Friday, November 16, 2007

Lanesboro and Williamstown investigate the future

Officials ask: Is a superintendency union in both towns' best interest?

By Shannon Young

With the announcement that Lanesboro's Elementary Supt. William Ballen's will retire at the end of the 2007-08 school year, the Lanesboro School District along with the Williamstown School District have investigated a possible union between the two elementary schools.

Under the proposed plan, Lanesboro Elementary School, which currently is participating in a Superintendency Union (Union 69) with the towns of New Ashford, Richmond and Hancock, would exit the Union with the consent of the other union members and create a new Superintendency Union with the Williamstown Elementary School.

The schools would continue to operate separately, each retaining its own School Committee, budget, and school policies, while sharing a superintendent, elected by the Union Committee, along with other faculty members. Under this plan, the union budget as well as staff and resource issues would be discussed no less than twice a year, by three representatives from the School Committee of each town.

The concept of a Lanesboro-Williamstown school union has been proposed for nearly 40 years, as study groups of citizens from Lanesboro, Williamstown, Hancock, and New Ashford have investigated the regionalization barriers. In the past two years, the Lanesboro study group's focus has been around the essential question of: "Is it in the best interest of the towns of Lanesboro, Williamstown, Hancock, and New Ashford financially, educationally, and community-wise to reorganize their school districts? If so, how can this best be done?" In the Sept. 20 memorandum the study group detailed academic, demographic, social, political, and administrative issues involved in the decision. They focused on the option of a Lanesboro-Williamstown Superintendency Union. The



Photos By: Shannon Young

Above: Lanesboro Elementary School, built in 2002 **Left: Williamstown Elementary** School, built 2003

the members of Union 69 (Hancock, New Ashford, and Richmond) continuing their school union without Lanesboro.

See UNION on page 3

Meet the new school nurse



Photo By: Echo Staff

In a effort to welcome new staff members to the Mt. Greylock Community, the Echo continues its feature of new staff interviews.

By Davinica Nemtzow

What is your name? Nichole Berry RN. Where do you come from? I've lived in North Adams my whole life.

What are your goals here at Mount Greylock?

I first began my career at North Adams Regional Hospital caring for patients from birth to elderly. While working at the hospital, I see first hand what poor health can do. My goal is to teach and help others to maintain good health at a young age.

Are there any changes from the way Mrs. Dubendorf handled

Mrs. Dubendorf is an incredible nurse and teacher. I am sure I will learn my own style of work. I am thankful for everything she has shown me.

What are your concerns about the schools public health/ nutrition?

From what I understand the school is doing an excellent job with nutrition. I look forward to helping students acquire a healthy lifestyle.

When should it be appropriate for students to stay home?

A student should stay home ONLY if their illness will interfere with others health or education.

A middle school in Maine is giving out birth-control pills to students, would Mt. Greylock do anything like that?

I am new to this job. This question is complex and I am interested in exploring

What do you like about MG? What do you think could be changed? (Nutrition, overall health, medical knowledge)

Mt. Greylock seems like a nice place to work. I am sure that I will discover the things we do really well and those things that I can help work on.

It takes the cake: Where'd You Learn That program really cooks

By Marta Kowitz

Over the past few weeks, middle school students have had the chance to participate in the Where'd You Learn That?! program after school.

WYLT provides an opportunity for students to partake in extracurricular activities aside from the ever-popular options of sports and theater.

The program offers nine distinctive courses ranging from bread baking to animation and Irish dancing to the culture of Chinatown.

Classes take place at the school or on the Williams campus, and are taught by

also get a chance to learn valuable and impressive skills. Favorite courses in the past have been hip-hop dancing, rock-climbing, and scrapbooking, while this year cooking classes seem to be taking the cake.

With each course only lasting for three weeks, students are exposed to the basics of nifty skills but don't have to make a huge time commitment, as with sports and other activities.

Where'd You Learn That?! has not only expanded the middle school's repertoire of extracurricular options, but it has broadened the horizons of the students participating in it as well.

Students are exposed to the basics of nifty skills but don't have to make a huge time commitment.

talented college students and community

Where'd You Learn That?! is modeled after the extremely successful Adventures in Learning program, which began at the Williamstown Elementary School in 1994. Though Adventures in Learning has been going strong for many years, this is only the third season of Where'd You Learn That?!.

\WYLT made its debut in the spring of 2006, but now takes place between the fall and winter sports seasons each year. Small class sizes of about 10-15 kids allow the middle schoolers from different towns to get to know each other.

As the students make new friends, they

IINZIDE

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IDANCE/OPINION

By Guidance Department & Echo Staff

The most stressful of semester of a high school student's career is often the fall of his or her senior year. In addition to the regular load of nightly homework, sports practice, jobs, and other activities, many seniors find themselves in the nightmare known as the college application process. Whether applying early decision, early action, or just normally the stress of applying to college is inevitable. In an attempt to alleviate some of this stress, the Echo has, with the help of the Guidance Department, assimilated a list of important tips, information, and dates that are important in the application process.

What is the Common Application?

The Common Application is a standardized application accepted by over 275 colleges in the United States. Filled out either online or in person, the Common Application's simplified process allows for more applications to be sent with less effort. While some schools offer the option of filling out either the Common App. or the school's specific application, a majority of schools require the Common Application and the school's supplement form. The Common Application is available at www.commonapp.org.

Common Application Tips

- Give yourself enough time before your deadline to fill out the application thoughtfully and thor-
- Make sure you have completed any supplement forms required by your school (including
- Once completed, review and print your application before sending for proofreading.
- Schedule an appointment with your Guidance Counselor if you have any questions regarding the Common Application or application process.
- Ask an English teacher to review your essay for grammar and spelling mistakes.
- Don't wait until the last minute to start your Common Application.

Admissions Options in Higher Education

Regular Decision:

Non-binding

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

Rolling Admissions: Non-binding

Steps to Complete Your **Applications**

- Schedule a conference with your counselor at least four weeks before your earliest application deadline. Be sure your counselor has your completed Student Data Sheet before your appointment. Your counselor cannot send your transcript or write your college recommendation until you've had this conference.
- Go online, call, or write colleges for application forms. The Guidance Office has an application file from which you can take application forms for some colleges and the Common Application.
- Using the "pink sheet," make a request to Mrs. Rioux for the submission of your high school transcript and counselor recommendation. Guidance must receive your request at least three weeks before the application deadline. If the application deadline is Jan. 1 through 15, Guidance must receive your request no later than November 21. Attach the School Report Form or Counselor Report Form with your "pink sheet" if one is provided in your application packet.
 - Arrange for teacher recommendations.
- Guidance submits counselor recommendations and official transcripts. You are responsible for coordinating and sending all other correspondence. In rare circumstances where your college requires everything in one complete packet, see your counselor!
 - Send your SAT and/or ACT scores to the college.
- As you begin hearing back from colleges, let your counselor or Mrs. Rioux know whether or not you've been accepted and where you plan to attend.

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

Early Action: Non-binding

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

Early Decision:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

Restrictive Early Action:

Non-binding

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Nov. 21: Applicants with a either a December 15 or January 1 deadline must submit their pink "request sheet" to the Guidance department by this date.

Dec. 1: December SATs and Subject Tests are given

Dec. 8: December ACTs are given

Dec. 15: Applications Due (for some schools) Dec. 26: Registration for Jan. SATs ends Jan. 1: Applications Due (for some schools) **Jan. 4:** Registration for Feb. ACTs ends

Jan. 26: January SATs and Subject Tests are given

Feb. 9: February ACTs are given

Your Essay

Most applications have an essay question. A good essay can be the determining factor in your college acceptance. Treat the college essay as you would an important critical analysis paper for English: do an outline, several drafts, and a final version. Get help from your English teacher. Good essays take time so begin well ahead of your application deadline.

Treat the college essay as you would an important critical analysis paper for **English**

Many of the most convincing applications are those written by students who show a passion for something the college offers. Remember, the most important thing about the application essay is not how well you write but what you write.

SAT Versus ACT

	SAT	ACT
When is it administered?	Seven times per year	Six times per year
What is the test structure?	Ten-section exam: Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental. The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.	Four-section exam: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental.
What is the test content?	Math: up to 9th grade basic geometry and Algebra II. Science: none. Reading: sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension. Writing: an essay, and questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice.	Math: up to trigonometry. Science: charts, experiments. Reading: four passages, one each of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science. English: stresses grammar.
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes	No
How is the test scored?	200-800 per section, added together for a combined score. A 2400 is the highest possible combined score.	1-36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score. A 36 is the highest possible composite score.
Are all scores sent to schools?	Yes. If a student requests a score report be sent to specific colleges, the report will include the scores the student received on every SAT taken.	No. There is a "Score Choice" option. Students can choose which schools will receive their scores AND which scores the schools will see.
Are there other uses for the exams?	Scholarship purposes.	Scholarship purposes. Certain statewide testing programs.
Best time to register?	At least six weeks before the test date	At least four weeks before the test date
Need more information?	Educational Testing Service (ETS) (609) 771-7600 www.ets.org	ACT, Inc.: (319) 337-1000 www.ACT.org

Courtesy of Princeton Review http://www.princetonreview.com/college/testprep/testprep.asp?TPRPAGE=141

Required Form Checklist:

- Completed application form & supplements (if common app.)
- Paid application fee
- Official high school transcript (submitted by Guidance)
- _ Teacher recommendation
- Counselor recommendation/ report form
- Parent "brag" sheet (to Guidance)
- Pink request form (to Guidance)
- Official report of test scores
- Early Decision Agreement (if applicable)
- __ School Report Form (to Guidance)

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NEWS/ARTS

Shakespeare and Company's Romeo & Juliet



Photos Courtesy of Karen and Hank Gold

Calling all Thespians!

Shakespeare and Company's 19th Annual Fall Festival takes place this weekend, November 15-18 at Founders' Theatre in Lenox. Mt. Greylock's Romeo and Juliet will be performed Friday, Nov. 16 at 6:30p.m. Hope to see you there!





UNION

Continued from Page 1

Advantages of this new union between Lanesboro and Williamstown would include a closer relationship between the two schools with the possibility of future regionalization, elementary curriculum alignment through a single administrative team, and expected budgetary savings through a shared Superintendent and other staff members. In addition to these advantages, the unionization of the two elementary schools may enhance both towns' ability to secure a new high school approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Though the advantages of this proposal seem numerous, unfavorable and challenging situations that could arise from this union include personnel costs, dual town agreement on the hiring/contracting of the new superintendent, and both districts accountability for Adequate Yearly Progress as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act.

As the school year progresses, both towns will continue to investigate the possibility of a future school union. Additional information regarding the School Union Re-organization may be obtained at the Lanesboro School Committee meeting, Tuesday November 20, at 7pm, hosted in the library of the Lanesboro Elementary School.







Big changes at the ABC house, as new directors, students arrive

By Gina Iannitelli

At the beginning of the 2007-08 school year, the A Better Chance program (ABC) of Williamstown, with a residence on Hoxsey Avenue experienced numerous alterations. First, they received new resident directors.

Thomas Alexander and Joiel Ray-Alexander, after the departure of former directors Megan Jennings and Mike Dostal. The house also welcomed two Mount Greylock freshmen this year, Nolan Roy of Brooklyn, NY, and Christin Alayon of Bronx, NY.

The mission statement of the ABC program is "to substantially increase the number of under-represented youth assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society." Throughout the school year, seven to eight students from different cities such as Philadelphia and New York City live in a house along with their resident directors in Williamstown. The current students are Jonayah Jackson ('08), Anthony Bellmon ('08), Jordan Adames ('09), Gina Riggins ('09), Ty-kia Hay ('10), Nolan and Christin ('11).

The guidelines for staying in the program involve maintaining a B- average, and the students are pushed to take a challenging class load. The objective is to prepare the students for further education. Roy explains that his mom introduced him to the program and signed him up, while Alayon's school, KIPP, had numerous connections to programs with the same objectives as ABC.

Roy and Alayon offered their thoughts

on the new situation. "What I like about Mount Greylock/Williams are the teachers," says Roy. "I personally think they are very understanding and caring."

Alayon agrees with Roy's positive and Alayon. He was an ABC student as well, coming from the Bronx to Williamstown for a summer and eventually attending school in Connecticut. Currently, he is the MCLA Coordinator for ALANA and International Student Programs and Services.

His wife, Joiel Ray-Alexander, is a talkshow host, motivational speaker, and also works in fitness. She has received multiple awards, including the NYS Governor's Tribute to African American Leaders of Excellence in State Service, as well as the Visions for Life Award from the Albany Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

So far, the ABC program is looking forward to another successful year with its new members. "My favorite hobby is mainly having fun; any sport makes me happy," says Nolan Roy. Alayon concurs again: "I just like to hang out with friends. I love to meet new people!"

Anyone with questions regarding the ABC program can visit http://greylockabc.org/program.

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., Dec. 21, 2007 Deadline: Thurs., Dec. 13, 2007 Staff meeting: Mon., Dec. 3, 2007 Staff meetings, open any to Mt. Greylock student, are held at 2:30 p.m. in Mr. Niemeyer's Room (54) Issue Editor

Shannon Young

This month's Staff

Melody Edwards, Marta Kowitz, Shannon Young, Sean Peltier, Davinica Nemtzow, Gina Iannitelli, Matt Baker-White

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SPORTS

The Greylock Echo

Mt. Greylock says goodbye to senior fall athletes

By: Sean Peltier

Recently, something has hit this writer harder then John Lucido hits would-be ball carriers. A cycle that has been occurring for years has started once again, only this time I'm included.

The year of ceremonies and teary farewells has begun as yet another crop of senior student-athletes prepare to graduate from Mount Greylock Regional High School. I began to realize just how imminent the future is during a post race cross-country meeting.

Coach Burdick paused to congratulate the large number of us that had run personal bests on the course and commented that he looked forward to us running there again next year. I smiled until I realized that for me, there was no next year.

In a region dominated by Red Sox fans perhaps that ideal is hard for us to grasp, but the fact remains, the clock is running on our high school careers, let's make the most of the time remaining.

Being a high school sports fan is a lot like being a Minor League baseball fan, you watch a young athlete develop into his full potential and just as you're getting used to cheering for him, he moves on to better things.

Yet while this is happening, to me, some bright eyed middle-schooler is slipping on cross-country spikes for the first time with a gleeful look in his eyes. Who knows, six years from now he may be a state cham-

During this fall's sports season, every team with the exception of the football squad enjoyed successful campaigns. The volleyball team, lead by senior captains Ashley Bouchard, Meaghan Stiles, and Katy Markland advanced to the second round of the Western Mass. Tournament after their most successful volleyball season to date.

Though for many, it's almost impossible to picture the team without Bouch, Stiles,



Blair Dils coaches a JV and Varsity boys soccer practice.

Photo by: Shannon Young

and Markland, there's a small part of even myself that looks forward to the era of Chelsea Garrison and Mary Whittaker.

The girls soccer team, a squad filled by mostly seniors went from a sub .500 season last year, to a fine showing in the Western Mass Tourney.

Despite the loss of his seniors, Coach Tom Ostheimer has a number of up-andcoming stars to work with, including the likes of Karampotsos and Houston to lead the charge.

The boys' team fell in overtime of the Western Mass. finals 1-0 to Hampshire. The

senior-laden squad, lead by Condron, Galli, and Mason, will now turn to juniors Than Finan, Alvand Hadjizahdah and sophomore Taylor Foehl for the 2008-09

The only two fall sports teams left alive at this time are the boys and girls crosscountry teams.

The boys, lead by senior and Western Mass. champion Nick Fogel, as well as 5th man, Peter Glover, will look to junior Patrick Joslin, a superb sophomore class and middle school phenom Matt Chueng.

The girls' team, perhaps the deepest in

school history, will miss senior, Lindley Bell. But the squad features a number of talented middle school runners. Both the boys and girls will compete in the state meet at Gardiner this weekend.

Some people, it seems, are determined to go throughout their senior year in a zombielike state, just waiting for high school to be

Don't be that zombie. Play a little harder, cheer a little louder, and when debating whether or not to attend an event, go. We have the rest of our lives to be burdened by ridiculous amounts of work -- seize the day.

Volleyball bounds and leaps to 14-4 season behind Lee

By Melody Edwards and Marta Kowitz

On the night of Nov. 2, the Greylock Mounties and the Ware Indians found themselves head to head, battling for the chance to advance in the Western Mass Tournament. Though eleventh-seeded Ware arrived with a furious desire to claim a victory, they just couldn't handle the heat that the No. 6 Mounties brought to the floor.

Greylock made quick work of the first game, pulling ahead early and winning with a score of 25-11. In game two, the Indians tried to recover from the one game deficit, forcing the Mounties to step up their already solid serving and

Despite the Indians' effort, the Mounties eventually brought the significantly closer second game to an end with a 25-23 win. With the intent of neatly wrapping up the match, Greylock kept the fire burning throughout the third

Ware, attempting desperately to prolong the fight, pulled out the stops with vocal encouragement and floor burninducing dives. Nevertheless, the Mounties were already speeding along the road to victory.

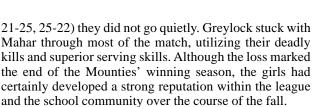
These seniors have improved every step of the way, going from a winless first season, to being one of the most feared teams in the league this year.

The match was concluded with a rocketing spike by junior Chelsea Garrison, leaving the third game with a score of 25-19. As the crowd erupted in jubilant applause, the team spilled onto the floor, forming a jumping mass of joy. They were one step closer to the Western Mass title.

Only three days after their resounding defeat of Ware, Greylock journeyed to Mahar to take on the No. 3 Sena-

Though the Mounties fell in four games, (25-16, 26-24,





Never before had the Greylock volleyball team made it past the first round of the Western Mass. Tournament, and not until last year had they qualified at all. In fact, it was only three seasons ago that volleyball became an option at Mount Greylock.

As this season comes to a close, the program says goodbye to the girls who started the journey as freshman. These seniors have improved every step of the way, going from a winless first season, to being one of the most feared teams in the league this year. In fact in the regular season this fall, the girls boasted a 14-4 record, second only to the rival Lee Wildcats.

With the culmination of this year's competition, the team is already looking forward to what promises to be a bright future for Mount Greylock volleyball.



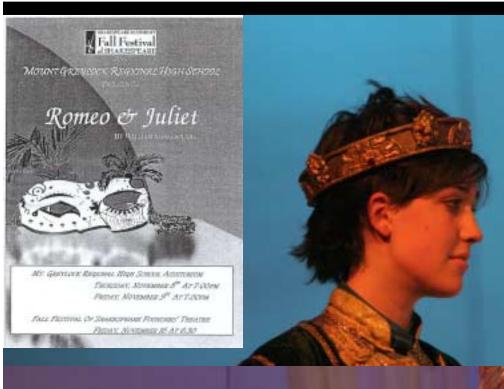
Have you sold your fruit yet?

MGRHS students can pick up order sheets in the superintendent's office and sell friends, family and neighbors Florida citrus oranges or red grapegruit at \$25 a box. Profits are donated to the Friends of the Arts fund.



The Greylock Echo

The Crew



Romeo and Juliet

The Company

The Cast

THE COPULET HONSEHOLD-

Alex Nation, Arken Miller, Allisman Fladys, Bismorke Africa, Adoles Monte, Bist Lymon, Adoles Monte, Bist Lymon, David Parker, Outed Basic Maller, Bists Miller Contravers, India Exciton, Science of Miller Science, Lond Science, Limb Science, Limb Science, Miller Miller Miller

Pursa Unigo S. Éscretor. Aska Itilia, Jogo Hilo, Marti Tyropsia:

Playled Design & Execution Street Wide, Playor King Standy Teconomic

Mr. Greylock Regional High School presents

Romeo & Juliet

Directed By Jonathan Croy & Libby Augarten

Costumes designed by Cathy Gray

Stage Manager: Grace King

Electrics Coordinator: John Elder

Lights designed by Zachariah Joder

Sound Board Operator: Michaela Lane

Guest Directors: Enrico Spada, Faith Shuker-Haines, Isa St. Clair, Josie Wilson, Laura Bugbee Plaster, Rachel Payne, Tess McHugh

Helen Marie Ovenmur Jackie Pilot lackson Kleiser

The Shakespeare Group & Curtain Speechs Adriesne Phelps Hannah Phel Miranda Park Allison Themsa Tombley Augula Rose Roughley Coma Wood Charles Sotter





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