Library

An entertaining performance with a mix of Irish music, Celtic stories and poems about the sea. Sunday, March 21, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Town News page 4



February Storm

2010 ELECTION EDITION: LOOK INSIDE FOR BALLOTS, LETTERS & OPINIONS – AMHERST VOTERS' GUIDE

View photos of the damage from fallen trees and flooding after the severe storm that hit the area on February 25.

February 2010 Storm page 8



Sports

JITIZEN

Amherst 4th grader, Dale Estes qualifies for the NH State Alpine Championships, representing Pats Peak.

SportsFolio page 13

BRIEFS

BALLOT NOTICE

The Amherst Town Warrant has three bond articles that require a 3/5 ballot vote to pass. Article 22 (Road Construction Bond) has the wording that says that a 3/5 vote is required to pass. Article 23 (Open Space Land Bond) and Article 24 (Recreation Land Purchase Bond) also require a 3/5 vote to pass although the wording is not included on the ballot.

The Amherst Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office. NH law requires that you vote in person at the polling place (in Amherst that is Souhegan High School) unless you plan to be absent on election day, cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment, are unable to vote because of a disability or you cannot appear at any time during the polling hours because an employment obligation requires you to remain physically at work or to be in transit to or from the time the polls open until after the time polls close.

Polling hours in Amherst are 6AM to 8PM.

To obtain an absentee ballot please submit a written request which requires a signature of the voter. They are available during regular business hours 9AM to 3PM Monday through Friday and Tuesday night from 4:30 to 6:30. Ballots may be requested by mail or in person and must be received back by 5PM Monday night on March 8th if returned in person and by 5PM on election day if returned by mail. No absentee ballots may be returned in hand on election day.

No additions or corrections shall be made to

the checklist until election day. NH law also allows voter registration on election day. Voter registration is accepted during regular business hours at the town clerk's office. The Amherst town clerk's office will be closed all day on election day as we will be working at the polls.

Second Annual Pancake Breakfast

Team Earley is holding their Second Annual Pancake Breakfast for The Melanoma Foundation of New England. The Event will be on Sunday March 14th at Souhegan High School from 7 - 11 a.m. Also, as part of the fundraising efforts, there will be raffling an Adirondack Chair which has been handpainted by local artist, Tracy Tobin to depict the Boston Marathon route. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Greg Earley, Team Captain is running the Marathon for the third time on April 19th in the name of Melanoma Foundation of N.E. He does have a fundraising goal and these events are to support that goal.

Community Council Notice

There will be a Public Forum on Community Council's Security Initiative on Tuesday March 9th, from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. The public is encouraged to attend the information and discussion session presented by the Community Council. Data on theft, vandalism, and violence will be presented along with historical context. A discussion session will follow designed to receive input from the community about their views on what constitutes a safe learning environment at Souhegan High School. The Public Forum will be held in the Theatre at Souhegan High School. Any questions regarding the Forum can be directed to: shscommunitycouncil@sprise.com.

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Great Ideas and Creativity On Display at This Year's **Invention Convention**

Clark School



Kindergarten First Place Winner - Nick Vaccaro; Second Place Winner - Charlotte Farris; Grade 1 First Place Winner - Molly Graybill and Second Place Winner - Ethan Littlefield.

Wilkins School



(Front) Grade 2 - First Place Winner: Emma Pyles, Grade 3 - Second Place Winner: Eleanor Farris and Grade 4 - Second Place Winner: Maggie Dix. (Standing) Grade 2 - Second Place Winner: Thomas Greenwood and Grade 4 - First Place Winner: Silas Howe. Missing from photo: Grade 3 - First Place Winner, Bailey Conrad.

Yankee Magazine's Judson Hale To Visit Amherst, March 28



AMHERST - Amherst's 250th Celebration Committee is pleased to announce that Judson Hale, long-time editor of Yankee Magazine and the Old Farmer's Almanac will join Amherst residents at 4 o'clock on Sunday, March 28 at the Congregational Church in Amherst. Mr. Hale's talk is entitled "Inside New England From a Native's Point of View" and after dedicating

his life to a magazine devoted to New England, Judson Hale is uniquely qualified to share his stories. Please join us on March 28th as we continue to celebrate our 250th anniversary along with the

stories of New England. Due to space restrictions, please contact Carolyn Quinn, 673-3308 or ccq02@ comcast.net to reserve your place. We look forward to

manac: An editor at Yankee since 1958 and chairman of the board of Yankee Publishing since 2003, Jud's wit and wisdom have established him as a beloved New England icon and expert. He has appeared nationally on Good Morning America, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, and Larry King Live. He has written two books about New England: Inside New England and The Education of a Yankee. His latest book, Discov-

Judson Hale, editor-in- ering Our Faraway Brother, chief of Yankee Magazine is about his autistic older and The Old Farmer's Al-sibling. His monthly online column, "Jud's New England Journal," is credited as the first podcast offered by a consumer magazine. It's available on the Web at YankeeMagazine.com/judsjournal

Born in Boston and raised on a dairy farm in Vanceboro, Maine, Jud graduated from Dartmouth College, class of 1955, in 1958. He also served with the Third Armored Division as a tank

Continued on page 4 ▶



Jud Hale, editor Yankee Magazine and Old Farmer's Almanac

Lean Operating Budgets - Hefty Town Warrant

By Cliff Ann Wales

AMHERST – Voters will be presented with three operating budgets - Town of Amherst, Amherst School District (ASD) and Souhegan Cooperative School District (SCD) on three different ballots. Each board is presenting operating budgets with small increases under 2.5%: Town of Amherst, \$31,074 (0.32%); ASD, \$156,141 ((0.67%); SCD, \$441,105 (2.48%). This is a total operating increase of \$628,320. A tax rate increase of \$0.39. That translates to an increase of \$117 on a \$300,000 assessed property to operate all three districts.

Souhegan Cooperative **School District**

In addition to the \$18,211,827 operating budget (default budget \$18,061,184) on the Souhe-

gan High School ballot, there are two articles to raise and appropriate funds from the unreserved fund balance. Article 3 raises \$50,000 for the expendable trust fund for maintenance of the school. Article 4 raises and appropriates \$25,000 from the undesignated fund balance, surplus, for the unfunded liabilities for retiring employees. The undesignated or unreserved fund balance is the surplus from last year's budget. The Souhegan Advisory Finance Committee supports the operating budget and the two articles.

Amherst School District

The proposed operating budget of \$23,371,144 (default budget \$23,007,421) is article 12 and is the only request to raise and appropriate funds on the Amherst School District ballot. The budget is supported by the Amherst Ways and Means Committee.

Town of Amherst

The Board of Selectmen proposes a FY 2011 operating budget of \$9,760,645 (default \$9,736,214) with a small increase of 0.32% and a tax impact of \$0.02.

There are three bond articles for the town.

Article 22, Road Reconstruction Bond for a total appropriation of \$15 million, of which no more than \$4 million in bods and notes will be issued in any given year. A 60% ballot vote is required to pass. The Selectmen and Ways & Means supports it. Estimated tax impact is \$0.15.

Article 23, Open Space Land Bond for \$2,250,000 for land purchases that meet conservation and passive recreation needs. The Selectmen support it by a 3-2 vote. Ways and Means supports it by a 5-2 vote. Tax impact is \$0.13. A 60% vote is required to pass.

Article 24, Recreation Land Purchase Bond for \$625,000 to purchase land referred to as Brewster Fields to replace Cemetery Field. The Selectmen failed to support this bond on a split vote, 2-2-1. Estimated tax impact is \$0.04. Again a 60% vote is required to

Article 26, Public Health Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program, \$40,000 (\$0.02 tax increase);

Article 27, Municipal Lease to Replace Transfer Station Scale, \$61,785 (\$0.01 tax increase); Article 28, Submission

of Fact Finder's Report, Police Department Employees Union, no tax impact; **Article 29**, Authorization

for a Special Town Meeting

Continued on page 10 ▶

Election Day – March 9

Voting for Town and School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 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.

Amherst Town Library

Meet Henry David Thoreau

AMHERST - The Amherst Town Library is honored to present, "Meet Henry David Thoreau," a living history performance, as the third program of the "Let's Talk History" five-part adult evening series at the Library celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Amherst. Scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Main Reading Room of the Library, this program recreates the earlier appearance of Henry David Thoreau on December 18, 1856 when he gave a lecture at the Congregational Church in Amherst, New Hampshire. Thoreau will be portrayed by Richard Smith, who has studied the life of Thoreau for 10 years; and, since moving to Concord, Massachusetts in 1999, he has successfully performed as Thoreau throughout New

England. Travel back in time to the bitterly cold morning in December 1856 when the thermometer read a bonenumbing -10 degrees, and 39 year-old Henry Thoreau arrived in Amherst, New Hampshire. After some trouble locating it, he found the inn where he was to spend the night, the U.S. Hotel ("an ordinary, unpre-



appears as Thoreau.

tending, desolate-looking country tavern," Thoreau noted) and prepared himself to give a lecture that evening at the Congregational Church. However, Thoreau did not like to give lectures. At a time when his contemporaries, gifted orators like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Wendell Phillips, made their reputations as public speakers, Thoreau avoided the limelight as much as possible. Whereas his friend, Emerson lectured almost 2000 times, Thoreau, by

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