



Fifth-graders from the Dothan Brook School in Wilder put change in a counting machine at Mascoma Savings Bank in Lebanon on Thursday. Students at the school collected their coins during the pre-

vious week to donate toward building a school in Afghanistan. From left to right are: Daniel Lazar, Megan Fariel, Anna Gombard and Andy Ostler.

VALLEY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS — JENNIFER HAUCK

## Coins for a School

SCHOOLS IN THE UPPER VALLEY are reaching out to schoolchildren in Afghanistan through Rose Loving's drive to build a school there to honor the memory of her late partner, Pomfret-native Tom Stone. Stone was serving his third tour of duty as a medic with the Vermont National Guard in March 2006 when he was killed during a battle with the Taliban.

Loving, who lives in Tunbridge, plans to break ground on the school this summer in Herat, a province in western Afghanistan. She is working with the Northfield, Vt.-based non-profit Direct Aid International, founded by Jonathan Hoffman. Hoffman has traveled seven times to Afghanistan and has facilitated the building of several schools there.

Last week, students at the Dothan Brook School raised \$730 by collecting their change for a week. When they brought the money to Mascoma Savings Bank, the bank added its own donation to bring the total to \$1,000.

On Friday, Loving and Stone's parents visited The Pomfret School to talk about Stone, life in Afghanistan and their goal of building the school in Afghanistan. Stone had a long relationship with the school in his hometown. He corresponded with students there regularly between 1992 and 2000 while he walked around the world.

A new generation of students there is now brainstorming with their teachers on ways to raise money for the school, said principal Lynn McMorris. Learning about Afghanistan through the fundraising will continue through the end of the school year.

For more information about the project, visit Loving's Web site, [remember-tomstone.net](http://remember-tomstone.net).

— Kristen Fountain



Change collected by students at Dothan Brook School.