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Town meetings

Vassalboro

Town meeting, Mon., June 7, 6:30 p.m.
 Elementary School
 Municipal elections, Tues., June 8,
 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., town office

Madison

Town meeting, Mon., June 7, 7 p.m., at
 Madison Area Junior High School
 Performing Arts Center.
 Municipal elections, Tues., June 8,
 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Skowhegan

Town meeting, Mon., June 7, 7 p.m.
 at Municipal Building Opera House

Chelsea

Town meeting, Thurs., June 10, 6:30
 p.m. at Chelsea School

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 & questions
 for the future

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 bring large
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 to meeting

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South China American Legion to host Memorial Day Parade

by Bonnie Biller

As the saying goes, everyone loves a parade. One of the best parades around will be taking place this coming Memorial Day, May 31, 2010 in South China.

Put together by the American Legion Post #179, the Memorial Day parade will be a combination of pomp and circumstance dedicated to the recognition of departed veterans. As Rick Fischer, Commander of Post #179 observes, the parade will be chock full of participants.

"The parade starts at 11 a.m. sharp, at the Legion Hall on Legion Memorial Drive off of Route 3," he says. "We'll close off the roads and have the front marching organizations followed by the motorized antique autos and then the neighboring town fire and rescue units. The parade will wind up at the South China monument, where the chaplain from the Legion will give the service."

Fischer says because it's Memorial Day, no sirens or loud horns will be heard out of respect for the deceased war veterans. But he says there is always room for more participants.

"If anyone else would like to join the parade, they are certainly welcome," he notes. "But remember, it is Memorial Day, so if a group has a respectful float or antique car they would like to display, that's fine. We'd like to keep a certain atmosphere that's respecting the departed veterans."

Groups appearing in the 2010 Memorial Day parade include the American Legion Post 179, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 179, Boy Scout Troop 479, Cub Scout Pack 479, Daisy Troop 1024, Brownie Troops 1990 and 3091, Junior Troops 3412 and 2081, antique and modified autos, fire and rescue units from China, Weeks Mills, Windsor, Palermo and South China. Fischer says a special presentation will take place after the service as well.

"We'll have singers performing the Star Spangled Banner," he says, "also bagpipers and this year we're going to have the Brewer Air Force ROTC discharge a salute firing three rounds honoring the dead. Of course, taps will be played, and an echo of taps will follow that. It's going to be quite a display."

The parade will then continue back to the Legion Hall where spectators and participants will enjoy a light lunch.

Fischer has been parade coordinator since 2005 and says over the years the planning and producing has gotten easier.

"When I first became in charge, it was quite a project," he says. "The first year I invited everyone back to the Legion Hall

for lunch. I was out picking up barriers and cleaning up and by the time I got back and walked through the door, the place was packed. That was the most rewarding part for me."

The procession goes on rain or shine and Fischer says in the past the Legion has brought the senior members down on trailers, golf carts or vans so they can be a part of the parade. He says if there are any veterans who would like to ride in the parade, just give him a call. In fact, Fischer invites any veterans who may like to join the



Participants in last year's Memorial Day parade in South China lay a wreath at the monument at Veterans Park in South China Village. Contributed photo

American Legion to come to the memorial service to get a feel for what they do.

"The reasons for the Legion and the Auxiliary is to be involved in the community," he says. "The American Legion is a social organization and we'd love to have new members. Anyone who is eligible to become a member of the Legion or Auxiliary is encouraged to come down: those who served in wartime or during hostilities including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Gulf Wars, Afghanistan, Iraq."

To Rick Fischer, membership in the American Legion is an important spirit of teamwork.

"It fills a sense of obligation to continue the awareness that the freedom that we enjoy has been protected by generations of Americans," he says. "The Legion and Auxiliary helps to continue that awareness."

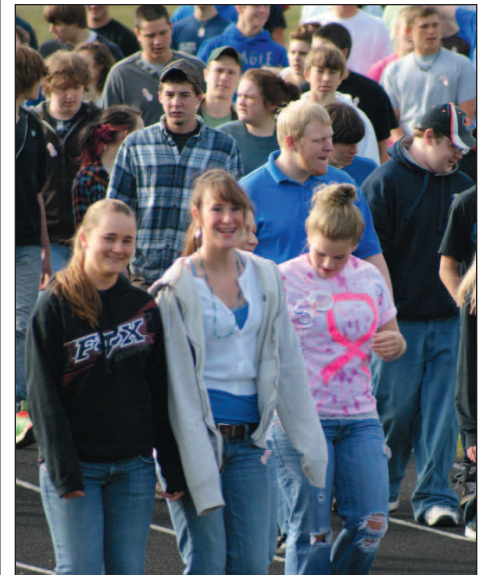
Eligibility requirements for American Legion membership is limited to those who are currently on active duty or served honorably during any of the following eligible war eras:

April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918 (World War I); December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946 (World War II); June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955 (Korean War); February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War); August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada); December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990 (Panama); August 2, 1990 to today (War on Terrorism).

For more information about the parade or to join the Legion, contact Rick Fischer at 873-7654.

Erskine students walk to cure breast cancer

On May 14, approximately 550 Erskine Academy students, staff, and community members participated in the school's third "Walk to Cure Breast Cancer."



A large segment of the Erskine Academy student population participated in the Walk to Cure Breast Cancer on May 14. Contributed photo

In order to participate in the Walk, participants were required to collect pledges with the understanding that all proceeds will be donated to Maine General's Breast Care Program, which provides direct patient services such as mammograms, chemotherapy lotions, assistance with travel and lodging, and other services. The Walk, which was held on the school's track during advisee group, raised nearly \$6800 in pledges and the proceeds were donated to in memory of Amanda Edwards, a member of the Class of 2009 who supported the fight against breast cancer.

The event was organized by Erskine's Health Careers Group in an effort to bring awareness to the issue of Breast Cancer. Members of the Health Careers Group include Tatyana LeSiege, Erica LeSiege, Emily Marois, Brook Carrier, Sam Seekins, Chantal Duchaine, Shannon Kennedy, and advisor and School Health Provider Diane Dow.

The group would like to sincerely thank all who pledged and walked as well as the following businesses for their generous support: Back's Dairy Bar, Hannaford Supermarkets, EJ Prescott, Ray Haskell Ford, and North Country Harley Davidson.



Erskine students walk around the school's track to raise money for the Walk to Cure Breast Cancer campaign. Contributed photo