

## THANK YOU, MRS. YARTER

By REBEKEH PACKER

Any student who has wandered into the principal's office at Mt. Greylock has known the comfort of Cheryl Yarter's smiling face. By job description, Mrs. Yarter is the principal's secretary. To the Greylock community, she is much, much more. For thirty years, Mrs. Yarter has been loved by the staff and students of Mt. Greylock: "I think of all of you as my kids," she said. "Who can say they have 640 grandchildren?" Next year, however, someone else will have her place in the office. Mrs. Yarter is retiring.

Mrs. Yarter first worked at Greylock forming study groups with middle schoolers. She was as beloved then as she is now. One day, Mrs. Yarter was helping a student with his project when the bell rang to end class, "and he still wanted a little more of my time. I'd come down to use the ladies' room by the guidance office." Suddenly, through the door of the bathroom, she heard a young male voice: "Mrs. Yarter, talk to me! I know you're in there! I saw your skirt go around the corner!"

In 1979, the school cut a few positions to save money, and Mrs. Yarter's paraprofessional job was one of those. But by some fluke of communication, no one told Mrs. Yarter. When she arrived in the fall, ready for work, the school had to provide her with a job. Mrs. Yarter became the principal's secretary.

At first, Mrs. Yarter said, she "just typed. It was really kind of a boring job. It wasn't

long before I realized I was either going to have to modify the job to fit my personality or find another venue for my talents."



The whole Greylock community will miss Mrs. Yarter's familiar face next year.

Photo: Katie Rathbun

Mrs. Yarter's talents are indeed many, and her coworkers can attest to it. Tom Os-theimer, a history teacher, calls her "the

mortar that keeps the school together." English teacher Lucinda Bradley said, "Mrs. Yarter is the face of the humanity of the school. She is personal, kind, open-hearted, and always ready to be a help."

Mrs. Bradley, a Senior Project advisor, told of "one senior who was truly struggling" to find a topic for her project. Mrs. Yarter sat down with the student, helped her identify her interests, and connected her with an appropriate mentor. "I think both the student and Mrs. Yarter loved that exchange," said Mrs. Bradley.

Mrs. Yarter surely did: "I really do like people," she professed. Mrs. Yarter keeps a box of candy in her office, and distributes hard candies to anyone who wants one. "It's not only there for the kids," she quipped. "It's there for the faculty, too. They're as bad as you guys are!"

Mrs. Yarter is always there for the faculty, as English teacher Blair Dils confirmed: "Mrs. Yarter...loves leaving little goodies in our mailboxes. Somehow she discovered that I have soft spot for malted milk balls—sure enough, every few months I find a box of Whoppers in my box."

All Greylock's teachers are grateful for Mrs. Yarter's constant care.

"Mrs. Yarter's official capacity is the principal's secretary," said history

Mrs. Yarter, Continued on Page 2

## 1 in 650: An Interview with

Nate Nurmi

By LUKE COSTLEY

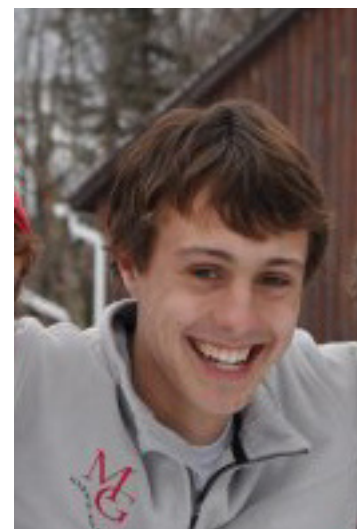


Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

With graduation fast-approaching, Nate Nurmi shares his thoughts on his past writing for the Echo and why he himself started the 1 in 650 articles, reminisces on his time here at Greylock, explains his love of writing rap music, and reveals his plans for next year and beyond.

Q: Initially, what sparked your interest in writing the 1-in-650 pieces?

A: Well, it started off when I approached Editor Sam Tiffit and asked to write an article about Harris McDonald's rapping career. He suggested I do an interview and it was successful, so it all went from there. That was sort of like a stepping stone for the rest of the interviews.

Q: As the 1-in-650 writer, what was your favorite part of conducting the interviews?

A: Meeting people. I liked getting to know people I probably wouldn't know much about otherwise, but interviewing them gave me good insight into their lives.

And my least favorite part was sometimes forgetting about my assignments and then having to scramble. I did a lot of procrastinating.

Q: In retrospect, what was your favorite interview and why?

A: There were two: First, Mr. Steel because he was really lovely to interview and really interesting to talk to. And secondly, Harris McDonald because he was my first attempt and I was really eager to do it.

Q: Changing subjects, you yourself have created a rap career of sorts. Can you tell us about it?

A: It started with a Latin project which was really open-ended, so I created a rap with Roman Kleiser and Andrew Galusha. From there it was mainly me writing down absurd lyrics when I was bored in class. Then Jord [senior Jordan Tuboly] and I sort of teamed up and we have worked on some stuff together.

Nate Nurmi, Continued on Page 2

## Despite Setback, Unionization Still Moving Forward

By NED KLEINER

On April 13, Carrie Greene stood before the Mt. Greylock School Committee with some late-breaking news: "Mt. Greylock cannot legally join Union 71." This announcement came as quite a shock to the School Committee, as the Committee had been debating this proposal (though discussion had been interrupted by budget talks) since October. It's not entirely clear how the School Committee could be blindsided by something like this, but much of the committee had been expecting to vote on the unionization proposal that night. The most recent update, from the April 31st meeting, is that a final meeting will be held on May 11 to make the decision.

The original idea behind unionization was comparatively simple: the elementary schools of Williamstown and Lanesborough had already created Union 71, through which they shared a superintendent and other administration staff. Mt. Greylock would also join this union. Rose Ellis would take over as Mt. Greylock Superintendent, and the high school would contribute into the salaries of the administration staff as well. In total, this arrangement would save

\$127,451, of which \$42,830 would go to Mt. Greylock; however, some of those savings would be put back into administration, since the Union 71 staff would now need to run three schools instead of two. The staff of Union 71 would include the superintendent, the business manager, and the special education director, among others. This staff would now be housed at Mt. Greylock, rather than rotating between the two elementary schools.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Education, the above arrangement would be illegal, since a Superintendency Union can only exist between two elementary schools. Carrie Greene now proposes that Mt. Greylock merge with the Union "share central office staff." There are few obvious differences between joining Union 71 and merging with it are, besides a few legal and bureaucratic distinctions. In fact, merging with Union 71 has one decided advantage: had Mt. Greylock joined Union 71, it would have been stuck. If Mt. Greylock merely merges with the Union, it can leave with relative ease.

In both systems, the students would see

few, if any, changes to their daily routine. Because Dr. Travis is retiring, there will be a new superintendent next year, whether or not Mt. Greylock chooses to join with the Union. If the merger does take place, Dr. Rose Ellis will take over. She is currently the superintendent of Union 71, though she has never before been the superintendent of a high school.

Despite the seeming similarities between the two systems, the School Committee members wanted to deal with the issue carefully, and so requested additional time to digest the changes. Chairman Dave Archibald stated that "for [the School Committee] to make lucid decisions at this point is too much to ask." School Committee member Heather Williams wanted even more time: "rather than rushing to a vote, why not put off the decision and get the details right with an interim superintendent." In fact, the support for the merger seemed tepid at best — only two members of the nine seemed to fully support the action.

At a recent public forum on Unionization, Continued on Page 2

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

### THE BOOK WORM

Cleo Levin returns with another book and movie review.

See Page 3.

### Crossword

Mr. Dils is back at it! Are you up to the challenge?

See Page 6.

### Calling All Writers!

As the year winds to a close, the Echo Staff is looking for new writers from all grades to join our team next year.

Learn more on Page 3.

### Student Council Survey Results

Last month, the Student Council created a survey to help gauge the response to the budget problem and how students would prioritize the projected cuts.

Take a look at the results on Page 4.

### Words of Wisdom

Dr. Travis gives the Greylock community some sound advice as he prepares to retire at the end of this year.

See Page 3.

### SPORTS

The Echo sports writers are here to keep you informed on all the spring sports events.

See pages 5 and 6.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rhinoceros to Stampede onto Greylock Stage

The spring drama has always provided the Mount Greylock community with a unique and exciting performance, and this year is certainly no different. On May 14th and 15th at 7:00 p.m., high school students will perform *Rhinoceros*, a play written by Eugène Ionesco and belongs to the French Theater of the Absurd which explores the ideas of conformity, morality, and what it means to be truly "human". Under supervisor Tomas Ostheimer, seniors Patrick Madden and Petra Mijanovic have directed the play over the last two months. As a final theater performance for our extremely talented seniors, *Rhinoceros* is sure to be a performance unlike one ever given at Mount Greylock before.

### Calling All Green Thumbs!

At long last, the Youth Environmental Squad has been able to start a garden here at Mount Greylock. Behind the greenhouses on the southwest side of the building, a 40x80 plot has been prepared and will be planted with an array of crops: half will be planted with buckwheat, one fourth with potatoes, and the remaining fourth with eight different kinds of vegetables. The products of the garden will be served at the salad bar in the cafeteria next fall as well as being donated to local food banks. However, this garden will not be a success without help from students and community members, and it is also in need of gardening tools. Anyone interested in working in the garden or who has tools to share should talk to Patrick Madden or e-mail

greengreylock@gmail.com.

### Update on Recognition Night

As many of you know, the usual night-time assembly of Recognition Night has been moved to an in-school, grade divided system. Students will receive awards based on student leadership, service, and academics as before, but a new, more exciting change has been added. Each grade will vote on superlatives, chosen by class officers, for their respective grade later in May, which is sure to add a twist much anticipated by students. Assemblies will be held after fourth period at 11:15 for all grades: 9th grade on June 1st, 10th grade on June 2nd, and 11th grade on June 3rd. Seniors will continue to have their own separate Class Night on the Thursday during Senior Week.

The Echo's News in Brief section is willing to print community news and upcoming events; please send any news briefs to [mountgrelockecho@gmail.com](mailto:mountgrelockecho@gmail.com)

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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### Mrs. Yarter, Continued from Page 1

teacher Jeff Welch, "but she would do just about anything for anybody...She's very good at anticipating a need." Liza Barrett, a middle school English teacher, said, "Whatever it is, if it is actually possible, Cheryl will make it happen."

Mrs. Barrett has personal experience with Mrs. Yarter's kindness. When she attended Greylock as a student, Mrs. Barrett said, "Senioritis perhaps set in a bit too early," and Mrs. Yarter, the principal's secretary, witnessed "a few difficult visits to the principal's office." When Mrs. Barrett returned to the school as a teacher, Mrs. Yarter's "knowing smile" made it clear that she had forgotten nothing. But Mrs. Barrett was relieved to find that Mrs. Yarter never held it against her.

Mrs. Yarter loves challenges, from the personal to the everyday: "Something comes up, and immediately you have to do something about it. It's something that can't wait. We need the cafeteria staffed, or a student comes in and [has] been injured.... and Ms. Penna and Mr. Payne aren't readily available—I am. I like that."

Another part of Mrs. Yarter's many-faceted job is the assignment of substitute teachers. "I'm here at school at six o'clock every morning. And no matter how many people call in, the school has to be staffed at 7:40," she said. Taking this responsibility to heart, Mrs. Yarter is careful about which people she brings into the school. "I don't want anyone that's going to negatively influence [students' lives] in any way to be in the building," she said.

Mrs. Yarter handles everything from prom decorations to the morning coffee. She keeps the building running remarkably smoothly, but her record is not completely unblemished. Once, an English teacher named Dr. William Pommy called Mrs. Yarter on a very snowy day to ask if school was on. It was. "But it's horrible out here! I can't get out of here," Dr. Pommy protested. "I thought that meant he wasn't coming to school," said Mrs. Yarter, "so I got a substitute." As it turned out, he could get out of there, and Dr. Pommy drove all the way from Bennington to find his classroom already occupied!

### "Mrs. Yarter is the soul of the school," said Mr. Dils.

Mrs. Yarter loves her job: "It's not even really a job," she said. "It's more of a hobby. I spent the last 30 years on my hobby, and they paid me for it!" Mrs. Yarter's cheerfulness, her competence, and her box of candy make Greylock a more

comfortable place for everyone who walks inside. "I would probably work forever," she said, "but my husband has other plans. He wants to retire, and ... this way, we'll get to choose our path together." The two look forward to visits to the Pilgrim Sands hotel in Plymouth, overlooking Plymouth Bay.

Wherever life takes Mrs. Yarter, the students and teachers of Mt. Greylock will miss her. "Mrs. Yarter is the soul of the school," said Mr. Dils. Mrs. Barrett added, "It's hard to imagine that school will open without her next year."

Mrs. Yarter has taken care of an entire community for decades. Students and staff wish her an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement. Mrs. Yarter, happy trails!



Spring at last! Trees are in full blossom at Mount Greylock.  
Photo: Echo Staff

### Unionization, Continued from Page 1

tion, the community was similarly undecided: in a straw poll, only seven of the seventeen attendees favored the move, while eight had not yet made up their minds. Many community members with ties to the two elementary schools also attended the forum, and a major concern for everyone was whether their school would be getting a fair deal in the change. Two Lanesborough Elementary parents, when they heard that their school would receive less money than the other two, muttered to each other, "And we're going to trust them to give us a fair share later?" For their part, the Mt. Greylock partisans seemed concerned that Union 71, which for now only operates elementary schools, would be unable to properly manage the affairs of a regional high school.

Carrie Greene, however, has evidence to back up her support for Unionization. In Plymouth County, the

Silverlake School District has in place an arrangement similar to what Greene is proposing. The district is overseen by one superintendent, and the district employs only one Business manager and one Special Education Director. Each of the four elementary schools has its own principal, as well as two principals for the regional Middle and High School. In this system, there exists a Union Committee as well as a School Committee for each school, and the committees have to come to consensus, otherwise nothing gets done.

One possible advantage of Unionization is the increased collaboration among the schools. The three schools could create increased cooperation among their cafeteria and custodial staffs, more cooperation among the special education departments, and could share contracted services to save money.

### Nate Nurmi, Continued from Page 1

Q: Any ideas where that career will go?  
A: I think Jord and I will continue to write and record our stuff, but only for fun. Nothing too serious.  
Q: Now, what are your plans for next year?  
A: I'll be going to Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. I'm still unsure of what I'm really going to study, but whatever it is I plan to make a lot of money. And, yes, I'm super duper excited.  
Q: Looking back on six years at Mount Greylock, what is

your fondest memory?

A: Definitely winning a State Championship in soccer during the fall season of my junior year.

Q: Any final words of wisdom to leave the school community with as you graduate? Something for us to remember you by?

A: Greylock gives us all a really wide range of options, the key to making the most of your time here is to always be trying new things. 1-in-650, soccer, rap-- these were highlights for me. But every one of the 650 kids here has tons of opportunities... and they've got their own story to write. For now, peace and love. Nurmi out.



The views expressed in opinion or editorial pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper or the administration, but those of the individual authors.

## Williamstown Voters to Decide MGRHS Ballot Questions

By THE ECHO STAFF

Williamstown voters will decide two ballot questions at the annual town election on Tuesday, May 11, that directly affect Mount Greylock.

One question asks if the town's voters will agree to pay a share of the remaining amount owed for the repair to the school's roof eight years ago.

The other question asks if the town's voters will do the same to repair the school's boiler and locker rooms.

Each question is controversial as they ask the town's voters to approve increased taxes.

Both the town's Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen support the ballot questions and have encouraged voters to vote yes. At a recent selectmen's meeting, the board's chairman, Tom Costley, encouraged his fellow selectmen to be leaders on the ballot questions.

"The selectmen need to get out in front on these questions; to help the people of the town understand that these are the most basic kinds of expenses—fixing a leaky roof, replacing an aging furnace and providing safe,

functional locker rooms."

Costley is quick to point out, however, that the selectmen recognize the need to control expenses and limit the tax burden on homeowners in town.

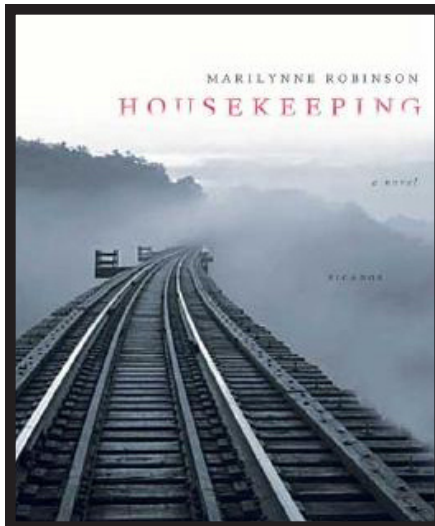
"The selectmen are committed to reducing expenses and eliminating waste in each of the town's budget centers [the elementary school, town hall and the high school]. These two ballot questions aren't luxuries, they're necessities."

If the roof question passes, the additional tax for a median home in Williamstown (a home assessed at \$296,000) will be approximately \$9 a year for the next two years. A yes vote on the boiler and the locker rooms will result in an additional \$26 a year for ten years starting a year from now.

While the cost of the three projects is high (well over \$1,000,000) the cost to homeowners is relatively modest since the total cost is shared between the state and the two towns (the state pays 46%) and the expenses are spread over many years.

## The Book Worm

By CLEO LEVIN



**Title:**  
*Housekeeping*

**Written By:**  
Marilynne Robinson

**Price:**  
\$15.64 (hardcover)

Admit it. However horrible it may sound, you already know from watching reality television that you are intrigued by observing the comings and goings of the traditional, sweet but dysfunctional family. Therefore, let me be the first to recommend to you the book *Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson. The novel tells the story of two young girls, Ruth, 15, and Lucille, 13, whose family situation is about as turbid as it gets. The girls begin the story as two inseparable units, united through calamity. Together, after the death of their mother, they soundlessly observe the procession of relatives that come to stay with them. It is not until the girls finally settle with their Aunt Sylvie, a woman who immediately reveals herself to be far from normal, and their lives reach a chaotic apex, that they begin to separate from one another.

As time passes, Sylvie's strange habits of wearing her floor-length coat around the house and conversing with the homeless become even stranger as she begins collecting newspapers and tin cans in corners of the house and sleeping on park benches during the day. Ruthie and Lucille's opposing responses to this abnormal behavior is what ultimately causes the division between the two girls. Lucille decides to terminate their self-imposed exile and sets out to meet the other inhabitants of the town. She begins dressing her hair, buying patterns to sew her own clothing, and meeting the other girls at the drugstore for Cokes. As Lucille distances herself, Ruth only grows closer to Sylvie and begins to accompany her on her wild and senseless adventures.

The story is a typical tale of adolescence and familial issues and perhaps, if Robinson had decided to make Lucille the narrator, it could have been lost in the dusty of YA shelves of podunk towns across the U.S. It is Ruth's dreamy, imaginative narration and the fantastical observations she makes on their woodland sojourns, like, "Buttercups are the materialization of the humid yellow light," that lend this tale its flavor and make it a truly great read.

In 1988, Bill Forsyth, director of perennial favorites such as "Gregory's Girl" and "Local Hero," adapted this novel to the screen. Like "Local Hero," "Housekeeping" possesses a similarly monochromatic, gray-tinged setting and the constant sensation of impending showers. Yet, as in its predecessor, this aspect works only to the film's advantage as it serves to highlight the prowess of its actors. The actresses portraying Ruth and Lucille, considering they were playing lead parts in a major motion picture in their mid-teens, would be impressive to me regardless of the quality of their performances. This is considering the fact that the crowning achievement of my adolescence was finding my way to the cafeteria unaccompanied. Sara Walker, portraying the character of Ruth, with her hunched shoulders, soft speech, and self-conscious smile captures mannerisms of the awkward teenager in a painfully accurate manner. Playing opposite her is the equally talented Andrea Burchill, who, with a determined gaze and a deliberate step, fills the role of Lucille. Yet, the quality of these girls' performances could be attributed to nothing more than some accurate typecasting, and the true star of the film is undoubtedly Christine Lahti in the role of Sylvie. Ms. Lahti, in her role, is an amalgam of all the great women that have graced the silver screen. She possesses the charm and alluring, toothy smile of Julia Roberts, the brazen laugh of Katherine Hepburn, and the mischievous merriment of Julie Andrews. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Forsyth allows the charismatic Ms. Lahti to take over the majority of the film and, in doing so, she obscures the unique view of Ruth, the book's narrator.

Nevertheless, although the film loses some of the delicate renderings and thought-provoking observations in forsaking the viewpoint of introverted Ruth, the world of *Housekeeping*, predominated by Ms. Lahti as Sylvie, sure has a lot more gumption.

## CALLING ALL WRITERS!



The Mount Greylock Echo is looking for possible writers, puzzlemasters, cartoonists and photographers to join our staff next year. With the loss of numerous valuable seniors, there is room for younger contributors to bring a fresh perspective.

Being part of the Echo is not an all-consuming commitment, but the editors do expect initiative and follow-through. Each month, story assignment sheets are handed out, and then each contributor has approximately two weeks to fulfill the assigned task. Writers must set up interviews and photographers must attend games and meetings. Everyone is expected to meet their deadlines, but the editors are always there to give support and answer questions.

This coming year, we will definitely need a cartoonist and at least two more news writers. If you are interested in filling ones of these slots, or if you would like to contribute in another way, please contact either Cate Costley or Alyssa Tomkowicz, both of who are juniors this year. Or, send an inquiry to [mountgreylockecho@gmail.com](mailto:mountgreylockecho@gmail.com) and we will follow-up with you.

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# COMMUNITY

## THE TRAIL OF TIERS

By NAOMI LACHANCE

Mount Greylock's budget is not seeing the happiest of times. A list of proposed cuts haunts the community, threatening to do away with or reduce many components of the high school: senior project, building maintenance, AP physics and biology, football, the library, theater. The list continues like a low budget horror flick: so unrelenting and cringe inducing one wonders how such an atrocity could occur.

"May I swear?" asked one student when probed on her feelings about the proposed cuts.

With students flirting with the prospect of transferring to another school and a community deeply concerned, one cannot help but ask: what will happen if the proposed cuts are indeed cut? And are they the right components to reduce?

After all, something must be cut. The Mt. Greylock coffers are alarmingly vacant. The loss of money is attributed to repairing the roof that collapsed in spring 2009, fixing faulty boilers, reduced state funding, and international recession. If all cuts are finalized, the school will save \$634,333. But what, exactly, will be lost?

"The situation is dire," said Mt. Greylock parent Judy Fraser at a recent School Committee meeting, "and from a funding standpoint, the school seems to be in survival mode. Every student will be affected by this budget crisis."

When sophomore Hayden Barber first learned that the three sports he plays, golf, alpine skiing, and track and field, are on the list of proposed cuts, he said, "That's horrible. Now I have nothing to do. I propose they cut something else." Others are equally distressed. "You can't have high school sports without football," said sophomore Jake Whalen. "I feel like all the sports getting cut are really big ones."

"Drama and sports" said senior Krista Mangiardi, "are essential to the high school experience...they are also important for personal development and college applications." "Sports and theater are some of the things that are most important to me," said freshman Blake Sherman. Freshman Helen Overstreet said she "would probably switch schools" if theater is eliminated. Senior Mitchell Hebert said, "Kids move here just to play sports."

Others are concerned about the proposal to close the library two days a week and lay off a librarian. "How can you have a school without a library open every day? I just don't see it," said sophomore Hannah Paul. Librarian Ms. Share called the idea "very distressing." She said closing the library 40% of the school week would make the library lose buying privileges, inter-library loan, and accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), an organization that, according to its website, provides accreditation for more than 2,000 public and private institutions in New England and helps schools constantly improve and raises their reputations. Share pointed out that, unfortunately, taxpayers are the place to look to for money. She glanced wistfully about the library, at students working on computers and shelves overflowing with books. "There's a lot of money invested in this library," she said.

Cutting the senior project, on the other hand, is seeing passionate approval from the student body. "Senior project definitely should have been on the list first," said Hebert. In a recent survey conducted by the Student Council in which grades 9-12 could prioritize the proposed cuts how they saw fit, senior project was voted to be the first cut. "The senior project needs to be eliminated," said Sherman. Fraser held a petition. Among the 35 parents approached,

31 signed. "Given that the senior project is a relatively new, underperforming, and costly program," reads the petition, "...we believe the senior project should be cut from the 2010-2011 budget." Mr. Payne pointed out that the senior project was put into place five years ago when NEASC visited to see the effectiveness of the high school. The senior project allowed NEASC to give Mt. Greylock accreditation for another ten years. If senior project were cut, then a different program would have to be implemented to serve the same purpose, one that would perhaps cost even more. "For accreditation, you have to have something in place that shows your kids are meeting graduation expectations," he said, adding, "We're going to have to revisit this." It remains unsure whether NEASC would accept a temporary hiatus on the Senior Project and still keep the school's accreditation. Although if cuts in the library cause the school to lose NEASC accreditation anyway, that concern might be irrelevant.

Another area of unease regards cutting a member of the custodial staff. "It's going to be tough around here with three custodians," said one custodian who preferred to remain unnamed. "I don't want to lose my job," he said. He mentioned that everything will be determined by the taxpayers' decision. Sophomore Sarah Kelly said that if a custodian is laid off, "then our school would be dirty and it would make someone lose their job." At a recent School Committee meeting, Mt. Greylock parent Jennifer Belanger said, "We're taking away peoples' incomes, their livelihoods... I have a serious problem with that." School Committee chair David Archibald, though, saw it differently. "If we need to we'll have kids walk around

*Budget Reactions, Continued on Page 5*

## SURVEY RESULTS

*The Student Council recently conducted a survey that asked students to rank the proposed budget cuts from those that should be the first to go to those that should most be kept. Included also are some prominent student opinions.*

1. Senior Project- \$31,681
2. Music Lessons- \$35,603
3. Curriculum Leaders- \$5,000
4. Health- \$14,628
5. Computer Software- \$21,647
6. Computer Hardware- \$21,901
7. Stained Glass- \$25,5703
8. Summer Guidance- \$11,673
9. Guidance Counselors- \$42,022
10. Science Labs- about \$30,000
11. Custodian- \$53,806
12. Drama- \$23,000
13. Librarian- \$21,083
14. AP Languages- \$32,547
15. Athletic activities- \$57,000

*"If a certain cut is made [most often sports or drama], I would go to another school."*

*"Do not cut academics until other cuts [i.e. computer software, music lessons, stained glass, or Senior Project] have been made."*

*"It would be disastrous to make Drama into one big cut. If it must be cut, then pick and choose individual productions instead of cutting all theater. Only cutting, say, the spring play, or only cutting the middle school musical, could save a lot of money and be more reasonable."*

*"Don't take away people's jobs; look to make reductions like Curriculum Leaders/Stained Glass classes or to cut luxuries like Computer Hardware/Software before you actually cut the job of a custodian or librarian."*

## A LOOK INSIDE THE STUDENT COUNCIL

By HALEY MAHAR

Here, Echo writer and Student Council member Haley Mahar recaps the accomplishments of the Student Council this year and outlines goals and changes for next year. Below the article are the results from this year's class elections.

With four high school grades and six representatives from each, the 2009-2010 Mount Greylock Student Council is comprised of 24 students. They meet each Tuesday after school between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., discussing and debating issues that are affecting the students of Mount Greylock. From organizing student elections and can drives to delivering candy canes and chocolate roses, the Student Council has had a productive year, and the future is looking even brighter.

Following the typical offices of government, the Student Council holds authoritative positions within the council itself. Among the 24 representatives of the 2009-2010 school year, there is a parliamentarian, treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president each of which are individually important. A new voting process for these posts has been established and will take place this spring. Instead of the traditional elections at the beginning of each school year, the Student Council will now be holding their elections each spring. This will allow newly elected posts to learn the ropes from their predecessors. These elections will also take place among 20 representatives as opposed to the previous 24. In order to increase efficiency and organization, there are now only five representatives from each

grade. Student Council President Jessi Payton says, "The new voting process will allow the council to start running more efficiently sooner in the year, and fewer representatives will create more focused meetings."

Throughout the school year, the Student Council has helped to raise money for the SEE Fund, organized multiple drives and fundraisers, and has worked on perfecting their constitution to ensure improvements next year. They have tackled controversial issues like the new tardiness policy, and have given surveys to students about matters such as the budget cuts. Information gathered by these surveys has been presented to the School Committee

*Student Council, Continued on Page 5*

### Class Election Results are in!



#### Class Officers:

**9th Grade:**  
President: Emily Kaegi  
Vice President: Katelyn Marchand  
Treasurer: Heather Tomkowicz  
Secretary: Pearl Sutter

**10th Grade:**  
President: Margot Besnard  
Vice President: Alexa Adams  
Treasurer: Kat Chenail  
Secretary: Naja Lewis

**11th Grade:**  
President: Sophia Santore  
Vice President: Katie Rathbun  
Treasurer: Sean O'Connor  
Secretary: Naomi LaChance

**12th Grade:**  
President: Kim Houston  
Vice President: Geena Chang  
Treasurer: Alyssa Tomkowicz  
Secretary: Rachel Down

#### Student Council:

**9th Grade:**  
Aaron Zeimer  
Evelyn Mahon  
Mackenzie Flynn  
Zach Leamon  
Sophie Leamon

**11th Grade:**  
Luke Costley  
Tom Dils  
Ned Kleiner  
Haley Mahar  
Hallie Walker

**10th Grade:**  
Hank Barrett  
Jonah Majumder  
Nathan Majumder  
Brett McCormack  
Alex White

**12th Grade:**  
Laura Duncan  
Bree Flynn-Kasuba  
Liz Gorson  
Laura Rosenthal



## Student Council, Continued from Page 4

and taken into account. As Student Council secretary and senior class representative Patrick Madden says, "The Student Council has actually accomplished quite a bit. Perhaps not as much as we'd hoped, but definitely more than is widely perceived by the school community." Mrs. Keeley, advisor to the Student Council, agrees. The Student Council has achieved "better communication with the administration and has increased student input into administrative decisions. Meetings have been held more regularly than usual and are more meaningful."

The Student Council is also already looking forward to the new school year. They will be continuing fundraisers such as candy canes, chocolate roses, and the can drive, and are ready to tackle any new issues that arise within the student body. Keeley also hopes that "more [Student Council members] get involved in regular

and national events such as attending Model Congress." For this year's seniors, their last meeting will be held on May 18th. As Madden says, "I look back on my time as a council member and secretary fondly... I've watched the council transform from an incredibly informal, loosely organized body, to a relatively organized body of student leaders with weekly meetings and accessible minutes posted to the website."

Since the Student Council acts as a bridge between the adults of the building and school community, students are more than welcome to attend Student Council meetings, which take place on Tuesday afternoons. Any student concerns can be communicated to a class representative or e-mailed to mgstudentcouncil@gmail.com. The Student Council page can be found on the Mount Greylock Website under the "For Students" sidebar.

## Budget Reactions, Continued from Page 4

in dust an inch deep," he said, "so long as it doesn't harm their health, before we cut classes that the kids need to bring forward into their life after."

Archibald is not the only one concerned about preserving academics. "Science labs," said Mangiardi, "are often college entrance requirements." On one student council survey, a student wrote, "Do not cut academics until other cuts [i.e. computer software, music lessons, stained glass, or Senior Project] have been made." This is, after all, a school.

On Tuesday, May 11, Williamstown will hold a town election. The ballot has one proposition that, if it passes, will aid the district to repair the ceilings in the locker rooms and to replace the failed boilers. A second proposition will support the cost of roof repairs done several years ago. The two ballot items are temporary and will eliminate potential debt caused by these

endeavors. If the first proposition passes, the impact for a median value single-family house will be \$27.00 in fiscal year 2012. If the second passes, the total impact for a median value single-family house will be \$18.00. The Williamstown Financial Committee has unanimously recommended the passage of both ballot items. Lanesborough, whose town meeting is in June, has yet to decide on a method of response.

The list of cuts remains in transitional mode. The amount that will ultimately be cut really cannot be predicted until the amount of money available for next year is known, which will be determined, in part, by taxpayers. In a perfect world, a school's components would not be determined by money. Suffice it to say, though, that this world is far from perfect. Perhaps Hebert put it best. "If it has to be cut," he said sadly, "so be it."

# SPORTS

## Boys' Track

By TOM DILS

The boys' track team is off the blocks of the 2010 season, already partway through what hopes to be a strong year. Led by veteran seniors Caleb Pudvar and Spencer Rioux, the early part of the season has gone as planned, with notable victories over Lenox and Taconic.

The Mounties have won events all over the board, from sprints to distance to relays to field competitions. Senior Tyler Grees, who is partaking in his first season of track has already made his mark, with multiple victories in the 100 meter sprint and high jump. Along with the 200 meter and long jump specialist Pudvar, the Mounties have received solid performances from Matt Cheung (800 and mile), Matt Belouin (400 and 800), and Will Kirby (2 mile). On the hurdles side, Rioux has proved his experience so far in the 110 meter, as have Chris Mahar and Aaron Taylor. Rounding out the team are field specialists Matt Wilson and Max Reinhardt.

"We have quality, but not quantity," said Rioux. "This is the same problem that has been plaguing us for the last few years," he said. However, the Mounties are counting on underclassmen to step into empty roles. With wins from the beginning of the season under their belt, the track team hopes to surprise some people in the county. The most important thing is to be in top form for the end of the season. To get there, however, the Mounties must take on county favorites like Drury, Pittsfield, and Hoosac. Every meet will help them gain experience, and by June they hope to be in position to make a showing at Western Mass.



## Boys' Lax

By ALEX WHITE

The boys' lacrosse team has gotten off to a great start in county play. They have a 5-0 Berkshire County record with some dominating performances. A 0-3 record outside the league has proven that the out-of-county competition is slightly tougher, yet the boys have held their ground with some scrappy play in those few rough losses.

Senior midfielders Kyle Quagliano and Andy Budz have anchored the team along with junior Jason Pilot. Up front, leading goal scorers are Marston Albert, Brett McCormack, and Mike Greb. Defensively, Pat Malloy has stepped in and done a nice job shutting down attackers with eighth-grader Woody Hamilton behind him in goal.

Their latest win came against a PHS squad that wilted under Greylock's constant pressure on offense. Goals scored by Budz, Greb, Albert, Pilot, and McCormack set the tone for Hamilton in goal as they rolled to a 9-2 victory.

Looking for a repeat performance of last year's county championship triumph, the team hopes to continue their success in the county as well as make a name for themselves in the surrounding region.

## Girls' Track

By LUKE COSTLEY

Priding itself on depth, versatility, and consistency, the girls' track team has torn through the early part of their season. The girls are reasserting themselves as the team to beat in Berkshire County by using a combination of success in their races and success in their field events.

In the distance events, Mackenzie Hitchcock, Kaylene Lemme, and Erin Manners will keep the pace, while in the field events Sam Radke, Meredith Phelps, and Geena Chang look to take top prize. And finally, in the sprints Alexa Adams, Liz Gorson, and Jessi Payton will all compete.

So far, the first major challenge of the year came at Taconic High School, where they needed to perform well in every area of the meet to succeed. As has become the norm for this team, there were no individual superstars on site, but instead, a countless number of athletes contributed in the win.

This overwhelming barrage of talent has the team in line to win their fourth consecutive County Championship and will hopefully set them up for a Western Mass title later in the year.

## Girls' Lax

By TOM DILS

The Mount Greylock girls' lacrosse team has handled rival opponents with ease so far, using their depth and superb defense to fuel the victories. As of late April, the girls were 2-0 with commanding wins over the co-op teams Hoosac-Drury and Taconic-Pittsfield by scores of 15-3 and 14-7. Led by Siri Mason, the Mounties have been able to score with ease and shut down opponent attacks. On the offensive end, forwards/midfielders Mason and Kathleen Dudziak have provided many of the goals, while junior Kim Houston and Kristina Chesney play key defensive roles. Senior goalie Mollie Major has proved herself to be one of the county's best, and the Mounties are looking to use their defensive confidence to continue their dominance.

Another important aspect of the lacrosse team's success is their depth. Even though they are not co-op as almost all of the other Berkshire County teams are, they have managed to create a strong line-up from top to bottom. As sophomore Haley Mahar said, "We have a lot of new players that are consistently showing improvement and promise during games and practice." The Mounties' depth can be attributed to solid coaching and improvement of less-experienced players.

As defending county champions, the Greylock girls are aiming for another title in 2010. They will have to beat developing teams Wahconah and South County (Lenox-Lee) in order to do so, but the Mounties are confident that they will succeed.



## Tennis

By TOM DILS

The girls' tennis team is setting the bar high with an undefeated 6-0 start to the season. With hopes to continue their Berkshire County dominance, the Mounties are using their experience and depth to earn victories against difficult opponents so far. Captain Sophia Santore, one of the county's top players, has performed well, earning multiple victories at the number-one singles spot. Cleo Levin and Sam Rydell follow her at the two and three positions, providing huge contributions in recent matches. Greylock counts on their doubles teams to earn wins, and the Maggie Dewey-Perry Osteimer combo at the one slot

has followed through by going undefeated so far. The Katie Swoap, Laura Nolan, and Natalia Renzi rotation finishes the team at the second doubles position.

Recent victories over perennial county foes Monument Mountain and Lee, who will both likely finish in the top five, highlight the tennis team's success so far. The 3-2 Monument match was Greylock's closest, where the second doubles team pulled out a crucial win to add to Levin's and the first doubles' victories. The girls hope to ride their early success to a chance at the Berkshire County title, but first they will have to deal with top contender Lenox first.

Last season, the Mounties lost in the Western Mass semifinals; with their experience and depth, they have a chance to go farther in 2010. We hope to see them competing for titles far into June.



## Softball

By ALEX WHITE

The Greylock softball team has gotten off to a rocky 1-5 start this year. With a young and inexperienced team, they are focused on improving fundamentally as the season goes on, and they will look to knock off some of the bigger names in the county.

Led by sophomores Alyssa Mangiardi, Autumn Leon, Caitie Benoit, Michaela DiNicola, and Sierra Holland, and freshman pitcher Alexis Bushika, the Mounties will definitely be a force to be reckoned with in future years. For now, they hope to gain experience and become a closer, well-rounded team under the leadership of captains Benoit, DiNicola, and Alex Cun-

ningham.

Fresh off a tough loss against Drury, which Benoit calls "one of our best offensive and defensive games," the team seems to be heading in a good direction

In the two games before that- against Turner Falls and St. Joe's- the Mounties only lost by a combined score of 12-9. They are certainly hanging in there, but the extra errors and mental mistakes are holding them from winning.

For now, Benoit says, "I am really excited to see how this team fares the rest of the [year] and where it can take us in the years to come."



Photo: Katie Rathbun



Photo: Katie Rathbun

## Baseball

By LUKE COSTLEY

All spring sport athletes understand that it is inevitable that their seasons will be thrown out of sync at some point. Inclement weather often ruins the softball field. Late season playoff runs for the baseball team are thrown off by prom and senior week. Tennis matches and track meets become unbearable in the scorching June heat.

This year's baseball team at Mount Greylock, however, has become so accustomed to changing on the fly that these little bumps and uncontrollable variables are becoming routine. Despite noticeable setbacks to their roster and early schedule, the team has maintained an even keel and has readily adapted to the challenges.

Starting off with an impressive comeback win against Drury, they used that clutch performance to their advantage. All wins thus far have come from behind, most notably a barn-burner over St. Joseph's on April 25. In that game, the Mounties used a patchwork of underclassmen to win, with Jackson Parse providing the heroics in the bottom of the seventh and Mike Geannelis earning the victory on the mound. Time and again these young players will be called upon, mainly to fill the spot of Chris Koch, who was badly injured before that game.

With all the uncertainty, the remainder of the season may hold some question marks, but the team seems more than up to the task.

## CROSSWORD

By BLAIR DILS

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
	20					21					22			
				23					24					
25	26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	
34						35					36			
37						38					39			
40						41					42			
43						44					45			
						46					47			
	48	49					50	51				52	53	54
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

### Across

- #1 number two who became the #2 number one
- Actors who mug
- Talking equine of '60s TV
- Roll over, as a subscription
- Neighbor of Yemen
- Toy on a string
- Food from Heaven
- Lot in life
- \_\_\_\_-again (like some Christians)
- She offered Excalibur to the future King Arthur
- Garment accompanying a girdle
- Last letter, in London
- Gordon of "Oklahoma!"
- Went out, as a fire
- Club discussed in club-houses: Abbr.
- Guiding Philosophy
- Couch
- Standard
- Popular canned tuna
- Word of invitation
- Broadway award
- Alleviates
- Nile stinger
- Hockey legend Gordie

- Handles the food for the party
- Big bird of the outback
- Quilt locale
- Columbia, in an old patriotic song
- Witty Ephron
- Lamb: ewe :: \_\_\_\_ : mare
- Ram, astrologically
- Voting no
- Warren of the Supreme Court.
- Do, as a puzzle
- Something to slip on?
- Whirling current
- Country ENE of London

### Down

- Elbow's place
- "Are we agreed?"
- Late celebrity \_\_\_\_ Nicole Smith
- Repair
- Sag on a nag
- Labor leader Jimmy who mysteriously disappeared
- amo, amas, \_\_\_\_ ...
- Trig or geometry
- Take lightly
- "Oops! I made a mis-

- Castle, in chess
- "Jane \_\_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_\_ we now our gay apparel"
- Valuable rock
- \_\_\_\_ Zeppelin
- Holy city of Islam
- One of the Three Musketeers
- Cheeta, in "Tarzan" films.
- Serving with chop suey
- "Lorna \_\_\_\_"
- Questionable
- Rapper's entourage
- Garson of "Mrs. Miniver"
- Accumulate
- The white in a whiteout
- Tidy
- Crayfish dish
- One who could use a shrink
- Medical care grp.
- Corporate V.I.P.
- Earthlink transmission
- Stomach
- Disappeared
- Old Harper's Bazaar artist
- Wart causer, in legend
- Rocklike
- Greek love god
- Needs medicine
- Cambell of "Scream"
- 40 winks
- Topic for Dr. Ruth

Mt. Greylock

# CMCA

Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol

"Talk to them early, talk to them often"