

MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES
DUE FOR NEXT YEAR

By NED KLEINER

At about ten o'clock on Tuesday, October 20th, Carrie Greene stood up in front of the Mt. Greylock School Committee to talk about the future of the high school. At the end of this year, Dr. Travis's contract will expire, and he has indicated that he is interested in retiring. Greene was supposed to report on how the school should go about finding his replacement. To the surprise of the committee, Greene, who had spent more than thirty hours interviewing town and state officials, recommended that Mt. Greylock join Superintendency Union 71.

On July 1, 2008, the administrations at Williamstown and Lanesborough Elementary Schools joined to create Union 71. This merger allowed the two districts to share the positions of superintendent, SPED director, business manager, and assistant to the superintendent, cutting a large chunk of administrative costs. In the debate about the "unionization," many of the faculty, especially those teaching in Lanesborough, were very upset about the prospect of sharing a superintendent,



Dr. Travis's familiar face will likely be absent next year. Last month, he expressed an intent to retire, and discussions regarding Mt. Greylock's administrative future are ongoing.

Photo: Katie Rathbun

a success, facilitating new curricular alignment and shared teacher development resources. Carrie Greene, a first-year member of the Mount Greylock School Committee, suggested that Mt. Greylock follow the elementary schools' example.

Until Greene's announcement at the School Committee meeting, a different outcome seemed likely. The Massachusetts Department of Education supports "Regionalization," in which the Northern Berkshire high schools (Drury, Hoosac, and Mt. Greylock) would combine into one super-region. David Archibald, the chair of the School Committee, outlined one of the benefits of regionalization to me: "if you need a hundred thousand dollars at [one school in the region], and you have fallen into some money at [another school in the region], you can effect a seamless transfer of those funds, because the superintendent is in control... of the funds for the entire region."

According to Greene, however, the idea of forming a "super-region" had almost no support among the **Administration, Continued on Page 2**

H1N1 and Mt. Greylock

By NAOMI LACHANCE

This is not your average flu season. The regular seasonal flu, killing 36,000 a year, is bad enough. This year, H1N1 (swine) flu is attacking immune systems everywhere, too.

Precautions (sometimes irrational) are being taken around the world. In Egypt, officials killed thousands of pigs before a single case had been reported in their country. In France, authorities urged people to refrain from "la bise," the cheek-to-cheek kiss that is a traditional greeting, to avoid spreading the virus. In California, a high school canceled its senior prom after one student was thought to be sick with H1N1.

On October 24, President Obama declared the virus a national emergency. "The rates of illness continue to rise rapidly within many communities across the nation, and the potential exists for the pandemic to overburden health care resources in some localities," Obama wrote in his declaration.

There are currently forty-six U.S. states that are reporting widespread H1N1 influenza activity, according to the CDC, or Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Since the virus' detection in April 2009, there have been 95 laboratory-confirmed H1N1 deaths reported to the CDC. The total rate of confirmed influenza-related hospitalization is already higher than expected for this time of year, and is climbing.

This particular strain of influenza's virulence can be explained by the fact that the human body does not naturally have the antibodies required to fight

it off. A vaccine appears to be the next step necessary in fighting the pandemic. "They make a vaccine for the flu, a new strain comes up, they make a new one," said Mt. Greylock chemistry teacher Bob Ianitelli, "It's been a rush for this one because it came up so quickly."

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is hoping to have the H1N1 flu vaccination available for the general public around the last week of November and first week of December. "Availability and demand can be unpredictable," stated the CDC. The Northern Berkshire Pandemic Planning Group's plan at Mt. Greylock is to offer a clinic for the high school, and then have a subsequent clinic open for the community. Students will need to fill out a consent form and turn it in to the Superintendent's Office in order to participate. The forms are available on Mt. Greylock's website, www.mgrhs.org. Although participation is not mandatory, Mt. Greylock nurse Nichole Berry encourages "that all students receive the shot."

Some individuals, particularly those with compromised immune systems, have already received the vaccine. "My insurance called and said I should get vaccinated," explained freshman Emily Silva, who received the shot in late October. She did not experience any abnormalities. "It's pretty much like a normal flu shot," she said.

The vaccine contains an inactivated strain of the

H1N1 Continued on Page 4

4 in 650:
An interview with Asma,
Salma, Seema, and
Naseema

By CATE COSTLEY



Photo: Cate Costley

This fall, four sisters began the year at Mount Greylock, only weeks after arriving in the United States from Afghanistan. The changes have been immense, but all four girls have been remarkable in their resilience and poise. The two older girls, Asma and Salma, are seniors, while Seema and Naseema are in eighth-grade and seventh-grade, respectively. Please continue to welcome them and help them settle into our school.

Q: All right, give us a little information about your background. How old are you? Where were you born? Where have you lived since then?
Seema: I am 13 years old. My sisters and I were born in Peshawar, Pakistan. I lived in Pakistan for most of my life, up until 8th grade. We moved to Kabul, Afghanistan then because my father became a governor. We lived there for a year and we did not go to school; now we are here.

Naseema: I am eleven.

Asma: I am eighteen years old.

Salma: I am also eighteen.

Q: What languages do you speak?

All four sisters: We speak five languages: Pashtu, Urdu, Hindi, Farsi, and English.

Asma: We are still working on English!

Q: What was school like in Pakistan?

Asma: Salma and I were in our first year of college, which is the same as 11th grade here. Once we completed 4 years of college, we would have gone to university for two years. These schools were not co-educational; they were all girls.

Seema: In school, we must do lots of memorization. We also study and translate the Koran in a madrassa [institution for instruction in Islam]; I translated 13 chapters of the Koran.

Q: What has been most surprising about life in America?

Naseema and Seema: The way people live here is so... comfortable. The food and way people dress is different, too.

Asma and Salma: Going to a co-ed school is very surprising.

Q: What has been most difficult about life at Mount Greylock?

Naseema: Language!

Asma: It is hard to make friends because people have groups.

Q: What are your favorite foods from back home?

Naseema: My mother cooks rice and beans.

Asma: Meatballs.

Q: What are your favorite American foods?

All four sisters: Pizza!

*The Echo is
RECYCLABLE!*
*Please do NOT
throw it in the
trash when done
reading.*

Crossword

In an unanticipated turn of events, Mr. Dils churns out another crossword of his own design for our enjoyment and puzzlement.

See Page 6.

Shakespeare

Krista Mangiardi reports on MG's production of *As You Like It*, which premieres Thursday at 7:00.

See Page 4.

Sports!

Tom Dils, Luke Costley, and Alex White give us a fall sports update alongside Katie Rathbun's photographic coverage.

See Pages 5 & 6.

Cartoon

Rufus Paisley entertains us again this month with a new subject: college applications.

See Page 4.

Trip to Guatemala

Rebekeh Packer reflects on her trip with the Rural Literacy Project this past summer.

See Page 3.

Harry Potter Review

As part of her senior project, Cleo Levin reviews the movie made from the wildly popular 6th Harry Potter book.

See Page 3.

NEWS AND EVENTS IN BRIEF

After-School Program Seeking Interested Juniors and Seniors

The Williamstown Youth Center has started an after-school program for middle schoolers from 2:30 to 5:00 every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday in the cooking room near the gym. Activities include cooking, board games, hiking, and more. The program is going on now and is seeking Juniors and Seniors to help out and mentor the younger students. It's a great way to get involved with the younger students at MG, and it also counts for community service hours, if any students are looking for service opportunities. Interested students should contact David Rempell at the Williamstown Youth Center or stop by the program classroom any Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday after school.

Class of 2012 Fundraisers to Start Soon

The class of 2012 officers are planning some exciting fund-raisers to raise money for their class. A three-on-three basketball tournament is in the works for November 19th, and Cocoa Fridays will be starting soon, during which hot cocoa will be sold at break. For details, questions, or comments, talk to Sophia Santore, Katie Rathbun, Sean O'Connor, or Naomi LaChance (the class officers) or email mgrhs2012@gmail.com.

Mt. Greylock CMCA to Sponsor Lecture Series

The Mt. Greylock CMCA (Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol) is sponsoring a four-part lecture series addressing the issues surrounding underage drinking. They will be presented in the meeting room at Mt. Greylock. The first one took place on November fifth and was led by Dr. Jennifer Michaels, Medical Director of the Brien Center. The lecture was: "The Adolescent Developing Brain & Vulnerability to Substance Abuse: Information Every Parent Should Know to Protect Their Kids". The next event will take place on November 19th @ 7:30pm in the meeting room - Dr. Tara Watson, Assistant Professor of Economics at Williams College will present a lecture titled "Alcohol, Unintended Pregnancy, and the Next Generation". Dr. Watson has published research on the links between alcohol and infant health. Please join us on the 19th and stay tuned for information on the next two lectures, which will take place in January and February. For any questions or additional information, please contact Mt. Greylock CMCA's Strategy Team Leader, Odette Klass at oklass@nbcccoalition.org.

The PTO Continues to Improve Our School

The Parent Teacher Organization at Mount Greylock has been working hard this past school year (and still is) on a number of different projects designed to improve our school community. The PTO held a successful work day on October 17 to continue ongoing painting and school interior projects. The PTO also hosted a lecture by psychologist David Mellinger, supported changes to the school website, and brought the book fair back to Mt. Greylock, among other initiatives. As we look ahead in the year, the PTO hopes to bring more guest speakers to the school, continue interior projects, and explore other ways to improve the school. The PTO is also hoping to link students, teachers, and parents through Power School, and a letter was sent home to parents introducing them to this new system that allows parents and students more ready access to academic information. By building bridges in the school community, the PTO is an incredible resource; thanks are owed to them for all their hard work. If any parents or teachers would like to get involved with the PTO board, contact Odette Klass at kodette@yahoo.com.

Annual J.C.L. Kick-off Event a Success!

On the rainy morning of October 24th, around 200 Junior Classical League members from across the state arrived at Mount Greylock for the MassJCL Kickoff Day. Dr. Travis appeared in a toga and pretended to recite Latin to kick off the day's festivities. Mr. Gibson then performed three Greek stories to set the tone of the day. The JCLers then ran off to launch Marshmallow Catapults, play Certamen (Latin Jeopardy) or do the Worm and Hula Hoop competitions. Then they all braved the elements as they watched the launch of the large Catapultae and Ballistae (8 lb. ball catapults and arrow shooters). Mt Greylock was successful, as both our Catapult and Ballista won their respective categories. The nine state officers then closed the event with a skit written by two of the officers. Many said it was best MassJCL Kickoff Day they have ever attended! Many thanks to the J.C.L. officers and members who helped out, and of course to Mrs. Keeley and Dr. Petruzella for their constant support, energy, and organizational skills.

Administration, From Page 1

numerous Williamstown, Lanesborough, and Massachusetts Association of School Committees officials she had heard from: "only two people, out of twenty-six I spoke with, liked the concept of an expanded region." As Archibald explained, regionalization "increases costs, because... if one teacher's union is making 17% more than another teacher's union, when you enter a region, every teacher's union jumps up to the highest level paid. That could be a significant cost increase."

If Mt. Greylock chooses either to unionize or regionalize, it would mean that the school could put off the search for a new superintendent. (If the school were to join Union 71, Ellis would become the high school superintendent by default.) The estimated cost of searching for a new superintendent is \$12,000. Meanwhile, MASC estimated that the new superintendent's salary would have to be increased by \$8,000 to attract him or her to Mt. Greylock. Unionization, therefore, would save up to \$20,000 in the short term, though Greene was wary of framing the debate around the savings, since it is possible that supervising all three schools would be too much work for one person, and new positions would have to be created.

One of the criticisms repeated most often regarding unionization from the School Committee was that one person wouldn't be able to handle the workload of being superintendent for three schools. One of the benefits of regionalization, according to Archibald, is that "you have streamlined unions. Right now, there's a teachers union at Mt. Greylock, there's a teacher's union at Williamstown Elementary, there's a teachers' union at Lanesborough Elementary. Right now, there's a custodial union at Greylock, Williamstown Elementary, Lanesborough Elementary. There's potentially twelve unions [with the three cafeteria workers' unions and paraprofessionals' unions]. That would be a significant amount of work for one superintendent." Another possible advantage of regionalization over unionization is that in unionization the superintendent would have to negotiate contracts with the staff at all three schools, rather than having one contract for all the teachers. In addition, the superintendent of Union 71 would have to attend the school committee meetings of all three schools (at the October 20th meeting of the Mt. Greylock School Committee, for example, Dr. Travis presented reports on class size and MCAS scores).

Greene, though, was adamant in her assertion that unionization was the best action. She stated that, from a purely factual standpoint, unionization is just as good as regionalization. In addition, Greene reported that there is no chance that regionalization will happen in the near future, because no one is willing to give up power over their school. Inherent in combining unions, contracts, or school committees is the risk that one group will gain undue power over the discussion, and the consensus is that few people are willing to take that risk.

Greene, however, was not proposing that the School Committee choose a course of action right now, but that it approve a study on the feasibility of unionization. This study, done by a subcommittee of the School Committee, would examine the potential benefits and pitfalls of unionization in greater depth. The subcommittee would then report back to the School Committee as a whole, and a vote on unionization would presumably be taken.

One of the louder voices against unionization was that of Dr. Travis himself. He believed that there was a large problem with the plan: it assumes that "you can reach consensus yet spend out of three pocketbooks." Dr. Travis believes that regionalization is the best solution, and likened unionization to the Articles of Confederation, the United States' government from 1781 to 1788. Dr. Travis's opinion is that if you don't allow the superintendent to move funds between the schools, you will only create further divisions among WES, Lanesborough School and Mt. Greylock.

The most common sentiment, though, was neither criticism nor support of unionization, but concern as to the very near future. There was lengthy debate as to whether there is a chance that Mt. Greylock could be without a superintendent next year. Many committee members seemed worried that the feasibility study would end too late either to enact or reject unionization. When it was suggested that Mt. Greylock could be a member of Union 71 by next fall, most of the School Committee began laughing wildly. Greene, though, did suggest two "contingency plans": either "beg Dr. Travis to stay," as one member put it, or ask the MASC to provide an interim superintendent. Either way, Mt. Greylock would have another one or two years to find another solution.

Eventually the School Committee meeting did end (at 11:30 pm), and an agreement was reached. The motion to conduct a feasibility study was passed unanimously.

Building Update

By HALEY MAHAR

Since the last Echo in September, the renovation plans for Mt. Greylock have taken impressive leaps in the right direction. After the School Building Authority meeting, the request put in by MGRHS for emergency repair to the boilers and locker rooms was granted. Since then, the contracts for both the locker room and the boiler project have been drawn up. As soon as the SBA approves the contracts, the work will begin. Steps have already been taken, such as the selection of project engineers. The School Committee received two bid proposals for the heating system, and five for the locker room. On October 13th, after reviewing interviews and price quotes, the School Committee selected Hesnor Engineering to design and overlook the plans for a new heating system. Barry Architects of Pittsfield was also chosen to design a plan to rebuild the locker rooms. While the work is estimated to be between 1.5 and 2 million dollars, the school is eligible to have 54.16% of the final cost paid by the SBA. With all things going as planned, the locker rooms are tentatively due to be finished in April, and the boiler situation should be at a solid stage with the addition of two new boilers sometime in December, just in time for the cold months.

The Mt. 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 student photographers, writers, and editors. Any Mt. Greylock student is welcome to submit articles, come to meetings, or join the Echo staff. Meetings are held in the Echo Office at the back of the library, typically during early lunch on Mondays.

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Rural Literacy Project in Guatemala

By REBEKEH PACKER

Sophomore Rebekeh Packer reflects on her trip to Guatemala this past summer with the Rural Literacy Project.

The cultural differences between New England and Latin America are countless. Washboards are not washing machines. Calloused feet are not Nikes.

But nothing crosses barriers like laughter, friendship, and good, clean fun.

This is the philosophy that the Rural Literacy Project (RLP) brings to Central America. For ten years, the RLP has helped set up eight libraries in Latin America

life. We taught origami and played cards with the Belizean children. We read to them. On days when the library was emptier, we labeled and sorted books to go back on the shelves.

Twice we performed on our stilts. First we acted out Tikki Tikki Tembo, a favorite in Caye Caulker, which delighted the kids who had seen it before. Our second performance, The Vingananee and the Tree Toad, was not ours



Sophomore Thalia Rossiter plays a game with Guatemalan elementary school students during a Rural Literacy Project trip this summer.
Photo: Rebekeh Packer

and worked with two others. Volunteers teach origami, share photographs, act out books on stilts, and make new friends. The RLP's ideals of community building and cultural exchange are met as relationships develop between RLP volunteers and locals.

Based in Williamstown, the RLP is a grassroots organization founded by local resident Sue O'Riley. Ten years ago, O'Riley traveled to Honduras with her daughter. They felt, O'Riley says, "very confused and out of place." The lifestyle in Honduras, the poverty, bothered them. "So we came home," she said, "thought about what we could possibly do, and I concluded that I could get books, because I knew kids in the town would help them."

O'Riley now involves Williamstown Elementary School students in the RLP. Fourth graders in Williamstown write letters in Spanish to pen pals in Guatemala. They help collect and sell plants to raise money. And every year, teams of volunteers travel to Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Belize, building connections with other people.

Last July and August, I was one of those lucky volunteers. My five fellow travelers ranged in age from under twelve to over fifty, and included O'Riley herself. We spent fourteen days out of the States, in Caye Caulker, Belize, and San Andres, Guatemala. The experience was incredible.

Caye Caulker, an island off the coast of Belize (formerly British Honduras), is a tourist destination. Most islanders make their livings selling handmade bags or smoothies. Islanders speak Creole to each other, but even the youngest children speak English as well, so language barriers are insignificant.

In Caye Caulker, I was struck by the openness of the community. The island is about five square miles in total, and children wander its white sandy streets unaccompanied. Islanders travel in golf carts or on bikes instead of cars. One night, a soccer tournament took place on the one field, and every person on the island, it seemed, was there. We saw kids we knew from the library and met their parents.

The library was a single room, but it was filled with

alone. A local girl, Kayla, age 9, organized everything. Kayla made our masks, handed out invitations, and played the part of Tree Toad. After that performance, many audience members wanted to try our stilts. We bound their tiny legs to the wood and held them up as they stumbled to move in the heavy stilts. None of them had shoes, and we had to wrap their feet with cloth.

After a week in Caye Caulker, we bid the beautiful beaches and our new friends goodbye and took to the mainland. From Belize City, a city bus brought us into Guatemala.

San Andres, Guatemala is not a tourist town. English speakers are few. The streets wind up the steep hillside from the lake below. The city is beautiful – pastel buildings, thatched roofs – but it is dirty. Every day in Guatemala it poured, and warm mud was the norm. Pigs, horses, and roosters roamed the streets, scrounging for food.

We stayed in local homes in San Andres. Before we left each morning, we showered, ate, and chatted – or, in my case, wished we could chat – with our host families. Each family owned a cluster of tiny huts, each of which served as a bedroom or kitchen. Pets were everywhere: delicate cats, emaciated dogs, goats, and unidentifiable rodents. It was impossible even to keep track of the children, who wandered around like every home was theirs.

For me, Guatemala was exhausting. My Spanish vocabulary is tiny, my grammar nonexistent. I struggled every minute to communicate. But the children were so patient and so kind that I succeeded. "Puedes jugar futbol?" became my catchphrase, and it led me into some very energetic barefoot soccer games. It was inexplicably exciting to find that speech was unnecessary to friendship.

I will not forget my intense experiences in Belize and Guatemala. I forged real friendships both with my fellow volunteers and with the Latin Americans I met. My only regret is that there was not more time to spend there. I suggest the Rural Literacy Project to anyone who knows a little Spanish, likes people, and is willing to work. You can contact Sue O'Riley by email at sue.oriley@gmail.com. Volunteers do not pay their own way, so be prepared to fund-raise.

Movie Review

By CLEO LEVIN

This month in lieu of a book review, Cleo Levin submitted an installment of her senior project. Cleo is viewing and reviewing recent movies that have been made from books. Here, she discusses the wildly popular Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, based on the sixth book of J.K. Rowling's famous series.



This past summer, when the eagerly anticipated "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" hit theaters, audiences were thrilled, disappointed, and scandalized, but certainly not bored.

As Harry has grown older, his values have changed. Gone are the days of collecting chocolate frog cards and playing innocent games of wizard chess. Indeed, a dark gray shadow seems to have obscured the golden sheen that Hogwarts used to radiate. Throughout the course of the five preceding films, Harry has matured and become increasingly concerned with Voldemort's recovery. Now, the audience is forced to vicariously witness the destruction of his childhood.

Steadily, the beloved set of the previous movies is destroyed. The Burrow is violently and unpredictably lit on fire by a band of Dementors. Later, we witness the merciless destruction of Hagrid's cabin. Finally, Bellatrix Lestrange encapsulates it all by joyously shattering the windows and kicking around the silverware in the Great Hall. The inhabitable tatters in which the set is left not only foreshadow, but necessitate a change of scenery for the next movie. The violence is also greatly increased, as characters imbibe deadly potions, suffer serious lacerations, and cast the killing curse.

Another startling development brought on by the characters' maturation is the abundance of teenage hormones oozing from the main characters. The numerous romances unveiled during the course of the movie are certainly mentioned in the book, but the subtle hints at flirtation were blown-up and caricaturized to a ridiculous degree. For the characters of Cormac McLaggen and Lavender Brown, meant to supply only comic relief, the swollen characters worked fine. The interactions between Ginny and Harry, however, make us cringe in our seats. There is an excess of awkward eye contact and forced conversation, but the most objectionable scene is undoubtedly the one where Bonnie Wright, unexpectedly and entirely too provocatively, languorously leans over to tie Harry's shoe.

Still, despite the controversial nature of these new developments, the aspects of the Harry Potter films that have kept audiences coming back for more are again present and thriving. The alarmingly talented troupe of adult actors returns to depict both the professors and villains of Hogwarts. The viewer is likely to be just as comforted by Michael Gambon's meditative Dumbledore as apprehensive over each of Alan Rickman's excruciatingly drawn-out syllables. Another outstanding performance is given by Evanna Lynch, her comical depiction of dreamily drifting Luna Lovegood shining out well above the dim glow of the other Hogwarts students.

The special effects also serve once again to make the movie come alive. Books float, pictures move, and houses repair themselves with flawless style and execution. The same level of mastery is displayed on the Quidditch pitch, the swooping and soaring of the brooms and the throttling velocity of the Quaffle delivering a series of vicarious thrills.

These fixed aspects provide comfort in a wizarding world devoid of the intact buildings and scrubbed, pink, prepubescent faces we had grown accustomed to. Shrinking as the blood of gaunt, elongated Daniel Radcliffe spurts across the screen, the viewer may well think: What has happened to the good-hearted childhood fun of movies past?

COMMUNITY

Thursday's Performance Sure to be a Hit

By KRISTA MANGIARDI

Only in Mt Greylock's performance of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* can audiences find wrestling, cross-dressing, royalty, sheep, and a quadruple wedding—all in ninety minutes. Over thirty students from grades 7-12 have been working for weeks on this beloved comedy. Through Shakespeare and Company's Fall Festival of Shakespeare the students are guided by two company directors in acting, lights, props, set, sound, music, costume, and publicity, which will all culminate in shows November 12th and 13th at Mt. Greylock, and November 20th at Shakespeare and Company.

As You Like It begins in an unnamed French city where audiences learn that the character Oliver has just gained the inheritance of his recently passed father, and has been left in charge of his younger brother Orlando. Oliver, however, refuses to properly take care of him. It is also discovered that the city is being ruled by Duchess Fredrique who recently usurped and banished her older sister, Duchess Senior. Fredrique also banishes Senior's daughter, Rosalind, with whom Orlando has fallen in love. Fredrique's daughter, Celia, accompanies Rosalind in her banishment, refusing to part from her friend. The play eventually moves to the forest and follows the stories of all of the people who were banished by Fredrique or have fled the city, as well as some eclectic characters they meet along the way. Scenes of chasing after love and trying to survive in the woods then commence, all leading up to a grand ending.

Fall Festival's home at Mt. Greylock this fall has presented students with countless learning opportunities and enjoyment. Five "common classes" connect Mt. Greylock students with students from the nine other high schools participating in the program. In enthusiastic environments, the students learn stage combat, dance and movement, technical arts, clowning, and



Hannah Paul, Evelyn Mahon, Arianna Bashara, and Mary Laidlaw, the "goddesses of love," rehearse for Mt. Greylock's production of *As You Like It*, which goes up this Thursday at 7:00 in the auditorium.
Photo: Katie Rathbun

performance. The festival emphasizes collaboration, not competition, and lets students from different schools celebrate each other. Freshmen Miranda Park, who will be playing Charles, says of her experience this fall, "it's really fun; it's a good opportunity to work with people from different schools, and with professionals."

Director Jon Croy is passionate about what this experience provides students. As he describes, "[the students] are creative participants, it is not us telling them what to do, it belongs to all of us." Students do extensive dictionary work on their text and are guided and encouraged by directors to understand their characters and what they are saying. He continues, "it is very supportive, you are competing with yourself." New to the directing team at Mt. Greylock this year is Allissa Wickam, who is also enthusiastic to be working in the festival here. Sophomore Rebekah Packer, who is taking on the role of Amiens, believes, "it is a really amazing experience, it really has a good energy and it brings out the best in everyone." Festival participants are able to take pride in seeing themselves create a show. They may start out confused over their character's dialogue, but they end up being able to become that character. They also get to see the story gradually come to life in costume and with props, and place the scene in appropriate lighting.

The show this year has a larger number of people in costume than normal. Also, the fact that there are ten acting seniors made the directors' lives a little more complicated in choosing and casting the play. However, as Mt. Greylock presents its first Shakespearean comedy for several years, everyone involved is excited to show off their hard work. Miranda Park says, "I think it is going to be amazing." So, save the show dates and be sure to come out, be entertained, and support the Fall Festival of Shakespeare.

H1N1, Continued From Page 1

H1N1 virus. When a person receives the vaccine, either through injection or nasal spray, his or her immune system recognizes the inactivated virus as foreign, and builds antibodies against it. Once vaccinated, a person will be able to build even stronger antibodies if he or she comes into contact with a live strain of the virus.

Despite burgeoning rumors that the vaccine will have various negative side effects, it has been tested in clinical trials, and is expected to be as safe and effective as seasonal flu vaccines. Side effects including headaches, muscle aches, and incredibly rare allergic reactions are possible, but these worries seem to be outweighed by the hope that the vaccine will eliminate danger of the virus.

This goal to overcome the illness has become even more important recently, as doctors statewide are experiencing an increase of patients with flulike symptoms. "The parents who two weeks ago were calling very fearful about the vaccine now want the vaccine and are desperate to get it," Dr. Margaret Hunt of Community Pediatrics in Milford, MA told the Boston Globe.

"I'm very optimistic," said Ms. Berry about the vaccine. "It is proven to be effective with children, and that's who we're dealing with." The CDC recommends that anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age be among the first in line to receive the vaccination.

Teenagers are among the most at risk for the virus -- about 3% of people ages ten to seventeen have been hospitalized for seasonal flu, whereas 15% have been hospitalized for swine flu. "This is a young person's disease," said Ann Schuchat, a CDC official.

"I lived through two other similar outbreaks," said Mr. Iannitelli. "Maybe I picked up slight immunity because I'm old enough." More than half of the people hospitalized with swine flu since September 1, and almost a quarter of those who have died, have been under 25 years old, according to Ms. Schuchat.

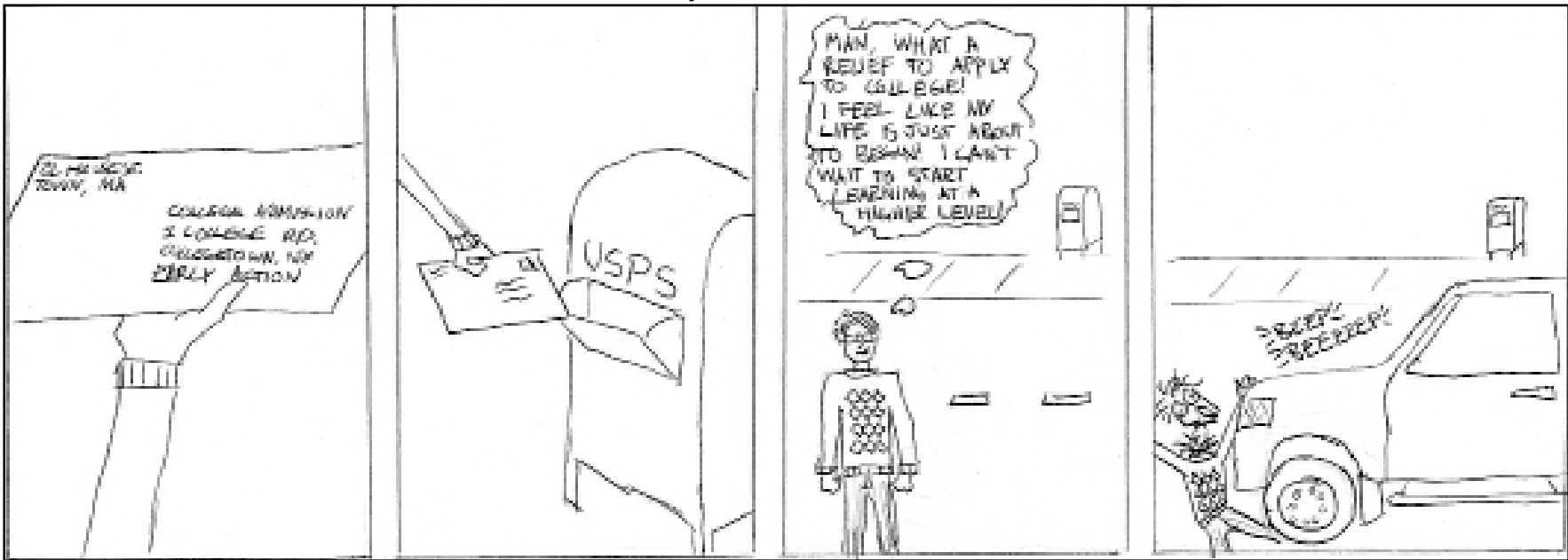
There are numerous precautions imperative to preventing the spread of influenza, or any other sickness, other than vaccination. Ms. Berry encourages "good respiratory etiquette"—covering a cough or sneeze, and with an elbow, not a hand. She recommends that students who feel sick stay home from school. Hand washing is highly en-

couraged. Bottles of hand sanitizer have been popping up around Mt. Greylock like umbrellas in a rainstorm. Teachers are taking time to disinfect classrooms, and it would appear that the student body is being more conscientious, but not succumbing to panic. "I'm not concerned," said sophomore Kelsey Goodwin. "I'm a healthy person. My immune system will keep me strong."

When it comes to sick students, Mt. Greylock is adhering to the state's policy. "A student must be out of school fever-free for twenty-four hours," said Ms. Berry. "I'm not worried," she added.

Decisions about school closures are made by school districts and local health officials in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In late October, Grafton High School became the first Massachusetts school to suspend classes and other activities due to swine flu. One day, more than one third of the students, and nearly half its staff stayed home sick. "We knew the H1N1 virus was going to be increasing," medical director of the state Department of Public Health Dr. Lauren Smith told the Boston Globe, "We didn't know when, but now we do. It's here."

Cartoon By RUFUS PAISLEY



FOOTBALL

By TOM DILS

The Greylock football team only needed a victory over Wahconah on October 23 to qualify for the county playoffs, but the Warriors had no intention of losing their spot in the playoffs and beat Greylock 36-8. Despite not qualifying, the Mounties have had an outstanding bounce-back year so far, going from only two wins in 2008 to five, and possibly seven, this year. Led by consistent play on both sides of the ball by captains Jason Pilot and Kyle Quagliano, as well as strong seasons for quarterback Kent Hanson and wide receiver Mike Greb, the Mounties have edged out victories that they might have lost last year. The much-improved defense has held opponents to only 85 points, and they shut out Lee, Monument, and St. Joes. On the offensive side, the Mounties never blew teams out, but managed to score enough points to earn five victories. The biggest wins of the season came against Pittsfield, a close 22-14 battle, and Lee, a low scoring 8-0 victory. In both of these games, the defense came up with crucial stops late to seal the victory. Strong leadership helped Greylock football become an over .500 team again, and since they only lose a handful of seniors, they will look to make the leap back into the county playoffs in 2010.



Photo: Katie Rathbun

Volleyball

By LUKE COSTLEY

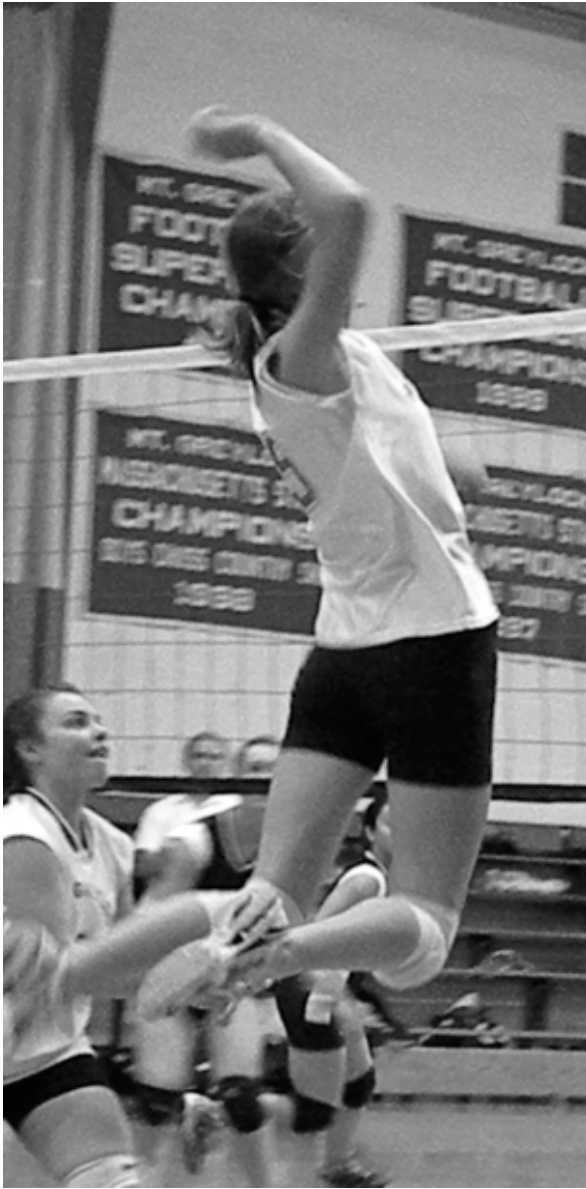


Photo: Katie Rathbun

For the Mount Greylock girls' volleyball team, a hard fought season wraps up with a sweet reward: a berth in the Western Mass. Tournament. The team, who finished the year fourth in the county behind powerhouses Lee, Monument, and Wahconah, carries an 11-6 record into the postseason. Although not eye-popping, the record reflects a very competitive Berkshire County and means that the team is already well prepared for the rigorous competition of the tournament. Led by senior co-captains Sam Radke and Annabel Barrett, as well as the four other seniors, Regis Shanley, Jamie Matthews, Chelsea Masson and Jeritza Zuniga-Garcia, who all celebrated senior night on October 27, they are a talented group that hopes to fulfill all their goals for late in the year. Only time will tell how far the volleyball team will make it, but no matter the final result, they have had a great year and earned their place amongst the state's best.



Photo: Katie Rathbun

Girls' Soccer

By TOM DILS

The Greylock girls are wrapping up a solid season in Berkshire County. The competition was strong top to bottom this season, but the Mounties were able to hold their own, replacing last season's regular scoring with a strong back line that held even the top teams to limited scoring chances. Juniors Kim Houston, Siri Mason, Hayley Flynn anchored the defense, and Margot Besnard had an excellent "sophomore" season between the posts. As for the offense, freshman Alexa Adams, sophomore Annie Flynn, and juniors Sarah Brink and Bree Flynn-Kasuba contributed goals, and midfielders Erin Manners, Courtney George, and Meredith Phelps tallied assists.

The girls faced tough competition from North Division rivals, including Pittsfield, Taconic, Wahconah, and Monument Mt. However, the Mounties were victorious over Hoosac, Drury, St. Joes, and Vermont rival Mount Anthony. 2009 was a building year for Greylock with all of their young players, but captains Erin Manners and Courtney George were able to lead the team to a strong season. The Mounties will miss the Western Mass. playoffs this year, but with most of their starting lineup returning for the '10 season, the girls' soccer team will once again be fighting for the top spot in Berkshire County.



Photo: Katie Rathbun



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Boys' Soccer

By LUKE COSTLEY

With the Mount Greylock boys' soccer season drawing to a close, the team can look back on another successful year, but more importantly, look ahead to what is shaping up to be a challenging but exciting postseason. Opening the year with a perfect September, the squad hit a slight hiccup going into October. Faced with one of the toughest challenges of the year so far, the Mounties played a perennial Vermont force, Burr and Burton Academy, and lost in a hard-fought match. Despite this setback, the team showed resilience by winning their next six games. Superb play from a wide range of players, stellar defense and great goalkeeping had the team back on track. Recent victories over Wahconah, Monument, Hoosac and Lenox have Greylock closing in on a second straight North Division title, and the team can lock it up with a win against Wahconah. On the horizon, though, is the Western Mass. Tournament. The team would love to once again make a deep run and as head coach Blair Dils says, they "hope to live up to their seed and draw from experience in the postseason from last year." For the Greylock boys, nothing will come easily, but steady play and hard work might just have them competing late into November.



Photo: Katie Rathbun



Photo: Katie Rathbun

Girls' XC

By ALEX WHITE

The Greylock girls' team topped off their perfect season with wins over Monument Mountain and St. Joe to finish at 13-0. Top runner, sophomore Mackenzie Hitchcock, led the charge but was pressured by junior Cate Costley, who followed close behind. From there, freshman Kat Chenail, sophomores Kaylene Lemme and Susie Shanley, junior Amy Santella, and eighth grader Emily Kaegi rounded out the top seven.

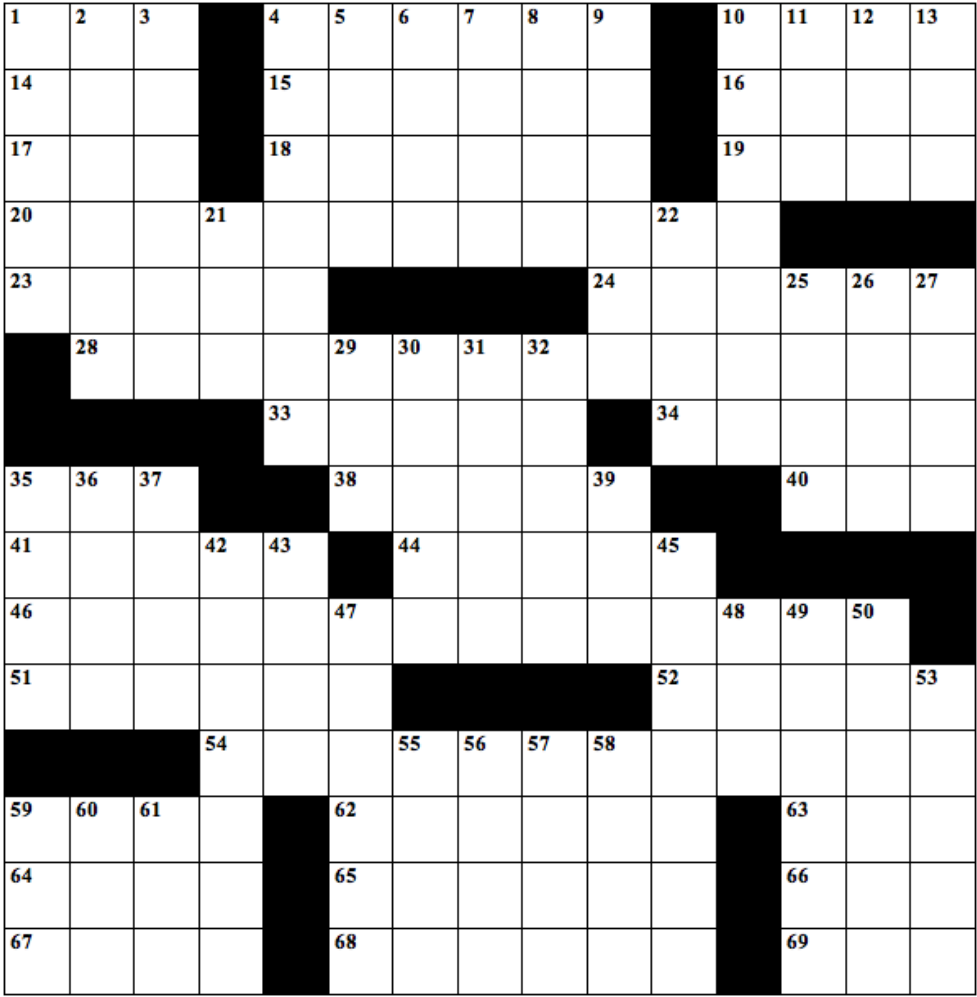
The girls' team is looking to represent Greylock and impress the state on November 14 with a show of their speed at Western Mass in Northfield and then hopefully go onto the state meet, also in Northfield, on November 21, where they should face some solid competition.



Photo: Katie Rathbun

CROSSWORD: "LET THE PUN BEGIN"

By BLAIR DILS



ACROSS

- Deodorant
- Get by
- "____ Your Enthusiasm"
- Sugar suffix
- "____ curtain has descended across the Continent..."--Churchill
- Anthem starter
- State with many AARP folks
- Aid
- Late night host now in prime time
- Reason the dog near the road got a ticket?
- ____ a million
- "The ____ to El Dorado" – 2000 animated film
- Assessment of the radio repairman's wedding?
- Underwater sandbar
- Creepy
- Scottish cap
- Spanish I verb
- MCAS test subject
- Skilled
- "Never ____ boy to do a man's job"
- Reason the fidgety toddler got put in jail?
- Modern car safety accessory
- Cannoli filling

- Cost for dead batteries?
- Modern miner's find
- Claimed he helped create the Internet in 1999 while campaigning for President
- Subj./v. error
- Kind of exam
- Featherer's partner
- Each
- American ____ doll
- Golfer Sam, and others
- Adult ending

DOWN

- Extremely successful
- "____ As You're Mine" – "Wicked" song
- Closer
- Lake ports
- "Writing free verse is like playing tennis without ____" – Frost
- Payne's Red and White Day attire
- Great Lake
- Not a talker
- Hot
- Sox play-by-play man Joe Castiglione's alma mater
- Application
- Headed
- Restaurant without a liquor license

- Fabricate
- Informal negative
- ____ straits
- Work
- First in an outline
- Article
- Gretchen ____ of "The Real Housewives of Orange County"
- Was devoured
- JV basketball practice sound?
- Tropical plant root food
- Somali pirate haunt
- Kind of hall
- 90 mg of Vitamin C, say
- Drawback
- Russian leader
- Cupid and Robin Hood
- Halloween booty
- Pleistocene, for example
- Blanket worn as a garment
- Artist who uses Krylon
- Like the wives of Windsor
- Flair
- Fairy tale villain
- "____ good time call..."
- Authority, informally
- Pester
- Gold of "Entourage"
- Toxic chemicals in cigarettes