

## JAPANESE GARDEN ENJOYS NEW PURPOSE



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

The Japanese garden has seen more traffic this year with the introduction of Free Studio and Laid-Back Lunch for Seniors. Read about these new programs on pages 1 and 2.

## STUDENT COUNCIL TACKLES NEW ISSUES

By AARON KLEINER

Last spring, the Mt. Greylock student council held elections. Five students from grades nine through twelve were chosen to Greylock represent the student body during the 2013-2014 academic year. After the new council members were elected, they were able to run for positions within the council. Caleb Raymond succeeded Jonah Majumder as the student council president. In the other positions, Aaron Ziemer is vice-president, Evi Mahon is secretary, Carter Stripp is parliamentarian, Emily Rudd is treasurer and Jake Kobrin is press secretary.

The student council has already been active this year, discussing issues both within themselves and with the administration. They have already been able to alter the discipline matrix, making it more fair for students, by changing the penalty for “first offense profanity” to a warning rather than a detention. The council also helped out during both open houses, directing parents through the building.

There are also many plans in store for the student council this year. One major project the council has begun to work on is to have local entrepreneurs from around Berkshire County speak to the school on the subject of small business ownership. According to student council president Caleb Raymond, the goal for this project is to “get students and community involved in what goes on in business.” Raymond also said the project will, “let students know about other options for after college.” Another project the council will undertake is establishing a new committee designed to recognize students’ achievements. The committee will give awards and acknowledgement to students who excel in all areas.

The overall goals for the council this year are, according to Raymond, “to get more involved with the administration and to become more active within the student body.” The council wishes to become a place where students can come with questions and complaints. ■■

## GREYLOCK LAUNCHES STUDENT EMAIL

By MIRANDA DILS

Due to the rise of communicative technology over the past several years, it should come as no surprise that many schools have started to use the Internet in the classroom. Following this trend, Mt. Greylock has increased its use of the Internet with the rollout of personal Google email addresses and the applications tied to those accounts for all students.

For the first time in Greylock’s history, each student in both the middle and high school has a protected email address under the domain “mgrhsstudent.org.” As it is up to teachers to decide when to hand out the students’ email addresses and passwords, some students already have access to their account, while others do not. Students are expected to use this email whenever they find the need to communicate regarding school business, either with peers, teachers or administrators. Within this account, students can also utilize Google’s Apps for Education, including Mail, Drive, Maps, Calendar and Google Plus. Each account holds up to 25 gigabytes of storage, which is plenty of space for a student attending Greylock for six years.

Richard Scullin, the school’s Digital Media and Learning Specialist, was heavily involved in the process of obtaining the student emails. After attending a Google Apps conference this past summer and learning about the the educational benefits offered by the company, he thought that the wide array of applications would help “address the school’s needs.” Scullin said the “suite of tools rolled out [by Google] for academic institutions” provides schools with a private, protected environment that allows “digitally-connected learners to collaborate with students and peers through digital media.” Each student’s email is his or her own “academic identity.” The email travels with students through their time spent at Greylock, adding consistency and professionalism to this mode of communication. Scullin also pointed out that the system automatically provides those students who do not have access to Internet or an email account with their own online identity.

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## 1 in 650: An Interview with Isa Hagstrom

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of Isa Hagstrom

Sophomore Isa Hagstrom is a new student to the Greylock community. She moved to Berkshire County this year from Colorado. Despite being here only a few months, everyone seems to know her outgoing and friendly personality. Her past two schools in Colorado were both around 2,000 students in just the high school. We thought we should highlight her this month to find out how the transition is going and how Greylock matches up to other schools.

Echo: We’ve heard you move around a lot, why is that?

Isa: My parents aren’t together, so I move between their houses.

Echo: How many high schools have you attended?

Isa: This is my third high school and I’m only a sophomore.

Echo: Will you stay at Greylock for the whole year?

Isa: For the year, yeah. Hopefully for the rest of my two years in high school.

Echo: What brought your family to Berkshire County?

Isa: My mom got a job at MCLA.

Echo: What are you interested in?

Isa: I’m doing theatre right now. So I’m in Shakespeare. I also do MMA.

Echo: Oh yeah, we interviewed Sam Klass about that last month!

Isa: Yeah, I’m not an actual TV fighter. I do do it a lot though.

Echo: Are there places around here for you to do it?

Isa: No, not that I’ve found. I’ve basically lost that, but you do have a lot of really great hills here. You guys’ mountains are like Colorado’s hills. I’m probably going to start downhill longboarding again.

Echo: Besides theatre, what else are you looking forward to at Greylock this year?

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## KING LEAR

Katelin Marchand gives a view into the process of preparing the play.

See Page 2.

## DEAR EVI...

Evi Mahon offers advice to Wall Flower and Extracurricularly Challenged.

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## THE BEST AND WORST ALBUMS OF 2013

Will Walter makes his picks from this year’s offerings – so far.

See Page 4.

## SIX MOVIES FOR HALLOWEEN

Nate Taskin suggests six options for a good scare this holiday.

See Page 4.



## KING LEAR REHERSALS UNDERWAY

By KATELIN MARCHAND



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Aspendlier/Shakespeare and Co.

Cast member of last year's production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, perform at the 2012 Fall Festival in Lenox, MA.

This year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Shakespeare Fall Festival. Each year students from all over Berkshire County gather for a four day festival at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA. Students participating in the Fall Festival also go to common classes, which are weekly two hour gatherings where students focus one aspect of a theater production. The common class on Wednesday, October 10 was for stage combat. This year Mt. Greylock students are putting on the play King Lear, a tragedy that takes place in England. At the Fall Festival, each high school has a designated performance time over the four days and both participants from other

schools and from the community come to support the actors. For Mt. Greylock students there will be four shows this year, three at Mt. Greylock and one at Shakespeare and Company. Two shows will take place on Friday, November 15, and one on Saturday, November 16. The date for the final show at Shakespeare and Company is on Friday, November 22 at 8:30pm.

Auditions started at the end of September. Shakespeare is different from any other production at Mt. Greylock because students audition first and then the directors, Josh McCabe and Kiki Bertocci, fit the personalities of the students to the characters. Auditions consist of games, which

originate from common classes, that allow students to interact. Even people who are on the tech crew come to auditions because they are fun and stress-free.

On a Monday morning, Bertocci posted the cast list, which revealed the show to be King Lear. Students with big and small roles alike were elated because of everything that Fall Festival entails: common classes, tech week, costumes and spending time with amazing people from Mt. Greylock and other local schools. Each week students are called by beat, which are smaller break ups of each scenes. Schedules are posted on Thursday or Friday of the previous week and the directors try to abide by all conflicts.

The lead, King Lear, will be played by senior Evi Mahon. Of her six year participation in the Fall Festival, she said, "I have met so many new people and formed so many friendships that I feel blessed to have been a part of Shakespeare."

Last year Mt. Greylock, did a comedy, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. Sophomore, Luc Park said, "King Lear is a drastic change from *Midsummer*, but I'm glad to be around engaged and enthusiastic people." This year students will tackle the challenges of a tragedy. McCabe said, "I could tell at auditions there was potential to go a different route from last year." King Lear is about as different from *A Midsummer's Night Dream* as possible, but the beauty of the tragedy is that "everyone can relate and understand the family relationships on some level," said Bertocci. Although students are challenging themselves with a new type of play, it will live up to the standards set by all the plays of the past. ■■

## LOWERED PARKING COST REMAINS

By SAVANAH BROWN AND OLIVIA GRAVEL

There have been many disputes about parking passes over the years. These arguments have been as simple as someone stating the parking lot has too many potholes for a \$50 fee, to someone paying the whole sum in change in protest. Allison Tremblay, who graduated last year, thought that \$50 was too much to pay and brought to the administration's attention that the price was too high. Her activism resulted in a lowered fee.

Students need a parking pass so the administration knows how many people are in the parking lot for safety reasons. "We're very fortunate to have a big parking lot," says vice principal Jacob Shutz, "so everyone who wants to drive to school is able to. Not all schools are like that."

The price of the parking pass went from \$50 to \$25 because of students complaints about the high price last year but some still seem to think the fee is unnecessary. "I think the fee is somewhat ridiculous because I don't really know where the money is going to exactly," says senior Markell Shea, "I'm just leaving my car there so why should I have to pay for a piece of land." Senior Raquel Morse agrees with Shea about the fee: "I think we should not have to pay because the parking lot is lousy every year and they never fix it."

The week of September 23rd was the last week that students could park without a sticker. The administration checked each car to make sure that the students who drove to school had a parking sticker. "We had one or two students that were complaining about the price because they did not have one during the check," said guidance counselor PJ Panesco, "but they ended up paying the fee anyway. With one of these policies you will almost always find someone who disagrees." There was not consequence for students who didn't have a parking pass, but students were reminded to get one. To get a parking pass, students can fill out a form in the principal's office and get a sticker. ■■

## FREE STUDIO PROVIDES ARTISTIC OUTLET

By JESSE COHEN

Free Studio was an extracurricular activity, located in the Japanese Garden, where 10-12th graders participated in the visual arts, including painting, sketching, origami, photography and sculpture. This year it ran as a pilot program for seven days during early October. This program, started by senior Amalia Leamon, will culminate in an exhibition at Mt. Greylock in late November or early December.

To participate, students had to apply and 15 were selected to be a part of this pilot. It was self-directed; students provided their own art supplies and blankets on which to sit, and instead of being assigned projects they worked on those that they were assigned in other classes or other pieces they wanted to contribute to the exhibition. Along with Leamon, senior Katelin Marchand helped organize the pilot. Leamon said, "It is definitely a starting point for future initiatives with student leadership."

Leamon says that she began this program because, "there are many students who

have a creative interest or hobby but don't have time in their schedule to take an art class." Although this program was largely successful in allowing students a venue for creativity, unfortunately, as mentioned by Principal Mary MacDonald, some students could not participate as much as they would like due to Science labs and Peer Team that interfered during Directed Study. MacDonald suggested moving some of the dates to Mondays if the program is to run again because this is a day that fewer labs and other activities occur.

Nonetheless, it was a good use of the newly renovated Japanese Garden, which has become home to other activities like the senior pilot Laid Back Lunch, and students have really enjoyed their time outside in the new space. A lot of artwork was produced for the upcoming exhibition, and the students involved in the pilot had a great, productive time developing new and old artwork as well as fine tuning their creative abilities. ■■

## 1-in-650: Isa Hagstrom

Continued from Page 4.

Isa: There is the music club, which I'm really interested in. I want to go into a new realm of music.

Echo: Do you play an instrument?

Isa: I'm teaching myself how to play the guitar and I sing.

Echo: How does Greylock compare to other schools you have attended?

Isa: Different. It is very small. The people here are very accepting, but I feel like they haven't seen much of the world. It is very community oriented. It's nice though. There are a lot of things here that you can't do in Colorado.

Echo: Is there anything from your past high schools that you'd like to bring to Greylock?

Isa: Longer lunches. And at my other schools, I got to leave the campus, which was really nice. For the people, I think the only thing I'd like people to do here is open up a little bit more. Have different ideas. Everyone is really nice though.

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

## OUTING CLUB INTRODUCED

By AMALIA LEAMON

Last month, a group of 25 adventurous students signed up to pilot Mt. Greylock's first high school outing club. Larry Bell, the club's advisor, came up with this idea last year during a biology class field trip during which students had the opportunity to kayak on Pontoosuc Lake. He was inspired by the number of students who were enthusiastic about the trip and were motivated to plan new ones in the future. Since in the past there has only been an unofficial middle school outing club led by parents and upperclassmen, Bell decided to start a high school club.

Bell's vision for the outing club is to provide an opportunity for "kids to be leaders" and he wants the club's planning to be up to the students and their imaginations. With this in mind, he is suggesting having three or four big trips and several smaller events throughout the school year. Ideas that have already been suggested include kayaking the Housatonic river, an overnight hike on Mt. Greylock, visiting an aerial adventure park on Brodie mountain

and white water rafting.

Although Bell and other faculty members and parents are interested in facilitating trips, many of these activities provide chances for student leadership. Senior Evi Mahon took the initiative to kick off the year by spending a night on the Appalachian Trail with a small group of students. The trip wasn't officially sponsored by Mt. Greylock so anyone who showed up was welcome to participate. Along with Mahon, Jasper Rosenheim and Aaron Ziemer made the 36 hour trek which began at Pine Cobble and followed the AT trail down the mountain. Rosenheim reports that the hike was a fun experience and said, "Outing club is a great idea. It's a really good way to get to know people and get active."

The first official outing club event was a hike up Mt. Greylock held on October 19th. Any member was welcome to join the hike which started at the end of Hopper Road in Williamstown. This first event was free, but a \$30 user fee is required for future participation. ■■

*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 from grades 9 through 12. Any Mt. Greylock High School student is welcome to join the Echo staff.*

**Editor-in-Chief:** Zavi Sheldon  
**Associate Editor:** Caleb Raymond  
**Business Manager:** Pearl Sutter  
**Sports:** Emily Kaegi  
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**Opinion:** Katelin Marchand  
**Perspective:** Evelyn Mahon  
**Photography:** Aaron Ziemer  
**Administrative Liaison:** Pearl Sutter

**Advisor:** Peter Niemeyer  
**Printed by** Adams Specialty & Printing

Mt. Greylock Regional High School  
1781 Cold Spring Road  
Williamstown, Mass,  
01267, USA

Questions? Comments? News tips?  
Please contact:  
mountgreylockecho@gmail.com



## New Teacher Interview: Karen DuCharme

By KELSEY HEBERT



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Karen DuCharme comes from teaching at Pittsfield High School to join Mt. Greylock's Life Skills Department. Since

high school, DuCharme has been interested in teaching special needs students and received her undergraduate degree from Morehead State University to fulfill her dream.

Echo: Where are you from?  
DuCharme: I was born and raised in Pittsfield.

Echo: Where did you attend college?  
DuCharme: I attended Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky for my undergraduate degree. Then, I attended MCLA for my Masters degree.

Echo: What got you interested in teaching Life Skills?  
DuCharme: I took an introduction to special needs class my senior year in high school so that I wouldn't have a study hall. That's all it took. I knew I wanted to be a special education teacher almost from the start of it.

Echo: Where have you taught in the past?  
DuCharme: I have taught at The Kolburne School, a residential school and I taught at Pittsfield High School most recently for 9 years.

Echo: What do you like about Mt. Greylock? What is different about Mt. Greylock than past schools you've taught at?  
DuCharme: Mt. Greylock is a smaller school and I like the small feel. It feels very comfortable and inviting.

Echo: What are you most excited about for your first year at Mt. Greylock?  
DuCharme: I'm looking forward to getting to know all of the students and staff.

Echo: What were your best and worst classes in high school?  
DuCharme: My best classes were Science and Math and my worst classes were English and History.

Echo: What's your favorite thing to do out-

side of school?  
DuCharme: I like to be with my family and love to play volleyball competitively

Echo: If not in the Berkshires, where would you most like to live?  
DuCharme: I liked living in Kentucky, but missed my family here. I also think Montana is beautiful.

Echo: Did you have any teacher growing up that significantly impacted you? Why?  
DuCharme: I had several. They were memorable because they genuinely enjoyed their jobs and made learning more fun for me and my classmates.

Echo: Do you have any life-long goals that you are working towards?  
DuCharme: I'm working on being the best mother and teacher I can possibly be.

Echo: Red Sox or Yankees?  
DuCharme: Red Sox. ■■

## LAID-BACK LUNCH FOR SENIORS

By MOLLY WILSON

For many years, one point of constant beauty in our ailing building has been the Japanese Garden. Despite this, it often feels as if the courtyards that dot our school are untouchable, never to be enjoyed. This year that trend is gradually changing, first with the pilot of Free Studio during Directed Study and now with the option of eating lunch in the Japanese Garden for seniors.

Ideas to use the Japanese Garden began to be introduced last year. Principal Mary MacDonald said, "I think the idea of using the Japanese Garden started last year during the Great Day of Service." Then current senior Kiara Garofalo got involved and began to speak with MacDonald about using the garden during the 2013-14 school year. "My first day officially on the job, I began to receive emails," said MacDonald.

Seniors Miranda Bucky and Gef Fisher have headed the planning of the pilot program, termed "Laid-Back Lunch for Seniors," with help from MacDonald. The first few lunches were successful, with a small group of seniors attending each day.

The Japanese Garden received its name after a former math teacher at the school obtained a SEE Fund grant and planted Japanese plants that interested him in the

courtyard. Before the garden fell into disuse, the area was used for the crossing-over ceremony for eighth graders moving into the high school as well as for some senior graduation ceremonies. The garden is now maintained by building manager Jesse Wirtes and additional plans are in the mix to clean the fishpond.

Though the seniors eating in the Japanese Garden are largely without supervision, teachers do check in during the lunch period. MacDonald described the lunch as being, "not a 'clique' place" as the lunch truly is "laid back." The only requirements for the seniors to participate in the program are that they bring a bagged, or "brown bag," lunch and that they leave the garden clean.

The pilots of both the lunch in the garden and the Free Studio option have ended and the success of both programs will be reviewed. The decision whether or not to continue with them will be made, hopefully allowing future students to enjoy these programs and more. In the meantime, MacDonald welcomes any new ideas concerning the Japanese Garden or other aspects of the school. ■■

## GOOGLE SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1.

As for the reasoning behind Greylock's shift towards becoming a Google School, Scullin said that "emails are essential and a simple mode of communication...and sharing." English teacher Blair Dils, a member of the Technology Committee, which is comprised of several teachers and staff, believes that the shift is a "direction that a lot of schools are moving in," and it will help to "improve communication between students and teachers."

In English teacher Trudy Ames' classroom, film students are working with a feature of their new accounts, Google Plus. It is a social networking service with groups, friends and hangouts, and as Scullin calls it, a "merging of digital collaboration." Ames is using the network as a way for students to respond to films with one another. After each film, students write a one page journal entry and then post links on the class's page in Google Plus to a song, video, article or anything else related to the film. The students must then write something about their link and respond to at least one other person's link. Ames thinks this assignment is exciting and unique and sees a positive reaction from students.

Sophomore Ellie Williams, who is in Ames' film class, thinks that the class's page in Google Plus is a good idea for interaction, but she feels as if students in the class "don't read [the responses]" and that they "aren't using [Google Plus] in the right way."

With the privilege of widespread access to the Internet at Greylock comes responsibility and a dedication to digital citizenship. The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), rewritten by the Technology Committee over the course of last year, states the behavior expected of students whenever they sign in to a school computer under their name. While the Mt. Greylock Network is a protected community, Scullin wants students to understand that they "leave a digital footprint" whenever they have access to the Internet and that anything written or posted can be seen by others.

The rollout of student emails and Google applications is just beginning, and with time and increased knowledge about the benefits of online collaboration, hopefully students will respond positively and experience academic communication with technology in a safe environment. ■■

## Dear Evi...

By EVI MAHON

Dear Evi,  
I went to homecoming alone and no one wanted to dance with me. Does this ruin my high school social life forever?  
--Wall Flower

Dear Wall Flower,  
First of all, you didn't go "alone," you went stag--big difference. "Going alone" makes you sound like a desperate spinster at her niece's wedding. Going stag, on the other hand, gives you infinite degrees of freedom. You're like a lone wolf, roaming the tundra solo and chances are you will find other similarly isolated individuals who either can't get dates or want to fight the system (a more rebellious way of saying they can't get dates). You could stay home, eating a pint of Ben & Jerry's while watching The Breakfast Club, but then you'll just be living the college-girl-who-just-got-dumped-by-her-kind-a-boyfriend dream. So, do what I do. Either organize a massive party of people who aren't so hot on dances, or go with a group of friends and show off your killer moves (by "killer moves" I mean the opposite- have you ever seen an 18-year old Lord of the Rings enthusiast dance? It's not pretty).

But the bottom line here is that high school dances (sit down for this one) don't matter. Of course, as a senior I encourage you to go to as many as possible (we get all the profits), but if you think that a few hours of illegal grinding and mosh pits will have any influence on your life in general, it's probably time that you re-evaluate your priorities.

Dear Evi,  
With all the activities at school, I don't know which one to choose. How do I decide?  
--Extracurricularly Challenged

Dear Extracurricularly Challenged,  
Well, first I have to say that academics should be your first priority and extracurriculars and socializing should come second to that.  
Now that I've gotten administration off my back, we can actually talk. Where did you hear that you can only do one? If money is the issue, we've got fee waivers. And time is hardly an issue! If you're one of those insane people who drive halfway across the state every week for their class in karate-gymnastics-tap dancing (which is my business plan for when I don't get into college), then sure, I get the whole "only one afterschool activity" thing. But let's be honest, here. It can't be homework-- if you're in middle school, you just have to fake confusion and you'll get an A for effort (that's how I got through) and if you're in high school, then just don't sleep (caffeine is a wonderful drug). I'm not saying to go out and become the president of every club ever (trust me- ulcers in 10th grade are not fun), but don't feel confined to joining only one. If you're a cross-country runner and love being outdoors, try out the outing club. If you love Shakespeare, why not join the performing arts club? The point of the new extracurricular system is to encourage people to join clubs, not cap them off at one. ■■



# OPINION

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

## Leo's Luncheonette

By HANNAH FEIN AND ANYA SHELDON

Chances are, if you have walked up Cole Avenue, you have spotted Leo's Luncheonette. Perhaps you have noticed the quaint, picturesque exterior and glanced in through the window or smelled a rich aroma wafting out of the restaurant. Have you, however, ever considered entering this locally owned, long-standing diner for a bite to eat? For this month's review we decided to check it out ourselves and finally see what it was like inside Leo's.

The room, long and slightly narrow, was filled with small tables, several booths along the wall and a long counter with stools. Behind this we could see a woman preparing food. The walls of the luncheonette were adorned with a substantial collection of halloween decorations, little signs with witty sayings and charming pieces of artwork. After taking all of this in, we hovered in the middle of the room, hesitant to seat ourselves. Seeing no one approach us, however, we settled into a comfortable booth and peered over at the menu, which

was posted on the wall behind the counter.

The reasonably-priced options were fairly typical for a small-town luncheonette; breakfast selections included french toast, bagels, cereal and waffles. Under "lunch," the menu listed, to name a few, sandwiches, grilled cheese and burgers. Eventually, the woman working behind the counter, who had been chatting with other customers as she worked, leaned over and asked what we would like to order. In response we requested a spinach and cheese omelet, hash browns and an order of three pancakes. We soon appreciated being able to watch the preparation of our dishes. The close proximity to the kitchen area created a homey atmosphere, surrounding us with the sizzles of food and enticing aromas.

First to come were the pancakes, after a wait of only ten minutes. As soon as we saw them, cooked to a exquisite golden brown and stacked in a fluffy pile, we knew they would not disappoint. What we did not know, however, was that they just might

be some of the most delicious pancakes we had ever tasted. With the first bite, the rich hints of butter mingled seamlessly with the dish's underlying sweetness. The texture of the pancakes was soft and delightfully spongy. To charm the taste buds even further and perhaps detract from the sheepish feeling of not selecting the healthiest dish on the menu, we would recommend ordering the dish with berries inside, and option we regretted not having chosen. Chocolate chips and m&m's are also offered as add-ins.

The spinach and cheese omelet arrived shortly after, and the nutritious, filling dish was a pleasant surprise. Although the idea of spinach may unearth a deep feeling of apprehension in many people, after tasting the omelet, we realized that it was no cause for alarm. This leafy green vegetable, rich in vitamins and minerals, proved to create a delicious combination with the eggs. It added a refreshingly unique flavor to a simple and classic dish. The generous amount of spinach, however, could be seen as either heavenly or overwhelming, depending on personal preference. The eggs themselves were on par for a local diner--full of rich, cheesy goodness yet not excellent in terms of texture.

Our order of hash browns was satisfyingly crispy and came as a small plate of potato shavings. The serving was rather small for two people and left us wanting more, but aside from craving a bit of seasoning, we thoroughly enjoyed this side dish.

Emerging from the restaurant \$10.00 later, we realized something as we stepped out into the blustery fall afternoon. During our brief experience, we watched as customers chatted with employees like old friends, seeming to just relax. In this little restaurant where no one formally orders from a personal menu or is individually attended to by a specific server, regulars are known to venture behind the counter and brew coffee for themselves. During our lunch, we even received an anonymous donation from fellow customers who were concerned that we had not brought enough money. Leo's Luncheonette clearly has the type of close-knit-community atmosphere that many restaurants strive for. Luckily, they also have good food! ■■



Photo courtesy of Anya Sheldon

Leo's Luncheonette on Cole Avenue in Williamstown.

## Must-See Halloween Movies

By NATE TASKIN

More so than for any other genre, the cinema was made for horror movies. There exist few other mediums that offer the same mysterious anticipation one gets heading into a dark theater, equal parts giddy and full of dread. If film is where the audience shares a collective dream, then horror is what engages with our nightmares. In the spirit of the Halloween season, here lie a few movies worth checking out.

### The Thing (1982)

John Carpenter's The Thing celebrates a classic, heartwarming tale: boy meets dog on an Antarctic outpost, dog is actually parasitic space creature, parasitic space creature proceeds to pick off each human one by one and drives everyone insane with paranoia and fear... or something to that effect. Cut off from the outside world, the expedition team (led by the always charming Kurt Russell) grows increasingly manic as they suspect each other of being taken over by the alien. Despite the admittedly ghastly images that define The Thing, the true terror comes from the overwhelming claustrophobia and existential anxiety derived from its characters. Perhaps the first movie to unflinchingly depict the rupture and warp of flesh and bone into misshapen tableaux of surreal beauty, The Thing forever raises the bar on cinematic horror.

### I Saw the Devil (2010)

I Saw the Devil is beautifully terrifying. At two hours and twenty minutes, it flies

by in a second. The film's defining aspect is its stubborn defiance of expectation. Just when it appears to be going in one direction, it takes a sharp turn, and then another turn and then another turn until the main joy of the movie becomes just how unpredictable its demented game of cat and mouse becomes. Despite the enormous praise I give it, take caution: you may require bandages for your hands, as prying them away from your seat will be a taxing endeavor.

### Tremors (1990)

There exist a few special movies that reveal the inner complexity of human nature, tackling philosophical questions of gargantuan proportions and revealing the Nietzschean truth of what we perceive (...or whatever). Tremors, which is about how Kevin Bacon and his pals get chased around by massive worm monsters, is not one of those movies. And thank goodness for that. With over-serious, emotionally draining tripe like Man of Steel and The Dark Knight Rises, it's important to remember that it's okay to just have fun at the movies. This loving send-up of B-movie monster flicks, with its snappy humor and slick writing, serves to show that sometimes there is no shame in schlock.

### The Haunting (1963)

All horror movies would do well to live by a simple mantra: jump scares do not create nightmares. They make for a temporary surprise at best and an insipid, repetitive

irritancy at worst. The Haunting understands this fact, preying on the audience with its scintillating use of mood, tone and atmosphere. Making brilliant use of canted frames, mirror reflections, fish-eye lenses and unsettling sound and image editing, The Haunting succeeds in creating a horror masterwork that does not wear with age. Watching alone is not recommended.

### Let the Right One In (2008)

Vampires hang between life and death, but are not stupid like zombies. Animal impulses rule them, yet they conceal those urges, unlike werewolves. They walk amongst the living and appraise humanity like a farmer eyes his chickens pecking at feed. They have no desire to destroy the world, nor do they wish to rule it. They merely assert their place on the food chain, as lonely as that spot is. Let the Right One In is a vampire movie that reminds you why you watch movies in the first place. Moving, poignant and mesmerizing, Let the Right One In is, put simply, superb. Every scene, line, shot and facial expression is executed flawlessly. The film tells a tragic tale of two outcasts who find redemption in one another. This is a not a redemption of goodness, nor of mutual evil. It is the redemption of being understood, of being loved unconditionally, as toxic as that love may be. Let the Right One In dazzles and entrances with its visual poetry.

Continued on page 6.

## 2013's Best and Worst Albums (So Far)

By WILL WALTER



Best

Daft Punk: "Random Access Memories"  
4/5 stars (Released May 17, 2013)

The French duo Daft Punk has done it again. This may be their best album yet and it definitely sounds different. In this eighties sounding record, Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and Thomas Bangalter ease up on the synth and bring in real live musicians. Yes, they are living and breathing musicians, not robots, in case you are still skeptical. It's a change when a techno band (which is so obsessed with techno they disguise themselves as robots) features live musicians in their music, but it worked. It worked really, really well. The entire album makes you want to drop whatever you're doing to get up and dance. From the opening track "Give Life Back to Music" (a total early eighties dance party), to Pharrell Williams' "Lose Yourself to Dance" (a fusion of Prince, Michael Jackson and techno), "Random Access Memories" is filled with fun hits throughout. You can't forget about the best song on the album, and perhaps one of the French duo's biggest radio hits in years, "Get Lucky." It is still highly ranked on the billboard top 100 and it topped out at number two on the charts. "Get Lucky" completes the resurrection of Daft Punk, and Pharrell Williams even sings about it in the opening verse. The lyrics say, "Like the legend of the Phoenix, our ends were beginnings." Like that mythical bird, Daft Punk has risen from the ashes, back into the top charts. "Random Access Memories" is the best album of the summer and a must buy.

Worst

Lil Wayne: "I Am Not a Human Being II"  
2.5/5 stars (Released March 26, 2013)

Anytime the frontman for a band comes right out and admits they hate their album, you know something just isn't right. While dealing with drug problems, Wayne released "I Am Not a Human Being II," the sequel to "I Am Not a Human Being," which he released while in jail for criminal possession of a weapon. IANAHB2 is Wayne's tenth studio album and although it has sold pretty well (over 500,000 copies total and 217,000 in its first week), it is not even close to one of the best Lil Wayne albums to date. It seems at times that Wayne never put any love or care into his newest release, and a lil TLC is always needed to make any album successful. Lil Wayne just wanted to put out some new material for his fans and critics all around can understand that, but he should at least make it worthwhile to listen to. While including songs such as "I Am Not a Human Being" and others that graphically describe how you "make up" with your girl may be entertaining to some, others don't quite find the songs as enjoyable. The lone bright point of IANAHB2 may be the chorus of "Rich as F\*\*\*", as 2Chainz freshens it up a bit. Yes, Lil Wayne still has his classic rhyming lyrical scheme going on, and they really are great rhymes, but the content isn't so great. This may not be the absolute worst album of 2013 (that award goes to French Montana's "Excuse My French"), but given Lil Wayne's reputation, "I Am Not A Human Being II" is definitely a major letdown, and not an album that should land in your collection. ■■



## GOLF

By CAL FILSON

Unlike many previous golf teams at Mt. Greylock, this year's team has provided hope for a bright future. Their combination of youth and veteran leadership has been the key to their success this season. The Mounties ended their season with a 6-9 record, with key wins coming against Lenox, Wahconah, Mt. Everett and Taconic. Mt. Greylock's number one golfer, sophomore Matt Wiseman, has been shooting low to mid 40s this year with one performance under 35 coming against Drury. Numbers like that have earned him recognition as a top player in Berkshire County golf. Along with Wiseman, seniors Aaron St. Martin, Steven Jayko and Nick Dastoli, freshman Kyle Alvarez and sophomore Lily Crolius have made a major contribution.

"There is much promise for a successful future. We will be good in years to come," said Wiseman. "It just goes to show how much of a difference a year can make." Coach Luke Polidoro is highly optimistic about the team's chances in the future. "We just keep getting better. Unfortunately we will be losing some key seniors next year, but I have a core group of underclassmen that will be competitive for the future," he said. Maximum effort has been given so far by every Mountie golfer this season. "Hard work and maturity have been the keys to our positive growth," said Polidoro.

In a close October 9th loss to top Berkshire County team Drury, the Mounties shot a team low of 159. Despite the loss, this was an important match in terms of growth. Coach Polidoro was pleased that the Mounties had come within just three points of beating a top team.

The here and now for the Mounties is bearable because this Greylock team is poised for success in years to come. ■■

## BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY

By NYEIN SOE

The Boys' cross country team could not have had a better start to the 2013 season. Not only are the runners undefeated with a 15-0 record (missing one meet due to the humidity), but they have won by a huge margin in almost every meet, with the varsity team's closest race being 27-30 against Lenox. This season, the team defeated Monument 19-39 and Hoosac 25-34 at home.

Accomplishing this kind of record is pretty routine for the Mountie boys, especially for the top runners, which include senior Archer Greenhalgh, juniors Carter Stripp, Will Nolan, Sam Kobrin and Jake Kobrin and sophomore Tommy Kirby. These runners make up most of the team that led the Mounties to a Western Mass Championship last season. The team gave various responses when asked why its runners consistently perform better than those on other teams. Senior captain Derek Wood said, "Our team's depth of runners is the main contributor to our success. While most teams have two or three really good runners with everyone else not being nearly as competent, we have many skilled runners so a Greylock team member does not always have to win a race for the team to win." Junior Jake Kobrin attributed the great results to "training and determination," emphasizing the amount of cross-training the runners do during practices.

When it comes to defending the Western Mass Title, the team's confidence is soaring. Given their current record and sizable pool of talent, there is no reason to believe the Mounties cannot do it again. Coach Scott Burdick said, "It's all about preparation. The runners give fitness and preparation full effort long before the actual race, so when it's time to compete, they'll believe they're ready and take the win." ■■

## An Interview with Golfers Kyle Alvarez and Matt Wiseman

By IAN CULNANE



Kyle Alvarez

The golf team finally found its rhythm this year. They jumped from a 0-15 record to a respectable 6-9. We thought we would interview Matt Wiseman and Kyle Alvarez, their number one and two golfers respectively, to ask them about the work they and their team have done to earn their impressive record.

When did you begin playing golf? What got you into the sport?

Kyle: I began playing golf before the summer of my 7th grade year because of my dad influencing me to play. I hadn't played a fall sport and didn't have anything to lose, so I gave it a try.

Matt: Like Kyle, I began playing the playing the summer of my 7th grade year and my dad got me into the sport.

How do you practice golf? How often?

Kyle: During the summer I try to play almost every day and during the school year I go to practices and play a little on the weekend.

Matt: I head over to the putting green for putting, the chipping green for practicing chipping. During the summer I play 6 to 7 days a week. During the school year I play about 4 days per week.

To what can you attribute the recent success of golf team?

Kyle: I think Coach Polidoro has changed the team around and in part the team didn't want to have a repeat of last year, which changed around their attitudes.

Matt: We have all been practicing pretty hard and everyone has improved from last year. We're making a big effort and trying harder.

So Matt, I heard you got an injury playing golf? How did it happen? Has it affected your play?

Matt: I swung awkwardly and a muscle pulled in my back. This kept me out of



Photos courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Matt Wiseman

practice for a week and set me off my game a little.

How does the team look for years to come?

Kyle: It really looks great. With the strong upswing of the team it looks good in years to come.

Matt: My senior year we will have a strong core group of golfers: Cam, Ben, Lily, Gray, Kyle and myself.

How have you been doing individually?

Kyle: Personally, I think I have been playing very well, shooting mid-low forties. My average right now is 46, which I am pretty content with. So I have been playing well.

Matt: Not as well as I would have liked. I've been shooting consistent low forties, but I was playing better in the summer.

How has the golf program changed in the last two years at Greylock?

Kyle: I think a lot of it is Coach Polidoro. He has come in, given us a new standard: not half playing any round of golf, just going all out and working as hard as we can. So he has changed the way we play and helped us a lot.

Matt: Coach Polidoro has made practices more organized, helps everyone and made the golf team really fun. He has made tremendous steps towards improving our program.

How do you plan on taking more positive steps?

Kyle: I think we can always work harder. We can try to get more people to actually play golf. If you're hearing this, we want you. Also I think if we really work hard, in practice and playing, we will be on the path to improvement.

Matt: People can work harder, practice over the summer and come in with a positive attitude. ■■

## GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY

By GRAY KAEGI

Mt. Greylock Girls' Cross Country continues to build on their season. After a couple of close losses early on in the season, the team has been cutting down the margin separating them and their opponents. Runners from all grade levels are stepping up; most notably, seventh grader Margo Smith and eighth grader Emma Polumbo have been finishing within the team's top ten runners. It is very promising for the years to come to see young runners performing so well.

On October 12, the team went to the Burnt Hills Invitational race in Saratoga Springs, New York. The invitational is divided into many different races, including a middle school race, a freshman race, a JV race and a varsity race for the team's top seven. The team performed tremendously with a second place finish in the middle school race and a third place finish in the varsity. Especially notable was Emily Kaegi's win in the varsity race, with a shat-

tering time of 18:20 on the five kilometer course. Also exciting was having the entire varsity team finish within the top 50 runners.

With Western Mass approaching, the team has been working hard in order to be able to do well. As Emily Kaegi said, "The team has been working really hard at practice. New girls are stepping up to go on long runs and they have been training with new people. We've been getting better and better each week." Kaegi also talked about the fantastic chemistry among the team. She said, "The great thing about our team is that we have so much fun together and that everyone wants to do better. We cheer for one another and celebrate when others do well."

With the team's current attitude towards running and the rest of the season, there is no doubt that they are ready to compete. These girls have been training hard and have their eyes on a Western Mass title. ■■

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Greylock Echo

## VOLLEYBALL

By SAM KOBRIN

The volleyball team has staged a comeback in recent weeks, keeping their eyes set on the making the Western Mass tournament. With a record of 8-9, the squad has heated up after a slow start to the season. "Some of the teams came out really strong this year which was intimidating," said junior captain Celia Bote. The team still has big games against Taconic and Lee remaining in their schedule. "I think our re-match against Wahconah was really the deciding factor for us, whether we made it to Western Mass or not," said Bote.

To reach their goal, coach John Albano has been working with the volleyball team on their offensive skills, one of the team's major weaknesses. The team is working on being aggressive and taking responsibility for opposing team's returns. "We've progressed so much since the beginning of the season, but we still need to work on being

less timid and attacking the ball," added Bote. Fortunately, the Mountie's defensive skills are a bulwark against their opponents' kills and strong setters. A deep line of back row players that can sub in and play defense helps the team enormously. Bote said of the team, "All our girls are really strong with back row defence." When they faced Wahconah again on October 15th, the team wanted to show Wahconah that their win earlier in the season was no upset.

During the showdown against Wahconah, the Greylock girls came out strong, crushing them in the first two sets. Wahconah fought back in the third set, winning by ten points. Tensions were high in the final set. Both teams had great volleys but Wahconah was unable to answer Mt. Greylocks defensive skills. The Mounties won the match, putting them well on their way to entering the Western Mass. tournament. ■■



# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL

By ERIC HIRSCH



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Senior Daivon Clement carries the ball past a Pittsfield defender earlier this season.

The Greylock football team is easily identified in the Mt. Greylock community by one phrase: “3-Peat.” Despite suffering a nail biting 20-12 loss at the hands of Hoosac Valley earlier this season, the football team still has their sights set on two goals: the Berkshire County Championship and a possible “4-Peat.” Many of this year’s starters remember how the Mounties lost to Wahconah early in the season last year before avenging their loss in the Berkshire County Championship game in Dalton. The Mounties have looked at the Hoosac loss as both a learning experience and a

turning point. Junior Michael McCormack said, “The loss motivated us and proved that we would need to play better the rest of the season. It meant that we would most likely have to win out to make the championship.”

Head coach Shawn Flaherty and seniors Daivon Clement, Matt Malloy, Nick Disanti and Rob Buffis have had staggering success on the gridiron. In fact, those seniors have seen nothing but super bowl rings in their three years of high school. Other than the slight blemish against Hoosac, the Mounties have remained perfect

this season, beating Monument Mountain, Drury, PHS, St. Joe and Commerce. The latter win has helped give the Mounties a higher power rating than Hoosac Valley, which will improve Greylock’s chances of hosting both the Berkshire County Championship, as well as a playoff game.

Leading the way for the Mounties in the ground game is senior captain Daivon Clement, who has already had several big games this season. Under center is sophomore phenom, Brodie Altieri. McCormack has posed as a dangerous wide out, having caught several deep touchdown passes from Altieri this season. Veteran linemen Malloy, Disanti, Buffis and juniors Matt Hogan and Jake Benzinger continue to play at a high level. Colby Masse has also been a threat in the back field. Benzinger said, “We have a balanced offensive attack to go along with a gritty and stingy defense.”

With most of the personnel returning from last year’s super bowl squad, the Mounties believe that they can achieve both of their ultimate goals. Flaherty and Defensive Coordinator Paul Barrett also return to the sideline. One key piece missing from the “3-Peat” is Offensive Line coach Brian Gill, who stepped down at the end of last season. Two new coaches, Andrew Agostini and Aaron Castinguay have been a superb addition to the Greylock sideline. Benzinger said, “Coach Ago and Coach Castinguay have been enthusiastic and have brought good mojo to our team.” Between veteran leadership, experience and good coaching, the Mounties are well on their way back to the promised land. ■■

## MIRO TO JOIN WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

By SAM KLASS



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

When someone enters a sport, their ultimate goal is to achieve greatness and what better way to boast greatness than to be inducted into that sport’s Hall of Fame. Mt. Greylock’s wrestling coach Raymond Miro will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, located in Stillwater, OK. Every state in the country has its own chapter. Miro will be inducted for Massachusetts’ chapter on November 2 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. “It’s a lifetime achievement award,” explained Miro, “I’ve been involved [with wrestling] for a long time.”

Miro first became involved with wrestling when he was in high school. His coach became his role model. “He was phenomenal. Just a phenomenal person. He and my other coaches were the ones who made the foundation,” reminisced Miro. “Besides the goofiness that goes on, there’s a foundation there that’s important.”

After high school, it became Miro’s goal to follow in the footsteps of his coach. He continued to lay down that foundation for other young wrestlers at each school he coached at. This has led to a 33 year journey which continues today. He began teaching physical education in 1977 at Otter Valley Union High School and eventually moved over to Mt. Anthony in 1989. He continued teaching P.E. and health there until 1999. In 1991, Miro became the coach of Mt. Greylock’s wrestling team. After a few years of commuting between the two schools, Miro began to teach here at Mt. Greylock in 1999. This allowed for less travel and closer relationships with most of his athletes.

When Miro first came to Mt. Greylock, he knew it was the right choice. “After starting a program at Otter Valley, I came to Mt. Greylock where there was a good foundation of kids that changed the culture,” he said. “They didn’t accept second best. You got to try to work to be the best.”

Miro was contacted two years ago with news of his nomination to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame’s Massachusetts chapter. At first he was reluctant. He explained that, saying, “I said, ‘You know, I’m just not ready to accept this award,’ so they said, ‘Are you sure?’ and I said ‘Well, I’ve just never been good at that.’” It might seem surprising that he would turn down such an honor, but he explained that by saying that he still has more he wants to contribute to the sport. “I’d rather just be working, helping people and promoting wrestling and athletics in general,” he said.

But it wasn’t the humble coach’s last chance. After being pushed to do accept the nomination, he went through the necessary process and received the call in February letting him know that he would be inducted. Now, on November 2, Miro will be joining his high school coaches in the highly prestigious Hall of Fame. ■■

## GIRLS’ SOCCER

By BENNI MCCOMISH

The Mt. Greylock varsity girls’ soccer team is forging a new path for themselves in the North division this year. “We were rewarded for winning the South Division for the past 2 years by being moved to the North, with better teams,” explained coach Tom Ostheimer. The schools that the team has faced this year in their new division include power-house Pittsfield, Monument Mountain, Lenox and Wahconah. “Moving to the North means we have to play harder teams more often. This makes it more difficult to earn our wins overall,” said senior captain Sophie Leamon.

Going into Tuesday’s October 8th game against Taconic, the team (8-3-0) only needed two more points to make the playoffs. Their solid 4-2 victory secured their spot. Lighting up the scoreboard were eighth grader Mae Burris-Wells, junior Kelsey Orpin and the team’s top scorer Sophie Leamon. Making playoffs with 6 games left in their schedule was a pleasant surprise, according to senior captain Mackenzie Flynn. “We thought this year would be harder to make the playoffs because we thought this was going to be a rebuilding year,” Flynn said, “but we ended up making the playoffs earlier than expected.” Part of the reason for this season’s success is the team chemistry. Everyone is focused on reaching the team’s goal. “We are all

connecting really well with each other this year,” said Flynn.

Earlier this month the girls’ soccer team played formidable Monument Mountain and won 2-1 in a thriller of a game with goals from Leamon and junior Lucy Barrett. Of that game, Flynn said, “Monument was really important because we knew that



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Senior Mackenzie Flynn challenges a player from Drury during a recent match.

they were a quality team and we need to beat quality teams if we are going to be competitive in the playoffs.” Their early success this season is a great indicator that the team is on the rise and ready play hard in the playoffs. ■■

## BOYS’ SOCCER

By LUCY BARRETT

This season was clearly not a rebuilding year for the Mt. Greylock boys’ soccer team even though they lost key players from last year, most notably goalie Sean Houston and forward Nathan Majumder. With just a few games left, the boys have clinched the playoffs with big wins against Worcester North and Wahconah, along with ties against Monument Mountain and Pittsfield.

The team’s success isn’t just from returning varsity players. Eighth grader Sam Dils has made a name for himself this season. Having scored ten goals and three assists, Dils is not phased by the bigger, more physical opponents he faces. “The transition has not been as hard as I thought it would be at the beginning of the season. I

try not to think of how some guys are three and four years older than I am. I’m just trying to help our team and put the ball in the net,” Dils said.

Junior Grant Raphael is leading the team in assists with nine and has contributed an impressive seven goals as well. Although the team’s core is young, the chemistry has been steadily growing. “Our team has increased our talk throughout the season, which benefits our play on the field,” junior defender and captain David Majetich said.

The fast improvement from the boys’ soccer team has landed them at second place in the north, hopeful for a second or third seed in the Western Mass Tournament, along with a first round home game. ■■

## MOVIES

Continued from page 4.

Suspiria (1977)

Dario Argento. Anyone pretending to know even a little crumb about the horror genre needs to learn that name quickly. Of all his films, Suspiria ranks highest on the must-see list. Argento’s greatest strength as a filmmaker lies in his sheer, enigmatic weirdness. Suspiria stands out amongst the best of its genre for the sheer intensity of the watching experience. The audience views a nightmarish fairy tale, culminating in a confrontation that is gorgeous in its grotesqueness. Suspiria serves as an initiation ritual for protagonist and spectator alike, with the horror genre itself as a secular religion. It is equal parts alluring and terrifying. ■■