



Transgender Rights, See Pg. 8

THE BOLD EAGLE

The Mount Everett Student Newspaper

January 2018

Volume 13, Issue 2

Legal Weed for Adults

By Justice Mazeralle

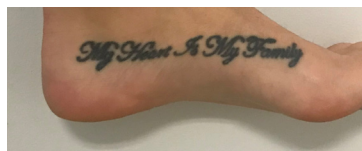
Should recreational marijuana be legal? That's still a hotly debated question, even though Massachusetts voters decided in the affirmative. While many argue the merits and dangers of legal marijuana, the reality is that it is happening now. Legal recreational marijuana is already available in Great Barrington and Pittsfield. The new law legalizing recreational marijuana has many Berkshire towns fired up. Most medical dispensaries in the Berkshire area are waiting approval to sell recreational pot, while several recreational shops are already open to our east. The process of opening these dispensaries is very complex. The state licensing system is slow moving. Every step along the way of growing and selling the product has to be closely monitored and documented. Local opposition has also delayed the process in many towns and cities. Locals express many concerns about these dispensaries, including whom they will bring into the neighborhood, youth usage, driving under the influence, etc. Many, if not most Berkshire towns have updated their zoning laws to limit where in town these facilities can open.

Cont. Pg #5

Tattoos

By Emellin Pineda

People get tattoos for different reasons. Some relate a message; others are for something or someone they want to remember. Some are symbolic while others are just whimsical. For some reason many kids who turn 18 consider getting a tattoo thinking it is cool in the moment. Many of them don't know or understand how it will look or affect them in the future. Sometimes it could affect job opportunities or look terrible as one grows older. Nevertheless, there are those who love and cherish their tattoos. In their heart, it always holds meaning to them, whether it's a lost loved one or a cherished relationship. Mt. Everett alumna Alex Hoover says she has "no regret about when I got my first tattoo."



Ms. Conant's sentiment

Tattoos are a kind of art. These aren't just ordinary people drawing on you; it takes considerable skill to be a human artist. It's also a way of expressing yourself. You may be afraid to show your true colors through your words or

Cont. Pg #2



Mount Everett News February, 1959

Ten Teen-Age Commandments:

1. Don't let your parents down-- they brought you up.
2. Stop and think before you drink.
3. Be smart—obey. You'll be giving orders someday yourself.
4. Ditch dirty thoughts fast, or they'll ditch you.
5. Show off driving is juvenile; don't act your age.
6. Pick the right friend to be picked for a friend.
7. Choose a date that's fit for a mate.
8. Don't go steady unless you're ready.
9. Love god and your neighbors.
10. Live carefully—the soul you save may be your own.

Commentary-Jeans and Slacks in School? Horrors! By--Lee Hunt

YOUR OPINION PLEASE

Fellas—how about the dungarees, boys? Do you approve of them yourselves? I can't see how it is possible to want to come to school in jeans. I s'pose it's excusable if there's nothing else to wear. I think that, in general, the boys at Mt. Everett are pretty well dressed and neat. Of course, if you're

Cont. Pg #3

Tattoos Cont.

clothing, so some people get tattoos. This way they can be hidden when wanted and shown when wanted. Some reasons people regret their tattoos are that they weren't in the right state of mind when they got them. They could have been under the influence, too emotional, pressured, or just wanted to fit in.

According to C.C. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on children's health, 27% of parents of teens aged 16 to 18, and 11%



Hammer's heart

of parents of kids aged 13 to 15 reported that their child had asked about getting body art. In Massachusetts and New York, you have to be 18 to get a tattoo and bring in your driver's license. However, in Rhode Island you can get a tattoo or piercing at the age of 14 and in Connecticut at 16, both with a parent's consent.

The closest place to get a tattoo in Berkshire County is South County Tattoo Corporation. You can find it in Great Barrington behind Cumberland Farms.

Facts About Tattoos

1. Fifty Nine percent of women have tattoos, compared to 41% of men, according to a new poll released by the Oxygen Network.
2. In the past, urine was sometimes used to mix tattoo color.
3. Your skin is pierced 50 to 3000 times per minute by the needle when you get a tattoo.
4. 30% of all college students in the United States have tattoos.
5. United States citizens spend \$1.65 billion a year on tattoos.

The New Advisories

By Victoria Hammer and Seth Nack

Mt. Everett's daily study hall (aka tutorial, or X period) is in for some changes. Every other week it now meets as an advisory group to help students set goals and work through the options facing them in the future. In advisory, students take the Naviance lessons appropriate to their grade. The number of Naviance lessons varies by class.

There appear to be mixed feelings about the usefulness of the Naviance curriculum. Some students find them useful, but others gripe that the courses are pointless and a waste of time. Others find the program very college-focused and believe it is pointless for those not planning a post-high school education. Complainers also note that many students simply make up answers to the questions in order to move quickly through the lessons, defeating the point.

Playoff Preview

by Jack Carpenter

The NFL season is wrapping up, and every team is desperate to clinch their spot in the postseason. The four division winners from the AFC and the four from the NFC will qualify for the postseason, as will two wildcards from both the AFC and NFC.

There are eight total divisions in the NFL and two different conferences. The divisions for both the AFC and NFC contain the north, south, east, and west. The divisions are mostly based on geographic location, and the con-



A map of NFL cities

ferences were created in 1970 when the AFL merged with the NFL. By December, teams are focused on a postseason spot, and the best teams all share a goal of winning the highly coveted Super Bowl trophy.

The NFC seems to be the powerhouse conference of the NFL this year containing a close race for the playoffs. It is already evident that the Saints and Rams will be the top two teams in the NFC, receiving the one and two seeds in some combination. The leader of the NFC east, the Redskins, will probably win their division and get the three seed. Coming in with the fourth seed will most likely be the winner of the NFC north, a tough

Congratulations to Poetry Out Loud winners:
1st place: Elisabeth Enoch
Runner Up: Elizabeth Hotaling



According to the Aesop Frontline website, the benefits of the system include the following:
Create absences online or on the phone: Aesop offers both phone and Web services, so that you can create an absence anytime, anywhere. Online absences can be created as far as one year in advance. As soon as you register an absence, Aesop starts finding a qualified, available substitute for you.

Manage your schedule: With Aesop you can track how many absences you have taken and see absences you have already scheduled in the future. You can also track the types of absences you have on record, such as personal or professional development day. Aesop offers an easy way to store all your absence information in one place.

Leave notes and attachments for the substitute:
By writing notes or attaching documents to your absence, you can assure that your substitute is prepared to handle your duties during your absence. Aesop lets both the district and the employee leave notes, as well as attach Word documents and PDF's to the absence.

New Sub System

By Spencer Broderick

Yet another new piece of technology is in effect at Mt. Everett. This one automates the way that substitutes are assigned. The previous system required teachers and aides to call into an attendance phone line, which was monitored constantly by a substitute administrator (Kurt DeGrenier for the past several years), who would have to find and assign the required number of subs. DeGrenier would make sure that all open spots were filled, often calling subs as early as 6AM or even later.

The new system introduces an online attendance management system called AESOP Frontline. This online system lets staff request their subs online or through a cell phone app. Available subs login and check if there is a subbing job available for that day or a future date. Teachers can try to request specific subs, and subs can choose the teacher for whom they want to cover.

(R Wilkinson)
DiLego-Heath; Na
(Angela Heffernan)
Melino; Danielle
(K Vollmer)
Muir; Karen
(Lesley McLoughlin)
Raszl; Michelle
(T Berkel)
Sarnacki; Robert
(No sub available)
VonRuden; Asha
(no sub available)

New system experiences problems

So far, the new system has pros and cons. It has potential to work out well, but time will have to tell. Teachers are generally positive about the system, especially the feature that allows them to request specific subs. Aesop seems to be working for some subs but less so for others. Some subs may not have

Archives Cont.

the exception to this rule, why not change?! Girls—just between us, what do you think of wearing slacks to school? I think slacks are a fine bit of clothing—but please, not for school! Are Bermudas allowed during school hours? No! Then why should slacks be? They're sportswear, and we're not at school for sports.

Let's try to give Mt. Everett a good reputation—the kind where our clothes are noticed—because they're nice—and neat!



MCAS Results

By Sierra Blodgett

Congratulations juniors! Your MCAS scores were among the highest in the state! In Berkshire County, your scores came in 1st place in English and 2nd place in both math and biology. English results were particularly strong with a high number of advanced placements. Furthermore, 2018 MCAS scores improved over 2017, indicating we continue to raise the bar for ourselves. As Principal Glenn Devoti says, "you always want to look for ways to improve." But changes loom on the horizon for the entire MCAS system.

One development is that "the new MCAS will be designed to be taken on a computer. The plan is to phase in computer-based testing so that computer-based tests are fully administered statewide in 2019, with many students participating as well in 2017 and 2018," according to the Mass.gov website.

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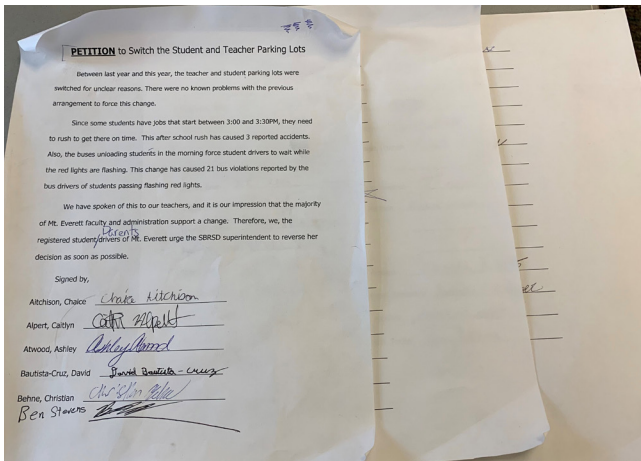


Reporters

Connor Blodgett, Sarah Markham, Sierra Blodgett, Spencer Broderick, Jack Carpenter, Jack Seward-Dailey, Austin Murray, Seth Nack, Jacob Race, Justice Mazeralle, Brandon Wilson, Tucker Wilkinson

The Bold Eagle Expresses Gratitude for Parking Changes

The editorial board of The Bold Eagle appreciates the time and effort the administration committed to resolving the parking situation. We were committed to spearheading change based on our article in the last issue identifying problems caused by the initial plan. We planned to continue the campaign by circulating the petition of student drivers, and writing an editorial advocating change. Happily, this editorial had to be re-written, since the changes have already been made. We kindly thank you for this consideration and for hearing our voices.



Student drivers demand change

Library Update

By Elisabeth Enoch

Librarian Michelle Raszl will now be opening the library to students during lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This effort is largely the result of the success of Mt. Everett's book clubs (Monday-middle school, Thursday-high school) and Ted Talk Tuesdays. Simply drop by the library before the lunch period to request a pass that you keep with you until the end of the lunch period. Lunch must be eaten beforehand in the cafeteria; no food or drink may enter the library.

Ms. Raszl also hopes to see more people join the Big Brother/Big Sister club, which meets in the library after school every Thursday. Students are paired with a younger student from the elementary school to explore new friendships and learn what it is like to be a responsible role model. Any questions may be directed to Raszl.

Bold Eagle's Reader's Opinions

The Bold Eagle wants to know what's on your mind so send us your opinions at [Boldeagle@sbrsd.org](mailto:Bold eagle@sbrsd.org)

"Pursuant to state law, no expression made by students in the exercise of such rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy and no school officials shall be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by the students"

Subs Cont.

adequate internet connectivity, so it is hard for them to be on the website all the time waiting to snag an open job. Others say they prefer the new system because they can pick and choose when and where they want to work for that day. Once the system gets onto its feet, it may work out even better than the old system. Frequent substitute Leslie McLoughlin stated that the system may encounter “mix-ups,” which is when one sub signs up for a classroom one day, and when they show up there could already be a sub in that class.

As the former substitute administrator, Kurt DeGrenier said, “I was told it would be more effective, and it would cut down on personal requests for subs and cut down on teachers being so picky about who the sub was going to be. This way teachers could go online and pick what sub they want.” DeGrenier also added that he thinks, “The system needs more time for us to have a good look on whether it’s more effective than the old system.” One ongoing concern with whether the system has or needs effective “human monitoring” to ensure all open spots are covered. The increasing prevalence of the words “no sub available” on the daily attendance roster indicates some bugs and kinks that might still need to be addressed. DeGrenier indicated the new system loses “the personal aspect of reaching out to the teachers and the subs, because we are such a small school district.” But aren’t kinks, bugs and the loss of personal attention the case when any new technology is implemented? Such is progress.

Weed Cont.

Recreational dispensaries run by Temescal Wellness in Pittsfield and Theory Wellness in Great Barrington are open for business. In Berkshire County, as many as a dozen more are pending approval. It is expected more growing facilities and dispensaries will be announced in the year to come.



Opening day at Theory Wellness

Any legal marijuana user, recreational or medical, will have to have a legal proof of age ID in order to buy the product. Matthew Mazeralle says, “As long as you are 21 and have a legal ID you can buy...” This action shows that these dispensaries will be very strict on selling only to legal of age users, and will be fined or closed if caught in violation, as has always been the case with alcohol. Dispensaries will use a scanning system to determine if the ID is valid or not. They are already selling to consumers with medical marijuana cards. Theory Wellness CEO Brandon Pollock says, “We have a pretty good idea of what’s ahead of us.” Chairman of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission Steve Hoffman said, “We’re getting closer and closer [to full rollout of the new regulations and processing of applications], and we’re doing it the right way.”

An issue concerning medical marijuana users is whether they be first in line to receive their

medically documented marijuana before recreational users wipe out the supply. Other questions include how this will affect the public. Will youth usage increase? Will automobile accidents increase? Will drug dependency increase? Will the black market for marijuana disappear or will it undercut prices of commercial dispensaries?

Massachusetts is entering a new age of permissiveness. We’ll all have to wait and see what the effects will be.

Change Coming

By Jack Seward-Dailey

Changes are coming to the Mount Everett baseball team. There have been talks of additions to the varsity field, including new dugouts. After last year’s baseball season ended, many noticed something was missing on the field. Along with new dirt on the infield came the removal of the dugouts. The old dugouts were below ground level and in place for a long time. Athletic Director Josh King stated, “The dugouts have been around since 2006 or 2007. We had to remove them because they were starting to cave in and they just weren’t safe anymore.” Building Structures Teacher Curtis VonRuden was surprised the dugouts went. “It wasn’t my decision to remove them; the walls definitely needed some repair but overall it would have probably been cheaper than completely rebuilding” said VonRuden.

King revealed that there have been ongoing talks about pouring a slab of concrete and constructing an above ground dugout. “It would be a good community project, whether the building

New History Frameworks

By Sarah Markham

STEM, STEM, STEM.

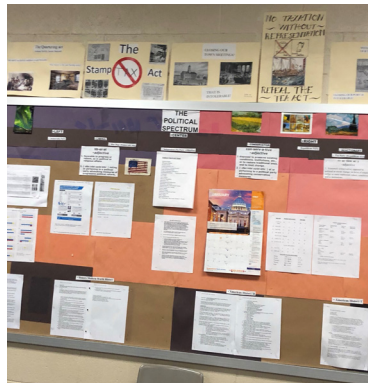
It feels like science, technology, engineering and mathematics are emphasized over most other high school subjects. English at least has the mandatory MCAS, but it seems as though social studies are not a priority for the school or the state. However, things are soon to change. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has reworked the teaching and learning requirements for all history classes from 7th-12th grade.

The main changes are a much greater focus on American government and citizenship training, and a strong recommendation that high schools require 4 years of history in addition to any other social studies electives. Mt. Everett has not yet finalized its plans.

According to Social Studies Department Chairman John Hammill and SBRSD Curriculum Director Peter Dufresne, classes will look something like the following. Seventh grade will be the current 8th grade class minus the Holocaust unit. Eighth grade will be American and Massachusetts government and citizenship. Ninth grade will be U.S. history 1. Tenth grade will be world history 1. Eleventh grade would be a combined world/U.S. history 2, which would include a Holocaust unit. This leaves the twelfth grade, which would consist of the other social studies half and full year electives. The AP U.S. history class is also included somewhere in this setup, but the stan-

dard-college prep-honors tiers have yet to be discussed/determined.

Along with these, Dufresne has an idea that he would like to put in place. He wants to implement a required 8-week long economics class for seniors in order to help them understand basic finances before they leave high school. This would include things like how to take out a loan, manage a budget, pay back student loans/debt, predatory credit lending, etc. According to Dufresne, "There's a lot of financial pitfalls that you can get into that I've seen... I feel like



Wall Of History

sending you guys out armed with these financial literacy pieces. It's something a lot of schools don't do, and students don't realize they need."

Aside from general planning issues, a question that people are wondering is "Is this a good change?" Hammill sees this as a positive thing, saying, "I think it's important. I think 8th grade is the time that you should start to begin to form some political opinions and some awareness on how your government works and how it does/doesn't affect your everyday life." Dufresne agrees, saying as long as planning goes smoothly, these frameworks should be ready to implement next school year.

Winter Driving

By Brandon Wilson

The winter season is here, so it is time for drivers to start paying extra attention to the dangers of driving. According to AAA.com, "50% of drivers who crash in the winter time are intoxicated, and the other 50% are people who are just going too fast..." for the conditions at the time. This situation is especially critical for teenagers. According to USA Today, "From 2014-2017 ... [over] 800 drivers died [annually] during the winter months... The highest rate of deaths is in teenagers."

There are many safety tips that teen drivers should follow. Obviously, being under the influence of either drugs or alcohol, especially with the added risks of winter conditions, is potentially deadly. And of course, since we are subject to outrageous snowstorms, the best way to avoid these dangerous driving conditions is simply not to drive at all, if possible.

The roads are usually salted and/or sanded, which makes vehicles' tires get more traction on the roads. Snow tires help a lot. The cost of snow tires ranges from \$60 - \$200. Winter tires are cut up so much that the tires grab the snow, which gives the tires a better grip. The snow in the tires sticks to the snow on the ground and creates a sealed traction for the tires. The superior traction that winter tires deliver, (as much as a 25% to 50% more than for all-season tires), can very well be the safety margin needed to stop in time or turn to avoid trouble. If you have to drive on a lot of dirt roads or steep hills, consider getting studded tires.

Even so, distracted drivers

MCAS Cont.

This means the 2018 tests will likely be the last taken on paper.

The new computerized tests will likely be similar to the PARCC tests, but with this change comes concerns and benefits. English teacher Ms. Lemlin said, “Fortunately, these students have taken the computerized version of MCAS in 8th grade, so they have some practice. I do not like the idea of it being on a computer because



MCAS Logo

I imagine that kids will become impatient with the challenge of the test and perhaps try to speed through it.”

There will also be changes to the test itself. According to Lemlin, “No longer do students write a long composition about a novel they read; instead they will need to read two documents and compare them - in addition to understanding their common themes. This new version of the test focuses so much on comprehension.”

Playoffs Cont.

division containing the Bears, Lions, Packers, and Vikings. Whoever doesn’t win this division should get one of the wildcard spots, with the other NFC wildcard going to the Carolina Panthers.

On the other side of the bracket the Chiefs and Pats will get the one and the two seeds, with these two teams clearly being the powerhouses of the AFC. The three seed will most likely go to the Steelers, who will win the AFC North. If the Texans manage to cling to their AFC south lead over the Titans they will get the fourth, and the Titans will get a wildcard appearance in the playoffs. The other wildcard in the AFC will be the Los Angeles Chargers. The wildcard winner for the NFC will be the Minnesota Vikings, while the winner of the AFC wildcard will be the Los Angeles Chargers. The divisional games in the AFC will produce a Chiefs vs. Patriots matchup in the divisional finals, with the two teams competing again in a guaranteed shootout. With an over-under of probably eighty points, both of these teams’ non-existent defenses will get torched by the two best offenses in the AFC. Whatever team has home-field advantage will come out with the victory and a spot in the Super Bowl, and the Chiefs will likely be the Super Bowl representative for the AFC. Physical Education Teacher and Athletic Director Josh King has differing views, proudly exclaiming “Pats all the way” with a very convincing confidence in another Patriots ring.

The NFC divisional rounds looks to produce a Saints vs. Rams rematch in the conference finals. With the sour taste of losing to the Saints to break their unbeaten

season this year, the Rams will be excited to get another shot, but will lose again to a stout Saints defense. Sophomore Cooper Rothvoss also believes that the Saints will come out of the NFC saying, “Drew Brees is too good and he’s got a good wide receiver core, and if he throws the right passes he simply can’t lose.” Rothvoss also mentioned the explosive running back tandem of Alvin Kamara and Melvin Ingram. Considering all of this, the New Orleans Saints could win the Super Bowl this year for the first time in nine years.

Take into consideration that injuries play a major part in these predictions, as nearly five-hundred players at any given time will be on the injured reserve. These predictions are injury permitting and anything can change if a good player gets injured. Without major injuries, the New Orleans Saints should possess optimistic hope in the playoffs this year.

Catamount

By Jacob Race

The time of the year has come. The snow has started to fall. White sparkles are covering every surface around. The cool, crisp air has arrived. Many kids and teachers are eager to hit the slopes with their skis and/or snowboards. The weekend homeowners and tourists are filling up the heart of the Berkshires, many here for winter sports. Winter sports are important to the Berkshire economy, with about half of the ski resorts in Massachusetts. Recently updated was the Catamount Ski Area, which straddles the Massachusetts/New York border. The new owners have said, “It is possible to transition from a ski area in the Berkshires into a dynamic, adventure-based, four-sea-

Transgender Rights at Mt. Everett

By Austin Murray

Did a “yes” vote on Question 3 in the recent election change how any student at Mt. Everett is treated? Although the voters overwhelmingly agreed to uphold the existing laws that protect transgender people’s use of public accommodations in Massachusetts, it didn’t cause any changes here at school. Most students at Mount Everett who don’t identify with their birth sex are able to have special accommodations. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto said, “We help people make accommodations . . . to make them feel the most comfortable.” The Student Handbook also states our school “strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools.” The school is trying to make sure students are safe and comfortable without impeding on the rights on any other student, and making them feel uncomfortable. SBRSD must also keep in mind some students may be uneasy when there’s a mismatch between someone’s bodily sex and gender identity that’s not obvious and causes them to be in a public bathroom that others might not expect.

The ballot question upholds the law prohibiting discrimination based on gender in public places, allowing people to use the restroom or locker room of their sexual identity, not necessarily their biological identity. All of the towns in the district voted in favor in keeping the law in place on Elec-

Challenge Cont.

structures class did it or a group of carpenters donated some time to help out the team.” said King.

From a player’s point of view it is very exciting to get new dugouts and fresh dirt. Sophomore Alek Zdziarski is eagerly awaiting the upcoming season. Although excited to see what the future holds for the field, he is sad to see a piece of it go. “Baseball is nothing without dugouts, it’s like a hot dog without mustard” said Zdziarski. He also gave his thoughts on how the new dirt will affect his play in the upcoming season. “I am a firm believer that a nice mound helps



The Mt. Everett baseball field

you throw better, and regarding the infield, balls will take truer hops and will be easier to read” said Zdziarski. He is a supporter of the above ground dugout idea, saying “Lots of fields have them so I can see it working here.”

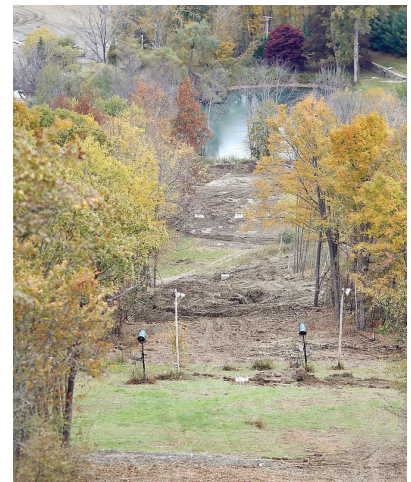
However the field turns out, we can expect it to be a successful season for Mount Everett baseball. As of now, the dugout talks are incomplete. Whether it is a bench or a fully built dugout will be decided well before the season and the community will see how the changes look in April.

Catamount Cont.

son resort.” They also said that they were able to achieve mountain biking, zip lining, mountain coaster, and white-water rafting.

Recently, Catamount Ski Area was sold for \$2.3 million to Berkshire Mountain East Resort. They are investing considerable additional funds for renovations to improve the ski area. One main renovation is the addition of a new lodge. The Berkshire Eagle confirmed that the lodge was planned to be “about 7,600 square feet and used for ticket sales, ski rentals, lockers, restrooms, retail shops, and seating.” A second addition was the ski lift that will be used by new skiers. A third renovation involves an existing lodge that will be redone. The lodge is getting a new roof, siding, and various interior updates. Catamount is planning to add facilities for weddings and concerts within the next 2 years.

Lift tickets at Catamount for \$38 on weekdays and \$69 on weekends. Another option is a season pass that costs \$550 dollars. Purchases of the season pass also include discounts to many restaurants in the area.



Construction at Catamount

Transgender Cont.

tion Day. Overall in Massachusetts 67.8% of voters agreed with the law and voted to uphold it while only 32.2% opposed the measure. The opposition to the law said it is ripe for abuse, for example, arguing men will abuse the law to spy on women. Supporters of the law say these concerns are completely unfounded. “This law simply protects transgender people from discrimination in public places.” (Boston.com) Studies have shown that crimes against privacy are rare and the data does not support the opposition’s claims.

Mount Everett has not been drastically impacted by this decision and even without help from Beacon Hill; SBRSD can probably sort out how to operate bathroom and locker rooms to meet everyone’s needs.

Environmental Damage

By Tucker Wilkinson

Snow causes many accidents. But there are ways to improve the roads to make them safer. Of course, thorough plowing and getting all the slippery stuff off the road is best. That’s hard to keep up with in snowy climates like the Berkshires’. Beyond plowing, the next step is to salt the roads and/or put sand on them. However, some local governments allow town workers to use only salt.

When there is a snowstorm alert on the news, the towns jump into action. Road crews go to the town garage to get their plow trucks and have the spreaders filled with

salt. They then head out, often for the whole night.

Salt is not very good for the environment even though it keeps the roads safe. Salt destroys the grass and brush around the road. The chemicals in the salt burns the grass and shrubs. More than 70% of the salt put on roads ends up in watersheds contaminating our lakes and rivers. According to New Marlborough town worker Peter Wilson, “Salt is used on blacktop roads, because if you salt dirt roads it softens the dirt and when it refreezes, it makes the ruts in the dirt hard and would make them too rough and hard to plow.”

Could there be another way to keep these roads safe for drivers? An alternative is to put sand down first then put a small layer of salt down to keep the roads from freezing, which would create black ice. Plow driver employee Todd Wilkinson says he has been using a layer of sand and then he puts a layer of salt over the roads that he plows every year and he has “never had any problems or complaints from his clients.” The mixture is mostly sand so it will not harm the environment as much as using pure salt on the roads.

People who are concerned about the environment might want to check with their town’s road department to see how they handle this. If they are not using the most ecologically safe program, try raising the issue at the next select board meeting to force a change.

Winter Driving Cont.

cause most accidents or fatalities. Twenty-five percent of all accidents are caused by distracted drivers, including 58% of all accidents involving teens. When a driver is listening to a conversation or music, the brainpower he or she dedicates to driving decreases by 40%. About 660,000 drivers are on their cell phones while they are driving during the daylight on any given day.

Black ice is another big threat to teen drivers who may not know where to look for it. Black ice are highly transparent which makes it very difficult to be able to see on paved roads. Some of the most common places to find black ice is bridges and overpasses, shaded spots underneath where trees hang over the road, and especially on roads that have a hill along one side.

There are tips that more experienced drivers learn to prepare for the winter season. Never use cruise control when you’re driving on slippery or wet roads. Keep your gas tank at least half-full to avoid your gas lines freezing and breaking. Watch the news prior to heading out on to a long distance drive. Avoid stopping in the middle of the road, since cars behind you may need a longer distance to stop on snowy or icy roads.

Be alert and anticipate the worst and you will most likely make it through the winter without incident.



Don't let this happen to you

Advisory Cont.

Junior Savanna Tinker-Cruikshank said, “I believe that the new advisory is not worth having. I like the old way how we just had the tutorial period every day to do our work. The Naviance program is pointless; it’s basically just for the teachers to see how we are improving.” Alternately, Dean of Students Kurt DeGrenier said, “It introduces the kids to things that are going to be coming up in their life. I get to see it first hand as kids grow up and as they approach 11th and 12th grade; some kids really have a purpose and they know exactly what they’re doing, although some of the kids feel lost during senior year”.

Most students agree that the daily tutorial period/study hall is very helpful, at least for those students who choose to use it wisely. Support is not universal for the advisory/Naviance curriculum as of yet. Perhaps more experience with the program, and possibly some enhancements to make it more interesting will change perceptions. Only time will tell.



By Blake Siter and Austin Murray

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) – Do not worry so much about your appearance. Let loose with what you want to look like, not what others expect.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) – Is your life out of control? Then stop spinning and get a handle on it before it is too late.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) – You may have serious injury soon; you might break a bone or tear a muscle. You can avoid this if you proceed cautiously.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) – Your relationship with that special person will get more and more complex. Be patient and embrace change.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 22) – You are on a lucky streak. Keep it going before time runs out.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22) – The universe is not favorable to you at present. Do community service or donate to charity to get back on its good side.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 23) – You will find inner peace this year. Your soul will be cleansed and you will be able to have a new start. Do not blow it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21) – Don’t let a few bad events throw you off track. Keep your eye on the prize.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21) – You will prosper this year. You might find love or a new interest.

CAPICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19) – You have one goal this year: do not get in trouble. Be alert for traps.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18) – You will win the game of love, and find that special someone. Be loving and caring and they will be with you forever.

PISCES (Feb 19 - March 20) – Feeling tired and lifeless? Improve your diet and get more exercise.