

HIGH HUMIDITY SPOTLIGHTS DISREPAIR

By EVI MAHON

On Wednesday, September 11th, after a morning of slick floors and dense humidity, Mt. Greylock administrators made the call to dismiss students early and later to close the school for the next day. This emergency drew the attention of the press (including ABC news and the Boston Globe), prompting the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to reconsider the sixth Statement of Interest (SOI) sent in by Mt. Greylock Regional High School. The SOI is essentially an application to the MSBA in which the school requests to be considered for advancement to the next steps for building a new school.

By the time students arrived on Wednesday morning, the halls were already glistening. Humidity in biology teacher Larry Bell's classroom had reached 93% by 8:30, and reports of slippery floors in the West corridor had become common knowledge.

At around 11:00 am, administrators were "already aware of the possibility" that they might need to close school, said Principal Mary MacDonald. Since weather-related closings are an unprecedented occurrence in September, the administration was reluctant to close the school, and did so "only after thinking about what else we could do." Superintendent Dr. Rose Ellis was called in when the possibility of an early dismissal became more realistic. "I toured the building with Shannon and Ellis, and we concurred that a dismissal was necessary," remarked MacDonald. First, of course, the bus companies had to be called. Since the Williamstown Elementary School had a half day, the feasibility of bussing all the students home and making it to the other school in time was in question. Luckily, the bus companies were able to shift the schedule accordingly. Students were dismissed by hallway, starting with the Middle School, at 12:45. By the time administrators were sure that all the students were safely out of the building and transported home, the hallways had gotten worse.

Such a strange occurrence seems rare, but during the week of July 4th this past summer, the building had to close completely because of humidity. That week

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ENROLLMENT INCREASE REVERSES TREND

By MIRANDA DILS

On the fifth day of school, high school students new to the Mt. Greylock Regional School District enjoyed a breakfast and team building activities hosted by the Peer Team. This event highlighted a body of 25 students that enrolled at Mt. Greylock for the first time this year or returned to the district from a different school. Over the past few years, the school has experienced an increase in enrollment among high school and middle school students, due to stronger connections and a positive growth in Greylock spirit and culture.

During the 2012-2013 school year, 565 students attended Mt. Greylock, while this year, 591 fill the hallways each day. Dr. Rose Ellis, superintendent of the tri-district, noted that enrollment is rising at a steady and incremental pace. The number of school choice students, those that live in a different part of the state and attend the school with the sending district reimbursing the receiving district for the cost of tuition, remained approximately the same since last year. In addition, the students paying tuition who live in New Ashford, Hancock, or outside of Massachusetts stayed consistent as well.

A significant number of students returned or arrived for the first time at Greylock from Bart Charter Public School, Pine Cobble School and McCann Technical High School. The district also welcomed

new students moving from states such as Ohio and New Mexico. To expand Greylock's scope and attract prospective students and families, Ellis reached out to towns outside of the district through newspaper advertisements. The central slogan she featured was "The Future Starts Here." With the hope of "strengthening the connection" between the ABC House and Mt. Greylock, Ellis and biology teacher Rebecca Green also served on the ABC Program's Board of Directors for the past few years, and they have had success in helping to increase this particular demographic.

While these groups of students have contributed to the rise of enrollment, Ellis specifically commented on the large seventh grade class and the efforts of the Peer Team to inspire an excitement in sixth graders to attend Mt. Greylock. Fewer seventh grade students are opting to attend BART, said Ellis, and she credits the Peer Team, comprised of high school juniors and seniors, for promoting a positive community of role models. She believes that the Peer Team "is doing a beautiful job at mentoring the seventh and eighth grade students."

Senior Peer Team member Rachel Swoap and junior member Nicholas Darrow both said the new student breakfast was a positive experience for all participants. Darrow said the activities "brought all of the kids

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ELECTRONICS POLICY UPDATED

By JOSIE VERTER

This year, Mt. Greylock has introduced a new cell phone policy that has been hailed by supporters as a necessary measure to ensure student success, and by critics as an assault on civil liberties. A form outlining the new policy was distributed to each student during the class assemblies on the first few days of school. The basic gist of the policy is that cell phones may be used on school grounds but not during class time. The policy outlines a series of punishments for using a phone during inappropriate times. These range from having your phone taken away for the day (for your first infraction), to not being allowed to bring

your phone to school for the rest of the year (for your third infraction). Failure to hand over your phone will result in referral to the Assistant Principal to determine appropriate consequences.

A survey of electronic device policies at other schools reveals a range of practices. Hoosac Valley High School, for example, has a similar policy forbidding phone use during class time. But unlike Mt. Greylock, Hoosac Valley does not define a structure of penalties for infractions. So why has the policy changed this year? Assistant Principal Jacob Schutz thinks of the policy, "more

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GREYLOCK GARDEN BOASTS A PRODUCTIVE SUMMER

By SOPHIE LEAMON

The Mount Greylock Garden, an organic farming project frequented by the members of the Youth Environmental Squad and Mrs. Green's Environmental Science Class has been up-kept this summer. Kaatje White, the Coordinator for the Williams Center at Greylock started the Garden Apprentice program to maintain the garden during the months that school wouldn't be in session. Apprentices Alana Chesney, Sam Joy, Miranda Bucky and Sophie Leamon met with two Williams students twice a week to plant, weed, mulch, and harvest from the Greylock Garden and together spent around thirty hours a week gardening. With the help of Jesse Wirtes

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*At right: Students eat at the Harvest Party.
Photo Courtesy of Aaron Ziemer.*



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1 in 650: An Interview with Sam Klass

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Senior Sam Klass spends his free time doing something different than most Greylock students. He is not only an avid mixed martial arts fight (MMA) fan, but also runs a website with his brother. On their professional-looking site, they give predictions for upcoming fights, from local promotions to the biggest events. They post interviews and are beginning to create partnerships with companies. The Echo thought that highlighting this young entrepreneur would be the perfect way to kick off the year.

Q: Without giving away your secrets, how do you predict who is going to win?

Sam: Honestly, there aren't any secrets. We know the sport inside and out. We know who all of the fighters are: their history, fighting style, and preparation for the fight. It's all about how they match up together. If it's a guy with good wrestling vs. a guy with good boxing, we will almost always go with the wrestler, because we believe he will out grapple his opponent. We give our own individual predictions, but we agree 80% of the time and have gained one of the best prediction records on the internet.

Q: So what is your accuracy record?

Sam: I am 988-516, which means I have been correct 65.7% of the time. My brother is 1004-494, which is 67.0%. Our record grows every week. This is considerably good considering that in the sport of MMA, anything can happen.

Q: So how many people read your blog?

Sam: We get approximately 3,000+ readers a month. It grows slightly each month as well.

Q: So how did you become interested in this?

Sam: Well, since my brother showed me the sport in 2006, I have loved it. The athleticism and skill involved is pretty amazing. For a little while before, my brother had his own blog where he predicted fights, but it soon fizzled. After being an avid spectator for years, me and my brother started giving each other our predictions to see how well we would do. We were doing incredible for a long period of time. Eventually, I decided

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MEET MR. SCHUTZ

Sophie Leamon interviews the new Assistant Principal.

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SUMMER NEWS STORIES

Katelin Marchand catches you up on the biggest international news of the summer.

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TONY'S CAFE

Hannah Fein and Anya Sheldon review a new Mexican restaurant on Spring Street.

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BEST AND WORST SUMMER MOVIES

Nate Taskin discusses his picks.

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Photo courtesy of Amalia Leamon

Students entered a much more colorful library this year thanks to a group of students who spent a few weeks over the summer painting an extensive mural.

ATTENDANCE POLICY SEES CHANGES

By MATTHEW KLEINER

Throughout the first week of school, Assistant Principal Jacob Shutz had the job of explaining the school's new attendance policy to each Mt. Greylock class. This new policy took many students by surprise. The guidelines now enforced offer a clear change from the relaxed enforcement of previous years. The main points of the policy center on tardies, absences and dismissals. Provisions of the policies include: students will be granted excused absences only for particular reasons, such as illness confirmed by a doctor's note or major religious holidays, and 12 absences from a class in a semester (or 24 in a full-year course) will result in a loss of credit for that course. Another new rule states that a student's accumulation of four tardies in two weeks earns them an office detention.

This new policy is in compliance with state guidelines, including Massachusetts General Law and No Child Left Behind, although many have questioned why the school is only now following these old rules. Shutz reports that while this policy may not have been enforced previously, it has always in fact existed.

"I was not here last year, so I don't know how the policy was enforced, or not enforced, but this year Mrs. McDonald and I have decided to really enforce the policy this year so parents and students have expectations," he says. "The policy is no good if not enforced."

School Council member Edward Gebara revealed that, while most students might not have known at the time, the council had also been developing the policy throughout last year. He described the procedure as back-and-forth. "We started the process by looking at all of the other schools' attendance policies in the area," he says. "We took the parts of them we liked and formulated a whole new atten-

dance policy, however, most of it was abandoned when Dr. Kurty left, and Mr. Barnes made the executive decision to go back to the original and work the issues out of the old MGRHS policy." This means that Greylock students are just now following rules that they should have been since they first got here.

The Attendance Policy, like the cell phone policy and discipline matrix, has been a main focus of conversation throughout the first weeks of school, but some students haven't had any contact at all with it. Junior Liam Chenail, who had only heard that there was a new policy, not the actual specifics of it said, when told of them, "They seem fair. It is hard to miss 24 days of school. The tardies might be easier to rack up but four in two weeks is not hard to avoid. They won't affect me personally but they might hurt some students." Parent and math teacher Karl Belouin, who claimed "it's no different being a parent than a teacher," agrees. He states "there's plenty of leeway for the occasional headache in the policy. You still need 24 absences in a year [to lose credit] and teachers are willing to work with one-day absences. The main issues are students taking their vacations outside of the school vacations and chronic absence." It seems like, although there were some complaints through the first couple weeks of school, most students agree that the policy won't much affect their daily school life.

Schutz says of the effects so far: "It's too early right now to gauge direct effects, but there have been a lot of questions which means people know it's being enforced, which is good." Schutz and the administration seem optimistic about the policy as does Gebara. He claims that "chances are it will stay and not be changed until we are long graduated." ■■

DISCIPLINE POLICY REPACKAGED

By AARON KLEINER

Among one of the many policies instituted at the beginning of the academic year was the discipline matrix. The discipline matrix is a chart that demonstrates the consequences for certain misbehaviors in an organized structure. According to Principal Mary McDonald, the rules themselves are no different from the ones that already existed, however, they were put into a more organized structure. She said that the matrix "offers clear communication to students, teachers, and parents on consequences".

Another advantage to the new matrix is that it gives more accountability to teachers because the punishments are no longer subjective; they are written in the matrix. The main advantage for Mrs. McDonald is that "the matrix offers clarity for students, teachers, parents and administration." In the matrix there are 6 columns; warning, detention, 1-day suspension, 1-2

day suspension, 1-5 day suspension, and 5-10 day suspension. Under each column are the certain actions that merit those punishments. For example, a first bullying complaint would receive a warning, while weapon possession would receive a 5-10 day suspension.

According to assistant principal Jacob Schutz, who describes himself as more of a visual person, the matrix will be more clear to students letting them know, "if you do this, then this happens." He also believes that the policy will improve discipline as teachers and administration can no longer be subjective with their punishments. Another improvement Mr. Schutz expects to see is that "students will learn that there are concrete consequences when they test limits." There has not been much of a reaction from the students about the policy, but, according to Mrs. McDonald it has already been used this year. ■■

1 in 650: Sam Klass

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we should start our own blog and make it sort of a competition between me and him. I've always loved writing, and writing on a constant basis for the site has really helped me polish my writing skills, as well spark my interest in journalism. In all honesty, I never, ever expected it to get as big as it is now.

Q: That's great! So how much time does this take?

Sam: It depends on how many events are going on each week. I started a new article that I call "Quick Picks" because I don't give an explanation for my prediction due to the fights being small and almost irrelevant. In that, I predict upwards of 100 fights every week, and that's not including the larger events that my brother predicts with me. I typically spend about 20 hours a week writing for the site.

Q: Wow! So do you think the site will keep expanding?

Sam: Absolutely, we have just recently started to make money on our partnerships, and we just added three new writers, including a guy from the Philippines.

Q: When you leave high school next year, do you want to turn the blog into something that could be a job or will it always be just something fun on the side?

Sam: I know it's really ambitious, but I plan on working for the site full time. My plan is to major in journalism along with media and communications in order to round out my skills. Once my time in college is finished, the website will be inevitably larger, increasing my possibilities of it actually becoming my full time job.

Q: Final question, if you could design a high school course, what would be the topic of the class?

Sam: I would love a journalism course that would focus around media and communications and how to utilize it in order to create a successful news outlet.

Check out championshiproundsmma.com to see Sam's work!

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

GARDEN

Continued from Page 1.

and a generous contribution from R. K. Miles in Williamstown the garden now includes handmade mulch and compost bins for storage with seventeen beds with vegetables from summer squash, swiss chard, potatoes, cucumbers, squash and zucchini, to herbs, green beans, lettuce, cabbage and raspberries. All this produce and then some was showcased at this year's Garden Party on September 17th. ■■

ENROLLMENT INCREASE

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closer together" and made them feel more comfortable as a group, and Swoap added that the event helped to "integrate the new students into our community."

While an enrollment increase may suggest a necessity for larger class sizes, Ellis pointed out that a major goal of the 2013-2014 School Improvement Plan is to maintain small class sizes among all of the core subject areas. The administration succeeded in reducing the average class sizes in the middle school for each English, Science, Social Studies and World Language section to ensure higher faculty-to-student ratios; in the high school, the average Math class sizes are now smaller as well.

Ellis believes the recent trend of introducing a greater number of students to Mt. Greylock is a "terrific indicator" of the school's community of teachers, staff, students and learners. In terms of the future of any correlation between enrollment and a new building, Ellis added that in order for the possibility of a new facility to become a reality, one of the components that must be in place is a stable enrollment. She is pleased with the positive impact the attraction of Greylock offers and hopeful that the enrollment trend will continue. ■■

ELECTRONICS POLICY

Continued from Page 1.

as a clarification than a change. There's a time class when cell phones can be used as a tool and other times when they can be a distraction. The administration hopes to achieve mutual respect between students and teachers," said Schutz.

The new policy has raised debate among students. "I think the policy is reasonable," stated sophomore Julia Whitney. "It allows teachers to have better control." Whitney also appreciated the allowance made under the new policy. "Last year students would get yelled in the hall at for using their phones in between classes. I am glad now we are allowed to without it being against the rules," she said. Others disagree. For Junior Kylie Fields the issue is property. "My phone is my property and just because they are adults doesn't mean they have the power to take my phone," she said. In Fields' opinion, confiscation of a phone by an administrator is a violation of civil liberties. But what about the last ten minutes of class when teachers sometimes do not have anything else planned? Many students think of these final moments as acceptable time to take out their phone. Fields comments, "During free time if a teacher tells me to put it away I feel like I deserve to know why and get a real answer -- not because 'they said so.'" ■■

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Interviews with New Teachers

By KELSEY HEBERT



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Ms. Samaniego (Math)

Crystal Samaniego joins the math department after teaching for several years in

Nantucket and New York. She is originally from the Glens Falls area of New York and attended Russell Sage College and Sage Graduate School.

Echo: What got you interested in becoming a math teacher?

S: I've always really been interested in math and science and I've always done well in explaining things to other people so it came naturally to me.

Echo: What attracted you to Mt. Greylock?

S: It seems like a very friendly area. When walking in the hallway for my interview I remember seeing posters, projects, and things that students have done and it just seemed like a lot of people cared about their education here.

Echo: What do you anticipate to be your biggest challenge this year?

S: Probably trying to get myself back into the school. At the last school I was an advisor for classes and clubs and here most of that has been filled already. So now I'm looking for a way to get to kids outside of the classroom.

Echo: What is your biggest excitement for

this year?

S: I think working with a lot of the kids who have advanced very far in the math program. I am very interested to see how they got this far and I'm interested in helping them.

Echo: What advice would you give to a student who wants to succeed in your class?

S: Make sure to stop by my classroom at any point, don't be afraid to ask questions and be organized!

Echo: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

S: I like to go hiking, kayaking and fishing and to walk my dog. Anything outdoors.

Echo: What motto do you try to follow?

S: Treat others the way you want to be treated. I don't like to yell at my students. I feel like students often feel that teachers enjoy yelling at their students and that's not true for most teachers. I want the respect and I'll give the respect back.

Echo: Mac or PC?

S: I have both actually.

Echo: Red Sox or Yankees?

S: I'm from New York State so I'm going to have to say Yankees. ■■



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Ms. Turner (Latin)

Amy Turner, originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, comes to Mt. Ms. Turner (Latin)

Amy Turner, originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, comes to Mt. Greylock from outside of Rome to teach middle school Latin. She earned her degree in Latin and Greek from Bowdoin College before traveling for various jobs.

Echo: What got you interested in becoming a teacher?

T: I never thought I'd be a teacher but I had some really bad jobs right out of college. Then I saw an ad in the paper for a private school in New Hampshire who wanted a Latin teacher and their first 2 candidates turned them down so they took someone with absolutely no teaching experience and from there I liked it and continued with it.

Echo: Where else have you taught?

T: I taught in a private school in New Hampshire, a private school in Connecticut and a long time at a public high school in East Longmeadow. Then I taught two years at a private school in Italy.

Echo: What do you think is different about Mount Greylock?

T: I like the small size and the area that it is in. The small size makes it seem very family-like and the close proximity to Williams College gives a lot of cultural opportunities.

Echo: What do you anticipate to be your biggest challenge here?

T: Getting this schedule under control! Also, last year I taught AP Latin and this year I'm teaching 7th and 8th grade Latin so just getting used to the younger student vibe should be challenging.

Echo: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

T: Travel!

Echo: If not in the Berkshires, where would you most like to live?

T: Outside of Rome or the Netherlands.

Echo: What motto do you try to follow?

T: Carpe diem, baby! That's seize the day in Latin. You only come around once so you might as well do it. Don't put things off because you never know what is going to happen.

Echo: Mac or PC?

T: Mac at home, PC at work.

Echo: Red Sox or Yankees?

T: Red Sox! ■■



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Mr. Pratt (Math)

Nolan Pratt, a recent graduate of Elmira College, joins the math department here at Mt. Greylock. Originally from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Pratt gravitated to Berkshire County's mountainous area after finishing his student teaching in Elmira, New York.

math?

P: I taught my first lesson in 10th grade. I went up to answer a question on the board and from there was prompted by the teacher to continue with the new idea. So I taught my first lesson in 10th grade and from there I fell in love with teaching. I have been passionate about becoming a teacher since then.

Echo: Where have you taught in the past?

P: I taught at Elmira Free Academy which is a 9-12 high school in Elmira, NY. I also taught at Broadway Middle School which is a 7th and 8th grade middle school, also in Elmira. That was mostly my student teaching though. This is my first teaching job; I am fresh meat as some students put it.

Echo: What do you like about Mt. Greylock versus other schools?

P: I came here a lot as a kid to ski so I fell in love with the town at a young age. I think it is a perfect fit for me here.

Echo: What is your biggest challenge at Mt. Greylock this year?

P: My biggest challenge will probably be getting acquainted with the area and I don't know anyone's names! I have student names to learn, faculty names to learn as well as outside names to learn for life.

Echo: What is your biggest excitement for this year?

P: I'm most excited to start teaching in real life. It's a lot different than student teaching.

Echo: What advice would you give to a student who wants to be successful in your class?

P: Always bring supplies that aren't in your backpack; perseverance and hard work.

Echo: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

P: I love soccer. I'd play everyday if I could. I really like anything outside. I'm not really an inside kinda guy. Unless it's raining, then I like being inside.

Echo: If not in the Berkshires, where would you most like to live?

P: I'd say any mountain ranges. Definitely not Texas, I don't like it hot. I'd probably live in Colorado or Utah.

Echo: What motto do you try to follow?

P: I believe that the hardest person to be is the one that never gives up. I'm a hard-working person and I believe that you can get anywhere you want to go as long as you're determined.

Echo: What talent would you most like to have?

P: I think flying would be pretty cool. Not in an airplane but Superman flying. It's not a talent that anyone possesses but it would still be cool. I'd also love to learn how to fly a helicopter one day.

Echo: Mac or PC?

P: PC

Echo: Red Sox or Yankees?

P: Yankees. ■■

Echo: Where did you attend college?

S: A lot of different places! But most recently I got my masters in Social Work from Boston College.

Echo: What got you interested in being a teacher?

S: Ever since I was a kid I would get out all of my stuffed animals and pretend to teach them things. So I always knew I wanted to be a teacher but I never really knew what. As a kid I went to five different elementary schools and it was challenging and I think teachers have a huge job on their hands. Since it wasn't always the greatest for me, I always wanted to be that teacher that recognized students and the difficult transitions that school creates.

Echo: Where have you taught in the past?

S: I taught here at Mt. Greylock from 1998-2000, BART, Williams College, University of Phoenix, and I have been a consultant in various places such as the Brien Center. However, I haven't been in a classroom setting since I last taught at Mt. Greylock in 2000.

Echo: What do you expect to be your biggest challenge this year at Mt. Greylock?

S: The biggest challenge for me will be the logistics: trying to remember everyone's names, the schedule and rotations, and Powerschool instead of grading the

old fashion way. That's what I'm most anxious about.

Echo: What are you most excited for this next year?

S: I'm most excited to be here with the teens. I'm excited to be able to talk to the teens about stuff that I know that people like to talk about but never really have a chance to.

Echo: If not in the Berkshires, where would you most like to live?

S: I absolutely loved California when I lived there but it's hard because there is dream world where you have millions of dollars and don't have to work, but I have to be practical. My daughters were all born here and my husband works at Williams College so I think this is the place for me. I like being here because I know a lot of the families and the community.

Echo: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

S: I play softball and volleyball. Other than sports, I like to do home improvement projects, sew, craft etc. I also enjoy cooking and game nights!

Echo: What motto do you follow?

S: I always ask myself in my mind "Is this fulfilling?" I really want to live in a way that serves others as well as serves myself. I always try to achieve a mutual happiness



Photo courtesy of The Berkshire Eagle

Ms. Smith (Health and Peer Team):

Ms Smith, a Hawaii native, rejoins the Mt. Greylock staff after 13 years to teach Health and fill Lisa Jennings' shoes as Peer Team advisor.

in my relationships and my job and everything I do.

Echo: Mac or PC?

S: Both! I used to be a PC person but my husband has convinced me that "it would be so much easier to be a Mac family" so I do have a Mac laptop at home. However, I have to use PC's here at work. If I had to choose one, I would have to say Mac.

Echo: Red Sox or Yankees?

S: This is like talking about politics! My husband is a Red Sox fan, but I think I would have to say that I'm a fan of whichever one has the most fans around me at any given time. ■■

An Interview with Assistant Principal Jacob Schutz

By SOPHIE LEAMON



Photo courtesy of Olivia Jordy

Echo: Where were you before?

Schutz: I worked at Hoosac Valley for the last seven years as the supervisor at Special Services. I was a supervisor for the entire district: Cheshire Elementary, CT Plunkett and Hoosac Middle and High School. Before that I was the director of a Special Ed Program for at risk kids.

Echo: What brought you to Mt. Greylock?

Schutz: Believe it or not, the whole theme of the Greylock Way is pretty inspiring, to know that a school district, a school and a community, has a vision as a whole. They

have something to strive for, they're going towards it and the things they want to achieve are pretty inspiring. That's the main reason why I wanted to come here.

Echo: How do you see your role?

Schutz: I see my role as assistant principal as defining expectations, making sure guidelines are clear, following through on those expectations with either the consequences or rewards that come with them. I see myself as a resource for students that have issues or that have problems or concerns. I also see myself as a resource for teachers, to better reach students in their classrooms.

Echo: What do you like about Mt. Greylock?

Schutz: If we're talking about something concrete, I like the idea that there's a director of athletics and clubs. I think that is a tangible piece of evidence that describes the way that Greylock looks at students from a holistic approach. They care about the student in many different areas, not just academics, not just athletics and not just socially, but they're looking at the whole approach.

Echo: What's something interesting that no one would know?

Schutz: I was in the service but I think a lot of people know that. People might

not know that my latest trip with the service was to Paraguay. I was down there for about a month and I got to meet some school children, some locals and some officials down there. I like to travel and that's the last place I was.

Echo: What should students know about you?

Schutz: Students should know that I'm here to help. For them this is their first time through high school. I've been through high school a lot of times. I've helped a lot of kids through high school. They may be having an issue that's unique to them but more than likely it's something that I've dealt with before. I'd like students to know that I have an open door policy so if they'd like to come in and talk, my door is always open.

Echo: Anything Else?

Schutz: I'd like to say that I'm looking forward to meeting all the students. So far it's been different because I'm not in a classroom and so everyone is brand new to me, so I'm learning faces and names and slowly putting them together. I've been going to all the athletic and club events so if there are any events or activities that anyone specifically wants me to go to, I'd like them to let me know so I can try to attend. ■■

FIRE DRILL A SUCCESS

By AMALIA LEAMON

At 9:25 on the second day of school, Mt. Greylock completed its first fire drill with the fastest time for total accountability ever. Under the supervision of faculty and administration, everyone was accounted for in under 12 minutes. Assistant Principal Jacob Schutz reported, that the fire drill was "seamless behind the scenes as well as in the physical evacuation of students".

The success of the fire drill was partly due to the policy changes that have recently taken place at Mt. Greylock. Shannon Babcock played a big role in the changes when he began investigating an evacuation plan for the school over a year ago. The resulting plan combined aspects from both Keen High School and Hoosac Valley's plan. In it, he explains that the fire drill is simplified to the goal to get "students and faculty out as fast as they can, safely as they can and as far from the building as possible." Babcock and the Crisis Management Team (CMT) developed a reliable and efficient system to ensure this goal. When the alarm sounds students and their respective teachers are required to take a designated route to the back of the parking lot, selected because it is furthest from the main campus. Teachers drop of accountability sheets at the "check-point" area by the hangar, and wait until they are given the okay to return back to class. In the case of a real fire where the school would not be safe to return to, students will evacuate to Sweetwood. By law there should be four fire drills per year, so the school will be planning this off cam-

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WET FLOORS ATTRACT NATIONAL ATTENTION

Continued from Page 1.

was the hottest of the summer, with highs in the mid to upper 90s and humidity skyrocketing.

But the week of September 11 was not especially hot. Although it was humid outside, the humidity in the atmosphere couldn't account for all of the slickness of the floors. Jesse Wirtes and Shannon Babcock both worked tirelessly to understand the problems and then to fix them as best they could. According to Babcock, the custodial supervisor, "many things simultaneously contributed to the collection of water, or what I would call, extreme condensation." The summer was not only one of the wettest on record, but the construction of the building also contributed to the problem. It is built on a cement slab, the temperature of which is affected by the temperature of the ground. Babcock says "The nights leading up to that Wednesday were very cold and the temperature of the cement slab was affected by the cooler temperatures outside." When the warm, moist air entered the building, it began to condense rapidly on the cold floors. Babcock also added that the school uses a water-based, eco-friendly wax for the floors, which "was compromised and started to liquify, making the floors even slicker than they already were."

Amherst High School also had the problem of the wax "melting," and closed for the day on Thursday as well, but their school building did not have the same level of danger as Mt. Greylock did. After trying to clean up the wax with the floor scrubber, custodians brought 12 air movers into hallways. Wet vacs were employed to dry the worst of rooms, and six more fans were borrowed from Williams to help dry the still wet floors. By the end of Wednesday, administrators had decided that the humidity levels on Thursday would be too high for the building to handle, and floors would be slick once again. MacDonald added that "we're very conscious of head injuries and keeping our staff and students safe. We had already heard of three slips-- not falls, but slips-- in the cafeteria." The decision to cancel school for the next day was made by 4:30, and an email was sent out to parents, students and staff by 5:30 that night. "We thought that we might have students come

in the next morning and do a half day," said MacDonald, wary of calling a day off so early in the year, but after looking at the weather and the halls, "there was no way. For the safety of our students and our staff, we had to close the school."

The safety of the school community was not in question only during the days of slippery floors, but even afterwards. Mold



Photo courtesy of Peter Niemeyer

has always been an issue at Mt. Greylock, with "hot spots" in various classrooms. Babcock believes that "the potential for mold growth after the building produced that much moisture is extremely high." Although custodians are working hard to control the spread of the mold, "the moisture seeps into everything." Other important parts of the building were also jeopardized by the humidity and moisture in the building. Jesse Wirtes, the facility supervisor, said, "The humidity affects the performance and longevity... of this building on all levels." He adds that not only comfort and an educational environment are nega-

tively influenced by the humidity, but also the thousands of dollars worth of technology in the building. MacDonald cites the example of Michael Powers' classes, which had to move out of his room because it was so saturated with mold. "Here we have state-of-the-art technology, bought through a generous Williams donor, and we can't use it," she notes. The combination of no

"We thought that we might have students come in the next morning and do a half day," said Macdonald. But after looking at the weather and the halls, "there was no way. For the safety of our students and our staff, we had to close the school."

air conditioning and the heat generated by the computers made the room a playground for all sorts of mold.

After numerous parents and community members tipped off the press and berated the MSBA, the organization has finally taken notice. On September 18th, word came from the MSBA that they were reconsidering Mt. Greylock's statement of interest (SOI) and the school is on the agenda for their board meeting on October 20.

"It's a long time coming," said Ellis. This is the sixth SOI that Mt. Greylock has submitted to the MSBA. When the humidity struck, Greylock was still wait-

ing on a verdict. "I was dreading having to write another one," says Ellis. And for good reason. The current SOI is over 100 pages long, and re-writing one is not an enviable task. The humidity couldn't have come at a better time. Ellis had already been campaigning for a new building with the help of legislators Gail Cariddi and Ben Downing when the humidity hit, and she credits the humidity day and its coverage in the national press for the MSBA's decision. Ellis is hoping to bring the movement closer to the community if the MSBA votes Mt. Greylock forward. "I'm hoping that our students and staff will rally," she says. "It will have to have the vote of the communities. We need to get the word out about why we need a new school and why we need it now. Not a year from now, not five years from now, but now."

The best outcome of this meeting would be a vote to let the district move to the next stage-- a feasibility study. This means that the communities would vote on whether or not to proceed with a feasibility study to assess the needs of the school. Wirtes said that "whatever this problematic building has to offer, Dr. Ellis has revived this broken machine and used the tools around her to bring this school facility to a high expectation level for our students and staff, which will improve as we move forward," but he also added that "we are past our longevity." MacDonald stated that "the deficiencies of our aging building are compromising the education of our students." Ellis compares the repairs on the building to band-aids, which "worked, but when they all came off at once, we couldn't function safely."

Although the classes of 2014 and 2015 won't see a new building, that doesn't mean that it won't happen in the relatively near future. "The seniors and juniors are leaving behind a legacy," Ellis says. She promises that there will be plentiful opportunities to help champion the school's cause, even if some students only have eight months left. It's a thought universally acknowledged, however, that an aging building in want of proper architectural integrity must be replaced. The only question is: when? ■■

Editor's Note: The views expressed in opinion pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper, but of the individual authors.

The Best and Worst Film of Summer 2013

By NATE TASKIN



The picture above is a still from the movie *The World's End*, which reviewer Nate Taskin calls the best of the Summer 2013.

Best: *The World's End*

The weight of anticipation is an overwhelming force. Coming from the same creative minds that begat the two comedic masterpieces (and that word should never be used lightly) *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*, *The World's End* faces enormous pressure in meeting that same high standard. Having so much work cut out for it, it feels satisfying to report that this film sails past those already titanic expectations.

While it is unclear where the movie ranks amongst its two predecessors, *The World's End*, if anything, largely places itself as a mix of *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz* and comes out somewhere in between. Helmed again by Edgar Wright and Simon Pegg, the pub setting, splatter humor and focus on latent maturity certainly brings to mind *Shaun*, but the scale, small town setting and tone closely mirrors *Fuzz*. On the other hand, it displays a very different angle from these previous films. Without giving any main surprises away, many hallmarks of their work past and present make appearances literally and figuratively here, including the circular dialogue that rewards repeat viewings.

Edgar Wright's direction, production values and special effects also demonstrate more sophistication without losing the quintessential Britishness that endears him to so many. His experience with *Scott Pilgrim vs the World* particularly shows in the way Wright handles major action set pieces

where the characters do battle. Impressively choreographed, funny and exhilarating to watch, these moments alone rank higher than many actual action movies recently. (Including a certain red-caped "hero," who we'll get to later.)

What makes the movie refreshingly different this time is that the core, iconic friendships between the Simon Pegg and Nick Frost characters is crucially fractured by the time the film starts, in one of the many ways the film plays against expectation. While Pegg is typically portrayed as the straight man to Frost's cuddly monkey, the dynamic here is instead switched with volatile results. Pegg's Gary, who never passed an inch from his teenage glory days, is an obnoxious loudmouth not above manipulation to get what he wants. Pegg boldly not only takes his character in that direction, but fully commits to it. Frost takes an even more drastic change, with his reserved and begrudging demeanor vastly different from any role he's taken before. The Pegg-Frost dynamic remains in the background for the most part until the end however, because the stellar supporting cast of Martin Freeman, Paddy Considine and Eddie Marsan are all thoroughly pitch perfect in their respective roles and given plenty of time to shine.

More than anything else, *The World's End* is a film about midlife crisis and the pitfalls of becoming wrapped in nostalgia. The creators are getting older, but rather than attempting to hide it as man-children,

they play towards it. The world is seen through the eyes of the aging protagonists as strange and increasingly threatening, especially in its persistent homogenization. In a remarkably mature outlook, the movie observes the increasing human disconnection in a technological, global age and the implications that has on identity.

Despite this theme being one of the film's strongest concepts, the ending takes it to such an extreme that it feels outrageously out of touch from what came before. *The World's End*'s greatest flaw, its conclusion, feels so misjudged and unnecessary that it serves to undermine much of what defined the movie. Given its radical tone shift and overall bleakness, it feels especially jarring and out of place.

But aside from the baffling five minute wrap-up, *The World's End* serves as another phenomenally enjoyable collaboration, and ends the trilogy on a relative high. While having plenty of connections with their previous filmography, it also stands alone from them, taking bold gambles on its stars and plotting, rather than banking on previous successes. Backed by a superb cast and splendid writing, this makes for one of the summer's very best films. ■■

Worst: *Man of Steel*

The only positive angle one can glean out of *Man of Steel* is to take it as a three hour commercial for Prozac. It acts like a simulation of the world's worst roller-coaster ride. The downward descent does not relent until something in the brain finally snaps. Irritating, loud, blunt and sad, this is a Superman that is so ashamed that it won't even refer to itself as a Superman movie.

Man of Steel likes talking about the idea of Superman more than Superman himself. Watching it feels like watching a thesis about a film you're never allowed to see. Dialogue consists constantly of speech after speech about what it "means" to be Superman, instead of showing the audience what that means. As a result of this, the actors (including Henry Cavill, Michael Shannon, Amy Adams, IHOPE, Russell Crowe, a 7/11 logo, and Kevin Costner, who plays a Sears logo) are bland and forgettable, but they can't be blamed for that because the script gives them nothing to work with.

Supes doesn't even listen to half the speeches being made and chooses to live by his own rules anyway. He spends less time looking after the people of Metropolis and more time brooding. Most of the city

ends up destroyed for the sake of a "cool," 90 minute action scene. The final third of the film devolves into such pointless excess that it puts Michael Bay to shame. The action scenes themselves fail miserably because the camera is shaking so much that everything is incomprehensible. Seriously, does Hollywood have no budget for tripods these days? For a movie attempting to celebrate the heart of the American superhero, it's shocking to see something so heartless.

Structure-wise, the film is a nightmare. Scenes happen. Driven by nothing. The script gives the audience a reason to care only after the sequence is over. As soon as Superman lands on Earth as an infant, we jump to him as a fisherman. Then he's 12 years old. Then he's a teenager. Then he's a child again. Since we view these events out of order, we cannot see this character grow, making it impossible to connect with him. It feels more like scrolling through Clark Kent's Facebook timeline than watching an actual movie.

Another fatal decision *Man of Steel* makes is injecting itself with unnecessary, superficial angst. Young Superman spends a good portion of time sullenly moping about his oh so tragic existence. Given his loving parents and comfortable homelife, this rings hollow. As a likely consequence of Christopher Nolan's involvement, the filmmakers attempted to do a "darker" and "more realistic" depiction of a man who flies around in red tights and a cape. We don't need two Batmans. The egregiously heavy handed, morose tone only becomes more depressing for the viewer as it goes. This is about a character adorned on numerous lunch boxes and refrigerators. This is not the proper medium for 9/11 parables.

Adding to the whole mess is the fact that the entire premise is based on a plot hole. Pa-El and Ma-El send their son to Earth to protect it from the big bad Zod. However, sending Superman to Earth is exactly what prompted Zod to go there in the first place! Way to make a self-fulfilling prophecy. "You have to save these people who wouldn't need saving if you had never come in the first place!" Superman already had a nice, simple origin story. He didn't need such embellishments. The moral seems to be that humanity needs an inhuman, emotionally unstable space-Messiah to show them how to live. Despite the con-

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Summer News: What to Catch Up On

By KATELIN MARCHAND

Spent the summer at camp in the wilderness? Here's what you need to know:

Egypt:

On July 3, 2013, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi staged a military coup d'etat that ousted Egyptian President Mohammad Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood. Currently, a committee of fifty members is drafting a new constitution that will be presented in two months, followed by elections. Egypt's Siani Peninsula, which borders Israel, is also in turmoil. Fearing increasing terrorist activity, the Egyptian government has periodically taken military action in Sinai, and recently took action again. Egypt is becoming increasingly unstable as the government handles their developing democracy and Islamic militants in Sinai.

Syria:

It has been two and a half years since the Syrian civil war started, and the situation is only worsening. Over 100,000 people have been killed so far. Although Syria has been in the news since the war's start, it has dominated the media recently because of the suspected use of chemical weapons. In 2012, Obama stated that if chemical weapons were being used the United States would intervene. Russia does not support Obama's decision to intervene. Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, opposes Obama's choice, and even wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times. Some action seems to be imminent, either diplomatic or

military.

Anti-gay laws in Russia:

In June, Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, signed a law that prohibited "homosexual propaganda" from being distributed to minors. This law brings into question how gay athletes will be treated at the 2014 Winter Olympics, which will be held in Sochi, Russia. Although the Russian government has assured the world that they will comply with the obligations of the Olympic charter, many fear that openly gay athletes will be discriminated against. The anti-gay laws have led to an increase in homophobic vigilantism. Gay teenagers are being targeted by groups like Occupy Paedophilia, which assault openly gay teenagers.

Pope Francis's visit to Rio:

On Sunday, July 28, 2013, Pope Francis gave mass at Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which drew a reported three million people. This is one of the largest turnouts for a papal mass in recent history. Following his trip to Brazil, Pope Francis is reported to have said that gay priests should not be marginalized. Although he is not openly calling for support of gays, this is a huge step for the Catholic church. Since the start of his papacy in March, Francis has rejected the ostentatious clothing that Benedict wore, which set a new tone for the Church. Francis' fresh views might set a new standard for the political views of the Catholic church. ■■



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OPINION

Editor’s Note: The views expressed in opinion pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper, but of the individual authors.

Tony’s Sombrero

By HANNAH FEIN AND ANYA SHELTON



Photo courtesy of Zavi Sheldon

Tony’s Sombrero on Spring St. in Williamstown.

Often, it seems the best food is not served on a silver platter in a five-star, gourmet restaurant, but instead can be found in smaller, more intimate settings. This certainly is the case with the new addition to Spring Street-- a small Mexican place by the name of Tony’s Sombrero. Having heard mixed previous reviews regarding the quality, we decided to see for ourselves.

Around noon on a warm September day, we walked into Tony’s and immediately noted the Mexican flags, art and brightly colored sombreros that hung from the orange walls, creating an authentic Mexican atmosphere. Six tables were placed in the fairly small space, draped with red tablecloths and supplied with menus and a small bottle of hot sauce. After quickly browsing through the menu’s assortment of quesadillas, soups, burritos, original Mexican tacos and platos principales (main dishes), we went over to the counter, ordering a plate of “Tacos de Pollo al Horno (\$8.00),” “Quesadillas de Queso (\$),” “Burritos de Pollo (\$5.75),” and “Tostada de Pueblo (\$6.50).” From the beverage cooler, we se-

lected sweet, fruity Mexican sodas.

Our party of four chose a table close to a miniature television, and although the Spanish chatter from the T.V. was nice background noise, we would have preferred to listen to light music as we waited for our food to be prepared. Within an impressive ten minutes, our meals were passed over the counter and into our waiting hands. It was served on plastic plates with plastic silverware and paper napkins, but this insult to the environment was soon forgotten once we began to eat. After enjoying our food for a few moments, we began exchanging words of praise for each dish.

The “Burritos de Pollo,” or chicken burritos, were filled with flavorful ingredients that created a thoroughly-enjoyed, delicious entree. The soft burrito wrap contained rice, beans, jack cheese, guacamole and salsa, along with juicy grilled chicken. The scrumptious yet subtle guacamole along with the mild salsa, sprinkling of cheese and warm chicken created a perfect combination of flavor and texture. The filling dish included two burritos, a side of

a few tortilla chips and assorted dipping sauces.

The “Tacos de Pollo al Horno” were well-recieved, too. These three baked chicken tacos came in soft corn tortillas and were filled with pieces of savory, grilled chicken, cilantro, onions and tomatoes. While the flavors blended together nicely, the dish’s temperature could have been slightly warmer.

Another dish, the quesadillas, which came with a side of sauces, rice and beans, featured two kinds of cheese. The dish was satisfying, even if slightly cheesy.

The final dish of the afternoon was “Tostada del Pueblo,” consisting of three crispy tortillas piled high with refried beans, chicken tinga, lettuce, feta cheese and salsa. This large, filling dish elicited many positive reviews for the flavorful chicken and delicious salsa.

Chances are, if you are a Williamstown resident or visit frequently, you have been curious about the new Mexican place that occupies the former home of our beloved Lickety Split. In our opinion, this newcomer is a worthy replacement. We suggest that you give it a shot by taking just a few minutes to order one of their delicious, authentic Mexican dishes. ■■



Photo courtesy of Anya Sheldon

Tostada del Pueblo

Put That Thing Away:

Why You Should Stop Complaining About the New Electronics Policy

By EVELYN MAHON

If you’ve been reading this paper for news, you already know about the new electronics policy. If you’ve only been reading this paper for the crossword and pretty pictures, I’m flattered that you put my snarky column higher on your reading list than the actual issues. Here’s a brief summary: The ghost of Steve Jobs was trying to brainwash us into cheating with his darned technological doohickeyes, so we can only use our phones during lunch and in between classes.

Most of you middle schoolers reading this are probably ready to revolt and stage a modern Les Mis, but we upperclassmen remember when no phones were allowed in school at all. If you were caught with your phone during lunch and weren’t quick enough to call it an iPod, it would be confiscated. A black market developed for violin cases designed to hold iPhones and androids. Administrators walked the halls, ready to arrest anyone with a rectangular bulge in their sweatshirt pocket. We’re living in Halcyon days here, kids. Our generation is so attached to our phones that we take them everywhere. Try to remember a time when you purposefully didn’t have your phone on you (no, showering doesn’t count). Tough, right? There’s a growing number of scientific studies (nope, not going to quote them) which sum up one ridiculous fact: our generation would rather have multiple toes chopped off than part

with our beloved technology.

I totally get that. Texting and Facebook have made my life so much easier. Instead of confessing that I have no idea what “ratchet” means, a quick look at urban dictionary enlightens me, and I can continue the conversation I would have already screwed up if we were talking in person. If I’m texting someone and he or she is taking a particularly long time to respond, I have 24/7 access to funny, captioned pictures of cats to entertain me (they’re called “Lolcats” for a reason. No one can be upset when looking at those things.).

However, it’s not just this new fad of masked social awkwardness that makes my iPhone so addicting. As a multitasker, it’s my drug of choice. My phone is my alarm clock, my calculator, my TV, my deck of cards, my comic book and, oh right, my means of communicating with people. (But let’s be honest- I don’t communicate with people.) This summer I got in the terrible habit of constantly checking my email, Facebook, Twitter, and Google Plus profile. You know who actually uses Google Plus? No one. I made a google plus profile just so I could have something else to check.

I couldn’t put the darn thing down until the new rules concerning cell phones were implemented. It’s noticeably different in the halls. Instead of burying their noses in angry birds while walking down the halls, people are having actual conversa-

tions with each other. Imagine that. People in a real space, having a real conversation about a real topic. There’s no pressure to be witty or flirtatious because we’re people thinking off the tops of our heads without a spellchecker or the time to edit our responses. I’ve watched people go through five or six drafts of a facebook status, feeling the need to be supremely eloquent in their enlightening “omg hatttee fake girrrrrllsssss lms if u agreeeeeee.” In reality, if someone was talking like this, you’d check them for signs of a stroke, but because of our diminishing relationship with actual society this mildly drunken way of typing has become the new “totes” and “legit.”

Maybe, just maybe (and I’m going out on a limb here), we will actually profit from using our phones less. Instead of plugging our best friend’s address into Google Maps (because we all know apple maps is horrible on javascript), we’ll know the route by heart, turn-by-turn. We’ll spend hours making the perfect playlist for that road trip instead of leaving our entertainment to the mercy of Pandora or Spotify. Instead of deliriously texting our exes at three am, we will email them and ask to meet up for coffee and talk things over.

If you’re still upset about not being able to use your phone every waking second and are ready to build a barricade in the North corridor, you probably haven’t seen enough lolcats. ■■

SUMMER HOMEWORK: DOES IT HELP?

By EMILY RUDD

Each summer, teachers across the grade spectrum assign homework for their students to complete in the hope that summer is as productive as the school year. This has incited a debate over whether or not summer homework actually helps students achieve greatness come fall.

According to a New York Times article, Harris Cooper, Chairman of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University says that, “Summer homework might be considered a ‘low dose’ of summer school.” His research, however, shows that there is a correlation among high schoolers between summer work and high test scores. Cooper further warns that a homework overload does not equal increased grades; in other words more homework does not always mean more improvement.

But where should teachers draw the line? Junior Laura Galib said she had work in the subjects of English, history and calculus-- all of which were Advanced Placement courses. It took her a long time to finish the assignments, but she declared that most of them were effective. Senior Heather Tomkowicz agreed that her work over the summer, which ranged from biology to English, helped her to, “start rolling as soon as class started.”

Galib also mentioned that the amount of AP English homework increased since last year. Trudy Ames, the AP English 11 teacher, explained that she changes it every year based on where she lacked the previous year. She added that the summer work helps students, “get accustomed to work for the school year, as well as for college.”

Some students do not feel that they benefitted from completing their summer homework. Senior Devyn Renzi says that her work included reading a few English books that didn’t help her expand her knowledge. She also considers that summer work includes major drawbacks like students not completing their work, which would, “set the class back rather than move it forward.”

AP United States history teacher Tom Ostheimer reveals that he assigns five history chapters as a “diagnostic.” He said that, “It gauges the student’s ability and motivation,” to see if they actually did the laborious work in order to succeed for the remainder of the year. Blair Dils, the AP English Literature teacher, has a similar idea. He gives six books over the summer as a way to begin the year with a common text as well as common themes to refer to throughout the year. He feels bad about giving all these assignments but said, “It’s a college level course. You should know what you are getting into.”

Oppositely, Mark Bauerlein, author of The Dumbest Generation and professor at Emory University, says that today’s society focuses on passing a class rather than learning to become well rounded citizens.

Despite numerous strong arguments from both viewpoints, the issue of summer homework remains unsolved so for now students are required to complete it. ■■

FIRE DRILL

Continued from Page 4.

pus evacuation in the spring. If this were to happen for real, students would take buses down the road to Sweetwood where they would sign in and wait for their parents and guardians to pick them up.

The evacuation packets next to every classroom door are also new this year and include fire drill and lockdown procedures, a map of the school and other important safety information. There is also a new phone installed in the Main Office in the unlikely event of an emergency that will provide a quick and reliable alert to administration. More policy and procedure improvements are likely to occur in the future but for now, everything is all under control. ■■

BOYS SOCCER

By GRAY KAEGI

Despite losing a large group of key senior players, the boys' soccer team has opened with a great start to this season. Led by junior captains Jake Foehl and David Majetich and senior captain Tom Guettler, the team has been playing tremendously.

Of the players who graduated last year, key losses include leading scorer Nathan Majumder and goalkeeper Sean Houston. However, players on this year's team have quickly taken the place of these two graduates. Cal Filson has assumed Houston's place in goal, and has already made numerous saves. Nathan Majumder's role as key goal scorer has been filled by a number of players on the team. It is assuring to see a wide range of players scoring. The list of those players includes juniors Jake Foehl, Dan Flynn, Grant Raphael and Eric Hirsch, sophomore Benni McCom-

ish, freshman Felix Kershaw, and eighth grader Sam Dils.

Last year the team went 16-4-2, and they made it to the Western Mass semifinals. So far this looks like a promising season for the Mounties, with key victories against Lenox, Burr and Burton Academy and Hoosac, to name a few. If they keep playing like the way they have been, the team should make the Western Mass Tournament. As Guettler puts it, "Every year we come out and our first goal is to qualify for the Western Mass Tournament, and then to win the Berkshire County North title. Once we get into the tournament we try to take it one game at a time, but I think that we are hoping to get at least as far as last year." This is an exciting team to watch and one to definitely keep your eye on as the season progresses. ■■



Photo courtesy of Gray Kaegi

Freshman Felix Kershaw, pictured above, will be an important part of the soccer team's success this season.

FOOTBALL

By WILL WALTER

The last three seasons could not have been more perfect for the football team. Since 2010, they are 35-1, with the lone loss coming to Wahconah last season, and have won three county Super Bowls. After each season they lose key seniors, but the Mounties have been consistently beating up on opponents thanks to their depth and rigorous training program. This year looks to be no different.

As of September 17th, the Mounties were 2-0 and had outscored opponents 62-16. Though several key players graduated last year, including star quarterback Hank Barrett and running back Ethan Ryan, players have stepped up just like they have the last three seasons. Sophomore Brodie Altieri has filled in nicely as quarterback and senior captain and running back Daivon Clement has consistently found holes in the opposing defense, torching them on long touchdown runs. It's amazing and intriguing that the Mounties have been able to continue their run of success with players constantly graduating. "Well, first of all, you have to have athletes and talented players, which we have" said head coach Shawn Flaherty. "But what really helps is our rigorous and tough work ethic. It's physical in the sense that we base it on conditioning," he continued. Perhaps the most impressive and important aspect of this Mt. Greylock team are the lines. In their 36-8 beatdown of Monument, the defensive line, led by senior captain Nick DiSanti and juniors Matt Hogan and Jake Benzinger, collected five sacks and several knockdowns, completely disrupting the Monument passing game. The offensive line has been equally impressive, as last year they allowed now graduated running back Ethan Ryan to tear apart defenses by opening up massive holes. The offensive line is one aspect of the team Flaherty is extremely excited about. "We have very competitive lines coming back," he said. "[Last year's running back] Ethan Ryan was a talented kid, but you've got to attribute some of that success to the O line."

Perhaps the most exciting change in the new season is the new playoff system, in which there are six divisions and six state champions. Coaches from around the state agreed to try out a two year trial of the new playoff system, in which the two finalists for each division meet for the championship game at Gillette Stadium, the same place where quarterback Tom Brady leads his Patriots in every home game. Mt. Greylock and most other Berkshire County schools are in division five. Most coaches in the state are very excited for this new playoff system, Flaherty included. "I'm definitely excited for the new playoff system," Flaherty said. "You now have six true state champions. I don't want to take anything away from what we've done, but now we get to find out how good we are," he said. This year, the Mounties' goal is an exciting one. Make it to Gillette Stadium. ■■



Photo courtesy of Gray Kaegi

The boys' race starts quickly at the first home race of the season on September 18th.

Rich tradition and dominance describe the culture of the Greylock boy's cross country team. Their history of regular and postseason success dates back to the early 1980s. Last season saw the team go 13-2, winning themselves yet another Western Mass. title. They capped of the year placing fourteenth at states.

The 2013 Mounties are back at it again with the same championship goals as last

year. Captained by seniors Archer Greenhalgh, Caleb Raymond, Derek Wood and Richard Astle, the team has hit the ground running, literally. The Mounties won their first two meets with ease. A hot start to the season is something the team has grown accustomed to. They look to continue their usual success throughout the season. However, it will be difficult considering the loss of Will Kirby, now a collegiate

runner and one of the team's top runners last year.

Greylock will use its sophomore and junior classes to its advantage. Juniors Carter Stripp, Sam Kobrin, Jake Kobrin and Will Nolan and sophomore Tommy Kirby, all top seven runners, will return even faster after this year. Head Coach Scott Burdick is excited, as always, for another cross country season. When asked about goals and expectations for the year, he noted, "My main goal is to have everyone improve as a runner. Whether that's shaving a couple of seconds off their time or moving up from JV to Varsity."

Rarely does a team compete for a championship year after year, and with success like that, motivation might be hard to come by. "Our motivation is to carry on the winning tradition that has come before us so our names can be remembered and to go down with the greats. There is nothing more special than seeing your year on that banner in the gym, knowing you were a part of it and that future generations will be reminded of the greatness that came before them," noted Stripp when asked about the team's motivation.

Like always, the Mt. Greylock boys' cross country team has plenty of ingredients for a great season. Fans who have followed Greylock cross country for a while should expect nothing less than a championship. This year will be a big one for the Mounties, who will make a run at their third consecutive Western Massachusetts championship. ■■

VOLLEYBALL

By LUCY BARRETT

Although the volleyball team lost key players last year, they have a strong core. With nine seniors, three juniors, a sophomore and a freshman, the team is hopeful for a successful fall season. Already, the team faced some tough matches, including a loss in the fifth game against PHS. They are currently 2-4, with a big win against rival Wahconah. The squad had a slow start to the season, battling the best teams in the league, but is hoping to win some easier games as the season progresses. The team welcomed John Albano as their head coach after Phil Paul retired at the end of last season. The transition for the team has been a difficult adjustment but the players are getting used to it and it's becoming easier.

The senior heavy team has a strong group of underclassman. Freshman setter Dagny Albano and sophomore spiker Hope Willis both are key players. Senior captain Jenna Markland was chosen as the team's libero, the first that Mount Greylock has ever had. Markland made a big jump from starting JV last year to becoming the varsity libero, a designed back row player who can run in at anytime without wasting a substitution. The position is generally reserved for an athlete who is good at passing and digging.

Markland is optimistic about the team's chances this year. She said, "We have some

obstacles to get over, but I have confidence we can make the tournament." The team is hopeful that they will have a strong finish to the regular season with a winning record and a shot at the post-season as well. ■■



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane

Members of the varsity volleyball team in action at a home game.

MOVIE REVIEW

Continued from Page 5.

stant shillings of Superman as the "chosen one," he never succeeds in living up to those promises.

Superman himself is possibly the most incompetent superhero in any film. By the conclusion, Smallville is a smoldering crater along with half of Metropolis. People are falling out of skyscrapers, and not once do we see Superman save any of them. (With the exception, of course, of Lois Lane. However, she acts as more of a prop than an actual person, so she doesn't count.) He doesn't seem to even notice. He's too busy punching a giant laser. One scene with creepy implications involves him destroying a military satellite, proclaiming: "You can't spy on me! I'm gonna do whatever I want!" An icon for truth and justice has essentially stated that he's holding the Earth hostage. Our hero, everybody!

By the time the ending mercifully showed its head, I wanted to cup my eyes and ears and wait until it was over. Many seem convinced that lighthearted or campy is the same as "bad," or that true art must be bleak and nihilistic. But take Christopher Reeve's Superman. True, that movie was unabashedly corny, but that didn't mean it lacked for good drama, characters and story. Man of Steel is obsessed with the concept of Superman but doesn't understand why he exists in the first place. ■■

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

By BENNI MCCOMISH



Photo courtesy of Gray Kaegi

Eighth grader Emma Pumbo and sophomores Molly Haskins and Grace Smith race to strong finishes in Greylock’s first home race of the season.

Last year, the Mount Greylock girls’ cross country team went 10-3 and finished seventh in the state. The team is hopes to build on that success because many key runners are returning from last year’s team, including seniors Emily Kaegi and Amalia Leamon, junior Laura Galib, freshman Niku Darafshi and eighth grader Emma Pumbo. They will need to fill the void of two their top five, Kat Chenail and Sophia Dastoli, who are now collegiate runners.

On August 31st, the team hosted an invitation meet and ran against most teams in the league and some from further afield. The girls’ times were not very impressive. “We looked horrible,” said Coach Larry Bell. “We had not done speed training yet,” he explained. However, a mere seven days later, the girls were neck and neck with the defending Berkshire County champion, Pittsfield High School. After the first five runners finished, the two teams were tied 28-28. The race came down to the sixth runner, sophomore Ellie Williams. “I was running with Sophie Gerry and Grace Smith”, Williams explained, “and about a mile from the finish, Coach Bell told us we

had to pass the Pittsfield girl in front of us to win the meet. We ran really hard but we weren’t able to catch her.” Williams and her teammates figured that they had lost the race. But then they realized that Kaegi and Galib had passed two Pittsfield girls which tied the teams. Williams explained, “Technically I was the tie-breaker, but everyone ran really great races that combined for a team win. I’m just really happy we beat them.”

The goal for the cross country team this year hasn’t changed: reach the state championship. This will be an uphill battle because their main opponents, Monument and Lenox, are in their division. Unlike Greylock, these two schools didn’t graduate top runners. Greylock is facing stiffer competition while rebuilding from losing several top runners to graduation. Bell says, “We are trying to get over ghosts of runners past.” He predicts that they will come fifth in the state. The team is certainly off to a good start, but like all runners know, it is not how you start a race but how you end it. ■■

GOLF

By SAM SWOAP

One would think going 0-15 last year would discourage the Mt. Greylock Golf team. However, the team proved in a match against Wahconah that they aren’t going to give up. Coming strong off their first win in two years, the Mounties golf team is young and hungry for another win. They have dropped at least 25 strokes on every course they have played so far. No seniors graduated last year and Coach Lucas Polidoro is feeling confident in the team’s chances of success. Five of six starters return from last year, led by sophomore Matt Wiseman and senior Nick Dastoli, who rejoined the team after a year away. The team has a lot confidence in their ability. “We are better now, we’ve just got to get out there and go prove it.” said Polidoro. He sees a .500 season well within grasp. “A .500 season is challenging but if the whole team comes together, it is doable.” said Wiseman.

A problem the team is facing is the po-

tential loss of their home course Waubeeka. Waubeeka will close if the owner doesn’t find a buyer by the end of the season. The practice facilities there are incomparable. Taconic in Williamstown and Donnybrook in Lanesborough are both being considered as new home courses, but neither have practice facilities like those at Waubeeka. The loss of those facilities could provide a serious, but solvable, problem to the team next season.

Although they will lose three starters this spring to graduation, the Mounties are looking strong for the future. Freshman Kyle Alvarez and sophomore Gray Kaegi look ready to step up and take some of the load. Plenty of middle schoolers are eyeing the three starter spots left open by graduating seniors and competition for the spots will be fierce. Next year, with another season of experience under their belts, they will be a force out on the golf course. ■■

GIRLS SOCCER

By ERIC HIRSCH

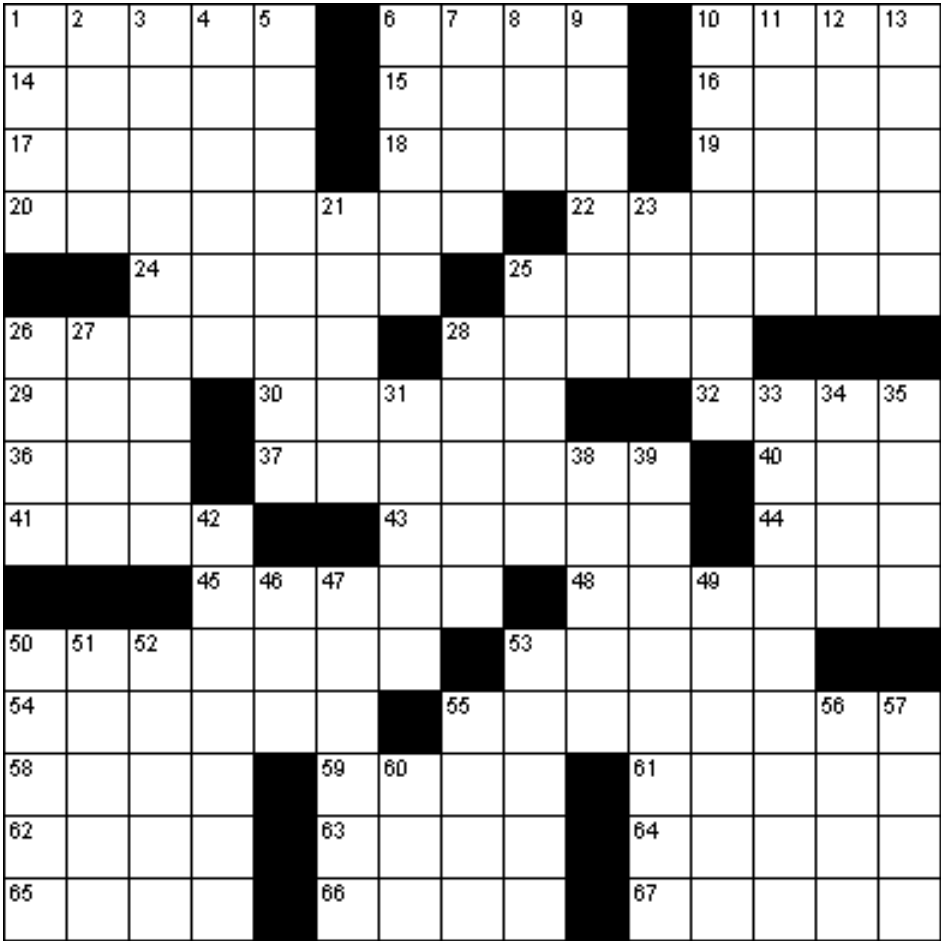
The Greylock girls soccer team is off to a tremendous start in the 2013 season. For the first time in seven years, the girls’ team is competing in the Berkshire North Division. The North Division in both boys and girls traditionally boasts the strongest teams in Berkshire County. Coach Tom Ostheimer, now entering his seventh season at helm of the Greylock squad, has achieved success in the South Division, both qualifying for and winning a Western Mass game in each of the last three seasons. As a result, the team has moved back into the north where they will have to face the likes of Wahconah, Lenox and PHS twice a year. After losing star goalkeeper Margot Besnard to graduation, many fans were unsure of how the 2013 squad would fare, especially against the tougher competition. Any doubters have been proven wrong as the Mounties have rolled out to a 3-1 start with road wins against traditional powerhouses Wahconah and Lenox.

Greylock’s fast start has truly been a team effort, and not just due to the success of a few individuals. This year’s captains are

seniors Sophie Leamon, Miranda Bucky, Mackenzie Flynn and Alex Delano. Juniors Kelsey Orpin and Lucy Barrett, sophomore Melissa Swann and freshman Sarah Stripp all have plenty of varsity experience as well. Eighth graders Mae Burris-Wells and Caroline Flynn have also played a role in Greylock’s success thus far. Orpin said, “Mae helps our team every time she is out on the field. Also, Caroline has been a huge help up front with Sophie and I. She has been putting some great crosses into the 18 box.”

Perhaps the best news for Greylock is the emergence of sophomore goalkeeper Charlotte Rand. Orpin said, “Charlotte has stepped up in goal after replacing Margot Besnard. She has been doing great.” Leading goal scorer Leamon said, “I think we’re better than any of the four years I’ve played on varsity.” Greylock has a lot of young talent with four eighth graders, and five eighth grade swingers. Not only is this season looking bright for the Mounties, but so is the future. ■■

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Urged (on)
- 6 Air apparent?
- 10 Sgt.’s subordinates
- 14 Lovely, as a signorina
- 15 One of Henry’s Catherines

- 16 Christmas
- 17 Wilson of the Beach Boys
- 18 Court doings
- 19 South Pacific boat
- 20 Quarter of a denarius
- 22 Seraglios

- 24 Musical transition
- 25 Shooters’ needs
- 26 Went after
- 28 Island birthplace of Epicurus
- 29 Solo of “Star Wars”
- 30 “The Merry Widow” composer
- 32 Dirty Harry’s grp.
- 36 Assistance
- 37 Chinese parade features
- 40 Afternoon hour on a sundial
- 41 Malay boat
- 43 Accumulated, as debts
- 44 33 or 45, e.g.
- 45 Minor quarrels
- 48 Ones in charge
- 50 Rolls
- 53 Intelligence test developer
- 54 Not at sea
- 55 Feudal class
- 58 Get-out-of-jail money
- 59 Udder part
- 61 Largest city in Nebraska
- 62 Name in Scandinavian furniture
- 63 Has a bite
- 64 Japanese noodle dish
- 65 Garment seam
- 66 Chop ____
- 67 Move furtively

- 7 Riot spray
- 8 Doggie-bag morsel
- 9 Alexander ____ Bell
- 10 Durable wood
- 11 Less contaminated
- 12 Andean animal
- 13 “The Cat in the Hat” author
- 21 Less polite
- 23 Introduction to Latin
- 25 “Gigi” star
- 26 Lip-balm target
- 27 “Age of Aquarius” musical
- 28 “Beowulf” and others
- 31 Does’ mates
- 33 Tom, Dick or Harry
- 34 Snowman accessory
- 35 Goes to low beam
- 38 Ancient kingdom on the Nile
- 39 Backs
- 42 Elaine, Lily Maid of ____
- 46 For each
- 47 Glacial ridges
- 49 Mariner
- 50 Fanatical
- 51 Honshu seaport
- 52 More likely to retire
- 53 “Heavens to” woman
- 55 Crown of the head
- 56 “Take ____ Train”
- 57 Went under
- 60 “____ de vie” (brandy)

Down

- 1 Fades away
- 2 “Pretty Woman” star
- 3 Dramatic piano passage
- 4 Makes jubilant
- 5 Anglo-Saxon tax
- 6 “The final frontier”

Contact the editors at mountgreylock-echo@gmail.com if you think you have what it takes to create our next crossword puzzle!