



ORDER UP — Herb Wilber stacks pancakes for pick-up during the Amherst Lions Club pancake breakfast held Saturday at Christ United Methodist Church. More than 200 breakfasts were served. Along with the raffles, the group raised more than \$3,000 for the Lions Diagnostic Center at the Ira G. Ross Eye Institute in Buffalo.

Photo by Jim Smerecak
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Sweet Home School Board reviews new textbooks, athletic policies

by **MATT CHANDLER**
Reporter

The Sweet Home School Board, at its March 20 meeting, reviewed several new textbooks being proposed by the high school in an ongoing effort to update educational tools and continue to improve Regents scores.

The teachers presented new textbooks for integrated algebra, global history and geography, and the newly developed AP world history. The recommended texts were well received by the board, as the teachers emphasized the extensive research that went into choosing the texts.

Sweet Home history teacher Scott Appolino, speaking on behalf of the AP World History book, explained to the board that only after extensive research and participation in an online AP list-serve group, did they narrow the choice to the text presented.

Appolino told the board, "This was the most highly recommended textbook, over and over." While Appolino acknowledged that there was some criticism of the text focusing too heavily on early civilizations, he noted that the course is designed to be a two-year course, and after reviewing eight to 10 AP history texts, this was the best.

According to Appolino, the new textbooks will also allow for a much more integrated opportunity to learn. With the inclusion of online support materials, Appolino said students will be able to work independently at home, and in some cases will have the opportunity to take online quizzes related to the material. He said this will lead to better comprehension of the material and increase the focus on the New York State curriculum.

In another matter, Athletic Director Chris DeMarco presented a report to the board outlining the current state of athletics programs.

Addressing the participation in athletics, DeMarco said he has seen "tremendous growth over the last several years."

When asked how participation among girls was growing in relation to boys, he said the rate of involvement among girls is on the increase statewide.

The board engaged DeMarco in some debate over the criteria for choosing which high school sporting events charge admission and if it was a profitable venture. Currently, only football and boys basketball charge admission. (Ice hockey charges go to the facility fee charged for use of the arena)

In response to the question of charging for select sporting events, DeMarco acknowledged that it wasn't a money-making effort on the part of the school. "The charging of admission is a way to facilitate crowd control." By employing a ticket taker, DeMarco said it serves both as a way to control who comes and goes during the course of an event and provides an extra set of eyes to assist with problems that may arise.

Addressing revenues raised through ticket sales, School Board President Michael Morrow questioned the system, saying, "It doesn't justify what we pay them (the ticket takers)."

Board Member Dirk Rabenold agreed, asking, "Should this be something that is incorporated into our booster club?"

In response to the debate, Superintendent Geoff Hicks said, "The ticket takers should be called a chaperone." Hicks said that would remove the notion that the paid position was not a money maker.

Finally the board acknowledged retiring high school social studies teacher Paul Sellers and thanked him for his years of dedicated service.

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Business News

Dr. John N. Zilliox, a chiropractor and licensed clinical nutritionist with the Positive Health and Wellness Center, will present a seminar on "Nutritional Approach to Diabetes and Cholesterol" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29 at 3316 Sheridan Drive, between Sweet Home Road and Bailey Avenue, Amherst. Zilliox will also present, "Discovering Wellness, How Staying Healthy Can Make You Rich," at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5. Reservations are required, call 833-1664.

Williamsville resident honored by Hamburg

Williamsville resident Irene Marvin was honored earlier this month by Town of Hamburg Supervisor Steven Walters for her 12 years of "outstanding" service to the German American community, as well as to Club Lorelei. She has served many years as president for the club.

On March 4, Walters presented a proclamation from the Hamburg Town Board naming March 4 as "Irene Marvin Appreciation Day" in Hamburg.

He cited Marvin's warmth, generosity and leader-

ship skills. Her efforts with Club Lorelei, located in Hamburg, have helped it thrive during the years.

She was also honored by Honorary German Consul Christian Koelbl, German Federation President Karl Cole, German newspaper "Volksfreund" editor Burt Erickson Nelson and Erie County Sheriff Timothy Howard, who issued the oath of office to Club Lorelei's trustees.

Approximately 200 members attended from several German American organizations.

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Essay contest winners named

The New York Press Association Foundation will award a \$10,000 prize to a senior from West Hempstead High School.

Melissa J. Bykofsky is the winner of a statewide First Amendment essay contest for 11th- and 12th-grade high school students in New York State. Bykofsky submitted her entry into the first-round regional competition to the Herald Community Newspapers, based in Garden City. She then competed against 40 other regional winners to earn the statewide first-place prize.

The second-place winner was Giselle Jimenez, a senior at The Bronx High School of Science, and third place was awarded to Kathryn McNamara, a senior at Naples Central School.

Students were asked to interpret the First Amendment in their essays and to discuss the role it plays in current-day American life. A total of 41 newspapers, including Bee Group Newspapers, forwarded local winners to NYPA to be entered into the statewide competition.

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