

TREMBLAY PETITIONS FOR PARKING

By EVELYN MAHON

Any Mt. Greylock student who drives to school knows about the parking permit fee, which has historically been \$50 per year, to park in the back half of the pothole-riddled parking lot. However, this year an effort was spearheaded by senior Allison Tremblay to lower or eliminate the cost of parking. "I heard a lot of complaints around the school, saying it was unfair to pay so much to park in such a bad parking lot," said Tremblay, "So I decided to do something."

Tremblay researched Massachusetts state laws regarding parking permits for schools and found that the school was responsible for the upkeep of the parking lot whether students paid or not. She then went to Dr. Kurty to find out where students' money was going. He was unsure, so she took her question to David Donoghue, the finance director, who reported that the money went to the parking lot. Skeptical, Tremblay arranged a meeting with Dr. Ellis, who told her the money went to a general fund for school upkeep. Satisfied with this answer, she went back to Dr. Kurty, who told her the issue had to be brought to the school committee. With the support of the student council and the school council, Tremblay went into the school committee meeting



Allison Tremblay led the successful campaign to lower student parking fees.

on October 26, backed by the support of her peers. When the meeting ended, the fee had been lowered to \$25. Those who had

previously paid \$50 for their permit were assured a refund of \$25. Tremblay was excited, but also wary: "If [the money] goes directly to the parking lot, \$25 is awesome. I'd just like to see the potholes get filled—those things hurt cars," Tremblay added. Many students are taking advantage of the lowered cost of parking. Julia Vlahopoulos, a junior, paid her parking fee after it was lowered. "I think it's good that they lowered it, but they're not really taking care of the parking lot right now," remarked Vlahopoulos. "It's good that they make us pay a little bit, but if they're not going to take care of it, then we shouldn't pay." Most juniors and seniors that drive to school share the same opinion. Nathan Majumder, a senior, stated, "We shouldn't have to pay anything. They're going to have the parking lot anyway. They don't maintain it, so why should we have to pay?"

The general consensus is that the lowered fee is tolerable, but major changes and responsible upkeep are necessary to rationalize such a fee. The school has recently begun construction to improve the quality of the parking lot. Most importantly, Tremblay dealt with the bureaucratic school system properly, with caution and diplomacy, and the school population benefitted. ■■

1 in 650: An Interview with Crystal Haynes

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of Crystal Haynes

Recently, senior Crystal Haynes received the honor of being appointed to the Massachusetts Governor's Youth Council. Crystal is a senior from New York City, who came to Greylock through the ABC (A Better Chance) program. She has been a hugely active member of Multicultural BRIDGE here at Mt. Greylock, an organization that raises awareness about and promotes acceptance of diversity among young people, which is one of the many reasons she received this honor. The Youth Council is a resource for the governor in making decisions that will affect young people in Massachusetts. The Echo sat down with Crystal to find out more about what this program means to her and what she looks to do in the future.

Echo: Why did you decide to apply to this program?

Crystal: Gwendolyn VanSant from the Multicultural BRIDGE told me about the opportunity. She also told me about a lot of other governor-supported opportunities, but most of them you needed a degree, which I don't have. But when I heard about this, I was really excited. I tried to run for student council in tenth grade and didn't win, unfortunately. I was really sad, so when I heard about this I was like, "yes!" I wanted to make an impact and since I couldn't do it on student council, with this program I could do it on a much larger scale.

Echo: What is your role on this council?

Crystal: There are a total of twenty-eight students representing the fourteen-county in Massachusetts. Each county has two students, so there is me from Berkshire County and someone else I have never met. We are going to come together and talk about problems we see in Berkshire County and how we can fix them. Whether it's a new skatepark or more serious issues like bullying, we can address the issues based on what we see in Berkshire County.

Echo: What are some of the things you hope you can accomplish in your new position?

Crystal: Well, I'm a part of UNITY, which is a community service project that we do for Berkshire County with kids from BART and other schools in the area where we talk about a big proj-

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ELECTIONS

By MIRANDA PARK

And the results are in! On November 6th, Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States, was re-elected. He defeated his Republican opponent Mitt Romney in both the popular and electoral votes, making him the first democratic president since Franklin D. Roosevelt to be elected in two terms with the majority in both votes. It was, however, a close race on the popular front, with the president earning only 51% of the the popular vote, illustrating the schism in the nation. He did win 332 electoral votes to Romney's 206 and was able to take all the battleground states, save North Carolina. In the final moments of his victory speech, President Obama declared: "We are greater than the sum of our individual ambitions, and we remain more than a collection of red states and blue states. We are and forever will be the United States of America." Now that the race has ended, the most prudent thing America can do is cooperate, regardless of political affiliation.

In the race for the Massachusetts senate seat, Democrat Elizabeth Warren defeated incumbent Republican Scott Brown, who had been elected after the passing of former Massachusetts senator Ted Kennedy. After an incredibly expensive and particularly harsh campaign on both sides, Warren was elected as the first female senator from Massachusetts. On the Massachusetts ballot, both Question One, which would give consumers more choices when fixing their automobiles, and Question Three, which allows doctors to prescribe marijuana as part of treatment for certain medical conditions, passed. Question Two, which would have allowed doctor-assisted suicide to the terminally ill who so choose to end their lives, was narrowly defeated.

Meanwhile, the Mt. Greylock student council organized its own mock election in which Mt. Greylock students were presented with the Massachusetts ballot. 500 out of Greylock's 572 students voted, with the results as follows: Obama received 355 votes to Romney's 99, while the Green



As in the national presidential election, President Obama defeated Governor Romney in Mt. Greylock's mock election.

party's Jill Stein picked up ten votes and the Libertarian party's Gary Johnson took seventeen. Elizabeth Warren won with 344 votes to Scott Brown's 139. By Mt. Greylock standards, Questions Two and Three were passed with 288 votes to 153, 299 to 179, respectively. Students did not vote on Question One.

In this election, much effort was put into motivating America's youth to vote, with both parties using social media and celebrity endorsements to reach younger voters who have in the past skipped out on voting. Actor-turned-political activist, Kal Penn, best known for his Harold and Kumar fame, campaigned around the United States, promoting the importance of the youth vote with his website gottavote.org. "Whether you're a Democrat, Republican, Independent," he said, "[the site] has all the voter information there." The next presidential election is not for another four years,

but Mt. Greylock students are implored to educate themselves about both parties and to get out and vote for the candidate they personally support. ■■

2012 MGRHS Mock Election Results:

President: Barack Obama

Senate: Elizabeth Warren

Ballot Question 2: Yes

Ballot Question 3: Yes

FITNESS MANDATED

Katelin Marchand investigates the popular opinion on 'fitness days' in gym class.

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NEW BUILDING?

The school committee is petitioning for a new building, Naomi Day reports.

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NEW ART GALLERY

Kelsey Hebert tells us about a new gallery that was featured at Mt. Greylock.

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GIFT-GIVING

Pearl Sutter fills us in on the "Dos" and "Don'ts" for the upcoming holiday season.

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FITNESS IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

By KATELIN MARCHAND

Once or twice a week students at Mt. Greylock can expect a 'fitness day' in gym, where they will go through a fitness circuit with several stations or play a game that requires a lot of running. It has only been in recent years that the activities students do on these days are called "fitness activities."

In reality the fitness craze started in 2001. High school students would pick their set of electives for the quarter and one of the three week units would have been a fitness activity, such as yoga or resistance training. The problem with that system was that a student had the potential to go up to twelve weeks without participating in a fitness activity.

"The system had to be changed because there was a lack of emphasis on fitness in wellness," expounded gym teacher, Brian Gill. Thus, fitness days were created. Besides the problems with the old system, fitness was also inspired by dance week, which takes place at the end of second quarter. Dance week is a week during which the whole school is brought together by dancing. The gym teachers hoped to achieve such an effect in fitness. This is the reason behind fitness in group activities, like a rigorous team sport, yoga, or the fitness circuit.

Many students are outspoken about

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GREYLOCK APPLIES FOR NEW BUILDING

By NAOMI DAY

Attending a school that was built in the 1960s comes with many problems. The sprawling facility, built back when heating oil was seventeen cents a gallon, as band teacher Lyndon Moors remarks, wastes energy and adds a financial burden to Mt. Greylock. Substandard science labs are no longer meeting the needs of students and teachers. Noise pollution and poor air quality have become issues, along with the deteriorating physical condition of

the funding needed for the project from the state. The rest of the project would be paid for through local taxes and the school will have to petition towns for the remaining funds. This would not be a new experience, because both Williamstown and Lanesborough have constructed new schools within the last ten to fifteen years, and the towns are familiar with the process of petition. Ellis says that now the building subcommittee is working on a plan to "commu-



The building subcommittee (of the school committee) has been working to win a new building for the Mt. Greylock community.

the building.

In 2005, a building subcommittee of the school committee formed to begin to address these problems. Meeting monthly, the subcommittee has submitted five Statements of Interest (SOIs) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) since 2006. The SOI, a document outlining the subcommittee's case for why Mt. Greylock needs a new building, has been rejected by the MSBA, a state level organization that controls funds for school buildings, every year. As Superintendent Dr. Rose Ellis says, the MSBA is looking at over 200 SOIs from across the state, and there could very well be a school with a far more acute need than Mt. Greylock's. Moors, who has been a member of the subcommittee since it formed in 2005, said that another reason Mt. Greylock's SOI has been rejected is because the school has "done a good job in patching things" and that "fixing things makes Greylock less of a priority."

In mid November, the MSBA will look over Mt. Greylock's SOI yet again to decide whether or not the school will be invited into the building project. If it is, the school can receive up to 65% of

the funding needed for the project from the state. The rest of the project would be paid for through local taxes and the school will have to petition towns for the remaining funds. This would not be a new experience, because both Williamstown and Lanesborough have constructed new schools within the last ten to fifteen years, and the towns are familiar with the process of petition. Ellis says that now the building subcommittee is working on a plan to "commu-

nicate to the community the gravity of [the building's] needs." The goal is to reach out so that community members can understand why this project is necessary now. If Mt. Greylock's case is accepted by the MSBA, there will be an assessment of current needs so a budget can be matched to the educational need of the school. Outside knowledge for the design process will come to Williamstown, and then the choice is left up to the MSBA and the building subcommittee to decide if a renovation in the current building will occur or if a completely new building will be constructed. There are pros and cons to both sides. A new building would be faster because students could remain in the current building as construction proceeds, but it would be far more expensive. A renovation would be far less expensive but would take much longer. If the SOI is rejected again, the subcommittee will go back to the drawing board and resubmit in January of 2012. However, Ellis is hopeful that with the "support of our legislators," Mt. Greylock will receive funding and renovation or new construction will occur. ■

1 in 650

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ect we want to do. People always say we need to come up with more, like fun ways for people to come together. I went to a youth summit in September and a girl from Pittsfield was talking about cleaning up the streets and making the environment safer. I think I will mention something about these activities to the council, because there isn't a lot for us to do in Berkshire County. It would be great if there were more safe things we could do for people in all the counties because not every place is as safe as Williamstown. I think the most challenging thing for me is that I wasn't born

in Berkshire county so I just go off what I know from my last four years here.

Echo: You're earned awards and recognition for your work on social justice. What would you say social justice is?

Crystal: Social justice to me is accepting all people—embracing everyone. Part of my job as an ABC student is to bring awareness of a different culture, not just through the way I look. Answering questions about myself, if someone has a question and not taking things to heart is important. Just being chill.

Echo: Is being an ABC student what got you interested in groups like BRIDGE?

Crystal: My middle school was one-hundred percent African-American, and Mt. Greylock is ninety percent Caucasian. I feel like I'm always in between two extremes so I want to embrace new things, not just because I am an ABC student. I feel like after high school we go to college and there are so many different types of people. I think the best thing we can do right now is to expose ourselves to as many different things as we can. If I'm exposing myself to other people or they're exposed to me, it's good. Not just to people of different races, but eco-

nomie backgrounds too.

Echo: What other positions like this council would you like to participate in?

Crystal: I'm not a history person so I don't want to run for any political positions. I want to be a psychologist when I grow up. I love talking for the people. In the future I don't want to be the president of my college. I want to make sure we all have a voice. And I think with this position in Youth Council it is important that you have a voice. I think the purpose is to give a chance for all voices to be heard. I'm also sick and tired of saying the same thing over and over again and feeling stuck in one spot because nothing

changes. If I can help in some way and speak for the people, then I'm happy.

Echo: What advice to do you have for other students who want to pursue leadership positions like you have done?

Crystal: Don't give up. I know it's cliché, but for me it's true. I didn't get a spot on student council in tenth grade. I think that if people want to speak on behalf of the Mounties or people in Berkshire County they should continue trying to do that. Whether that means running again or finding something else to be apart of. If you like something, continue to do it. I like to talk and get to know people, so I didn't give up. Now I'm glad because I can make a difference on a state level.

Echo: Its a new school year so we're changing up the final question: If you could replace your hand or arm with anything, what would you pick?

Crystal: That's really hard. I'd pick a person. Someone who means a lot to me, so I could be with them all the time.

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate a student for 1 in 650, please contact the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com. ■

"My middle school was one-hundred percent African-American, and Mt. Greylock is ninety percent Caucasian...Social justice to me is accepting all people—embracing everyone."

The 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 writers, photographers, artists, and editors. Any Mt. Greylock student is welcome to submit material or join the Echo staff.

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FITNESS

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their love or hate of fitness. One student, freshman Luke Park, explained, "I like fitness...enough. It energizes me for the day." Mt. Greylock junior Miranda Bucky agrees with Park: "Fitness gives me good ideas for activities outside of school." When the fitness days occur, that is one of the main goals: to inspire students to take what they learn about fitness and use it outside of gym class. On the other hand, there are some students who aren't as enthusiastic. "We

should be doing fitness, but I don't like it," said freshman Jasper Rosenheim. Eighth-grader Matthew Kleiner stated, "I would rather be playing sports than doing fitness." One freshman, Sam Swoap, begs an important question, "I think if we are doing fitness, it should be every day, not just once a week."

Should gym teachers abandon sports completely and strictly do fitness every day? Should they remove fitness-specific activities? For now, regardless of their opinions, students have no choice but to participate. ■■

NEW GALLERY AT GREYLOCK

By KELSEY HEBERT

From October 19 to November 19, Mt. Greylock's art gallery by the Superintendent's office hosted the work of a

local artist and Williams College visual arts teacher, Mike Glier. Many of the 50 pieces of his Satisfaction collection were shown in the gallery for students and the public to admire.



Mike Glier's Satisfaction collection features charcoal drawings of the faces of people he interviewed.

local artist and Williams College visual arts teacher, Mike Glier. Many of the 50 pieces of his Satisfaction collection were shown in the gallery for students and the public to admire.

Glier is a contemporary artist who usually focuses on geographic areas all around the world, which provide inspiration for his paintings. For his Satisfaction collection, however, he focused on

realized that mainly people make decisions to make themselves happy. People want motivation. So I asked fifty people from different parts of the country: "What is satisfaction?" said Glier. This idea became the motivation for his fifty-piece collection of portraits in which he created charcoal drawings of the faces

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S.M.I.L.E. FUNDRAISER



S.M.I.L.E. is currently raising money to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Pennies Boxes are located in English classrooms and in the main office. Students are encouraged to donate what they can.

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ARTS

FALL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL A HIT

By EVELYN MAHON

This year's Shakespeare play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, went on stage November ninth and tenth. It was attended by loving parents, supportive friends, and those English students whose teachers have given them the option of either seeing Shakespeare or writing a four-page paper. Very few people know the true culture behind the program. The fall Shakespeare play is not unique to Mt. Greylock. Every year, directors from Shakespeare and Company in Lenox visit nine different schools in the general Berkshire area and one school from North Andover. With the resources of Shakespeare and Company, these schools rehearse and perform ninety minute versions of Shakespeare plays, ranging from *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre* to *The Winter's Tale* to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The plays are performed at the various schools, then the sets are carted to Shakespeare and Company and rebuilt in a half hour.

This rapid fire theater scene is known as the Fall Festival of Shakespeare, a program which began 24 years ago. Shakespeare and Company originally sent directors to only Mt. Greylock and Lenox High School, then brought the shows to a theater on Shakespeare and Company grounds. The Fall Festival is now a four-day extravaganza of Shakespeare at which over 500 high schoolers gather to watch each others' shows. Ask any attendee, and they'll tell you it's the closest thing to being in the globe theater during Shakespeare's time. Every comedic line is rewarded with a loud cheer, every kiss with catcalls and wolf whistles, and every misdeed with a chilling hiss.

"It's the energy of a rock concert, but for Shakespeare," said junior Aaron Ziemer, a lighting technician. Miranda Park, a senior playing the role of Hermia, agrees: "It's unlike anything I've ever done or ever will do. Admittedly, sitting in a theater to watch ten shows in four days is rough, but the shows and this audience are totally unique." She agreed with Ziemer and said: "It's definitely more of an interactive rock concert than a Shakespeare festival."

The rehearsal process is also vital, and it is part of what makes the festival so unique. Sky Jones, a senior in the role of Oberon, said, "The Fall Festival is a great chance for me to improve my skills as an actor and designer in an environment with the right mix of independence and support. When you need help, you have wonderful professional directors to help you. When you don't, they're accommodating enough to let you do your own thing." It's not just about the directors, though. The cast and company are what make the experience of the Fall Festival so amazing and unique. As Jones says, "The incredible energy that your peers bring makes the experience unbelievable."

Most participants in the Festival have been involved since they were in middle school. Similar to athletics, the Festival brings a sense of communication and cooperation to a "team," which will struggle to function as a whole unless people are able to understand one another. Hopefully, those who saw this year's performance were entertained enough to enjoy it and perhaps even attend it in the future. ■■

Photo: Aaron Ziemer



Students act out a scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Photo: Aaron Ziemer

For seniors (from left) Kim DiLego, Schuyler Jones, Miranda Park, Iain Kuttner, Arianna Bashara and Helen Overstreet, this fall's Shakespeare performance was their last at Mt. Greylock.

GALLERY

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of the people he interviewed.

Glier mentioned that he always drew as a child, but had no formal training until college. He studied and took classes at various schools including the Rhode Island School of Design, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Hunter College, and Williams College. Now a teacher of art at Williams College, Glier was excited to have the opportunity to display his art to high school students when Mt. Greylock's art teacher Jane-Ellen Desomma asked all Williams art staff if they would be willing to display their art at the school. Glier said: "We all need role models. I think it's great that high school students are interested in all types of art and I think it is important for students to see that there are a variety of ways to make a living while still creating art. I hope that my gallery will give light to this and allow students to carry out that

passion that they kindle."

Glier wants his art to help the public understand that everyone has experienced hardships and that everyone has motivation towards the decisions they make. "My biggest message to the people that see this collection of mine is to be open to everyone you meet. Have empathy for the other people around you because of the differences and the hardships that we've all endured," Glier stated.



Glier also turned the Satisfaction collection into a book, published in 1989, where he not only shows his charcoal drawings but also the answers that he collected to the questions "What is satisfaction?" and "What do you want in your life to make you happy?" from the fifty people he interviewed around the country. Parts of Glier's Satisfaction collection and other pieces of his can be found on the Williams College website. ■■

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"All good things must come to an end." To the dismay of the entire Mt. Greylock community, this phrase proved true with regard to the undefeated football team. When the Mounties faced off against Wahconah on Friday, October 26, they put their unprecedented winning streak on the line once again, this time to extend it to 34 games. Unfortunately, the night continually turned in the Warriors' favor. Hank Barrett, starting quarterback for the Mounties, went down early in the game with what turned out to be a broken collarbone. Barrett's injury clearly affected Greylock who had to call on Brodie Altieri, a freshman, in his first season as a Mountie. With limited practice experience, he filled the void for quarterback. Altieri performed well and handled his first true varsity experience with poise. The Mounties continued to fight and claw for their injured teammate, as well as for the sake of keeping their streak alive. Unfortunately, they walked off John T. Allen field that night with their first loss since 2009.

The Mounties are led this year by a potent offense, headed by senior Ethan Ryan. After an impressive junior year at Greylock, the back's 2012 numbers are even better. Through nine games this season, Ryan has averaged 8.3 yards per carry and has racked up 21 touchdowns. Other key players include Ryan's partner in the backfield, Daiwon Clement, who is averaging 6.0 yards per carry himself. Receivers such as Tyrell Thomas, Eric Leitch, and Brett McCormack have made Greylock dangerous downfield. Senior Tyler Picard is also making his colossal presence felt on both sides of the ball.

Despite the one loss, the season is far from over. Greylock bounced back from their loss to Wahconah by soundly defeating McCann Tech the following week by a score of 34-6, beginning a new winning streak. Next on the schedule is the Berkshire County

FOOTBALL

By JAKE FOEHL

Championship— a rematch with Wahconah on the road. With the postseason approaching, Barrett said: "We're excited but ready to work hard. We know what we have to do to beat Wahconah and that's our main focus right now. We're not looking past that." He also remarked, "The fans have been great all year, and we need everyone to come down to Wahconah the Wednesday before Thanksgiving wearing red and white. It's going to be a crazy atmosphere." The senior captain is doing his best to mentor Altieri heading into

the stretch run. "Brodie is a great kid and a great football player, so right now we're just trying to keep his nerves in check and get him used to running the team. That's not easy as a freshman, leading an offense of juniors and seniors, but he's capable mentally and physically and we have a lot of confidence in him moving forward." The entire Greylock team, behind Ryan and Altieri, hoping to redeem themselves in a rematch of powerhouses, sought a third straight Berkshire County Championship on November 21. ■■

Junior running back Ethan Ryan carries the ball in the Mounties' loss to Wahconah.



GOLF

By ALEX WHITE

Many would think that a record without a single win would leave a team disappointed and perhaps even spell catastrophe for the following season. For the Mt. Greylock Golf Team, it is, quite simply, the opposite. In what can most aptly be described as a rebuilding year, the golf team did in fact lose all fifteen of their matches.

The season, however, was far from a failure. With no seniors and only two juniors on the squad, the Mounties' main objectives were simple: to improve and to enjoy being out on the links. Despite their record, there were many successes that leave the team wanting and expecting more for next year. Just one example of success came with the emergence of freshman Matt Wiseman as the top scorer on the team. Wiseman consistently shot in the mid forties, which bodes well for the next three years. Also consistently in the mix were sophomore Mikey Strizzi and junior captains Aaron St. Martin and Steve O'Brien. Rounding out the top six, the team had freshman Lily Crolius and eighth-grader Kyle Alvarez.

Along with the top six varsity players, two non-scoring alternates got chances to play the courses all around Berkshire County. For newcomers to the sport or those who are just on the cusp of varsity, the experience is valuable for future years. Joining many of the newcomers to the Greylock Golf Team was Coach Luke Polidoro, who also teaches math and had previously coached golf at PHS. A year of experience should leave the Mounties in great standing coming into next season, with all of their top players returning for at least one more year. ■■

Boys Soccer

By BEN KRANT

As the Mountie boys took the field to face Lenox in the season opener, there seemed to be a palpable excitement. The 2012 season brought together a new team with a new mindset and many new questions. How would the boys stack up against the nearly undefeated Berkshire County Champions of last season? Was it possible to repeat such success after losing three first-team All-County starters and the league MVP? Well, just 76 minutes and four goals later, the question had been answered: yes, they could do it again.

If anything, the opener had shown how vital the underclassmen would be for this Greylock soccer team: three goals had been netted by underclassmen, one even coming from a freshman. Yet looking back, senior captain Jonah Majumder knew this was to be expected: "Graduating a bunch of key older players, we knew the younger players on the team were going to have to step up. We couldn't depend on Jesse [Foehl], Luke [Costley], or Tommy [Dils] to make the plays when it mattered. The underclassmen were going to have to make it happen." And they did. The names of some of the leading goal-scorers were hardly, if ever, seen last year. Underclassmen including Eric Hirsch and Benni McComish had big shoes to fill, and they were ready to pull up their bootstraps.

What was the goal for the season? How well were the boys' hoping to do? Senior Alex White, known by his teammates as the aesthetically pleasing one, believes in little goals along the way. "First, we wanted to win the county. We believed we were a strong enough team to do so. And hopefully, once that goal was out of the way, we could pull out our winning rods and make a run



Photo: Melissa Brink

Freshman Benni McComish watches as sophomore Eric Hirsch splits two defenders from Worcester North High School.

at reelin' in some 'Western Bass.'" Jonah Majumder agreed that "with such a young team, we weren't expected to win, but we hoped that if we came together, we could pull out some upsets along the way." As the season continued, the young team came together, and the stats showed it. By the time they reached the Western Massachusetts tournament, the boys were county champi-

ons with a 16-4-1 record, and the goal of winning Western Mass was within reach.

However this year's playoff situation was different from those of previous years, as the boys were not seeded first in Western Mass. Senior captain Sean Houston described this seeding as "much less pressure." He remembered, "As a freshman I took the goal as our team had just come off state championship.

Then for the next two years, there was the constant pressure of protecting undefeated seasons and heading into Western Mass as the number one seed. Yet this year was the first time I came into the season knowing we weren't expected to win. But if anything this lower seeding just increased our drive to upset the better teams." This drive was clear as the boys' took on their Western Mass opponents. "In the game against Athol we knew we were the better team," described Sean Houston. They attempted to play us tight, but Nathan's incredible goal really helped up break through." The Mounties then advanced to play against Monson. Houston noted, "We were ready for a tough match, but we had surprisingly little trouble beating them. After that game I feel as a team we were looking forward to facing Belchertown one more time." The determination showed on the field as the Mounties battled Belchertown close the whole game. Unfortunately, Majumder netted the Mounties' only goal in the 3-1 loss with a beautifully placed penalty kick. "We had prepared as well as we could have and as a team we could not have played better. As a senior I hate to see our season and my career end like that, but we can definitely look back on it as a successful season," he said.

For the Mounties, the graduation of five more seniors marks the end of an era. But as in years past, the Mt. Greylock boys will regroup and refocus, and come tournament time, they will again try to hunt down, as White calls it, "that elusive Western Bass." Jonah Majumder predicts that "there are great things to come from future Mt. Greylock boys soccer teams." The Greylock community can certainly look forward to continued success in years to come. ■■

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100 SPRING STREET

HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING ADVICE

By PEARL SUTTER

With the holidays approaching fast, it's time to start shopping! The holidays are a fun time of year for everyone, especially if they get the present of a lifetime. But what is the present of a lifetime for any of your family members, or more importantly, your boyfriend or girlfriend? Or forget the present of a lifetime idea; what about just a gift? This is the hardest time to form a list of gifts that will please everyone, especially the most difficult people to shop for. Even though you may be tempted by generic gifts, DO NOT go for those! Try to find a present that is a little more exciting or thoughtful instead of a classic mug that is striped with your dad's favorite colors. Gift shopping works if you first think of a person you want you want to buy a gift for and then ask yourself what they are interested in. This gives you a focus and then allows you to brainstorm several ideas for each person, giving you multiple options in case you are unable to find what you really wanted to buy him or her. Slowly breaking down the whole stressful gift buying process also helps you to relax and saves you from worrying about last minute shopping. Last minute presents are no good! Think of what your recipient likes because thoughtful presents are the best presents no matter what size they are. Remember: gift cards are your downfall!

Gifts for Him:
Create A Music Playlist:

You know he loves jamming out to his music while he is at the gym, doing homework, or just relaxing. Providing him with a special playlist that you have put thought into will not only make him happy when you give it to him, but it will also be there to make him happy whenever he listens to it. This will show him that you care about his happiness and think about him. DO know what types of music he likes and go over every song to avoid any awkward misunderstandings!

Themed Hat or Sweatshirt:

Many boys have a favorite band or sports team. So go out and get him a sweatshirt or a hat with their favorite team or band on it. You know he will wear it because he likes the band or team, and it gives him something exciting and special to have in his wardrobe. Then every time he puts in on, he will think of you. DO buy a size up if you don't know his

size. Tight sweatshirts are a "no-no!"

A Date from You:

Even though the classic idea is that boys always take girls out on a date and pay for her, surprise him by asking him out. Treat him to dinner or a movie or whatever romantic date you think he'd like. This will not only show you care about him, but also it will cut down the wear on his funds for a night, which is always nice. DO remember to bring enough money! If you ask him on a date, it would be super awful if you accidentally had to ask him to chip in!



Gifts for Her:

Chocolate:

Boys, here's something you should know about all girls; they love chocolate. Chocolate has a romantic air about it and girls love romantic gestures. They especially like the Lindt or Godiva, the real stuff, instead of everyday chocolate you can buy at the grocery store like Hersheys. Plus if you add a handmade card and a pretty bow, she will probably squeal with delight! Well, maybe... This is a gift that practically guarantees smiles every time! DO know what kinds of chocolate she may not like!

Jewelry:

Fact: most girls wear jewelry almost everyday. So, why not give her something she can wear everyday that will remind her of you, even during vacations? She will be thrilled to receive a nice piece of jewelry from you, especially if she knows you spent time picking it out and thinking about what

she would like.

DO keep in mind what kinds of metals she is allergic to!

Flowers:

We don't know why it happens, but when you give her a nice flower or bouquet, she will light up and start to blush. This is not super expensive, but it will get the same results in the short term as a pretty necklace: she will blush, say "Awww, you're so sweet!" and then throw her arms around you. Whether it be a bouquet or just a rose, she will love it and put it in water when she gets home to make it last as long as possible because it is special to her.

DO know if she is allergic to any flowers in particular! A flower that brings out her allergies will not go over too well...

Keep these tips in mind when shopping for friends, family, or that special someone, and your gifts are sure to be a hit!

CROSSWORD: "THREADBARE"

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- 70. Double-reed instrument
- 71. Halloween wear
- 72. "Virginia" dances
- 73. Three feet

Down

- 1. Smoothies, as wood
- 2. WWII vessel
- 3. Yogi of baseball
- 4. Incline
- 5. Arose from a chair
- 6. Game on horseback
- 7. Leave the building
- 8. Courteous
- 9. Play unit
- 10. Be evasive
- 11. Congregation's response
- 12. Clothes-dryer debris
- 13. Factual
- 21. Kennedy or Koppel
- 25. 50-and-over org.
- 27. Snakelike swimmers
- 28. Most high schoolers
- 30. Brontë's Jane
- 31. In the center of
- 32. Not as much
- 33. Didn't win
- 34. Fencing blade
- 35. Neighborhood
- 36. Hodgepodge
- 38. King of beasts
- 41. Sounds from Santa
- 46. Breakfast items
- 50. Dessert choice
- 52. Use finger paint
- 53. City near Phoenix
- 55. Have fun doing
- 56. Diver's gear
- 57. Male voice
- 58. Posed a question
- 59. Flower part
- 60. Volcanic flow
- 61. High cards
- 63. Back of the neck
- 64. Pickle flavoring

Across

- 1. Undersea vessels
- 5. Eyeglasses, slangily
- 10. "Stop right there!"
- 14. Brother of Cain
- 15. Poisonous
- 16. Middle East ruler
- 17. Director Ephron
- 18. Martini garnish
- 19. Bistro handout
- 20. "You betcha!"
- 22. Poker payment

- 23. Said
- 24. Low in fat
- 26. Tune for two
- 29. "Let's Make ___"
- 33. Jump
- 37. Banana covering
- 39. Lyricist's quest
- 40. Winfrey of TV
- 42. Floral necklace
- 43. Eiffel Tower's city
- 44. Take care of
- 45. Winter precipitation

- 47. Ties the knot
- 48. Educate
- 49. Break sharply
- 51. Party giver
- 54. Spanish celebration
- 59. Shredded side dish
- 62. Undo animosities
- 65. Crunchy Mexican treat
- 66. PC message
- 67. Rubbish
- 68. At any time
- 69. Orchard fruit

We accept submissions! Send your crossword puzzle to mountgreylockecho@gmail.com, and it just might appear in the next edition of the Echo!