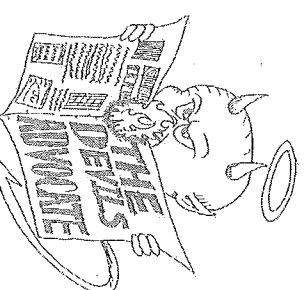




# The BLUE DEVIL'S

Advocate



Richmond High School  
35390 Division Road  
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 10, Issue 4

March 18, 2014

## Dr. Olson to bid farewell to Richmond

By: Nick Thomas  
Staff Writer

All great things must come to an end. This is especially true for Dr. Olson as she retires from Richmond Community Schools

Dr. Olson is the Superintendent at Richmond Community Schools and has been for four years. But this will be her last year as Superintendent as she notified Richmond Community Schools she would retire on July 1, 2014.

Dr. Olson said, "It's about that time, I have other goals and want to do other things," said Olson on why she is retiring.

Many people have dreams and aspirations of doing great things, and having a dream job when they grow up and become an adult.

Dr. Olson said, "It's one of those jobs I didn't think I would be. It developed over time. Some of my colleagues were in the profession so it got me thinking. I was the director of personnel and or curriculum de-

pending on the year, of a much larger district, Van Buren Public Schools, and superintendent before that in a smaller district for six years up north," said Dr. Olson about what she

did before she came to Richmond.

Dr. Olson has done many things at RCSD to help make the schools better.

Some include the following: she worked hard to become a team, team effort, settle contracts, better working relationship between employees, become financially stable, and increase the academic opportunity for students. All these changes helped make Richmond Schools

*"The teachers here are excellent; they go out of their way to help the students."*

- Dr. Olson

better, but there are many things the new superintendent will need to do as well.

Dr. Olson said, "The new superintendent has to continue on some of

efforts we have been working on, and increase opportunity for students academically."

Dr. Olson is also leaving Richmond Community Schools with a great teaching staff.

Dr. Olson said, "The teachers here are excellent, they go out of their way to help the students."

Not only does she think the teachers here are great here at Richmond as she retires, but she also had this to say about the students: "I have a

*Continued on page 3*

## Yellow Boat sails to stage at RHS

By: Stephanie Zube  
Features Editor

*The Yellow Boat* sails its way to Richmond High School to wave in an unforgettable show on the weekend of March 28.

Mr. Applegate, English teacher and Theater director, is ready to put on his 22nd show here at RHS. He has been teaching and directing for 11 years now and continues to enjoy it.

"I love directing the plays and musicals. It gives me the opportunity to impact students in a way that the classroom doesn't," said Mr. Applegate in an email.

The idea to do *The Yellow Boat* came to Mr. Applegate when he watched another high school perform it for competition. That inspired him to bring the show to Richmond.

He wrote, "I thought to myself, 'This could be one of the best shows we've ever done at RHS and we have the talent to do it.'"

One of the reasons why he thinks it will be one of the best shows at RHS is because it is a more serious play with a deeper message. The play is about the true story of

Benjamin Saar, a young boy with hemophilia who contracts the AIDS virus through a contaminated blood transfusion. It tells the story of his short, but courageous life. When faced with sickness and death, he still lives his life to the fullest and brings joy to his family and everyone around him.

Benjamin's story will not only impact the cast but the audience as well.

"It's extremely moving, sad, and uplifting. Benjamin has taught us as a cast that nothing we face is too daunting, that we can choose to see the beauty in life and cherish the love we have for others in the short time we all have in our lives. If we perform this play like I know we can, the audience is going to remember seeing this show for the rest of their lives just like the cast is going to remember being a part of it. It's not often that you do a show that is life-changing," replied Mr. Applegate.

Apart from the message, the play also raises awareness about blood diseases such as Hemophilia and AIDS.

Jaret Gil, freshman, has prepared a lot for his role as Benjamin Saar in

*The Yellow Boat*. Gil performed his first role at RHS as law student Aaron Shultz in the musical *Legally Blonde*. Now he is facing a more serious and major role in the upcoming March play.

"I'm really nervous because it is my first lead in anything, but I'm also excited," said Gil. "The play is really serious so the sad scenes will be the most difficult."

When it came down to Gil's audition, confidence and ambition were key.

"Auditions are complicated; you feel nervous energy pumping through you and then when you get up there it all goes away. I also had a strong feeling about the lead, so I was aiming for it," said Gil.

Inspiration and being a child at heart has helped him prepare for his character as well.

"My inspiration for the role is my little brother, and at heart I'm an 8-year-old, so it fits," said Gil.

Gil has enjoyed his experience in theater so far and loves being able to come in after school and have fun with his fellow cast mates. *The Yellow Boat* has been a new, but exciting time for him.

Alongside Gil is Kaelyn Wilcox, a

senior at RHS.

Wilcox portrays a major role in the play, and that is Joy, a Child Life Specialist and Benjamin's counselor. Her character helps cheer up Benjamin while he is sick in the hospital.

When going for a major role, many students may prepare for the character, but Joy came as a surprise to Wilcox.

"I was surprised that I got it; I wasn't even aiming for the role," said Wilcox.

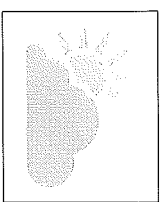
She first became a part of theater freshman year when she helped as stage crew.

"I had such a wonderful time working behind the scenes. The plays looked awesome and magical, so I knew that I had to be a part of it," said Wilcox.

Wilcox's own personal experience helped prepare and inspire her for the role of Joy.

"When I was in the hospital myself, I had a nurse just like Joy and I learned from her. I act in the play how I would act around any kid," said Wilcox.

*Continued on page 3*



Today's Forecast  
Mostly Sunny  
High: 43°  
Low: 37°

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# On the places we'll go

**By: Lizzie Urban**  
**News Editor**  
 "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"

That quote is from the popular children's book, "Oh, the places you'll go!" by Dr. Seuss. The book explains that even if you don't know exactly what you want to do with your future, that's okay, because one day you will. With the end of the school year rapidly approaching, the 2014 seniors are looking forward to their plans for college and their lives next year.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And

you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go."

To better capture that idea, Mrs. Michon, principal, decided to create a wall in the senior hallway with the theme of that book.

"I have always loved the Dr. Seuss' story about the places you'll go. I went to Mrs. Denapole, one of our media specialists. I gave her my idea of what I wanted and she created the wall," said Mrs. Michon.

"The wall started with Mr. Applegate. He actually saw a bulletin board at another school that had badges stating what seniors were doing after graduation. He shared it with me and I took it a step further," said Mrs. Michon. Each senior wrote their name and

what their after high school plans were on a cut-out balloon, to hang on the wall with the rest of the decorations, and theme.

Students of all grades have been enjoying the wall.

Mrs. Michon said, "I stood with five seniors today reading what people are doing. Most do not realize what each other's plans are for after graduation. I also wanted the underclassmen to see what our seniors are doing. I have seen students standing at the wall reading each balloon."

"You'll head straight out of town. It's opener there in the wide open air. Out there things can happen and frequently do to people as brainy and footsy as you."

Kyle Donato, senior, said, "I like the wall. It is very symbolic and brings back memories with all of the Dr. Seuss quotes."

Donato plans on finishing his early college next year. After that he wants to attend a college that specializes in music to pursue a degree in the field.

"A music conservatory such as Berkeley College of Music in Boston or an arts college like Columbia College in Chicago. For the music conservatory I would have to go through an audition process to even get in and to get potential scholarships," he said.

Donato hopes to one day be a part of a rock band that encompasses the Flute, like the band, "Jethro Tull."

*Continued on page 6*

**By: Jacob Thomas**  
**News Editor**

Order in the court!  
 The RHS Mock Trial team recently finished their day in court on Saturday, March 1. They competed against 12 schools at the 37<sup>th</sup> District Courthouse in Macomb Township.

The defense team lost their match while the prosecution team won theirs.

The RHS defense team faced Caspac's prosecution team and the RHS prosecution team went up against Lutheran North's defense squad.

RHS's prosecution team consisted of Thomas Biafore, Olivia Kesler, and Amanda Vinson, while the Defense team had Anna Fraser, Sarah Campbell, and Brett Brincefield.

The case consisted of a murder in which a teenager was accused of

shooting somebody.

Dr. Ladd who runs the Mock Trial team was very pleased with the performance of the group.

"We did well, about the same as years in the past. I am always impressed with how the kids do despite all of the short comings. We are always limited to the amount of time we can spend working on it and the amount of lawyers we have compared to other schools," said Dr. Ladd.

Dr. Ladd credits the students to their ability to learn the material on the fly and compete in the courtroom.

"It's really good stuff. It allows for the students to understand how a team of lawyers work," said Dr. Ladd.

This was Olivia Kesler's first year on the mock trial team.

"I had heard mock trial was really

fun and I wanted to become more involved in different activities this year," said Kesler, a senior.

The team put in a lot of work preparing for the one event they had.

"We met every Sunday for two hours for the past three months. The witnesses would practice witness statements and the lawyers would practice cross examining," said Kesler.

Kesler wanted to be a part of the prosecution team.

"Prosecution is fun because you get to be the one pointing fingers and accusing," said Kesler.

Mock trial has helped Kesler better understand court cases and provided new study techniques that will be beneficial for her future.

"I know more about court cases and the judicial system now than I did before. I am able to memorize things better now from studying

everything," said Kesler.

Overall, she would recommend other students to join Mock Trial because it is educational and fun but also realizes it's not for everyone.

"It was a good experience, and I'm glad I did it. We had a lot of fun preparing and spending time together. I would recommend it to others but it's not for everybody. Not everybody would be able to do it because it takes commitment," said Kesler.

Sophomore Erika Schafer also spent her first year on the Mock Trial team this year.

"I joined because Dr. Ladd needed another member, but I'm glad that I did," said Schafer.

The experience of being in a courtroom was nerve wrecking for Schafer.

*Continued on page 3*

## H & H Student Driving School — 2014

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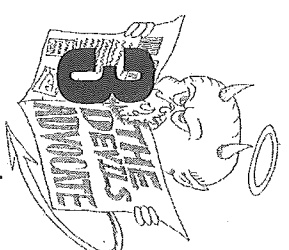
### Segment 1 -- \$279.00

- Must be 14 years & 8 months of age on first day of class
- Parental permission and original birth certificate
- \$100 deposit on day 1 of class

### Segment 2 -- \$30

- Must possess a valid Level 1 Learner's License for 90 days
- Parental permission (Signed Permission of 30 Hours practice Driving)
- Driving permit

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



**Forget beating the heat, they've got to beat the cold**

By: Thomas Biafore  
News Co-Editor

Just as spring finally comes to Richmond, everyone is getting ready to leave. Many in Richmond have grown tired of the cold, depressing weather. They're ready for a change in scenery. Ready for the snow to turn into sand. Ready for the clouds to turn to sun.

Several kids are finding successful ways to escape the cold. Senior Sam Schafer and her friends are just a few days behind Katie Szczesniak and her friends on their trek to Florida.

Although they're both going to Florida, their activity schedules differ greatly.

"We're going to Kissimmee, Florida and staying at the Orange Lake Resort," said Schafer. She's been planning this trip forever and cannot wait to say goodbye to the frozen tundra of Michigan.

"We have tickets to Universal Studios and Island Adventures, and we plan to visit the Kennedy Space Center," said Schafer. She is most excited for Universal Studios because of all the fun attractions they have. "The Harry Potter themed attractions are the best."

Sam Schafer is going to Florida with some of her best friends and family. She is going with her sister Erica and her friend Rachel Lozowski, along with some of Sam's friends—Alaijah Bashi, Mary Kazmierczak, Stacy Weidner, Jennifer Merriman and Megan McDermott.

However, Szczesniak and her friends have an entirely different schedule ahead of them. "We're going to the Keys in Florida and staying in a condo on the beach," said Szczesniak. She is longing to wake up to the water splashing against the sand and the sun streaming through the windows.

Her vacation schedule is also full of exciting activities. "We plan to go parasailing, snorkeling, jet-

skiing, and swimming with sharks," said Szczesniak. Swimming with sharks is what she is most excited for.

"I'm really looking forward to tanning, relaxing and making memories," said Szczesniak. She's going to Florida with her best friends Natasha Woodruff, Melissa Resk and Emily Swantek. The trip will be chaperoned by Swantek's parents. "This may just be the best part of my year," said Szczesniak.

Schafer is really excited to explore these places with her friends. "I'm excited to watch my friends' reaction to Florida since most of them have never been there," said Schafer.

Whether it's exploring the south coast of Florida, or finding other things to do, many students are planning to do something to escape the cold air in Richmond Michigan. Although many people seem to be going somewhere to escape the cold, junior Joe Gusumano is staying in the cold to have his fun. Gusumano is going to Kalahari with Jordan Zachow and her family. "I'm so excited to celebrate my break with Jordan," said Gusumano.

They are very excited to have the chance to go swimming despite the cold weather. "Even if it's cold, I can still swim," said Gusumano. No one wants to wait until summer to go swimming and now they don't have to.

Along with the swimming, they can also enjoy the arcade games and hotel rooms. "It's going to be amazing. I can't wait to make this my last spring break," said Zachow.

Even though they are working with the cold for their vacation, many people are desperately trying to escape it.

Leya Gonzalez couldn't be more excited to leave the cold behind, except her destination is slightly different. She is going to Disney World for her Senior Spring Break. "I can't wait to spend some time out of the cold," said Gonzalez. Gonzalez hasn't been to Disney world since she was a kid, and now

she gets to relive her childhood with her best friend, Colleen Gaffney. "I am really excited to make memories with my best friend this spring break," said Gonzalez.

There are many activities that Leya is looking forward to.

"Space Mountain has to be the best ride there. I'm so excited to ride it," said Gonzalez. Just thinking about all the fun she's going to have on the ride has her chomping at the bit to leave. Unfortunately for her, they have to drive down there. The ride will be all the more agonizing knowing all the fun she will have.

"As long as the cold is far behind me, I don't really care where I am," said Gonzalez.

**Yellow Boat**  
*continued from page 1*

A more serious play has also taught Wilcox a great amount. She has learned that a lot of bad things happen to people all the time but you just have to learn to keep your head up.

"There is always a bright side to a downside," said Wilcox. Jordan Zachow, senior, is a part of the chorus, a role that really brings the show to life. She has been a part of theater since freshman year and got involved the same way Wilcox did, by working stage crew.

Zachow and Wilcox both expressed their favorite scenes and what the audience could look forward to in the play, without giving away too much.

"My favorite scene is the community scene, because it is a crucial point in the show that will leave you in tears. It is a powerful statement," said Zachow. "It's a sad play but also uplifting; you're going to come out of the show feeling more optimistic."

Wilcox had a different scene that

**Olson**  
*continued from page 1*

"When I visited the town of Richmond I was very pleased with the school. It was well-maintained, and I was very excited to get started. The town looked very welcoming." Dr. Olson said when she found out she had gotten the RCSD superintendent job.

Dr. Olson said, "It is a very interesting job, and every day is different from another; one day will never be the same as another day."

For the new Superintendent, she has some words of wisdom. She said, "You have to approach every day as a different day. You won't ever have days be the same, so it helps approaching the day different every day."

Now that Dr. Olson is retiring from the superintendent of Richmond Community Schools, she has other activities planned that she would like to do. She said, "I want to take the summer and enjoy it. I would like to travel in the summer. I want to spend more time with my granddaughter. In the fall I would like to take on some new activities, and I would like to learn to play the piano."

Dr. Olson does not plan to stay in Richmond when she is officially retired; she plans to move to her house in Saline.

was her favorite.

She said, "The exploratory surgery would have to be my favorite. It's Joy, Benjamin, and the surgeons and its a scene where we can just be goofy. Overall, people should look forward to the good message the play brings. It's sad but it has heart."

The students and Mr. Applegate are excited to be taking on such an inspiring, emotional, and empowering play for the first time at RHS.

The cast hopes *The Yellow Boat* will sail its way to the audience's heart.

**Mock Trial**  
*Continued from page 2*

"The competition was scary because you are in front of everyone and I had to be a witness and be cross-examined before being able to speak," said Schafer.

The Mock Trial team has been both an educational and enjoyable experience for Schafer.

"It was really interesting. I learned what a court case would be like if I ever have to be a part of one. The people on the team were fun to be around and it was a good time," said Schafer.

Senior Alaijah Bashi has been a four-year Mock Trial member.

"I have really enjoyed all four years of mock trial. I love competing against the other teams and seeing what they offer. Competing against other schools is really fun," said Bashi.

Bashi was part of the defense team this year. Although the defense team lost, Bashi enjoyed the experience.

"We lost, but our prosecution team won which was good. We could have

probably put more time into it, but we still did fairly well," said Bashi. Bashi first joined the mock trial team as a freshman to increase her public speaking skills realizing this would be an important ability later in life.

"I always get asked if I plan on studying law in college but the reason I joined mock trial was to increase my public speaking skills. Mock trial really has helped my ability to speak in front of others," said Bashi.

Bashi also credits Dr. Ladd for preparing the students.

"Dr. Ladd is very good at helping us prepare for the process. We all support each other as well which helps during the competition," said Bashi.

Objecting is a decisive part in a court case and Bashi says this was the most difficult thing to learn over her four years of experience.

"It was difficult to learn when and how to object in a court case. There are a lot of terms you need to know when you speak as well which was difficult at times," said Bashi.

**On This Day**

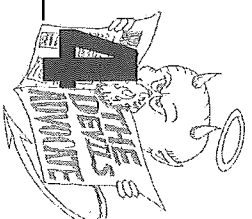
1584- Russian czar Ivan IV, or Ivan "The Terrible," died at age 53.

1925- The most violent single tornado in U.S. history, the "Tri-State Tornado," hit Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois, killing 689 people and injuring 13,000 others.

1990- The biggest art theft in U.S. history occurs at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. The works, including pieces by Vermeer and Rembrandt, were never recovered.

2004- A small asteroid made the closest approach to Earth ever recorded, only about 26,500 miles away.

Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/dqynhistory/March-18>



## Billion dollar bulls eye

By: Dylan Yore  
Sports Editor

Could you predict a perfect tournament bracket with 64 teams and 32 games? This is highly unlikely, but well worth trying.

Billionaire Warren Buffet, Detroit-based mortgage lender, Quicken Loans, and Berkshire Hathaway placed a \$1 billion dollar target on the head of the perfect bracket(s). This grand prize has never been won before.

According to finance.yahoo.com, "Any qualified entrant who correctly enters the contest and predicts the winners of every game in the tournament will share the total \$1 billion prize paid in 40 annual installments of \$25 million. Alternatively, the winner(s) may elect to receive an immediate \$500 million lump sum payment or share in that lump sum payment if there is more than one perfect bracket submitted."

How many people annually participate in this?  
According to chacha.com, "Approximately 40 million people a year fill out a bracket."

A lot of work goes into making the bracket involving the decision of who will win each game.

According to Ask.com, "Predicting the winner of each game is a complicated process that involves comparing several different variables from each team. To simplify matters, results from previous tournaments can be helpful to make predictions for the current year's tournament bracket. The tournament has had the same 64 team structure since 1985, so there is a wealth of data to analyze."

The tournament is set up using seeded brackets. For example the number one seed will play the number 16 seed. Two will play 15, three will play 14, and so on.

Students at Richmond High School participate in the madness. Junior Daniel Fistler said, "I participate for fun, but the billion dollars would be dandy as well."

Researching 64 teams' records, previous encounters and individual statistics is time consuming for the die-hards.

Fistler said, "I prepare to make my bracket by researching teams and checking statistics to see who is currently hot. I watch videos on players and live games for hours to determine who will win or if there is a possible upset."

Putting the bracket together is least time-consuming part.

Fistler said, "If only takes around 15 minutes to put it down on paper."

The question for these die-hard fans is this: How does it feel marking your team as the winner or loser?

Fistler said, "I have a lot of pride in my team and upsets are a big part of making the brackets. Upsets can't be forgotten when contemplating the outcome of game"

People everywhere group into pools with fellow bracket-ees.

Senior Dave Stafford said, "I set up a March Madness pool with about thirty people to compete against."

The month is filled with nerve-racking games which in turn creates tension

Stafford said, "When everyone puts in a bet of \$10 and there is a pot of \$300, everybody wants to

win. March gets very intense. There is a lot of crap talking, especially when your bracket is doing better than someone else's."

Watching the games brings late nights, snack foods and shortened finger nails.

Fistler said, "Watching the games can be very stressful when an upset occurs that you didn't have predicted on your bracket. That is why they call it March Madness."

## Running into new coaching

By: Austin Vannatter  
Sports Editor

Richmond High School is welcoming a new track coach, but with a familiar last name.

Coach Carey Skatzka has taken the new job as an assistant track coach.

Coach Skatzka was a five-time All-American track athlete from Adams State in Colorado.

She was an All-American in the 400 and 800 meter.

Coach Skatzka also did training at the Olympic Training Center with many Olympians.

NCAA Division II runner-up was the highest honor coach Skatzka received.

She took the job because she thought it would be cool to coach at a school where her kids attended.

Devin Skatzka is a junior.

Coach Skatzka also has almost two decades of coaching experience, coaching all age groups.

Coach Skatzka is also very excited to start coaching at Richmond.

"I love coaching and have coached many sports, but track is the sport I am most knowledgeable in. I am very excited to be able to work with the kids in Richmond. The reason that I am so excited is that Track is one sport that can actually help improve our athletes for all of the other sports here at Richmond. My goal is to make all of the athletes stronger and faster by the end of this season and that everyone on the team has shown marked improvement in their strongest events," said Skatzka.

Coach Skatzka will be working with both the boys and girls team. The events she will be coaching will be sprints, relays, hurdles, and some jumping events.

Austen Thomas, who is a junior and varsity sprinter.

He is very excited to have acquired a new coach to help him.

"I know she used to run track and was really good and has more experience than anyone," said Thomas.

Thomas thinks she will help his form and make him faster to achieve his goals this season.

One of his goals is to make it past Regionals, and Thomas thinks she will help.

"Since she has a lot of experience and can teach things no one else could," said Thomas

#1 seed vs. #16 seed - The #1

seed has won 100% of the time against the #16 seed.

#2 seed vs. #15 seed - The #2 seed has won 96% of the time against the #15 seed.

#3 seed vs. #14 seed - The #3 seed has won 85% of the time against the #14 seed.

#4 seed vs. #13 seed - The #4 seed has won 79% of the time against the #13 seed.

#5 seed vs. #12 seed - The #5 seed has won 67% of the time against the #12 seed.

#6 seed vs. #11 seed - The #6 seed has won 67% of the time against the #11 seed.

#7 seed vs. #10 seed - The #7 seed has won 60% of the time against the #10 seed.

#8 seed vs. #9 seed - The #8 seed has won 47% of the time against the #9 seed."

who does the pole vault and meter races (800 and 1600) is also excited to get another great coach.

"She brings a lot of experience to the program and can teach us a lot of new running techniques that can make us faster," said Knuckles.

Coach Skatzka will only coach him in some of his events.

Nuckles, does think she will help him a lot in his meter running events.

"She can really help me with the 800-meter because she ran it in college and was an All-American in it," said Nuckles.

Coach Brown, one of the other track coaches is very excited to acquire a new coach to help the track team reach their goals and potential.

"I'm real excited to get a new coach such as Mrs. Skatzka because she is a new face and she comes with a wealth of knowledge she is more than happy to share not only the athletes but coaches as well. Of course, it is always nice to have an extra set of eyes to follow what is going on during practice," said Brown

Coach Boyd, the discus and shot put coach is also excited for coach Skatzka to come in and coach.

"I am excited. Track has so many events. There are special techniques that each event has, so the more coaches who know the sport, the better we are to assist students become better Track and Field athletes," said Boyd

Both coaches do know her extremely decorated background of track. This is what makes them so excited for her to help coaching.

Everyone at RHS seems very excited about their new coach.

All coaches believe she will help tremendously in the events she will coach.

Coach Skatzka, however, seems the most excited of all of them to be coaching at Richmond.

## St. John River District Hospital

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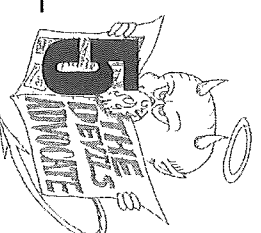


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The Blue Devil's Advocate

March 18, 2014



**Bruci gobbles up state title**

**By: Ryan Telow**  
Editorial Editor

Richmond's senior Heather Bruci has taken home her first ever individual state championship title Saturday, March 1.

"After all four years of bowling, working for that moment finally paid off and it was too unreal. To finally accomplish it and become a state champion was an amazing feeling," said Bruci.

The boys' head coach, Coach John, stayed calm throughout the competition and gave Bruci the support that was needed to keep her focused.

"It was extremely emotional for me that I won because Coach John has been there for me since the beginning and to finally win almost felt like I was winning it for him as well as myself. The moment I knew that I had the win locked up, I knew that I wouldn't be bowling for RHS anymore and it was sad for Coach John and myself," said Bruci.

Bruci's passion for bowling reached back into her childhood where she first started bowling.

"I've been bowling since I was about three, but started to take it more seriously once I was ten. As I was growing up, I always watched my brothers. One of my brothers, PJ, oddly enough back in high school, was the state runner up his senior year, and having him there made me really want to one up him like he has always done," said Bruci.

As Bruci advanced through the tournament one opponent at a time, it seemed as if she was gaining momentum like an avalanche. Each victory was giving Bruci confidence.

"I was feeling nervous 20 minutes before the tournament started, but after I broke 200 with my first couple of matches, I was feeling on fire. After every win, it would motivate me for the next," said Bruci.

As Bruci advanced and the once crowded alley began to clear out, tension began to rise in the alley.

During the matchup between Richmond's two senior bowlers, Bruci and Noelle Scheuer in the quarterfinals, Bruci had her game face on.

"It was definitely weird to say the least but it was expected because Noelle is a very good bowler, and we both had always told each other that we were going to verse each other in the state final," said Bruci.

With the quarterfinals wrapped up, Bruci advanced into the final four. The once-smiling face turned into a death stare. Nothing but determination was struck across Bruci's face. The title was in grabbing distance.

"I didn't even know what to think; I was never so determined to win something than I was at that point. I wanted a state title so bad," said Bruci.

Bruci did it. She advanced to the state final. The tension spoke of before was nothing compared to this. With Alma High School's Hannah Chase and Bruci both seniors, this was their last chance.

"I was there. I had finally made it

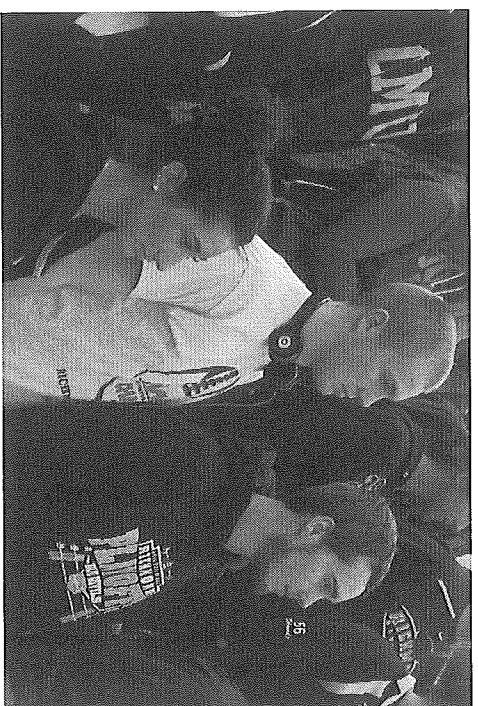
to the State Finals. I knew Hannah was a senior and that this was her last shot at it as well as mine," said Bruci.

After a back and forth battle and the monotonous sound of strike after strike, it was down to the tenth frame and the glare had turned back into a smile.

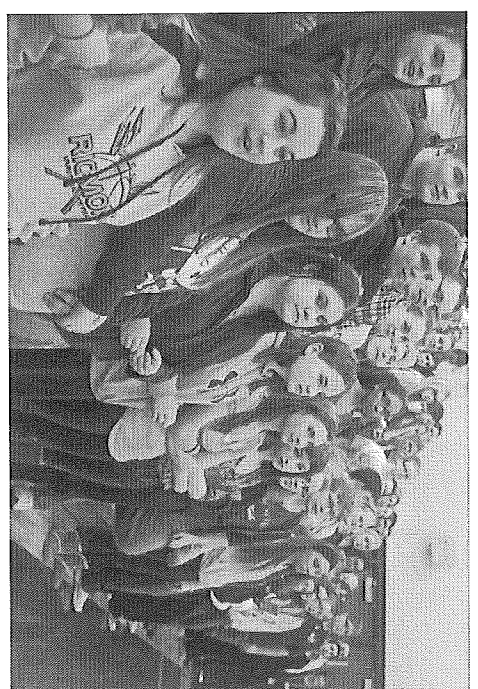
"By the tenth frame I knew I had it in the bag and I was so excited. I couldn't wait for the match to be over so I could just go hug my Mom and Dad," said Bruci.

Bruci didn't make it far off the lane before she had her coaches, family and friends crowded around her to celebrate the victor.

Bruci said, "It was unreal. Having my friends and family as well as my coaches there to support me was definitely a huge factor in me winning. This was the first time my friends had been at one of my tournaments and there was no doubt in my mind that I was winning it for them."



*Left: Alesha Powers, Jake Schmidt, and Ryan Boyd watch as the Bowling Team talks about their upcoming State Match.*

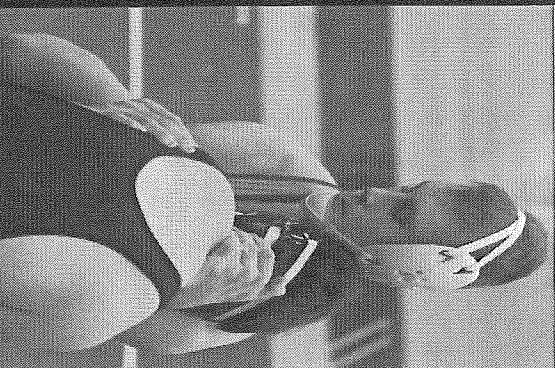
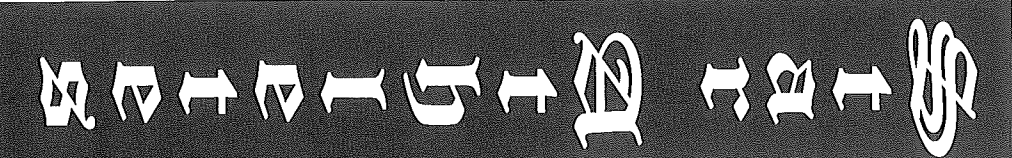


*Right: Students listen to the Cheer Team's captains as they deliver a motivational speech.*



**Heather Bruci**

**Nickname:** Bruci  
**Age:** 17  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Sport(s):** Bowling and Soccer  
**Favorite pump up song:** Here Comes the Boom-Nelly  
**Favorite Food:** My grandma's stuffed cabbage  
**Favorite class:** Sports Tech/Anatomy  
**Future Goals:** Complete a Bachelors degree at Western Michigan University



**Jake McKiernan**

**Nickname:** JMac  
**Age:** 18  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Sport(s):** Football and wrestling  
**Favorite pump up song:** On to the Nex one-Jay Z  
**Favorite food:** Janbalaya

**Favorite class:** Sports Tech/Anatomy  
**Future goals:** Be an NCAA All-American and earn a business degree

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**March 18, 2014**