

# People in the News

Keeping it in the family!

## Not One But Two NH Residents Capture National Titles

Little Miss US of America 2011 and Mrs. US of America 2011

All that glitters and is glamorous was found at the Miss US of America Pageant held at the beautiful Sheraton at Bradley Airport in Shelton, CT during the weekend of August 13-14, 2011.

Although the dazzle of the crown is tantalizing, these intelligent young girls and women had an agenda that was even more striking: their platforms. From the awareness of positive self image, to living a healthy heart, body and mind lifestyle, supporting our military, to the importance of education to promoting volunteerism and being a positive role model through girl scouting and beyond, everyone was passionate about their communities and hoped to bring a voice to their cause through the crown.

Participating in the weekend's events kept the contestants busy as they rehearsed for all the stages of competition including Personal Interview, Evening Gown, Talent, Modeling, Outfit of Choice and the opportunity to win a Scholarship Fund. As the drum roll began the new queens were crowned!

Evmorfia Alton of Amherst, NH was crowned Little Miss US of America! The 4th grader who loves to play the piano, sing and dance captivated the judges with her talent and overall performance! She played and sang two of her favorite songs on the piano! "I practiced all summer long for every part of the competition because I knew it was going to be really competitive. There are a



Irene Alton with her daughter, Evmorfia

lot of girls who have been doing these pageants for a long time and for me, it was only my second one, so I had to be extra prepared to have a chance at winning. When they announced my name as the overall winner, I couldn't believe it was me! I looked around thinking it was someone else and then the girl next to me said "it's you, you won, then I looked up at my mom and she was screaming so loud, I just couldn't stop smiling!"

As if that wasn't enough excitement for the Alton family, Irene Raissis Alton of Amherst, NH was also crowned Mrs. US of America 2011! The mother of two works for Fidelity Investments and is also the Executive Director to the Mrs. New Hampshire and Massachusetts United States Pageants. She has built a successful career by merging her lifestyle with her passions. No stranger to pageantry, she has won 2 state titles for New Hampshire where she later competed for the National titles of Mrs. International and Mrs. United States. "I thought I was done competing, but because my daughter wanted to compete, we decided to do it together for the experience, not to mention, would give me peace of mind knowing I would be with her during the backstage production aspects. In pageantry there is a saying, "different day, different judges,

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Girl Scout Troop Bronze Award Project

## Animal Treats for Shelters



AMHERST - Anna, Mary and Jen of Girl Scout Troop #20697 researched and baked home made dog and cat treats to donate to our local shelters for them to use as a way of educating people about some of the things dogs and cats should not have. The recipe for the treats

was included on every package asking others to make more to donate. Also included was a magnetic card inside each bag that people could refer to when deciding whether or not to give their pet a certain type of food. It was a lot of work but we had a great time doing it.

### Moms Club



Members of the Amherst MOMS club baked and donated goodies for the Amherst Fire/Police and EMT departments September 11th Remembrance Ceremony.

### Amherst Garden Club



The first meeting of the Amherst Garden Club was held on Thursday, September 8 at the Amherst Congregational Church. Officers for the 2011-2012 year are Ann Logan, Treasurer, Dawn Burke, Secretary, Sue Alger, President, and Trese Gilligan, Vice-President. The October 6 meeting will feature Bill Graham demonstrating flower arrangements.

## Calling All Girls!

Calling all girls between the ages of 5-17! It's time to discover, connect and take action: It's time to sign up for Girl Scouts!

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains offers more than 100 programs for girls; registration is only \$12 a year. Through Girl Scouting, girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place. They have a blast, make friends, and have new and exciting experiences in the pre-

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