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**PTA Math Night** 

Amherst PTA sponsors the Math Carnival Night with a game theme held at Wilkins School, January 27.

Schools page 10

**SportsFolio** 

Souhegan Sabers wind down the winter season breaking swimming records and skiing to finish lines with success.

ERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY NEV

**SportsFolio** page 12

## **NH Scholastic Art Awards**

Amherst Middle School students receive recognition for talent and dedication in art.

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#### BRIEFS

#### **Amherst Democrats Announcement: Pot Luck February 24 at Amherst Country Club**

Tuesday, February 24 the Amherst Democrats will host a pot luck supper at the Amherst Country Club on Ponemah Rd. in Amherst. The speaker will be John Mendolusky, President of the NH Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans. The mission statement of the ARA is " ... to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security"

Mr. Mendolusky will speak on the Employee Free Choice Act. He is a retired union executive and has been a candidate for the NH House of Representatives from District 6 (Amherst and Milford).

All area progressives are invited to attend. Please bring a salad, main course, or dessert. The schedule for the evening is:

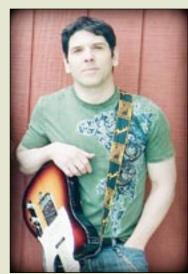
- Social time; 6:00 6:30pm
- Supper; 6:30 7:30pm • Guest speaker; 7:30 - 8:30pm

#### **Town of Amherst** Public Notice

The Amherst Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Amherst Town Hall on Saturday, February 28, 2009 between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. This will be the last time residents may register to vote or make corrections to the checklist until the March 10th Town and School Elections. Proof of residency is required. Voting will be at the Souhegan High School for 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### **Election Day – March 10**

Voting for Town and School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at the following locations: Amherst voters - Souhegan High School 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Mont Vernon voters – Mont Vernon Village School - 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.



#### **Mike Valeras Group Plays Next Souhegan Jazz Night Concert**

The Mike Valeras Group will come to Souhegan High School for a Night of Jazz on Friday February 13th at 7:00pm. The Mike Valeras Group features a mix of contemporary electric jazz and classic traditional jazz. In addition to the Mike Valeras Group, the Souhegan Jazz Ensemble, Alvirne High School Jazz Ensemble and the Weymouth High School Jazz Ensemble from Weymouth MA will also be featured. Admission at the door for the concert is \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. Any questions, contact Carl Benevides, SHS Jazz Director at cbenevides@sprise.com or call 673-9940 x168.

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# Souhegan Budget Up 2%

By Cliff Ann Wales

AMHERST - Fifty residents from Amherst and Mont Vernon attended the Souhegan Cooperative School District Deliberative meeting on February 3. Cynthia Dokmo moderated the meeting. It took the school board and citizens 80 minutes to review the

\$17,730,722 operating budget with a default budget of \$17,582,364 if the proposed budget fails to pass. The operating budget represents a \$362,199 increase in spending (2.09%) but a decrease of \$0.01 on the tax rate (\$6.33) for Amherst and an increase of \$0.33 (\$7.44) for Mont Vernon. The estimated tax impact of articles 3

and 6 which raise \$40,000 from the year end surplus to be added to the School maintenance expendable trust fund and discontinues an older maintenance trust fund with \$3,500 which then goes into the general fund results in a cost of \$0.01 to Amherst and \$0.36 to Mont Vernon.

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#### Three Amherst Players Placed in Top Six of Novice Section at Chess Tournament

On Saturday, January 24th, the Amherst King Bishops chess club held its 6th annual Amherst Scholastic Chess Tournament. Thirty seven chess players participated in the three section event. Cameron Currier, a 6th grade chess prodigy from Concord, won all four of his games against much older players to win the (K -12 over 1000 rating) eight player Open section. The (K-8 under 1000 rating) Intermediate section, which also had 8 players in contention, was won by Ben McConnell of Durham with a perfect 4-0 score. Amherst showed its strength in youth by winning 3 of the top 6 places in the twenty one player (K-5 under 800 rating) Novice section. Leo Cheng of Massachusetts and Samuel Geiger of Durham tied for first place with three wins and a final round draw against each other. Mason Young and George Carlson, the dynamic duo who led Amherst's New Hampshire state champion primary team last April, finished in 3rd and 4th respectively with scores of 3-1. Finishing in 6th place, also with a strong 3-1 score, was Amherst's Frances Darnall who, in addition to winning a trophy for her perfor-Continued on page 9 ▶



the 1st prize in the raffle to benefit the Souhegan High School Robotics Team. She was all smiles and she also won a trophy for finishing in 6th place in the Novice section of the tournament.

# Four Hours to Review Amended **Town Warrant**

By Cliff Ann Wales

AMHERST - It started with discussion of the \$6,000,000 road reconstruction bond and 18 articles and four hours later weary citizens finished the review of the town warrant

including the operating budget and articles to purchase land, fund capital reserve funds for recreation, fire apparatus, ambulance, assessing, communications, town anniversary celebration, cemetery, and highway equipment.

Former selectmen and members of the Road Funding Analysis committee, Jay Dinkel and Bill Overholt presented the need for rebuilding 23 miles of roads in town and the importance

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## Peter Pan Rehearsals Have Started!



Peter Pan (Ashley Hughes, center, kneeling) pictured here with the Lost Boys Ensemble

herst PTA began rehearsals for their annual spring play, this year proudly presenting Peter Pan. After a tough selection process, with over 160 adults and children trying out for a part, the cast has been selected and rehearsals are now under way. Director Meg Petersen is excited about the production. "We have a terrific cast and

The Amherst PTA reputation of producing high quality community theater will certainly continue this year. In addition to a wonderful cast, beautiful music and a live orchestra, we'll have many special effects with lighting and flying, provided by ZFX", she said. ZFX is currently involved in Chitty, Chitty Bang, Bang,

AMHERST - The Am- dedicated production staff. Wicked and other Broadway productions.

Mark your calendars for this very special production running April 16 - 19th at Souhegan High School. Tickets will be available starting in March at Moulton's Market, The Homestead, The Black Forest Cafe and The Toadstool Bookshop.

## **AJWC to Distribute Funds**

### Local Nonprofits Encouraged To Apply

AMHERST – The Amherst Junior Women's Club invites nonprofit organizations in need of charitable contributions to apply for a donation from the club. During the year, the AJWC raises funds to give back to the community at large. At this time, the AJWC is accepting requests for these funds. All individual requests must be affiliated with a nonprofit organization. These organizations need not have Amherstbased addresses, but must service the local commu-

All requests must be in writing, submitted by March 31 and contain all of the following information:

- · Name of organization, address, telephone num-
- Contact person, amount requested, and how the funds will be used.
- Short biography, history of organization, and when established.
- How organization is funded (e.g. federal, state, local grants).
- Provide high-level annual budget and shortfalls, if any, expected. What other resources or funding sources have committed to help accomplish your objective?

- How would the donation be used? Applicant shall describe its purpose for requesting funds and what objective these funds will help the organization accomplish
- How does it correspond to AJWC's mission as described below?

The Amherst Junior Women's Club is an organization of Amherst, New Hampshire women who volunteer their time, energy, and talent to enhance the community. The AJWC mission is to focus efforts on civic needs, educational advancement, and those less fortunate. AJWC's fundraising goals are achieved with the assistance and generosity of businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Only recipients of donations will be contacted, and once approved, funds will be distributed by AJWC no later than June 15. Please email requests to cip@amherstjuniors.org (AJWC will send a reply confirming receipt of the request), or mail requests as soon as possible (postmarked no later that March 31, 2009) to CIP Request, Amherst Junior Women's Club, P.O. Box 512, Amherst, NH 03031.

For any information please go to our website: www.amherstjuniors.org.

## **Amherst School District Deliberative Takes 70 Minutes**

By Cliff Ann Wales

AMHERST - The Amherst School Board presented their district budget to a nearly empty Souhegan High School theatre on February 5. With 41 voters present the board reviewed their FY 2010 budget of \$23,163,153, an increase in spending of \$452,473, an increase of 1.99%, a \$0.20 increase on the tax rate. Most of the increase

was related to contractual agreements in salaries and benefits, debt service for the renovation bond and an increase in the number of students in the special education program and the increase costs of out of district placement.

The number of students enrolled K-8 continues to

decline with a projected number of students at 1,498 next year from an actual of 1,547 this year.

Article 13 raises \$51,849 for salaries and benefits for the first year of a three year the collective bargaining agreement with the Amherst Support Staff Associa-Article 15 which was

amended by the school

board reads: Shall the District vote to approve a tuition agreement with Mont Vernon School District for the education of Mont Vernon Middle School students at the Amherst Middle School as negotiated by the School Board which, among other things, provides for an initial term of ten (10) years

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#### Amherst Town Library

# Sojourns with Poems Continues March 4

AMHERST - The Amherst Town Library invites you to join other readers for the rescheduled "spring" session of our exciting yearlong program, Lit at the Edges: Sojourns with Stories, Poems, Essays. On Wednesday, March 4, "Poems along the Shorelines," will continue. Read memorable poems from Garrison Keillor's anthologies Good Poems and Good Poems for Hard Times, share the ways poems reveal the extraordinary edges of ordinary lives, and explore the simple pleasures of reading poems that can matter. There are three discussions planned: March 4, March 18, and April 1.

Nothing could be more ordinary than the daily round of morning, noon, and night. But in the music

of a good poem, those hours become something to listen to with a different attention. On March 4th, poems by Mary Oliver, Lisel Mueller, Philip Booth, and others celebrate morning and the edges of beginnings, whether a day, a life, or creation itself. The series continues on March 18th with the hours of noon, middle-age, and work, and will conclude on April 1st with images of nightfall. A "wordplay" poetry writing workshop follows on April 15th. You are welcome to come for any or all sessions offered. We gather in the Johnson Meeting Room and the sessions are offered at 1-2:30 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. on the scheduled days.

"Can poetry matter?" The Atlantic Monthly made the

question famous in 1991. It's still a good question. We are a people on edge, a nation at a threshold, a world standing on the shore of something vast. With so many issues and crises clamoring for our attention in 2009, does poetry have role? Can good poems help us through these times? Garrison Keillor believes they can: "Sometimes a poem cuts through the static and delivers some good thing. It is of use; it gives value." Why? Because a good poem befriends us, helps us laugh, kindly offers us a cup, tells us the truth, gives us courage. Good poems tell real stories about real people. In doing so, they help us see a little better along the edge we're walking.

Facilitator Emily Archer has designed this series in consultation with Ruslyn Vear, head of reference. Emily holds a doctorate in American literature, is a published writer, and has led humanities discussions and writing groups for over fifteen years for numerous New Hampshire libraries, schools, churches, and medical communities. She lives in Mont Vernon with her family.

The event is free and open to the public. You can register by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst. lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib. nh.us and click on the calendar icon labeled "Calendar of Events" on the homepage. For more information, call Ruslyn at the library.