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Schools

Souhegan Envirothon Team Places 2nd in State Competition

AMHERST – This year Souhegan High School fielded two teams of five students each for the 2015 NH Envirothon Competition held on May 20th at New England College. This annual environmentally themed academic competition for high school aged students is sponsored by the National Conservation Foundation. It takes place each spring in both the U.S. and Canada on a regional, state, and bi-national level. The competition assesses students' knowledge in four natural resource topical areas – aquatic ecology, forestry, soils / land use, and wildlife. Teams also prepared a 15 minute presentation for this year's



Some members of SHS first year Envirothon team in the field: Liz Silvia-Chandley, Emma Naprta, Cam Behn and Erica Meehan (left).



Returning SHS Envirothon team with their medals: Alison Haigh, Ivy Buxton, Victoria Dyer, Olivia Masters and Emily Dubois.

current issue problem on urban forestry which they presented before a panel of natural resources specialists and scientists.

The returning 2014 team from SHS achieved 1st place in the aquatic and land use section of the test and took 2nd place in the overall competition from a field of 23 teams. Participants on this team included senior Alison Haigh and juniors Emily Dubois, Victoria

Dyer, Ivy Buxton, and Olivia Masters. SHS second (first year) team included juniors Erica Meehan, Cam Behn, Liz Silvia-Chandley, Patrick Beane, and Emma Naprta. Both teams devoted many hours throughout the year in preparation for the competition. The SHS Envirothon Team Coach, teacher Melissa Chapman, declared "Congratulations to each of the participants for their fine efforts and achievement."



Junior Girl Scouts Maddie Daniel, Morgan Daniel, Jennifer Korkuc, and Maddy McFee recently built and planted a vegetable garden at Wilkins Elementary School along with Mrs. Hansen's 4th grade class. The girls wanted to help teach healthy nutrition and the importance of fresh vegetables as part of their Girl Scout Bronze award project.

► Field of Dreams for Souhegan High School

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munity that supports our young people," said school superintendent, Peter Warburton.

As school enrollments in the region decline due to an aging and shrinking population, many towns are finding innovative means for attracting new families. At an SAU wide strategic planning session, local realtor, Anne McNallen, shared experiences working with potential Amherst home buyers, saying, "Those with children are understandably interested in our schools and extra-curricular activities. A turf field at SHS would be a terrific addition to those conversations." Indeed, a 2010 Gale Report identi-

fied the need for upgraded facilities at Souhegan, including athletic fields, said Souhegan School Board member, Pim Grondstra.

In fact, turf has many benefits. It is a viable solution for fields that have become unsafe "due to overuse or severe climate conditions," according to the non-for-profit organization, Synthetic Turf Council. Its website explains that "an escalating need for durable fields that accommodate multiple sports teams and activities, the high cost of maintaining a grass sports field, and the need to conserve water, have prompted a rising number of schools and parks to turn to synthetic turf to meet

their program needs."

"The Amherst and Mont Vernon communities have a unique and timely opportunity to invest in its high school infrastructure through the generous gift of a community member," said Grondstra. "This is a remarkable chance to significantly improve our facilities in a visible and exciting way with a tangible impact on the community."

The organizers will officially launch the campaign to seek support from the community in the coming weeks in order to make the dream of a turf field a reality.

Sunrise Educators Honored

AMHERST - Regional Services and Education Center's Board of Directors and Nancy Gagnon, Director, Sunrise Children's Center, are excited to honor Bonnie Caldwell of Milford for 25 years of service and Cindy Allen of Amherst for 19 years of Service. "I am delighted to award these Certificates of Appreciation to two outstanding employees who have together given 44 years of service to the children and families of Sunrise. They truly have made a positive difference in the lives of the children who have attended Sunrise," said Sunrise's director, Nancy Gagnon.



The Spring 2015 Girls on the Run team recently brought filled flower pots that they had painted to the Elms nursing home in Milford as part of their team service project. The girls delivered the pots room by room, brightening the day for many of the elderly patients at the home. Girls On The Run is a physical activity based positive youth development program for girls between the ages of 3rd and 8th grade offered both in the Fall and Spring seasons.

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