ron Smith and their three children, the middle one of whom has autism.

Gilpin Railroad Incident, a local band that formed in 2005, was selected to perform partly because of a connection it has to autism awareness.

The group's original track "Younger Days" was written by guitarist Chris Soper and was recorded on a CD to raise money for an autism school.

As for genre, Soper said it's an original acoustic rock band with its own style.

"Nobody's been able to put a

finger on what exactly we play," he said Friday.

The band has about 30 original songs and also plays some cover band titles.

"We've never done anything like this," Soper said. "We've played some pretty cool concerts, but this is definitely probably the most people that have some influence that can help us out in the long run."

Click it
Listen to Gilpin Railroad Incident online at bangordailynews.com

While the time and location of the private show can't be disclosed, Soper said the group is looking forward to playing for the ABC crowd.

"We're awful excited about it," Soper said. "We hope people respect and appreciate what we write about."

The band consists of Soper and Brad Radley on vocals and guitar; Becky Bowden on vocals and bass; Sharla Hamor on vocals and percussion; Amy Hopkins on keyboards, and Wayne Gross on drums. Jamie Moore, who is transitioning to be Gilpin Railroad's new drummer, also will perform with the group.

Perry

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reached Friday to determine the federal tax obligations, such as income and capital gains, the family will face.

The Ray-Smith family also will still be responsible for local property taxes unless someone else covers the cost, the Milbridge town clerk said Friday.

At an estimated value of \$500,000 under the town's current property tax rate of \$17 per \$1,000 of valuation, the Ray-Smiths likely will have to pay about \$8,500 a year in taxes.

Perry commended "Extreme Makeover" for boosting the spirits of families who deserve it and for bringing together the community.

"Unfortunately, once the show leaves town, the house and its contents inside provided by the show can be treated as income," he said in a recent press release. "The taxes that the family might have to pay goes against the intent of the show, which is to help a worthy family trying to improve their living situation."

The Legislature often attaches fiscal notes to bills that have

to do with audits and other funds the state was counting on toward the budget, Perry said.

"My thought was there's no way the state could have been counting on getting probably 20 or 30 grand on income tax on someone in this state getting an 'Extreme Makeover' this year," Perry said Friday. "It's such a rare occurrence, it's not going to throw the state budget out of whack."

Perry's proposed bill states that the tax exemption would apply retroactive to July 1, 2007, and would apply only to "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" that seeks to help worthy Maine families.

"This is a rare opportunity for a Maine family and it would be a shame for taxes to spoil the long-term benefit of this good-will gesture by the show and its supporters," Perry stated.



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Healthy Eating On A Budget
Thursday September 6 3:00pm - 4:30pm
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Call to register (207) 988-1954

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Feeding Your Baby & Toddler
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MIT laptop project raises its price again

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The vaunted "\$100 laptop" that Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers dreamed up for international schoolchildren is becoming a slightly more distant concept.

Leaders of the nonprofit One Laptop Per Child that was spun out of MIT acknowledged Friday that the devices now are slated to cost \$188 when mass production begins this fall. The last price the nonprofit announced was \$176; it described \$100 as a long-term goal.

Spokesman George Snell blamed the increase on a variety of factors, including currency fluctuations and rising costs of such components as nickel and silicon. He said the project was committed to keeping the price from rising above \$190.

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