

Yum!? Doughnuts for literacy?



Photo by Roseanne Zarza

Students at Mount Greylock raised almost \$500 this week through the sale of doughnuts to benefit the Rural Literacy Project organized by elementary-school teacher Susan O'Riley. Simon Reinhardt, above left, is one of five students who will travel to Nicaragua or Honduras this summer as part of the effort to help build libraries in Central America. Zoe Remillard, right, also helped with the fund-raising. Other travelers will be Molly Mackin, Henry Sauve, Liz Windover and Emily Stinson.

\$215,000 decline in SPED item helps balance \$9M budget

A \$215,000 decline in the cost of out-of-district placements for special-education students -- down to \$92,950 from \$308,600 in the current year, may be saving additional teaching positions at Mount Greylock, budget documents show.

The proposed \$8.8-million, fiscal 2006 budget -- scheduled for approval by the school board in a matter of days, represents a \$443,388 increase over FY2005 -- growth of 5.3%. It includes the loss of two faculty positions, and no percentage increase (other than contractually-required step increases for seniority advancement) for any faculty.

The cost of employee/retiree benefits is projected to climb by 11.9%, including a 12-14% rise in active-employee health-insurance premiums. The district presently pays 90% of teacher/staff health-insurance premiums.

To start to prepare for a renovation of the building, \$35,000 is budgeted for an en-

gineering study. And \$7,000 is being proposed to pay for the school's membership in a soon-to-be-created K-12 curriculum council.

The council is intended to harmonize what is taught in feeder elementary schools so that students reaching Greylock will have had more similar preparation.

Enrollment is projected to drop to 700 students, down 70 students over two years. In 1999, the school had 833 students.

In that year, the seventh grade had 146 students. Next year, it is projected to have 112 students.

The program budget for athletics is projected to rise to \$155,47 from \$76,247 in FY2005. The building/equipment maintenance budget is propped at \$265,659, up from \$144,449 in FY2005.

For another year, the industrial-arts shop will be used for storage, as the school fails to replace retired faculty in that area.

100 students annually take driver's ed

By Justin Fox

Every year, four driver's education classes are offered at Mt. Greylock in segments of three weeks each.

On average, these classes harbor an annual total of 100 students. Classes meet every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 2:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.. Each day, instructor Tom Murray assigns the class two chapters. This may sound vigorous, but each chapter averages only eight pages. For each chapter, students need to answer section-review questions in a blue booklet and take a quiz consisting of 25 multiple-choice questions and an extremely short essay. Students are allowed to work at their own paces, as long as they keep up with assigned material. Contributing to one's final grade are 18 chapter quizzes, the blue booklet of

answers, and a final test. In order to pass the class, students need at least a 70 percent average and thirty hours of completed classroom time.

When asked how students perform in class, Mr. Murray stated, "It's difficult for them because they want to be in the car, but they come out with an intellectual understanding for driving that they can apply to the road. It all pays off in the end."

Agreeing with Mr. Murray is junior Kael Woodyard, who completed the course in fall of 2004: "The textbook teaches useful bits of technical information that wouldn't be learned from a parent or driving instructor."

The other part of driver's education is "Six and Six," the driving part, which encompasses six hours of driving and six hours

It's down to the wire for senior project completion

By Justin Fox

For seniors, it's down to the wire on Senior Projects -- due April 1.

Back in mid-September, the senior class was put to the task of completing a senior project as yet another graduating proficiency. Each of the 116 seniors was assigned to find a community member to help them research and answer an "essential question." Essential question topics [see listing, Page 2] ranged from architecture, to the stock market, to sports training. Over the course of the year seniors were supposed to meet with mentors for a minimum of 10 hours of fieldwork and learn the answers to their questions by means of hands on experiences.

This project was designed to encompass all the abilities of the student to be a self learner; so generally, there were no daily reminders about finishing the projects. Rather, two meetings were held between October and January to remind students of future deadlines. One check up was conducted during January where all seniors were given passes to go to guidance and check up on projects with teachers Tom Ostheimer and Michael Caraco.

"...[T]his is just another piece of pressure for seniors to deal with when we are already worrying about college and other issues."

First draft of the project papers were due March 14. In order to push students to meet this deadline, free calzone lunches were offered with an early dismissal of around 1:30 p.m. following a peer-review day. A majority of students had not even started their papers prior to this announcement, but after given two-weeks notice, 82 of the one 116 seniors attended this day with papers in hand. Paper drafts ranged from two pages to 10 pages with the average being between four and five.

The review day was set up in the library

Mentors, and / or enforcers?



Ostheimer, Curaco watch over seniors' projects

from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and had students broken up into groups of five or six. Each student was to read the other students papers and give warm and cool feedback along with a comment sheet. The required paper length for the April first, mandatory final draft deadline is eight to ten pages. Seniors are asked to print out five copies for this deadline.

Following the project and completion of the paper, many students have different feelings about the results of the projects. One senior who would like to remain anonymous said, "I don't feel like I've learned anything from it and all it's done has added stress."

The same opinion was stated by Casey Guntlow, "seniors have already accomplished the expected goals and requirements in order to graduate, and this is just another piece of pressure for seniors to deal with when we are already worrying about college and other issues."

Many students have tried to hold discussions with the school committee to get the senior project to be optional instead of required. Other rumors spread about the senior class that some students were going to refuse as a group to do the project. In the end though, the senior project is required to be completed and passed in order to receive a diploma.

INSIDE:

New directors for spring play...p3

Pictures from River City...p3

Wrestlers succeed at Western Mass...p.3

OPINION/ANALYSIS

Greylock senior offers a first-person account of a visit to Haiti

By Leo Pucklis

Two and a half years ago, 1999 MGRHS graduate Ben Erickson recommended that I go to Haiti as part of the Haiti Plunge, part out by the COTY Youth Center in North Adams Mass. Lead by Sister Eunice Tassone the Haiti plunge is a program that has established a cooperative of nine Haitian villages and have been taking them through the stages of early development over the past 22 years so that one day these nine villages can become self-sufficient. With the help of donations and fundraising efforts the Haiti Plunge has brought houses, trees, a school, a church, a bakery, and medial facilities to these nine villages.

Now take a look at the picture to the right of JeffTee. The 12 year old Haitian boy I am standing next to is the only boy in a 14-sibling household. As a child he was so malnourished that he grew barely at all. Even though he eats every day now, he still grows and gains weight at half the rate average American children do. He wears only pink clothing – not by choice, but because his hand-me-downs are all from his older sisters.

He is the type of kid you see in those infomercials where some missionary is holding a baby and asking the viewer to sponsor a child, where for less then \$100 a year that child is given a bowl of rice everyday and can attend school. JeffTee is sponsored, and for \$100 is given a piece of bread and a cup everyday. Every morning he walks six miles one way with his sisters to the Desabe Primary School, where he is taught basic reading and writing in Creole (Haiti's language is a combination of Spanish, French, Portuguese and several tribal African



languages), arithmetic, and some history. His knowledge is roughly equivalent to that of a 3rd or 4th grader. Most people would take this educational structure a sign that Haitians are not as smart as other people, but that is not

JeffTee lives in a country that has had seven coups in 12 years.

it at all; the children start school when they are eight because two out of every five children under the age of seven die of disease. This boy, if picked up and plopped in the Berkshires would be attending Mt. Greylock as a seventh grader. He lives in a world that has had seven coups in the last 12 years, in a world where our judgment of him and his country is fueled by propaganda from media sources such as CNN and FOX Network.

In a country where the average life expectancy is 43 and the average yearly wage of a working Haitian is 400 Haitian dollars (or about the equivalent to \$80) there is only the daily fight to avoid disease stay alive and not watch your children die from malnourishment. The Haitian people have nobody to rise against and to blame for there problems, they can't storm the borders or fly bombs into the U.S. and French capitals because 200 years ago we destroyed there livelihood and left them on an island to die.

So the Haitian people look to religion as there only hope. Spending fourhours a day in church and almost nine hours on holidays, Haitians pray for peace in there country, and for food. JeffTee comes from a long line of slaves who were left on Haiti when the resources ran out and the slave owners had no use for them anymore.

Senior projects listed

EDITORS' NOTE -- Here is a list of *senior projects at Mount Greylock this year, alphabetically by student, with the essential question each project answers.*

Acheson, Alexander — To what extent can I understand and predict the fluctuations in the stock market?

Alcaro, Gregory — To what extent does the death penalty act as a deterrent?

Appelbaum, Joshua — To what extent has the management and ownership of the Boston Red Sox contributed or detracted from their quest of winning a World Series title?

Bailey, Damaris — How can I learn African step dance through observation, research, and practice? — Baldwin, Matthew — How does one plan, organize, execute, and then evaluate the overall merit of an outdoor bench with two planters? — Bates, Amanda — How is science affiliated with cosmetology today?

Beattie, Erin — What is happening at the chemical level of cooking and why do certain cooking tips work? Bedard, Megan — How can the daily behavior of young children be most effectively managed though diet and healthy living habits?

Bell, Kiersten — To what extent does a personal faith manifest itself in the decisions of adolescents? Bird, Alexander — What is the importance of photography in documenting events?

Boehringer, Stefan — More and more high school students are purchasing automobiles. In this growing trend is there a car or truck that will best suit the financial, quality and transportation needs? — Brazee, Kevin — To what extent can the logging industry preserve the environment while appreciating a meaningful profit?

Briguglio, Claire — How does fashion challenge the definitions of traditional art? Buckler, Katherine — How can I put together a children's book about fairies with my artwork?

How can I write, record, and produce a cd of self-composed music? Burnham, Brandon — What are the reasons for getting a tattoo, the steps of getting a tattoo and what effects can it have on your body?

Calderwood, Carissa — How can I learn to make a good Tiffany lamp? Casey ConorHow can I learn the skills necessary to open a used book store in Williamstown?

Chhuon, Sary — To what extent does culture influence ethnic food? Christie, Joshua — How can I save money by maintaining and servicing my own vehicle?

Chum, Than — How does a small business owner compete against the larger chain businesses? Coniglio, Stuart — How can I build a basic wood burning stove that would most efficiently heat a small ice fishing shack?

Cooke, Miranda — How can I create an automotive repair web site?

Curtiss, James — How can I develop an aptitude for writing and decrypting codes?

DeMatteo, Mary — How can I most effectively produce a dessert cookbook?

DeMatteo, Max — How can I use yoga to improve my athletic achievement in cross-country skiing and/or track and field?

Demo, Nathan — What does it take to become a firefighter and what does it take to advance?

DeSanty, Danielle — To what extent does an effective athletic trainer influence the athletics of a college or university?

DeWitt, Erica — To what extent does advertising affect women's self-image?

Dias, Jodi — To what extent can specified exercise regiments and nutritional balance yield optimum training for an alpine ski racer?

Dow, Ashleigh — To what extent does our daily life impact the content of our dreams?

Dufour-Martinez, Ashley — How would lowering the drinking age influence teenage drinking habits?

Durfee, Leigha — How can I design a room to enhance one's mood?

Emmons, Sarah — How does a traditional learning environment negatively affect students with untraditional learning needs?

Fedotowsky, Michael — To what extent does dodgeball have a negative influence on the development of adolescents?

Finan, Rachel — To what extent can "performance enhancing" food and timing of meals affect the performance of athletes?

Flynn, Patrick — How has special forces training changed as the foreign policy of the U.S. has changed throughout history.

Flynn-Kasuba, Ryan — To what extent can proper training help me to run a sub 4:40 mile?

Fowle, Jesse — How can two amateurs create a high quality snowboarding video?

Fox, Justin — To what extent can certain training regiments bring about better pitching speed, accuracy and overall effectiveness? — Frank, Amanda — To what extent can I express myself through stained glass?

Frank, Graham — To what extent has the sport of fly-fishing evolved in the last 400 years? How is it going to change in the years to come?

Garcia, Emily — Does the unique genre of gospel rely more on the performer's passion for the music's subject rather than on his/her technical skill?

Garivaltis, James — To what extent does a government leader need to understand psychology in order to gain power and popularity?

Girard, Jon — How can wrestling bring about the successful ingredients required for adulthood?

Gmuer-Johnson, Danae — How is the illicit sale of conflict diamonds impacting the countries of Africa?

Greene, Robert — What can we do to save small farms from disappearing so quickly from the Northeast?

Guntlow, Casey — To what extent does stress negatively impact teenagers, and what are the overall causes/impacts? — Hamblin, Sawyer — To what extent can an athlete hope to return to a competitive level after sustaining a significant knee injury?

Heno-Coe, Gilles — To what extent can an art conservator preserve artistic integrity for future generations?

Hirsch, Sarah — How can I write, direct, and produce an entertaining musical?

Hogan, Daniel — To what extent do the physical and psychological training strategies used by the armed forces differ from the strategies used in training for team sports?

Jones, Keith — How can one decide the best overall set up for a snowmobile based on riding conditions?

Kaiser, Nicholas — How can a hot rod be customized to reflect the personality of the owner?

Kalisz, Samantha — How can a young writer get a book published?

Kasuba, Thomas — How can I learn the process needed to wisely select and purchase mutual funds?

Larson, Michael — To what extent is there a common bond between injury prevention and improving performance for athletes?

Lucido, Michael — To what extent does psychology affect a Quarterbacks performance on the field?

Lynch, Robert — How has rock n' roll music evolved since the 1950's?

Mansen, Derek — To what extent can I design a control scheme that is ergonomically sound yet still flexible enough to be used in a number of very different applications?

Margulies-Major, Chloe — To what extent can pottery, painting and sculpture forge different connections (for both the artist and the audience) from a cognitive, emotional and physical perspective? — Mason, Carly — How can an architectural design best prepare a house for its surrounding climate and environment?

Mason, Emily — How important is physical education for elementary aged children?

McCarthy, Ashley — What are the three major aspects of photography that affect the finished outcome?

McCarthy, Colin — How can I teach the proper mechanics of golf and help an individual to improve their golf game?

McKeen, Benjamin — How does a foreign culture affect and enhance the local cuisine?

Moody, Lara — To what extent is hypnosis real?

Murdock, Amy — How does love effect our mind and body?

Nawazelski, Michael — How can music therapy be used to reduce stress?

Newton, Nathaniel — How does one achieve a professional finish after an automobile has been prepared and is ready to spray?

Parker, Marie — To what extent can coastlines be salvaged from erosion?

Patel, Chirag — To what extent can genetic manipulation enhance or compromise the nutritional attributes of food?

Petricca, Tristan — How does a certain method of physical and mental training, create a certain lacrosse player?

Phelps, Daniel — How can a photographer most effectively capture the energy of sports through a still photo?

Piatczyc, Sasha — Why does domestic violence occur?

Pilat, Benjamin — How to build a compute a individual's needs?

Pucklis, Leon — How did weather effect the Northeastern Indians of the archaic period?

Quagliano, Anthony — How can physical therapy effectively prevent or rehabilitate injuries compared to how occupational therapists enhance the lives of people with multiple handicaps?

Quinn, Bobby — How can small adjustments to parts of a violin affect the quality of the instrument?

Rancourt, Justin — To what extent could the US continue its domestic and global goals with a smaller military that was supported in time of crisis with reserves or a militia?

Raney, Arthur — How can students who are unable to speak communicate?

Remillard, Zoe — What is included in the process of making an acoustic audio CD of original music?

Resio, Benjamin — How can troubleshooting be used to diagnose a faulty one cylinder combustion engine?

Roach, Bryan — How hard is it to obtain you pilot's license and what are the challenges with flying?

Robichaud, Jason — How can I film and create a quality skate and snowboarding video?

Rock, Devin — To what extent do building codes ensure adequate integrity given the demands of our environment?

Rothschild, Aaron — To what extent did the childhood xperiences of Alexander Hamilton prepare him to be a founding father of the United States?

Sayers, Timothy — What does it take to be a firefighter in today's times and politics?

Schapiro, Matthew — What is the best way to win money at a casino?

Schelling, Kelsey — To what extent has my experience as a stage actor influenced my role and my objectives as a director?

Simon, Denna — How can a veterinary technician most ffectively support an animal hospital?

Smith, Henry — How can sound and film react with one another to change an audience's perception of moving images?

Snow, Jacob — How can I transform an interest and talent for poetry into a performing art?

St. Clair, Paul — How can gardens be best designed and placed to promote learning and reduce stress in an academic environment?

Stinson, Emily — How can battery pollution be most effectively reduced in our community?

Sweet, Brian — To what extent has Harley Davidson advanced the design of their motors (from 1966 to present) and how can a consumer continue to enhance the performance, reliability and efficiency?

Sylvester, Sarah — How can an artist reflect different moods through the use of various styles of art?

Thier, David — To what extent can the timbre or structure of a certain instrument, particularly the banjo, affect its use in certain styles of music?

Thornton, Angelyn — How important is behind-the-scenes work to the production of a play?

Torra, John — To what extent have changes in the American diet led to obesity?

Trites, Austin — How can I compose the first movement of a piano sonata?

Trombley, Richard — How does wrestling bring out a person's character and what kind of character might it bring out?

Truedsson, Carl — To what extent does fluency in one language, Swedish, affect the acquisition of a related language, German?

Truskowski, Sarah — How can my mood at the time of composing, affect the outcome of a song? — Vinette, Jereme — How is music performance refined as it is practiced for a jazz recording?

Vogel, Lauren — How do Autistic children react differently in certain social settings?

Webb, Cody — How do I go about becoming a beginner in the art of glassblowing and also learn how to make glass that's not only aesthetically pleasing but also practical: 1- How much of glass blowing is art and how much of glass blowing is for particle use? 2- How can I prepare myself to become a beginner in the art of glass blowing and what are the basics of glass are?

Wateley, Sarah — How can the architectural structures of a high school building affect education?

Wheeler, Andrew — How can the sound of an electric guitar be altered?

Wheeler, Nicole — To what degree is art therapy an effective method for dealing with painful experiences?

White, Samuel — What is the appeal of motion pictures as a medium?

Whitney, Amanda — How can I design a room to enhance one's mood?

Williams, Jacob — How does video taping and picture taking affect my ability to skateboard to my best ability?

Williams, Michael — How does a volunteer fire department (specifically for a small community) ensure appropriate training and readiness for their department?

Windover, Elizabeth — To what extent is science integral to a self-created piece of pottery?

Wood, ThiVan — To what extent does the quality and quantity of a teenager's sleep impact their athletic performance?

Wooliver, Courtney — How can I develop the skills and techniques necessary to effectively capture an active scene?

NEWS/ARTS

Actors' growth priority in staging of Man Who Came to Dinner

By Rachel Payne

Rehearsal is underway for this year's spring play, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. The three-act comedy, which will be directed by seniors Zoe Remillard and Kelsey Schelling, was written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart.

Schelling and Remillard, neither of whom have prior experience as directors, are feeling confident: their experience as actors will inform their decisions. "We have noticed what works and what doesn't work for directors," said Schelling, "because as actors we've been able to observe" how much freedom should be allowed to the

individuals onstage. She did, however, note the difficulty of having to direct her peers. Familiarity with the cast and authority must be carefully balanced. Experiences with the group, however, have given Zoe Remillard an optimistic outlook, and she appreciates all the energy, enthusiasm, and respect she has seen so far.

Teacher Tom Ostheimer will be providing guidance through out production. Both girls voiced their eagerness for his suggestions and criticisms of their direction. He was also active in the casting process. Nonetheless, said Schelling, "it's our show."

As for their goals as directors, both named the growth

of the actors as a top priority. "I want to see a lot of different acting," said Remillard. "There are so many people that are talented," and she hopes to push each one to "become a different person." Schelling echoed the desire to get the cast to move beyond the characterization that they are accustomed to and reach for something new.

Kelsey and Zoe, who have known each other almost since birth and have shared the Mount Greylock stage many times, are eager for the novel experience of directing and intend to put forth a comedy that is energetic and entertaining. "We want an exciting show," said Kelsey; "we don't want a boring show."

'Service learning' info session set April 11

In order to increase student participation in community service activities, the Mt. Greylock Regional High School service learning coordinators are holding a community morning meeting for interested students and community members on Monday, April 11th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., according to Evadne Giannini, the school's service-learning coordinator.

She said the purpose of the meeting is to give both students and community organizations a chance to meet each other and become acquainted with the variety of volunteer service learning opportunities in the Mt. Greylock community. Interested individuals should contact Giannini, at evadneg@earthlink.net.

Overland sets March 24 information session for summer travel grants; up to \$3,400 in aid available

A Williamstown-based summer travel program is offering up to 50 partial scholarships to area students to give back to the region it calls home.

Tom Costley, director and founder of Overland Travel Inc., says this year's program of partial scholarships is being offered only to teenagers in the Northern Berkshire area.

The application deadline is April 1, and Overland is holding a one-hour information session at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, to outline the programs available and the application process. The meeting will be at Overland's offices at 63 Spring St., in Williamstown. Seating is limited and reservations are appreciated: 458-9672 or info@overlandsummers.com.

Overland offers hiking, bicycling, service and language study abroad programs in the United States and abroad to over 900 students ages 12-18 from across the country and around the world. Each program emphasizes an outdoor experience, language learning, or community service. Programs cost from \$2,400 to \$6,000; the partial scholarships offer a grant of \$1,000 to \$3,400 toward the program fee.

"We have done this on an informal basis for over 10 years," says Costley. "But we feel that the time has come to publicize our scholarship program more broadly." Costley says interested students should obtain an Overland catalog (go online to: www.overlandsummers.com to request one), complete the application and submit it by the April 1 deadline. Overland will notify all applicants by mid-April.

SPORTS



Matt Clement pins an opponent.

Western Mass. wrestling results

1st Place: 119 lbs. – Jon Girard (won by Major Decision); 152 – Jeff Brodeur (Decision)

189 – Tony Quagliano (Pin); 275 – Mike Williams (Pin)

2nd Place: 112 – Nikki Darrow (lost by Decision)

3rd Place: 130 – Matt Clement (Decision); 171 – Colin MacDonald (Pin)

5th Place: 215 – Jon LaCasse (Decision)

All wrestlers who placed 1st through 5th will advance to this weekend's Division III State Wrestling Tournament, held at Taconic High School.

Also, wrestlers Jon Girard and Tony Quagliano were recently recognized for never losing a dual meet in Berkshire County, each maintaining a perfect 66-0 record.



Photo courtesy Hank Gold

'Music Man' photos on web, disk

Photos of the MGRHS production of *The Music Man*, Feb. 24-26, may be viewed online at The Echo portion of the school website, and may be ordered on CD from photographers Karen and Hank Gold. (karengold@yahoo.com)

The Greylock Echo

The Mount Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Published monthly during the academic year, each issue is developed and edited by a team of editors and writers. Any Mt. Greylock student may join the staff, attend meetings and submit articles.

Next issue:

Fri., April 15, 2005

Deadline:

Fri., April 8, 2005

Staff meeting:

Tues., March 22, 2005

Staff meetings are open any Mt. Greylock student and are held at 2:30 p.m. in the back of the Carleson Library.

Editors-in-Chief

Carl Kubler, Kejia Tang

This month's Staff

Justin Fox, Leo Pucklis, Roseanna Zarza, Kejia Tang, Carl Kubler, Nate Wooters, Rachel Payne.

Mount Greylock Echo
Mt. Greylock Regional High School
1781 Cold Spring Road
Williamstown MA 01267
(413) 458-9582
all submissions:
echo@newshare.com

Rejected

by Nate Wooters



THEATER

All Hail Harold Hill! . . . Feb. 24-26, 2005

All photos courtesy of Hank Gold



Charming the ladies of River City, from left to right: Britney Frasier, Lucy White, Ananda Plunkett, Kelsey Schelling, Aurie Delano



Professor Harold Hill (Aurie Delano) gives little Winthrop some lessons in confidence



Above: Marian (Tara Young) and Harold, exchanging a warm, Rivercity greeting



Above: You've got trouble, ooohhh you've got trouble

Below: Hi Mrs. Shinn, you know where our daughter was last night? Left to right: Kelsey Schelling, Charles Cochran, Lizzie Fox

Below: No way! How could you have gone legit? From left: Aurie Delano, Jesse MacDonald

