

Bowling Is On A Roll

By: Haley Fortuna
Features Co-Editor

As the oiled, bowling ball rushes down the alley, the RHS boys bowling team is rushing towards a State title.

The varsity boys bowling team is having a great season being 9-1.

Brandon Saikowski, a junior, said, "We are having a great season so far. It is going better than last year and I think that's because we are all working as a team more this season. Our coach likes to say that we gel well."

Regionals decides whether their teamwork and dedication is enough to bring them that state title.

In order to make it to States, the boys need to place in the top 3 out of 11 at Regionals. The team has already played 5 of the 11 opponents and has yet to spare any of their opponents the misery of a dev-

astating loss.

"Our team is so strong this year. I really think we have a chance of going far and possibly winning the State title this year," Saikowski said.

The boy's bowlers are a force to be reckoned with this year and are working hard to maintain their status at Regionals which will lead them to States.

CJ Wagner, a sophomore said, "I feel like we have accomplished something major. Losing to Armada has only motivated us to work even harder and take that state title next year."

With a stronger relationship as a team, the boys hope to have this quality other schools lack. With their strong bond and dedication to make this State title goal become real.

Although the team is performing impressively this season, they still have a few factors to improve on

before they head off to Regionals

"We definitely need to improve our spare shooting as a team," Wagner said. "We practice the corner pins (7 and 10) every day for 30 minutes to improve out spare shooting."

However, the team does not just want the title for themselves. The bowlers would be honored to bring home this title for their school.

Saikowski said, "In my opinion, bowling is the most unappreciated sport and I really think that if we won the State title things may change. People aren't familiar with the sport enough and if we win States people look at bowling differently."

For both Saikowski and Wagner bowling is huge part of their lives.

Wagner said, "Bowling is a huge part of my life and it has taught me how to keep my emotions in tact because you never know who is

watching you."

Saikowski has also learned a lot about himself from bowling.

"Bowling is a sport of concentration. What most people do not know about bowling is that it is more of a fight against yourself mentally than a fight against any other opponent," the junior said. "As a bowler, you have to keep yourself mentally concentrated to be on game. If for any reason focus is lost, there's no way you can play your best game. Bowling has taught me to stay concentrated and focused"

With determination and concentration, the boys bowling team is prepared to take on Regionals and hopefully roll their way to States on March 4th. If they remain at their current pace, the team will more than likely be knocking down a State title.

Oakland Catches A Swan

By: Emma Gillem
News Co-editor

The end of senior year, is a new chapter for Ally Swantek's college career for softball.

Swantek has recently signed to play softball at Oakland Community College to continue her career with the sport she loves.

"Oakland was always my first choice," Swantek said. "I just think it will be a good feel for a college start out and it was a good starting point for my college career."

Swantek has been playing softball for nine years, in which she has also been pitching for those nine years.

"I was just good at it," Swantek said. "When I get on the mound, I know what needs to be done and I know my team is counting on me."

As a freshman going to college for softball, Swantek knows what she has to do. She will have to prove to not only herself, but also her new teammates that she is willing to do just as much as them.

"I'm hoping to accomplish maybe more skills not only in pitching, but possibly hitting to get my batting average up right away in the new season," Swantek said.

As most know, it's not easy to have a starting spot as a new freshman on a college team, but those

who work hard for it and show dedication could prove to coaches they are ready for the challenge.

"I think I'm ready," Swantek said. "I'm hoping to be on that mound sooner rather than later."

However, before the next season starts, Swantek has one more year of high school softball and also, on her summer league with the Chargers.

"Travel softball taught me how to deal with pressured situations," Swantek said. "And to not think the worst in situations."

The nine years Swantek has been playing have been during travel softball, and then the four years of high school softball as well have

made her into the teammate she is today.

"I like the fact knowing some of the girls look up to me," Swantek said. "Whether it is the girls on the JV high school team, or the younger girls on travel, it's just a good feeling."

However, leaving this small town is what is going to be the hardest part for Swantek, not only between the teams she has played for, and the teammates she has turned into life-long friendships, but also leaving her family.

"I'm definitely going to miss my family and friends the most," Swantek said. "I like meeting new people, but not being able to see the people I have seen every day for the past 18 years is going to be hard."

Swantek said her biggest fear is having to move away from her mom.

"I'm just worried about who's going to do my laundry or make me dinner," Swantek said. "But it will be a good experience for the future...I guess."

Once Swantek gets to Oakland next fall and gets comfortable in her dorm for the next nine months, she will have a lot of responsibilities to fulfill.

"Between softball, school and having to depend on myself for everything in less than seven months kind of scares me," Swantek said. "But I know once I get down there and get comfortable it'll only get easier."

Swantek plans to be a physical therapist and move down south after she graduates from college.

As Swantek lives her last few months walking the halls of Richmond high school, she will only have to cherish the moments before it's all done, and she turns the page to the next chapter in her life.



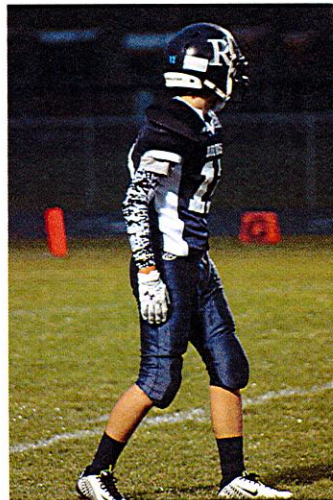
Isabella Ferranti

Nickname: Izzy
Age: 14
Grade: 9th
Sport(s): Volleyball, basketball, softball
Favorite class: Spanish
Future Goals: Get good grades in high school.

Star Athletes

Hunter Seguin

Nickname: None
Age: 15
Grade: 9th
Sport(s): Football, wrestling, baseball
Favorite Class: Health
Future Goals: Win a state title in wrestling.



In Our Opinion

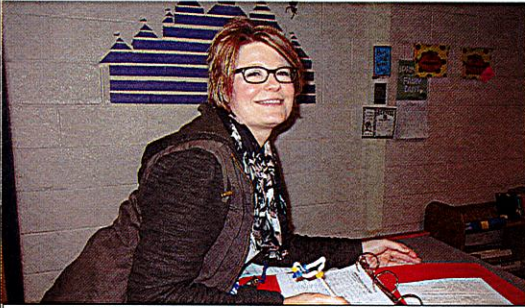


Question of the Week

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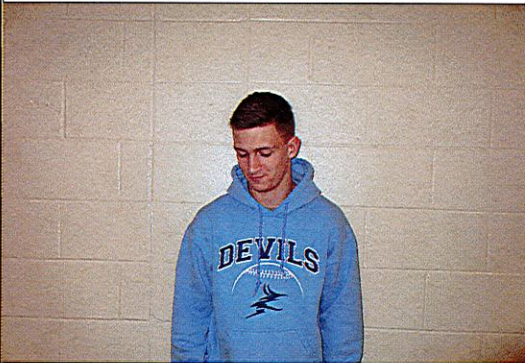
Do you think Valentine's Day is a Hallmark Holiday or National Holiday?

Staff



Mrs. Szlachtowicz- Hallmark

Senior



Matt Skoryanc- Hallmark

Junior



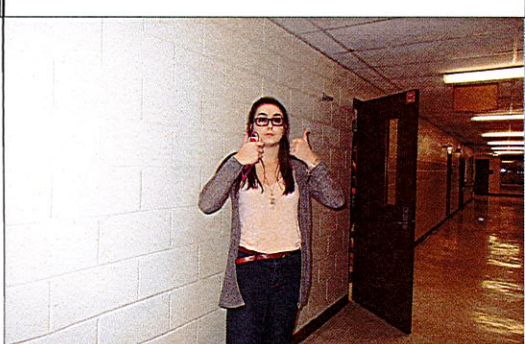
Christina Thomas-Hallmark

Sophomore



Alec Ziza- National

Freshman



Kenney Caperton- Hallmark

Staff Editorial: Use Caution When Driving

When the weather is cold, snowy and terrible, it may be a pain and it is scary to drive in.

If you cannot stay home and have to drive through the snow storms, it is for your best interest to drive carefully. Some do not and may get irritated when you drive so slowly. They claim,

"Learn how to drive in the snow! You live in Michigan!" Or they may say, "It's not even bad out, you can drive a lot faster!"

To those who get this way: Calm down.

You do not need to drive faster. Being extra cautious when it is bad weather out, is not a bad thing. It is best to be extra cautious than not at all.

Driving slow can help you get to your destination safely. You have more control when you drive slowly. Also, when you drive slowly, you can focus on being safe and protecting yourself and the others around you.

Putting your phone away when driving in general is the best

thing to keep yourself safe, but putting your phone away when you are driving in a snow storm is a must.

It won't distract you as much if you put your phone on disturb mode or even turn it all the way off or put it away where you can't see it. If you reach for your

"Putting your phone away when driving in general is the best thing to keep yourself safe, but putting your phone away when you are driving in a snow storm is a must."

phone and the roads are slippery, it is a lot easier to lose control and crash.

To keep yourself from getting distracted, try turning your phone off when driving.

Furthermore, be cautious of other drivers. Even if you are careful and doing the right things to keep yourself safe, it doesn't mean the others around you are driving safe, too. Keep your eyes on the road and be aware of the other people.

But the best advice is to just stay home. Stay home unless you absolutely have to go out. This is the best way to keep yourself safe. Staying off the roads and avoiding the snow storms in general is the best way to avoid the stress of driving in a snowstorm.

Be Careful What You Wish For; Seniors

By: Nick Thomas
Sports Editor

Four months.

This is the amount of time us seniors have left here in Richmond High School.

This is something we've been looking forward to our entire lives; graduating high school. But why? Why are we always looking forward to getting out of high school?

What lies outside of this small school that so many kids are chasing after, wishing day after day that summer was here and they were graduated?

Is it the immense amount of schooling that lies ahead? Or maybe it's the endless hours of hard work to get A's in your college classes. Could it be the long hours of work, after and before studying some more, to pay for your college? Oh! Maybe it's the thousands of dollars in student loans you may have to pay back one day!

These are many of the things students don't realize that are in their future after graduation; most kids think it's all fun and games when you graduate high school.

But it's not.

Graduating high school is a big accomplishment, but, what many kids don't realize is that their lives are just beginning.

Kids now have to choose what college they are going to or if they even want to go to college or join the

workforce right out of high school.

If kids decide they want to go to college, they have to deal with the stress of picking a major that will determine what they will be doing the rest of their life.

Many kids don't know what they want to do for the rest of their life when they get out of high school, which is okay, but stressful.

If you don't know what career you want to pursue, you can take a year of college and get the required classes done that are needed for any degree.

But after that first year of college, you should have an idea of what career you want to pursue. Don't forget, this degree is going to get you a job you'll have for the next 15-30 years, no big deal right?

After you figure out what type of career you would like to pursue, you need to figure out many other aspects of that. These include, what college to go to for that career, how much will that degree cost at different schools, and how long it will take to achieve that degree in that field of work.

Oh, and don't forget you'll need to get a job during college too (unless you want to pay back all those student loans after you graduate college in hopes of getting a job with your degree!).

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Mission Statement:

Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devil's Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

Letters:

We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.