

## Making a positive difference every day

By Eileen M. Adams  
Correspondent

LIVERMORE FALLS —  
Nina Chavez loves the Jobs for  
Maine Graduates program at  
Spruce Mountain High School,  
south campus.

"Mrs. Jewett takes the time  
for one-on-one. We know she'll  
be there for us," said the high  
school senior who plans to at-  
tend Central Maine Commu-  
nity College next fall to study  
hospitality.

Nina is not alone. The nearly  
four dozen students in the pro-  
gram feel pretty much the same  
way. They now have the cour-  
age to go on to college and to  
become involved in many ac-  
tivities they had never before

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believed they would.

"It's a really an inspiring pro-  
gram," said Kristopher Caron,  
also a senior who plans to attend  
CMCC in the fall.

Barbara Jewett has been lead-  
ing the Livermore Falls program  
for four years. Her JMG program  
is one of 64 scattered around the  
state.

"It's part guidance counselor,  
part 'mother,' part teacher," she  
said last Thursday afternoon.

She recently received an award

from UNUM and the Portland Pi-  
rates as one of six teachers in the  
state to be entered in the Maine  
Educators' Hall of Fame from the  
Maine Coalition for Excellence in  
Education.

In her nomination of Jewett,  
Sherrye Haney, who serves as  
JMG's central region manager,  
described Jewett "as an innovative  
and compassionate educator. It is  
the connection and positive rela-  
tionship that Barbara establishes  
with her students during high  
school that can help them gain  
confidence to be successful after  
high school."

Jewett received the honor at a Pi-  
rates game in Portland last week, a  
monetary award, and enough com-  
plimentary tickets so anyone at the  
school could attend the game. Al-  
though she felt honored to be cited  
for her work, Jewett believes there  
are many really good teachers in  
her building that "go to bat" for  
their students all the time, she said.

The Jobs for Maine Graduates  
program is a cooperative effort by  
businesses, and the federal and  
state governments. Her position is  
contracted to SMHS – South.

Principal Steve Leunig was  
pleased that Jewett had been cho-  
sen.

"We're hoping to expand the  
program to the north campus. The

program gives kids skills, opportu-  
nities and networking to achieve  
their goals. I support what Barbara  
does with students. She has a great  
rapport with them. She goes above  
and beyond," he said.

Among the activities – both edu-  
cational and hands-on – offered to  
JMG students are academic help  
when needed, leadership develop-  
ment, event organizing and pre-  
sentation, community service and  
a myriad of other learning experi-  
ences, including interview, resume  
writing, and financial skills. She  
also works with employers and  
keeps in close contact with other  
high school teachers.

Jewett also follows each JMG  
graduating senior for a year with  
monthly telephone calls to help  
and encourage when needed.

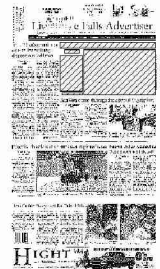
"Sometimes kids just need some-  
one to talk to," she said.

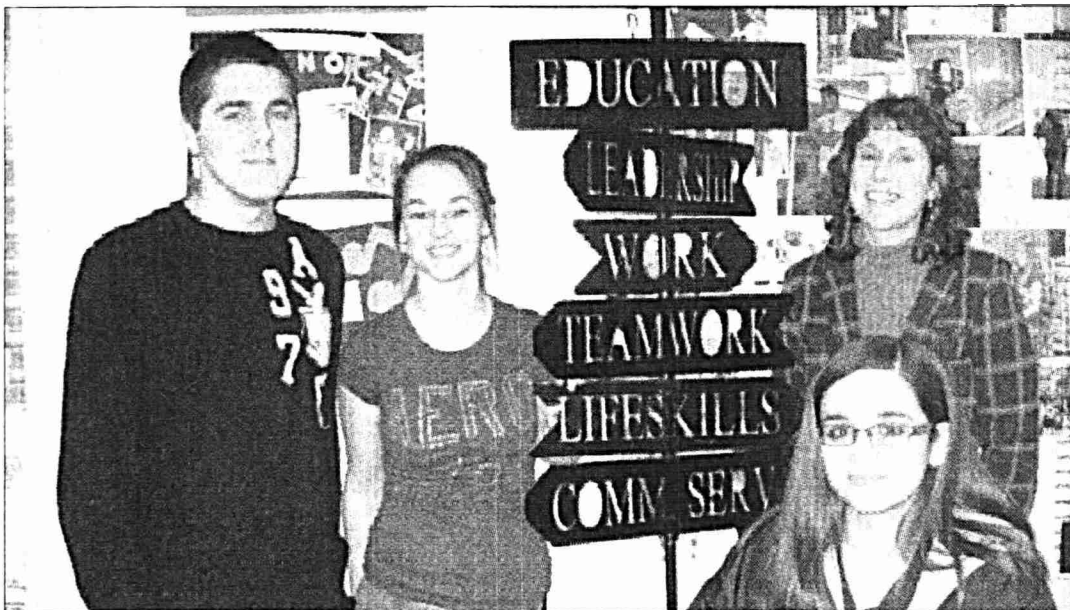
Jewett has taught elementary  
school and alternative education.

"I feel I was made for JMG and  
JMG was made for me," she said.  
"I feel I can make a difference with  
these kids."

Heather Thibodeau, another  
SMHS South JMG student, agrees.

"She motivates us and follows  
up," said the senior who plans to  
attend CMCC in early childhood  
education.





Eileen M. Adams/LFA

Shown here are Jobs for Maine Graduates students Kristopher Caron, Heather Thibodeau, and Nina Chavez with teacher, Barbara Jewett.