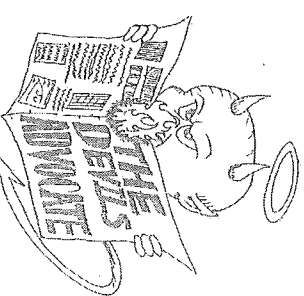


The
BLUE DEVIL'S
Advocate

Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062



Volume 10, Issue 3

December 19, 2013

A new look for a new year: Bond changes fast approaching

By: Beth Beindit
Coordinating Editor

Changes are happening real quick here at RHS and this time it is not just the weather.

The bond's updates are set to go into effect throughout this next year. Dr. Olsen said, "Right now we're doing the prep work for the bonds to be sold. We're talking to financial and board counselors."

Dr. Olsen is putting emphasis on the new technology slated to come to Richmond next year. "Technology is the very first thing. I've been working with attorneys to determine what items we will include in the contract," explained Dr. Olsen.

"Our technology infrastructure here at Richmond is about 10 to 15 years old," said Dr. Olsen. "The backbone part of technology will be put in when we're confident." This new addition is scheduled to be worked on during the summer or even sooner.

"We need a replacement of our infrastructure, first. We need some

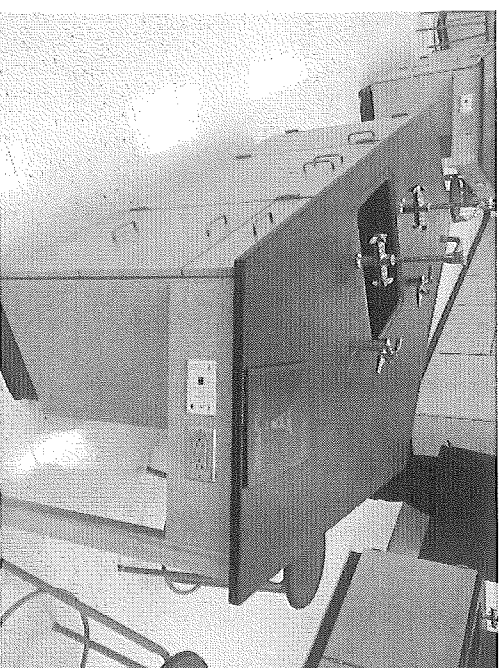
device capable of working with our students," said Dr. Olsen. Ultimately, the School Board has not decided on specific devices to institute into the school yet, but various people will get to help determine what the school gets.

Dr. Olsen said, "It really depends on the market [what devices the schools get] because it changes so fast. Devices are set to come next school year in the fall."

Kindergarten to second grade will have a combination of "insiders" so that they can get comfortable with using devices.

Third through twelfth grade will have individual devices, which will be selected by the Board. The committees have not met yet, but their first meeting is scheduled for January 9.

Among the committee is Mrs. Gabridge, English teacher. She said, "We haven't met yet, but my role is to be a part of the process and influence some of the decisions made. I guess you could say I represent the teachers."



One of the many lab pods at L'Anse Creuse High School. RHS is considering having these types of pods in our future labs.

The meeting will consist of discussing budget, timeline and responsibilities. "I'm sure we'll be discussing our needs as a staff and looking at other schools for ideas," said Mrs. Gabridge.

Dr. Olsen said, "I think having devices increases efficiency, skills, motivation while making it more interesting. It makes it engaging and inter-

active." Having devices will present education in a different format rather than the traditional work-sheets or textbooks. Dr. Ol-

sen explained

when students go to work in their future they are going to be interacting with people their whole life. Thus, it is pretty important to know how to use those useful skills.

Bond Changes
Continued on page 6

Tis the season for giving: RHS clubs look to help others during the Christmas season

By: Stephanie Zube
Features Editor

With Christmas around the corner, RHS clubs are in full swing spreading the Holiday cheer.

Key Club, NHS, and SADD all are participating in helping serve others.

Key Club members came together to give back and provides a helping hand for Santa Claus.

The giving tree is back and students are ready to help provide a joyful Christmas for children.

Mr. Murphy, Key Club advisor, is on his ninth year teaching and has overseen the Giving Tree for over 5 years now.

With Key Club's help, Turning Point Shelter receives gifts for women and children in the shelter.

"Turning point is a shelter for women and children escaping abusive relationships. We collect items that are needed for Turning Point. The students will go out and buy items between two and ten dollars for the children," said Mr. Murphy. There is much that goes into the

Giving Tree, and Key Clubbers helped make it all happen.

"I contact Turning Point, they send me the wish list, the members cut out the ornaments with the names of the items needed, and put it on the tree. Then students from school choose ornaments off the tree and shop for that item," said Mr. Murphy.

Once students purchase their items they set them under the Giving Tree. All items are due by Thursday, December 19.

Many of the items under the tree include stuffed animals, toys, socks, pajamas, board games and hygienic products

On Friday, December 20 Mr. Murphy will drive the gifts to Second Hand Rose Shop.

"An entire car full of 12-15 boxes is usually filled," said Mr. Murphy. Christian Failla, junior, has been a Key Club member for two years and each year he has participated in helping with the Giving Tree.

"I helped set up the tree and cut out the ornaments," said Failla. "I plan on bringing crayons and coloring books."

Ashley Newsome, sophomore, became a Key Club member this

school year. Along with Failla, she helped with set up the Giving Tree.

"I cut out the ornaments and wrote down what items were needed," said Newsome.

Failla and Newsome both believe that the giving tree has a positive impact.

"You're giving to others who are less fortunate," said Newsome.

The Giving Tree has allowed the community to come together for a good cause.

Along with the Giving Tree, Key Clubbers also helped out with a Santa Claus visit at St. Peters.

Children visited St. Peters to get their picture taken with Santa Claus while being provided breakfast and toys.

The event took place on December 14 and members took their time to come out and volunteer.

Stephanie Woodruff, sophomore, was one of those volunteers.

"I helped wait tables and brought the food out," said Woodruff. "It was nice to see all the little kids get their pictures taken with Santa. I had

fun doing something good for others."

Woodruff feels that it is important because it helps you get a feel for being apart of a community.

During the month of December, Members of SADD and NHS also came together to shop for children who do not have a Christmas, also known as Sandy's Kids.

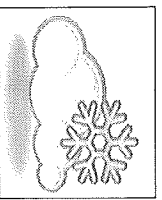
Sandy's Kids was founded by former RHS social worker Sandy Manzo.

The purpose is to help local families have a Christmas. Students of SADD and NHS acquired a list of the kids in the families, then a list of their needs and wants.

SADD received one family with four children. The SADD students divided into four groups, and each group received a child with a hundred dollars to spend.

Mr. Delore, SADD advisor, has been in charge for seven years now. SADD students have been actively involved in Sandy's Kids since Mr. Delore became advisor.

Continued on page 3



Today's Forecast
Pm showers
High: 34
Low: 31

School News1-4
Editorials.....7,8
Question of the day.....7
Local Features.....9-12

Sports Updates.....5,6
Star Athlete.....5
Student Star.....10
Movie must sees.....9

Show us your Stuff.....9
Choir pictures.....12
Word Search12
Band pictures.....13

Tales of survival

Former RMS worker shares family Holocaust experiences

By: Amanda Vinson, Thomas Biafore, and XJ Nuckles

How can an incident that happened so long ago feel so real today? The event of the Holocaust is still very alive in many people's worlds.

The frightening fact is, the prejudice and anti-Semitism behind the Holocaust is all too relevant in the world today.

Sandy Manzo, a former RMS social worker who retired ten years ago, visited RMS to talk about the Holocaust. Sandy's Kids, a charity organization, is named after her.

When she visited the school, she gave a speech on her family's story in the Holocaust. This is the second year that she spoke about her family's experience during World War 2. Since all eighth grade classes are currently studying the Holocaust, it was a perfect time for this presenta-

tion to help enhance their understanding of the topic.

As a young Jewish couple, Manzo's parents lived in a small town in Poland.

However, when the horrors of the Holocaust began, Sandy's mother moved to Canada at the age of 17, in order to save her life.

Unfortunately, two of her mother's siblings were not as fortunate. Out

of her four siblings, two died in concentration camps and two fled to the woods

"The time during the Holocaust affected everyone differently. People deal with grief differently."

- Sandy Manzo

of them is still alive to share her story today.

Afterwards, they moved to Canada like Manzo and the rest of her re-

maining family.

The Holocaust affected her aunt and uncle differently.

Manzo said, "My uncle doesn't talk about it all; my aunt talks about it a lot to people. The time during the Holocaust affected everyone differently. People deal with grief differently."

The problems with prejudice after the Holocaust even affected the United States. "My brother had to change his last name from Silverstein to Silver. No one wanted to go to a Jewish person for business," said Manzo.

Both teachers and students alike agreed that the presentation was a success. "You don't think of the Holocaust having to do with anything but concentration camps. Now we know that it had more widespread consequences," said Mrs. Bartels, teacher.

Continued on page 13

Ripping through the dirt

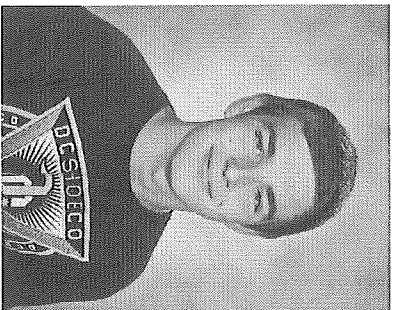
RHS student races national competition

By: Nick Thomas
Staff writer

Many teens and kids have hobbies they find fun and entertaining. But one hobby that not every kid or teen has in Motocross.

Matt Howard competes in Motocross racing, and this year he went to Nationals. The races were located in Alachua, Florida.

The talented Howard finished 4th, 7th, 18th, 20th, and 31st in different heats during this competition, and finished 15th overall. Although the races did not go the way he had planned, it was a good learning experience that will help him prepare



Howard

now for the future in his Motocross career.

"This was the first time I've raced in Nationals, and it was easier than I thought it would be," said Matt.

In order to get to Nationals there are two races. The first race a competitor has to place in the top 20, and in the

second race a racer has to make it into the top 10 to go to Nationals. Although Matt did not race as good as was hoping to do in Nationals, it was a good learning experience that will help him in his future in racing motocross.

Now that he knows what it takes to get to Nationals, he has to take the next step, prepare and get better to win Nationals.

"I've been riding since I was little, but I've been racing for five years," said Matt. Racing Motocross is not something one can suddenly acquire one day; it requires lots of training and skill. Matt races on the weekends and the Motocross season begins in April and ends in December.

"I practice twice a week during the season, but go down South to train during the summer," said Matt.

In order to succeed at something, practice is required. The phrase, Practice makes perfect, applies for many things, and Motocross is one as well. Many racers like Matt go down South to train and figure out tactics to get faster and better at racing.

"I practice at private tracks, and tracks where my race will be," said Matt.

Matt races in a KTM dirt bike and has many sponsors. Some of them are Spy, Magnum, FMF, and Dunlop. These sponsors allow Matt to get a discount if he purchases an item from one those brands. Many of the pros use a KTM bike and use some of the sponsors he has.

"I got sponsored because my dad knows people, and because I win," said Matt.

When Matt was eight-years-old he broke his leg while riding his dirt bike and this injury had him out for a year. But that didn't slow him down much, as after his leg was healed, he resumed racing.

Continued on page 3

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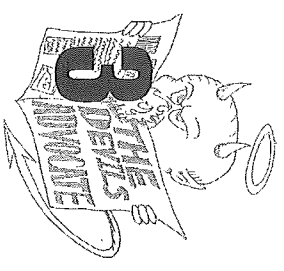
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- Parental permission and original birth certificate
- \$100 deposit on day 1 of class

Segment 2 -- \$30

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- Driving permit

Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. R. Handlin for details on upcoming classes.



RHS Promotes concussion awareness

By: Jacob Thomas
News Editor

SMACK!

Austin Pawlak laid on the turf face down. Helped to the sideline, he suffered a concussion with symptoms of a headache and a nauseous stomach.

"It happened during the Marine City game during the second quarter. I hit helmet to helmet with another player on Marine City when I went for a tackle," said Pawlak.

However, a headache and nauseous stomach were not the only results of the concussion.

"I was really nauseous and I did have a [head ache], but my neck was hurting really bad," said Pawlak.

Pawlak was medically cleared to resume athletic activities a week later, but the headache and neck pain continued for another two weeks.

"I was worried it may have been serious when I was getting an MRI," said Pawlak.

Another RHS student-athlete has also recently battled concussion symptoms.

Sophomore Ally Swantek suffered a concussion during a basketball practice three weeks ago.

"My sister Emily hit me in the head and I blacked out. I was hit very close to my temple which is the worst possible spot," said Swantek.

Swantek is still suffering from concussion symptoms, but hopes to be back to practice by December 28.

"I'm going to the neurologist to get answers to why I am still having aching pains and hopefully they give me good news," said Swantek.

Swantek has been experiencing various symptoms that continue to bother her such as dizziness, severe headaches, increased heart rate, neck pains, nausea, and the inability to remember certain events. She has missed several days of school.

"The most frustrating part of having a concussion is not being able to go to basketball and school. I am falling behind in classes and miss my friends. No matter how much medicine I use, I can't get rid of the symptoms. I am limited to everything I can do such as talking on the phone and texting and watching television. I pretty much do nothing all day," said Swantek.

Dr. Mulyaert, RHS Athletic Director, voiced his opinion on concussions as well.

"You feel foggy. Many times an athlete will have a headache or vomiting. They will have symptoms of dizziness, loss of balance and blurry vision. You have to look at all of those symptoms to determine if an athlete has a concussion," said Dr. Mulyaert.

There is not a specific time set by schools and the MHSAA that an athlete must be held out, but they must be medically cleared by a doctor to continue athletic activities.

"An athlete must sit out until they receive medical clearance by a doctor. This is a state law. Schools don't have a choice, but it is for everyone's safety," said Dr. Mulyaert.

The growing concern of concussions at the high school level has forced coaches and trainers to spe-

cialize in concussion symptoms and safety procedures.

"Fortunately in my three years here, we have had little experiences with concussions. Football is a sport heavily focused on for concussion prevention so I have purchased five dozen new helmets over the past three years. I plan to purchase two more dozen football helmets this year and three more dozen next year," said Dr. Mulyaert.

One of the new additions to preventing concussions is a concussion form that all schools, coaches and athletes must abide by.

"Concussion forms are mandatory by state law for any organization with physical contact. Coaches who work with athletes at any level must take a course on concussion awareness. High school coaches, Little League coaches and any other organization must have taken the course by state law. The course is

Motocross continued from page 2

Many would think you don't need to have endurance to race Motocross, but you do. "You need to have endurance in order to race for a long time,"

said Matt. Most people would think you would- n't have to be conditioned or have endurance to race but you do. Many people might think that sitting on a bike wouldn't need endurance, but a race does have an impact on your body. Motocross can also be a dangerous sport, too. During races there are risk of many possible collisions. "I have been in a collision in a race before, and there is at least one collision in every race. The collision I was in the guy cut me off and slammed into me," said Matt.

"My Dad inspired me to race motocross because he does, and his dad raced, too."

- Matt Howard

Most people who do Motocross or any sport for that matter usually get inspired by someone. "My Dad inspired me to race motocross because he does, and his dad

raced, too," said Matt. Matt, who took first in States in the summer series and second in the fall series, is very talented in the sport Motocross. Although he did not do as well as he wanted to do in Nationals, he now has the experience and knowledge of what he has to do to get better and prepare for Nationals next year.

only about twenty minutes long but it serves a purpose," said Dr. Mulyaert.

Even at the lower level of sports, taking the right steps to prevent concussions is something most would agree is necessary.

"There are studies that concussions have long-term effects. Former professional athletes are coming out and complaining about the effects they have experienced," said Dr. Mulyaert.

Thankfully RHS has not had many concussion related injuries, but it is nice to see that the athletics staff continues to take responsibility to care for their athletes.

RHS Clubs

Continued from page 1

This fall Mr. Delore and the students fundraised to collect money for the family. Their goal was \$400.

"We fundraised all fall in order to raise \$400 to give to each family member. We were successful in doing that," said Mr. Delore.

Mr. Delore felt that the students learned a great amount from participating.

"We have a society that takes and takes, so the students were able to have a sense of giving and being a community, especially during the holidays," said Mr. Delore.

Ashley Reece, sophomore, worked with Beth Beindt and Nicole Ward, juniors, and Courtney Davis, a sophomore, to shop for a child.

"Our group had a four-year-old boy to shop for. We went to Target, Meijer and Walmart for the toys and clothing," said Reece.

Reece and her group obtained a list of what the child liked. From there, they based the gifts off the child's interests.

"He likes superheroes, sharks and dinosaurs, so we bought toys dealing with what he liked. We also got him shirts, pants, sweatshirts, boots, Superman and Spiderman pajamas, underwear and socks," said Reece. NHS also worked alongside SADD to help with this cause.

Mr. Rineer, NHS advisor, helps promote the cause through NHS. He informed his students of the cause and they volunteered.

Carolyn Schweiger, junior, also volunteered in Sandy's Kid with the help of Hailey Holdwick and Kate Neziach, both juniors.

"We bought clothes for a girl, such as pajama pants, a coat, and jeans," said Schweiger.

Schweiger believes that it is a good feeling that they are making a difference in others lives.

Reece said, "Every kid deserves a Christmas."

On This Day

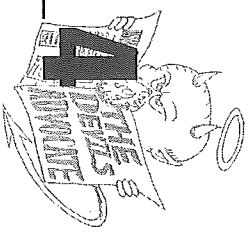
1958 - 1st radio broadcast from space (Pres Eisenhower voice "To all mankind, America's wish for Peace on Earth & Good Will to Men Everywhere")

1154 - King Henry II of England crowned.

1843 - Charles Dickens publishes "A Christmas Carol," in England.

1941 - US Office of Censorship created to control info pertaining to WW II

Source: <http://www.historyonb.com/day/december/19>



Koehn dancing away on the ice

By: Samantha Schafer
Opinion Editor

Every school has an ice princess, and ours is sophomore Paige Koehn. But she's not the average ice princess—the only icy things about her are her ice skates.

It all started when she was a little girl when she saw her first figure skating show at Onyx Ice Arena in Rochester; her current home rink. After that, the six-year-old Koehn started learning how to skate which meant falling, and then falling again and again and again.

Koehn said, "It is usually really hard for little kids to learn how to stand up on skates, so I fell a lot at first. I thought it was funny sometimes, but it also really upset me. It was a great motivator to make me stay up and do better."

Back then, Koehn skated two days a week for an hour a day. Now she practices six days a week for about two hours each day.

Between school and skating,

Koehn has a full calendar. "I try to be involved here at RHS, but skating is very time consuming. I try my best to balance both," she said.

In order to maintain this hefty schedule, Koehn employs help from her family.

Jordan Koehn, senior and her brother, said, "My mom, dad, grandparents and myself drive her to Rochester, which is about 45 minutes away."

It is a group effort. On certain days, different family members drive Koehn.

For example, on Wednesdays her brother drives her part of the way then her mother drives the rest.

"My family is very supportive. They have to get off a lot of work and we sometimes miss other family things for skating. They have to sacrifice a lot of free time, and I appreciate them so much. They are always there for me," Koehn said.

When Koehn gets to the arena, things start to heat up... well, cool down.

At practices, Koehn runs through her routines and practices her elements. Elements are the three main categories that are judged during competitions: jumps, spins and free style.

Right now, Koehn's best move is a Double Salchow, or a jump with two rotations. Next she wants to start working on her Double Toe-Loop, which is nearly the same thing except with a different entry.

Hopefully, she will nail it during one of her two separate skating lessons.

Koehn participates in two skating programs: individuals and synchronized.

"Individuals is where you go out by yourself and do your elements alone. Synchronized is where you go out with 16 girls and do your routine mostly connected by your arms," Koehn said.

In synchronized skating, she is in juvenile test rec, which is a middle level, and she is in novice, or upper level, in individuals.

Being in these upper levels allowed Koehn one particularly incredible experience: competing at

Nationals in California with her synchronized skating team.

Koehn said, "Nationals was one of the best moments in my whole entire life. We placed fourth and everyone was so happy. It was awesome."

Despite the intensity of being at such a significant competition, it wasn't much different than other competitions Koehn has competed in.

"Before competitions, all my synchronized skating girls stand in a circle singing a song we've been singing for four years," Koehn said.

After this and a series of off-ice warm-ups, with both synchronized and individual, they hit the ice. Six judges score them on the execution of their elements, the manner in which they present themselves and basic flaws or malfunctions.

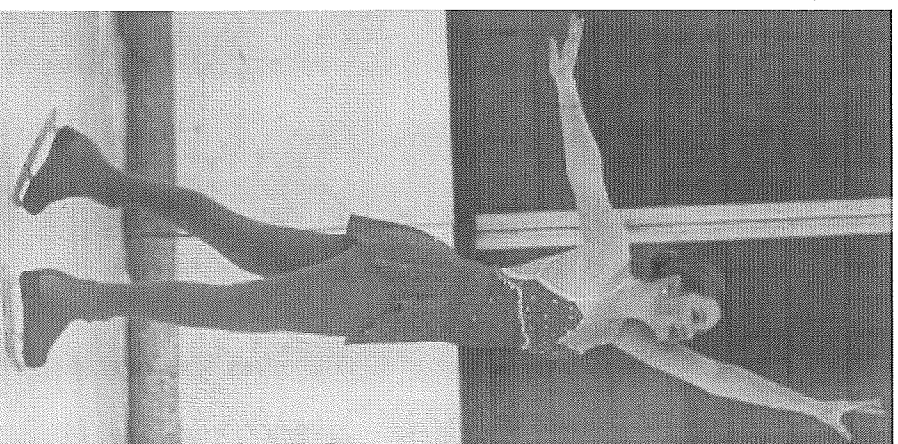
An example of one such flaw was at the Kalamazoo Kick-Off in 2009 when five girls on Koehn's synchronized skating team fell on top of each other. This was Koehn's least favorite of the 50-plus competitions she participated in.

It's no wonder that Koehn gets nervous.

"I get nervous standing by the door waiting to go on. I get a little shaky, but as soon as I'm on this ice, I'm fine," Koehn said.

This is a very good thing, because Koehn doesn't want to be too nervous at her next competition on Jan. 12 in Fraser.

Koehn puts all of her heart into what she does and she's learned a very important lesson.



Sophomore Paige Koehn participates in a couple of her figure skating competitions.



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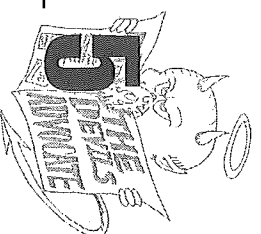
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Un-silent night... Thanks to the Detroit Lions

By: Peter Owen
Advertising Editor

What's new with the Lions? Absolutely nothing at all.

On Monday, December 17, the Lions lost to the 7-6 Ravens and lost the lead in the NFC North. By now, this should be expected by Lions fans.

The Lions always get everyone excited that they are different this year and a playoff team. However, they blow our minds with the same old same old.

Instead of a roar, they meow. Going into the fourth quarter, the Lions were up 16-15. The Ravens had one last opportunity to regain the lead. It was third and long and the Ravens completed a pass to get them to the 50-yard line.

A couple of run plays later, John Harbaugh called a timeout and sent the field goal unit out on the field. A 61-yard field goal would be the decision maker. Sure enough, the Ravens made the field goal and won the game.

This means that the Lions playoff run is no longer in their hands. Green Bay and Chicago both need to lose at least one game while the

Lions need to win their last two. Knowing the Lions, this won't happen.

It sure would be nice to see the Lions actually do well in a season. Week 14 against the Eagles was a snowy disaster. The Lions started off with a 20-0 lead going into the 3rd quarter. This lead, however, was blown by bad defense and no help from the offense.

The reason for the loss could be because of crazy weather conditions. Since Detroit plays in Ford Field which is covered from outside weather conditions, the Lions were not prepared for mass amounts of snow. Or maybe because of Johnson's whitewash.

There was some light to the Lions darkness.

Thanksgiving Day, the Lions raised their record to 7-5 with a 40-10 blowout against the Green Bay Packers. Their offense and defense was actually showing improvement. Must have been all the Turkey in Stafford's stomach.

This was the first win since 2003 for the Lions on Thanksgiving. Matt the Stafford, Reggie Bush and Calvin Johnson had huge days.

Stafford threw three touchdown passes including one to Johnson.

"It's a step in the right direction for us," Stafford said.

Reggie Bush ran all over the Green Bay defense with a total of 182 yards including a touchdown. Johnson had six receptions for 101 yards and a 20-yard reception for a touchdown.

It was obvious that the Lions completely dominated the Packers by scoring 37 unanswered points while the Packer offense and defense watched helplessly.

Of course, the Packers were without their star quarterback.

There is no question that the Lions have the talent to be a playoff team.

Lions' fan, Blake Trapiss, said, "I think the Lions have a lot of talent and depending on how they use it will determine if they make it to playoffs."

In seven wins, the Lions have had 16 turnovers on offense and caused 16 turnovers on defense.

This means that turnovers for the Lions have not affected their wins. However, many losses such as the loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers may have been directly from a

turnover.

All I can say is, typical Lions.

Depending on how the rest of the NFC North plays, the Lions will have to win their next 2 games in order to clinch a spot in the playoffs.

These past weeks have shown a lot of ups and downs for the Lions. They managed to demolish the Packers on Thanksgiving Day. However, they blew a large lead to the Eagles in week 14 and lost to the Ravens on Monday night.

Jim Schwartz has been making some decisions that are questionable to many. Schwartz's job may be on the line. With all the talent they have and not being able to make it to the playoffs, the only other thing you can blame is the coaching staff.

It is difficult to be a Lions fan.

Why root for a team that always lets you down in the long run? Those who have enough pride in the city will continue to buy season tickets to one day prove their friends wrong with a Lions Superbowl Victory.

All of this sounds too familiar. Seems like Detroit is experiencing *deja blue*.

Bowling Team hopes to not spare competition this year

By: Emily Swantek
News co-editor

The lanes are all greased up and ready to go for the Blue Devils to knock over their competition.

Senior Morgan Conner said her team is prepared. "We have been bowling on Monday leagues and

have been teaching each other and getting better," said Conner about the off season work the team has put in.

Conner's average last year was 175 and has improved it to 180.

"I've been practicing over the summer and have been listening to my coaches. I hope to get it to 195 or

200," said Conner.

Senior captain Noelle Scheuer has an average of 215 and is fired up about this season. "I've continued

bowling in tournaments. I went to the Turbo 2-n-1 Grips Collegiate

Expo where I got to work with the Pro-bowlers and improve my game. I also bowled Junior Gold, which is

the national tournament. I did pretty well but not up to my standards," said Scheuer.

Last year the girls won their conference and placed second in Regionals and sixth in the State. "Our biggest competition this year in our league will be Cros-Lex for sure. They have a strong team," said Scheuer.

To round out the team there is Heather Bruci, Payton Dickson, Ellen Kovalek, Kacie Conner and Sarah Graves. With five seniors, one sophomore and one freshman, this team has experience.

"As a senior, I will help my sister and Sarah learn and gain more experience and help them gain confidence," said Conner.

Senior Jacob Folske said the boy's team has improved this year and is looking to compete in the league. "We should do well in the conference this year. We are one of the stronger teams this year," said Folske.

The team finished second behind Cros-Lex in the conference last year.

Folske has a respectable average of 200. "I'm always looking to improve and listen to my coaches," said Folske.

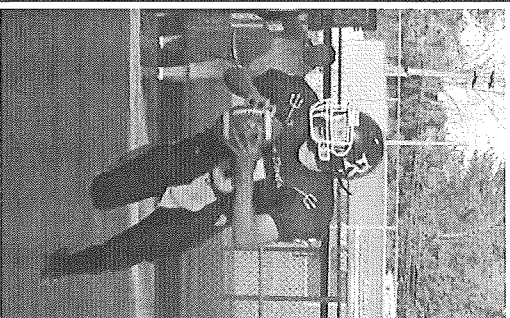
Junior Marc LaGrois has an average of 220 and is also looking to improve. "We are all working on making our spares and getting the team better. We got the team to do summer leagues to stay in rhythm," said LaGrois.

Continued on page 6



EMMA PERRY

Nickname: Pear
Age: 15
Grade: Sophomore
Sport(s): Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis
Favorite pump up song: We Own It
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite class: Biology Honors with Mr. Pearson
Future Goals: Live in a beach house with the Baes.



TREVOR BARRETT

Nickname: T-Bear
Age: 15
Grade: Sophomore
Sport(s): Football, Wrestling, Baseball
Favorite pump up song: Doesn't listen to music
Favorite food: Grilled PB&J

Favorite class:
U.S. History with Dr. Ladd
Future goals: Go to college and get a job.