June 2018

**Gun Progress**
By Ben Salzmann

It has been less than four months since the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida where 17 where left dead. Unfortunately, all schools remain at risk. Time.com reported that a trade association study found Parkland to be “the safest city in Florida.” It is unlikely that the threat of a school shooting could ever be fully eradicated however, new legislation and other efforts might reduce the risks of such future tragedies.

**Bye Bye Bump Stocks**

The Sheffield Police Department, SBRSD, and the Town of Sheffield’s Pre-Parkland joint decision to commission Tricia Zucco as a school resource officer (SRO) has undoubtedly increased the security of the school. But changes have come on a larger scale as well. On Saturday March 23, an estimated 850,000 protestors gathered on Capitol Hill for the March for Our

**TEDxYouth@ Mt.Everett**
By Elisabeth Enoch

As if public speaking did not scare you enough, imagine standing alone on stage in front of a hundred people reciting your memorized speech while being filmed for hundreds of others to watch. This is a challenge that students in the TEDx Club will be facing on June 9th from 1-5pm in the Mt. Everett TACPAC. The TEDxYouth@MtEverettRS event is designed in a similar fashion to other TED Talks. Audience members will consist of students and adults alike, as well as a filming crew from CTSB (Community Television for the Southern Berkshires). The show will be played on local television and hopefully be available on DVD. Students, staff, alumni and special guest speakers from the community will be exploring topics around the theme of “roots.” These will include everything from the layout of physical plant roots to the backgrounds of individuals.

The TEDx Club differs from TED Talk Tuesdays. While TED Talk Tuesdays have been showing talks in the library for two years, the TEDx Club just began this school year, meeting on Tuesdays after school. Here, students work on making their own talks about

**Video Games: A New Addiction**
By Nick LeGeyt

Video games have been around since 1958, when physicist William Higinbotham made the game known as Tennis for Two. It was very similar to the later and more commonly known game Pong, in which two sticks would hit a ball back and forth. Video games became very popular in the 1970s and 1980s, spawning such popular games as Pong and Pac Man. Today video games are used for many purposes including recreation, military training and E-Leagues, which are competitions like the NFL or MLB, but for video games.

**It’s Controlling You**

The big controversy today is whether these games are addictive. Some believe they cause kids to think only about video games, and more seriously, imitate the behav-
Gun Violence

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Lives. In response, new gun restrictions have already been enacted in states such as Illinois, Florida, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

Oregon was the first state to respond to the Parkland shooting, passing a bill on February 22nd that “banned people convicted of stalking or domestic violence, or under a restraining order, from buying or owning guns or ammunition,” and it was signed into law by the state’s governor on March 5. On March 9th, Florida Governor Rick Scott signed into law a plethora of new gun policies, including a ban on bump stocks which make semi-automatic weapons act as fully automatic weapons, sets a minimum age of 21 for gun ownership, and, controversially, allows school districts to arm school employees. Along with Oregon, New York Governor Anthony Cuomo enacted similar restrictions in addition to a longer waiting period for those not automatically approved for gun ownership.

Although many gun law changes have focused on domestic violence, some, such as one recently signed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, have included provisions such as the release of “key information related to gun offenses to be made available to the public.” As for Massachusetts, a state with notoriously strict existing gun laws, legislators have begun considering even more changes such as an “extreme risk protective order” enabling judges to confiscate firearms from those who are a danger to themselves or others.

Additional state and city level legislation and even some federal legislators and the president supporting a ban on bump stocks, the occurrence of school shootings throughout the country will hopefully decrease. Unfortunately, the existence of illegal bodies such as the black market and dark web make gun purchasing a largely untraceable, simple task in which background checks and other legal barriers can be avoided. The Stoneman Douglas shooting, although a tragedy has brought forth the voices of those at the center the issue and has raised immense awareness and change in regulation. As Parkland student Lorenzo Prado stated, “What we must do now is enact change because that is what we do to things that fail: We change them.”

There have been many mass shootings before. Never has one resulted in so much regulation as the one at Parkland. Many hope the momentum will continue. Those opposed to further gun regulations can be expected to step up their anti-regulatory movement in the face of the new laws enacted in the past few months.

Highened Security at Mt. Everett
by Nicholas Decker-Oleen

On March 14, many Mt. Everett students walked out in support of stricter gun safety regulations as a result of the February 14th Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland Florida. In that event, 17 victims were killed and 17 more were wounded, making it one of the world’s deadliest school massacres to date. The shooting, the student walk out, and the subsequent march on Washington may not have caused the Congress to react, but they are the catalyst of several changes for the better. Mt. Everett’s administrators have been making safety and security changes to benefit our entire community.

The school is in the process of creating a database of all the students’ cell phone numbers. If a student is unaccounted for in an emergency, they can be contacted quickly and efficiently. Principal Glenn Devoti says “we will be creating a list of student cell phone numbers so we can better contact students.” The absence of such a list at Parkland resulted in several hours of worry about students whose locations could not be verified.

Another prominent change is the creation of a window between Angel Rote’s office and the front door of the high school, allowing her a better view of people being buzzed in while the doors are locked. Rote is administrative assistant to Principal Devoti. She said, “I think you can never have too much security. This is just another little layer in trying to make things safe.”

Looking at another facet of the growing security resources, Sheffield police officer Tricia Zucco is now certified as a school resource officer. Devoti said, “integrating our new school resource officer Tricia Zucco into the life of our school has been a great assist.”

Ms. Rote’s new window on the world
Prom 2018

On May 18th, Mt. Everett students strutted their stuff in style at the Pittsfield Country Club. Congratulations to King Cavan and Queen Lauren!
Editorial: Students Urge Consistent Use of PlusPortals

Despite our best efforts through multiple articles and editorials, some teachers have still been slacking on updating students’ grades and assignments in PlusPortals. Many students routinely check PlusPortals to see what their homework is, when it is due, what their current grades are and to see if they are missing any work. There are even some student who check it compulsively, every time a new grade is entered.

Numbers of students have continuously complained that some teachers’ practices make proper use of this tool difficult or impossible for its intended purpose. It is falsely believed that all teachers stay up to date with their PlusPortals entries. The number that do not is limited, but this lack of information deprives students of a valuable tool that the administration intended to provide students when they implemented PlusPortals.

PlusPortals is an online space where teachers can use grade books and post homework, resources and other information about their classes. According to SBRSD Technology Director Chris Thompson, “It is beneficial to students, parents, and teachers. It is very helpful in managing assignments on its calendar and keeping track of grades.” Junior Anthony Lupiani agrees: “Personally I like PlusPortals. It helps me a lot with my schoolwork. Sometimes it is hard for me to check because teachers aren’t updating it regularly.” Sophomore Ben Stevens says, “Most teachers upload their work regularly but it depends on which teacher.”

The editorial board of The Bold Eagle urges that ALL teachers consistently update PlusPortals. Students need to know what assignments are due and when they are due. They deserve to know their specific grades and average quarterly grades-to-date promptly. Stevens suggests that, “They should make a certain day of each month or of each week, say on a Thursday or Friday where all teachers are required to update it.” We the editorial board are tired of this issue not recieving the proper adjustments it needs to become sucessful. We strongly suggest that Principal Glenn Devoti reinforce this message to the Mt. Everett faculty, and ensure that teachers follow the rules.

Editorial- Farewell to Mr. Antil and Dr. Farmer

The editorial board wish Dr. Farmer and Mr. Antil the best of luck with their retirement from Mt. Everett. Both teachers have created many memories for middle and high school students alike: Greek week, kayaking, Edgenuity and Mr. Antil’s wonderful stories. Thank you for teaching, helping and laughing with us for all these many years. We send you our warmest congratulations and are proud to have learned from such skilled teachers as yourselves.

“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”
Have you ever seen Adjustment Counselors Brenda Ullrich and Susan Happ walking around and thought to yourself, what are they doing? They are our school adjustment counselors, and they’re not just walking around with students and staff for exercise; they’re working.

A school adjustment counselor is someone who helps students “adjust” to difficult situations in their environment. The problem areas could be at school, home or social media. According to Ullrich, school adjustment counselors “counsel students in areas which include problem-solving strategies, conflict resolution, bereavement [mourning over a death], interpersonal relationships and coping with challenges he/she may be experiencing in their daily life.”

These meetings have really helped many students and even some staff members. A junior who has been seeing Ullrich for a long time says they, “usually talks about my problems, she (Ullrich) helps me sort through them and we come up with a plan to fix them. If there is a crisis, she helps me through it.”

There are many students who see school adjustment counselors at Mount Everett and Undermountain. According to Ullrich, they (Ullrich and Happ) “see approximately 55 to 65 students a week.” Ullrich also added that she has an open door policy and that any individual who wants to discuss a concern or problem can see her. Ullrich can see anyone and take referrals from any staff at Mount Everett, but she primarily works with students on educational plans such as 504s and IEPs.

The work our guidance counselors do often overlaps with the work of the adjustment counselors. Some students have reached such a level of comfort with their guidance counselors that they choose to go to them to help work out their difficulties in adapting to life’s ups and downs.

If you ever want to talk about something with someone other than your parents or friends, go see your guidance counselor or school adjustment counselor. They are here for you and would be more than happy to help you. Next time you see Ullrich talking with students in the hall or outside, you will know that there is important work in progress.
Mt. Everett offers several Advanced Placement classes. These are challenging college level classes designed for high school students. In some cases, students can earn college credit or place out of college requirements if they score well enough on the College Board Advanced Placement test. AP tests are scored on a scale of 1-5. Most colleges will accept a 4-5 or sometimes a 3. English teacher Jeanne Lemlin said, "Roughly half of the class gets a 4 or 5. Rarely do you see a 2."

In some other AP classes, 1’s and 2’s are more common.

**Our New Enemy: Plastic Waterbottles**

*By Elisabeth Enoch*

If you see more people carrying around cool reusable water bottles in the hallways, you should know that it's not just a trend, but the result of the new water bottle ban. Ever since Great Barrington stopped providing plastic bags at stores and restaurants, the town seems more determined than ever to continue being environmentally proactive. On May 7, residents passed another ban on plastic. This time, it prevents the sale any plastic water bottle a liter or less. Great Barrington may be the only local town that has begun taking these steps, but Mt. Everett students are deeply opinionated about the use of plastic and the effects it has on our environment.

The majority of students completely agree and support the new ban, along with the majority of the Great Barrington residents. During the public voting, the new law passed approximately 2 to 1 in a room of four hundred people. Sophomore Bethany Kerzner says that she supports the ban because of the positive effect it will have on the environment. She truly believes that it is, “a good step for getting more people to recycle.” Hopefully, Kerzner is right, as statistics from 2011 showed that Americans used 167 disposable water bottles annually, but only recycled 38. These numbers have definitely improved over the past several years, but it is still hard to recycle plastic water bottles. Most people recycle because of the money they can get back from turning in their cans and bottles. But as there are no places around the Berkshires that will exchange used water bottles for hard cash, there is less of an incentive to prevent people from throwing them away in the nearest trash can.

Although Mt. Everett isn't filled with vending machines selling plastic water bottles, some students feel the ban is inefficient and an annoyance. One student complained that the size factor wasn't going to really help the town because one liter is so small. The ban also only covers water and not any types of soda or other sugary drinks like Monster that many students buy.

Sophomore Bethany Kerzner says that when she or any of her family forgets their own water, most often for games and practices, it is easiest for them just to stop and pick up water at a store or gas station. Fortunately, Mt. Everett teams have already prepared for problems like this. Sports teams use large, refillable jugs of water at their games and practices for students to use to refill their own bottles. Some teams, like the JV and varsity boys’ soccer even provide refillable bottles for their players.

Most residents of Great Barrington are worried that the ban might also prevent business from...
What’s on the Menu

By Nick VandeBogart

Will we ever have a menu committee where students can have input into our dining choices? There has been talk of such a committee for several years, and a commitment by Food Services Director Jeremy Wells soon after his arrival in the district to create one. But for some reason, a council of students and staff whose job would be to advise on the best and worst of the existing menu and ideas for new entrees has never been created.

Wells, stated, “It would be very helpful to have student opinions on the food, the quality of the food, and ideas for what we could add to the menu.” He would need to act fast to come up with a food committee to take part in the 2018-2019 school year.

The school lunches are not always popular. Everyone has his or her most and least favorite items. Some students complain about the school lunches all the time. According to Kitchen Manager Zoe Nelson, “I think the students’ least favorite lunch is when I tried to make fish sandwiches.” Some of the lunches our cafeteria staff makes vary from meatball subs to chicken fingers to breakfast for lunch. It’s not that the food choices are bad or are not prepared well, it’s more of not having greater variety, with ideally something new each week.

Health and dietary requirements are of course major issues. “There are around 30 students that are either allergic or have dietary limits in our school,” said Nurse Jeanne Moran. We do not need to change completely the menu to fit everyone’s dietary requirements, but some new ideas to the menu would be welcome.

At present, the only way the cafeteria staff will know if students do not like the food choices is if students actively complain to Nelson or other cafeteria staff. Instead, what they mostly do is complain to each other, which doesn’t help anything.

A food committee would address this problem. It would not just help the cafeteria staff, but would also be beneficial to the students, teachers and staff that also eat the food. Junior Anthony Lupiani says, “The food the cafeteria makes isn’t bad, but I would like it if they made something new.” Since this year is almost over, we hope that Wells will act to set up a committee by the end of this year or no later than next September. Starting up this food committee is going to require students and staff that are willing to get together periodically to enhance the menu. Any volunteers?
“Every talk has this nugget of an idea,” says librarian Michelle Raszl, adding how the talks can range from science and environmental issues to the global economy and the dangers of procrastination. She remarks that the talks are helpful because they enable a global perspective by sharing different points of views on all sorts of topics we encounter in our daily lives.

Mt. Everett has been putting a lot of effort into the TEDx Club and TED Talk Tuesdays. The student-run Morning Show plays clips of the talks the day of the viewing. Students are always welcome to watch in the library or suggest their own ideas for showing. As sophomore Angus Kerr says, “It gives students something to do besides sitting in the cafeteria.” In fact, many teachers use these talks as a quick way to present information to open a discussion or class.

Even though accessing these videos on your own is easy, the license for the event was more difficult to secure than most other events. Students such as senior Marya Makuc, junior Patrick Haiss, sophomore Angus Kerr, and middle schoolers Odegard Fields, Nadia Makuc and Evie Kerr continued to edit and revise the application until the date was secured. These students and others not only made this event possible, but have connected Mt. Everett with Tedxers around the US and the world. As of now, Mt. Everett is the only school offering such a club and scheduled airings of the talks in the country.

Fields comments, “I’m excited about it because it is important the community and students get involved.” As the event’s master of ceremonies, or emcee, Fields will be introducing the participants, talking about the club, and editing the footage. Another exited participant is English teacher Jeanne Lemlin. Lemlin will be speaking about her personal struggles with panic attacks and how she overcame them. She hopes her talk will aid others who have to overcome the challenges of anxiety. When asked about why the event was so appealing to her, she replied that there is an older quality to the idea of people gathering together to listen to one another, without the use of electronics. She adds, “I like that idea of sitting and listening without being bombarded with media images.”

The TEDx Program is designed to help communities, organizations and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences.” You can visit their site at Ted.com. A sample of popular TedX talks follows:

https://www.ted.com/

A global food crisis may be less than a decade away
How games make kids smarter

Historically, Mt. Everett’s tennis team has been, shall we say, undistinguished. Even physical education teacher and team coach Joe McSpiritt admitted that the team had only done “OK in the past.” Considering our history, last year was pretty good for the team. Six students got all the way past the regular season and participated in Western Mass. They may not have gotten past round one, but these relatively new players show much promise for the future of the program.

There have been successful recruitment of new youthful players with a lot of potential. The amount of new players is remarkable, more than doubling the size of the team. McSpiritt stated, “around 8 new boys and 6 new girls” have joined team this year; there are also returning veterans. This mix creates a good harmony between experience and future potential on the team.

The boys’ team only lost a few of last years’ seniors, so the team still has eight returning players that are competing at the high school level and have potential to go far this season. Even though the competition will be very tough, both McSpiritt and girls’ tennis coach Asha VonRuden believe that this year will be a very productive year in improving the skills of both the new and more senior players.

For the first time there is a good chance of the boys making Western Mass as a team. At first doubles we’ve got the deadly duo of Ethan Benoit and Grayson Duval. At second doubles, Jake Martin and Matt Kane are sure to conquer. At first singles Cole Duval, second singles Andrew Haiss and third singles Mark Gogel. These athletes have all shown skill and promise. According to sophomore Eduardo Rodriguez, the team will do “very well in Western Mass.”
Mt. Everett staff and students enjoy Special Olympic and victory feast
Aquarius (January 20—February 18): You may not remember everybody’s name, but they will all remember you and want to see you again. You have things to say, and there are a lot of people who want to hear it all.

Pisces (February 19—March 20): If you’ve always felt the desire to write, now is the time to take the plunge. Write what you are passionate about and just do what you want to do and write what you want to write.

Aries (March 21—April 19): Look forward to success, praise, and pleasure, Aries! Settle down and work relentlessly toward career and self-improvement goals. Pay attention to those who want to be in your life; it may change it for the better. Prepare to rule!

Taurus (April 20—May 20): Venus is also approaching Pluto in Capricorn. Don’t be reluctant to make a big change or upset the status quo if needed.

Gemini (May 21—June 20): Turn your attention inward and focus on your emotions. Try to keep your mental chatter to a minimum and concentrate more on how you feel rather than on what you think.

Cancer (June 21—July 22): Be safe and sensible and still have a great time with the crowd. Time may be short, and you may not get to do everything, but you can try.

Leo (July 23—August 22): Create an avenue for advancement that benefits everyone, including you. So long as you follow your passion and aren’t reckless about safety or money, you should be fine. It could be quite a thrill, too.

Virgo (August 23—September 22): No matter what is happening around you, you won’t overlook or underestimate everything that’s going right.

Libra (September 23—October 22): Without intending it or making elaborate plans, you stand to gain greatly in some material way. It’s okay if you aren’t focused or passionate about any one thing for very long, just do you.

Scorpio (October 23—November 21): Some people may be hesitant or tired, but not you. Go out and get what you want, good things will gravitate towards you.

Sagittarius (November 22—December 21): You’ll feel as though you suddenly have a much greater capacity for listening. Whether it’s true or not, others will have the impression that you are.

Capricorn (December 22—January 19): You have an unusual gift for making a situation seem less dramatic, Capricorn. There may be plenty of suggestions and opinions, but now is the time to do what makes you happy.