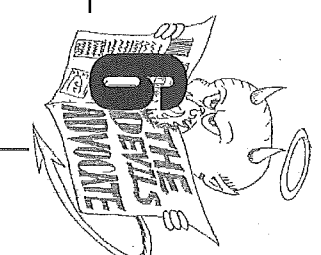


School News



Building The Future

By: Logan Iskra
Opinion editor

Imagine, masses of metal and electricity clashing on the field, all of them competing to prove their dominance.

They are robots, elegantly designed and well-oiled machines built for a purpose. Pushing against each other, neither giving way.

All of a sudden, one strates to the right, speeds ahead, and launches a disk.

The crowd waits in stunned anticipation as it arcs through the air. It moves ever closer to the goal until... SCORE!!! The crowd goes wild! The team will advance to the next round!

As a programmer for team 4130, The Blue Devils, I know firsthand that making it to their first regional competition is a challenge on its own. After all, robots do not just appear overnight. For the Richmond team 4130, becoming a relevant team is a year-long process.

The competition is held by the company For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, or the FIRST Robotics Organization.

Before you can even think of competing, you need at least \$5,000 to register your team and receive a kit of

parts to get you started.

Now, you must be thinking,

“\$5,000! That could build a few robots, right?”

WRONG! In fact, it usually is not enough to build even one. If you make it to States, you can add another \$2,000.

What? You made it to the world competition?

That'll be another \$7,000 please.

In order to come up with these obscene amounts of money, the team must be run like a business. We try to “sell” advertising space on our product (the robot) to local businesses by convincing them that we are a capable team. The more capable the team is, the farther we will go, and more people will see the ad.

Once this is done, it's time to build! Each year at the beginning of January, the teams are given a new challenge. As soon as the challenge is made public, it's game on. For the next six weeks, the team eats, sleeps, and breathes robotics. The team meets five to six days a week for three to four hours a day. This can seem an insurmountable challenge, especially with such a small team.

Richmond robotics consists of only 14 members. Recruiting new members

Senioritis

By: Shelby Stewart
News Editor

Picture this. You're sitting in class staring at the clock.

Only five minutes left and it looks like the clock is slowing down.

Ok...now it's just stopped.

I'm sure every single one of the seniors in Richmond -- and probably in the US -- has experienced this at one point in their four years in high school.

I have actually been in class when the clock stopped.

It was 8:50 in the morning for two

two weeks straight.

It seems like it happens ever since we were freshmen, but this year it's hit hard. Every senior is exhausted beyond belief and can't wait until graduation. We're counting down the days.

62 days to be exact.

I know we're all just itching to get out of here, especially once the weather

“What I'm trying to say is to enjoy this time while you can. It won't last forever.”

starts getting nice. Nothing is more agonizing than sitting in a class and

looking out the window and seeing a beautiful cloudless day waiting for us to go enjoy it.

If it doesn't rain, which it always does.

can be a challenge. Many people are intimidated by the technological skills required to be a part of the team. The rest simply are not willing to make the time commitment.

Despite this, the team was able to pull together to create a robot to contend with teams all across the state. Becoming a serious contender in Michigan is no easy task, since Michigan has more robotics teams than any other state.

Your first competition is sure to shock you. Walking into the pits, you can smell the mechanical grease on the robot chains.

The soundtrack of the game is a symphony of power-tools making last minute adjustments to the product of six weeks of dedication and teamwork. As these teams prepare to clash, you are nearly guaranteed to see something you would never witness in any other sport.

The opposing teams are helping each other. In 2012, our first year as a team, the computer code which ran our robot mysteriously stopped working. As one half of the programming team, I was under immense pressure to solve the problem fast. While my brother and I feverishly worked to fix the problem, we were approached by a well-established team who offered us aid. As they taught me how to solve our problem, I could not help but

But let's take a minute to calm down. What are we going to do with our newfound free time?

Hint: It involves work and sleep. Don't forget, you won't see these same faces every day. You will be in a different world. We have been in this class together for years, comfortable dealing with the same people every day.

It's going to be weird.

These people that we've become so used to seeing every day suddenly won't be there anymore. Our worlds will be filled with different people that we don't know. Strangers.

wonder, “Why would they help us? We're the competition!” As the day went by, it slowly became apparent to me.

These students were united by a love of what they do and the desire to see it spread. Because of this, the teams have found a way to compete while offering advice, words of encouragement, and even donating spare parts or expertise to teams down on their luck. The F.I.R.S.T. organization has named this concept “Cooperation.”

Cooperation [*Koh-op-w-tish-un*] *noun, verb* – The highest level of sportsmanship when opposing teams compete while simultaneously aiding each other in order to better the experience for everybody.

As I near the end of my senior year, I look back on what robotics has given me. The opportunity to be part of a team, hands on business training, an understanding of modern technology and mechanical engineering that few high school students could hope for, and a deep appreciation for the concept of cooperation that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Preparing to cross the threshold, the real world looming before me, I remember everything that this team has taught me and think, “Bring it on world. I'm ready for you now.”

Once in a while, we may see old schoolmates, but we won't see them every day for the rest of our lives.

What I'm trying to say is to enjoy this time while you can. It won't last forever.

This is our last year of high school; we should enjoy it and have fun while it lasts.

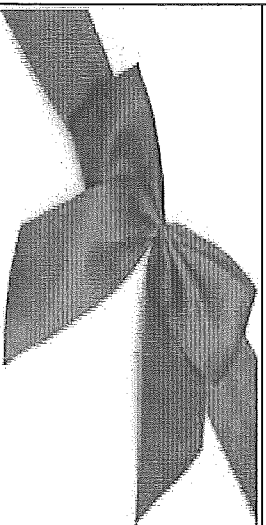
We all dream that after high school, we will stay friends with the friends we have now for a long, long time. But in reality, we will all move on with our lives and leave a lot of old friends behind.

Have fun while you can, because once this year is over, we are all going to say we want to go back to these days.

Maybe having the clock stop for a while wouldn't be such a bad thing.

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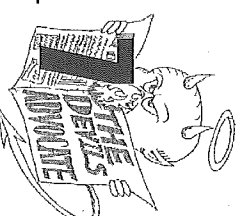
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Opinion

March 26, 2013

In Our Opinion



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Mission Statement
Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devils' 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.nj.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.

Staff Editorial: Spring Break

Spring Has Sprung! The trees are getting greener, days are getting longer, and students' attention spans are getting shorter as we inch ever closer to the end of the year.

Well, because of the recent weather, perhaps it's only happening in our minds. Still, this can only mean one thing...

...SPRING BREAK!!!

That's right! That magical time much revered by high school students is only a few days away.

For most of us, this means tropical vacations, days on the beach, and minimal parental supervision. As great as this all sounds (and it does sound pretty great) there can be a dark side to this season of rebirth. Anyone who has seen the new movie *Spring Breakers* will understand.

For those of you who have not, *Spring Breakers* is basically about four high school girls who raise money for the vacation of their lives through less than honorable means. What starts out as "fun" for the girls quickly turns into a downward spiral in which they completely lose control of their situation. Although most of us could probably think of ways to fund our vacations better than staging a heist, the movie still makes a rather valid point about teens on spring break. Now, you may want to sit down for this, because it could be a bit of a shock. Teens occasionally make bad decisions.

Now take a moment to catch your breath. It can be hard to believe, we know, but it happens every year. Spring Break is nationally famous for the poor decisions made during this time. The saddest part of it all is that this could be easily avoided.

Decisions made during Spring Break can affect the rest of your life. Now, spring break lasts about ten days. Why would anybody risk their future for ten days of fun?

Some of you thinkers out there may need a little more evidence before you are convinced that it's better to play it

safe. Luckily, Mathematicians have come up with a simple equation proving that taking risks on spring break is not a good idea.

Here it is:
10 days < The rest of your life.

This discovery was so groundbreaking, that experts had to come up with another equation to explain its effect on the human mind. It goes like this:

MIND = BLOWN!

Now that we've gotten rid of any doubts you may have, it's time to tell you how to the right decisions.

In the end, it all comes down to common sense. If you need to stop and think about whether or not something is the right thing to do, then it probably is not.

If you fear that you may be lacking the common sense required for these decisions, then think of somebody in your life that you look up to. It could be your parents, grandparents, uncle, the president, Gandhi, etc.

Imagine that you have already done the act and you now have to tell them about it. If you would feel embarrassed or ashamed telling them, then do not do it.

If that does not work, think about the people who may look up to you. This is for those of you who may have younger siblings. What if your little brother or sister found out what you did? Would they be hurt? Would they be sad? Worst of all, would they try to copy you? Imagine how you affect their life with your decisions.

There are so many ways to have fun without endangering yourself. Go to the beach, shop at the mall, go to a theme park, surf, read a book (It sounds crazy, we know. Just trust us.), or see a movie. Just do not do anything you wouldn't want posted on Facebook or seen on the news.

While you're on break, if you feel pressured into doing something you know is stupid and wrong, just remember the equation:
Walk + Away.

don't waste your time with this person and you spend your time with friends who care about you and will appreciate your honesty.

Another thing is when the friend asks you for advice and they don't take it. So being the great friend that you are, you spend all day thinking about how your friend should handle the situation they are in and in the morning, you proudly walk up to them and explain your amazing idea. Then they don't accept your advice.

It makes you ask, "Why would you ask for my advice if you are just going to deny it and do the complete opposite of what I say?"

These "friends" are not worth your extra time (which is scarce nowadays) and you deserve real friends who can not only respect your opinion and advice, but can do the same for you when you need their honest opinion.

Words of advice: Don't ask for the truth if you can't handle it.

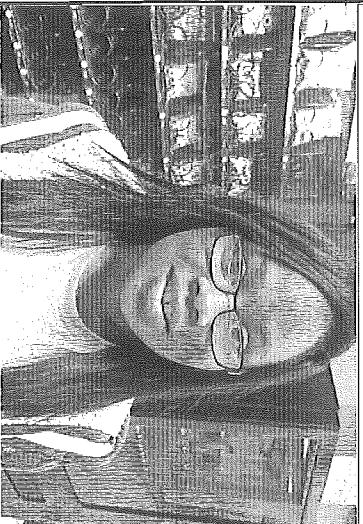
Question of the Week *~*~* What are your plans for Spring Break?

Staff



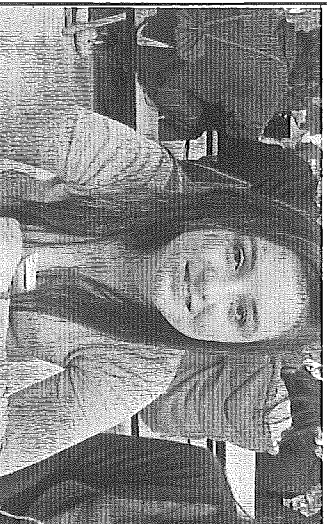
Mrs. Wolle sees Spring Break as a time to organize and catch up on much needed sleep.

Senior



Jenna Bruinsma is migrating south for the season and heading to Florida for warmer weather.

Junior



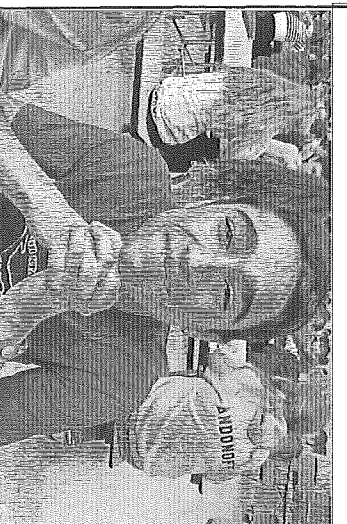
Taylor Deal will be spending spring under the stars with a camping trip.

Sophomore



Beau Brockett Plans to jam with his band over break.

Freshman



Stephan Fenwick's idea of a good Spring Break is spending it with friends.

Katie Radz-Rant

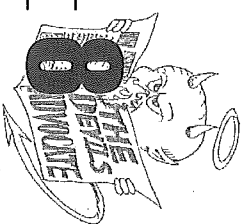
When a close friend asks you for an honest opinion, you have two ways of responding. Either you can sugarcoat the truth and lie to your friend. But that makes you not a good friend at all.

Or you can give them your honest opinion and tell them the straight up truth, and be the true friend that you really are.

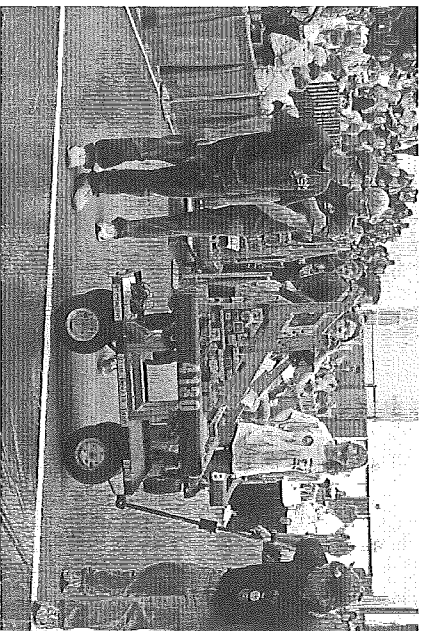
You would think that if you gave your "friend" what they really wanted, they would be pleased and appreciate that you cared enough about them to be brutally honest. However, sometimes you get that one "friend" that asks for the truth, but then can't handle it when you tell them, and it turns into a big fight, and, unfortunately, can split the two of you apart. In one word: DRAMA.

The quick fix for this is simple. If this person was a so-called true friend, wouldn't they respect your opinion? That's why you don't

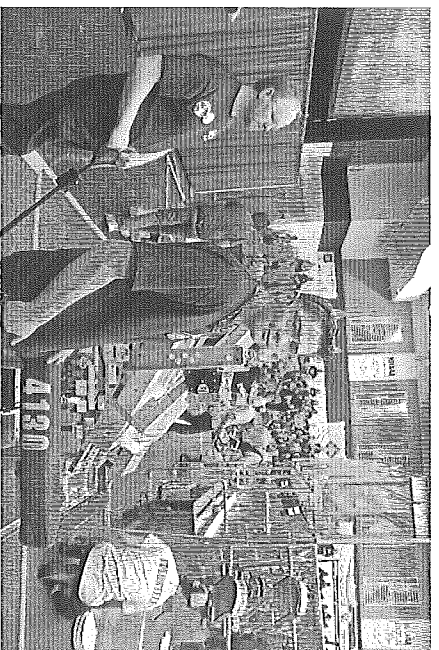
In Our Opinion



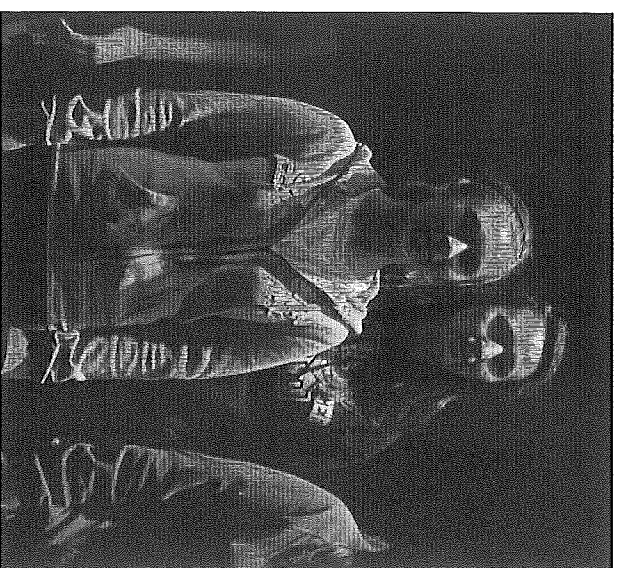
Robotics Waterford Tournament!



The robotics team attends the Waterford district F.I.R.S.T. Robotics competition. The team progressed to the quarter finals and ended up placing thirteenth out of forty teams. This Friday, they will be attending another competition in Troy where they hope to secure a spot in the state championship.

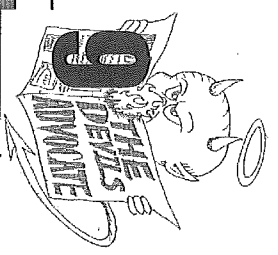


Chorale Goes To States!



On March 13, Chorale and Concert Choir went to MSVMA Choral Festival. Chorale returned home with a division 4 rating, which means that Chorale is going on to compete at the state level some time in May. For this the girls will sing a third song, the Orkney Lullaby, as well as the two songs they performed at the district level.

Entertainment



MONTHLY "MUST-SEES"

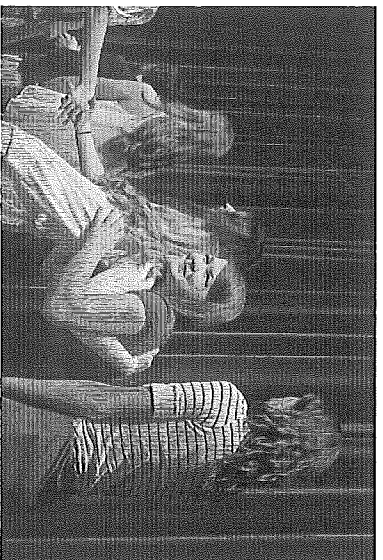
- Drama**
- Safe Haven
- Comedy**
- Silver Linings Playbook
- Identity Thief
- The Incredible Burt Wonderstone
- 21 and Over
- Action and Adventure**
- A Good Day To Die Hard
- Snitch
- Mystery and Suspense**
- The Call
- Dark Skies
- Dead Man Down
- Family/Animated
- Escape from Planet Earth

Source: www.movies.com

Would you rather?

- ...stay home for two weeks on spring break or travel somewhere for only one week?
- Kayla Rostron, junior, would rather go somewhere else for one week
- ...be the best player on a bad team or the worst player on a great team?
- Justin Volmer, sophomore, would rather be the best on the worst team
- ...give bad advice or receive bad advice?
- Ally Swantek, freshman, would rather get bad advice from someone else.
- ...relive your freshman or your senior year?
- Gabby Oddo, senior, would rather relive her senior year.

NHS Induction Ceremony

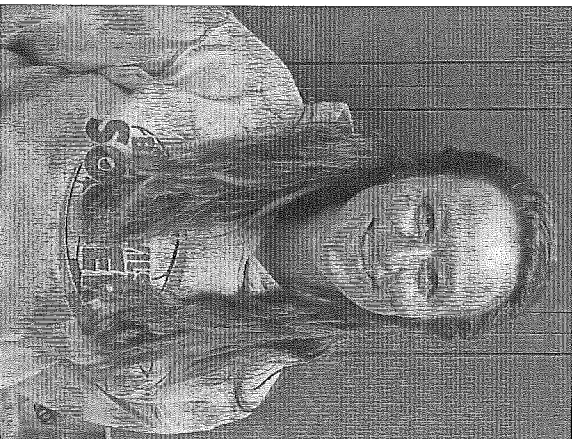


On Sunday, March 17th, new members were inducted into the NHS. Before being inducted, members from the NHS came and passed out balloons to the new inductees. One of the highlights of the night was when Katie Townsend (left), a new inductee, hugged her older sister, Hannah Townsend as she followed in her footsteps and joined the club. (Photo courtesy to *RHS Yearbook*)

Julie McCuiston, senior, has been singing her whole life. She started to sing to an audience when she was in middle school.

"It helps me express myself in a way that nothing else can," said McCuiston.

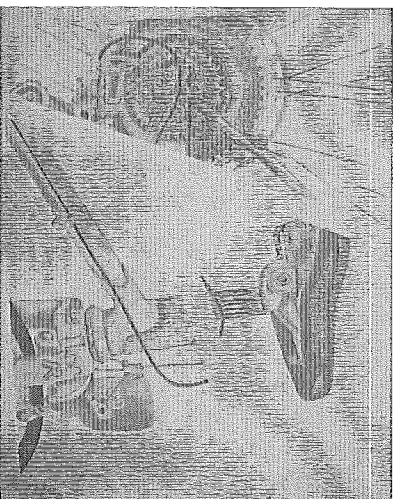
McCuiston is a part of the RHS chorale and has been since she was a freshman.



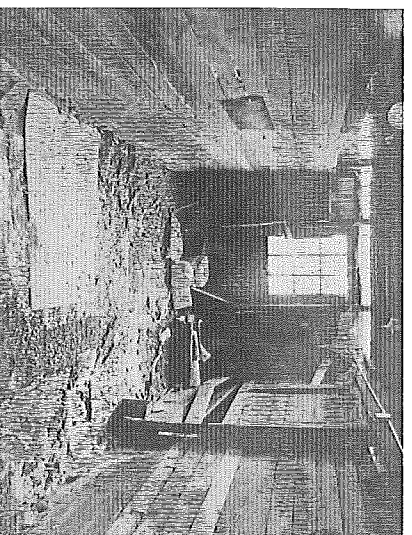
Julie McCuiston

TALENT SPOTLIGHT

Show us your stuff!



Heriberto Alfaro, Draw II, Pencil, 12th grade



Julie McCuiston, Photo II, Black and White Photography, 12th grade

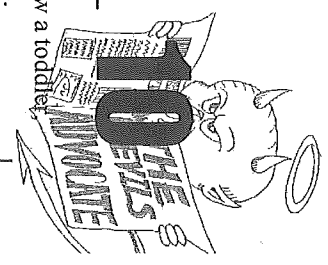


Carley Carroll, Draw I, pen and ink, 9th grade

Features

March 26, 2013

Features and News



Miracle in Mississippi

Baby in Mississippi cured from HIV

By: Lizzie Urban
News Editor

A baby in Mississippi that was born with the HIV or Aids Virus was cured as of early March. The baby began treatment for the virus just 30 hours after its birth.

Now two-and-a-half years later, the baby is now considered cured by the doctors who treated it.

This finding could change how all infants and children who test positive for HIV are treated. This cure could potentially be used on them as well.

In this case, the infant contracted the disease from its mother, who tested positive for HIV.

According to the website, science.howstuffworks.com, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has been one of the most devastating pandemics the world has faced.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that causes AIDS. It was first found in 1981 in an area of remote central Africa. Since then it has affected society worldwide. AIDS

has brought death to more than 28 million people, with up to 3.6 million people dying in 2005 alone.

Every 9.5 minutes, one person in the United States is affected by this disease. That's approximately 50,000 Americans, each year. That doesn't include those who suffer from the disease, and don't know it.

Usually, mothers who test positive with HIV are treated with anti-HIV drugs to help prevent the possibility of their baby getting the disease. In the United States and in Europe less than 2 in 100 babies are born with HIV, even if their mother does have it.

If the mother is treated before their child's birth and the baby is treated soon after being born, with the anti-HIV drugs, the baby has a small risk of getting it.

In this case, the mother received no previous medical attention, prior to going into labor.

While at the hospital, doctors were concerned that she had contracted the disease and she was given a test that determined that she might be HIV positive. This caused doctors to give the baby the medicine as a precautionary action.

What are you doing for Spring Break?

By: Jacob Thomas
Sports Editor

The beach, warm weather and lots of sunshine; it sounds like time for spring break.

Many students and families across the United States will pack up and travel to the south indulging themselves with warm weather, while others will stay put in the dreary wet climates of the north.

The spring brings more than just warm weather though. It brings the start of baseball season and March

Madness for a sports fan. Not to mention, it means summer is just around the corner with twelve weeks to go.

Popular locations for spring break are Myrtle Beach, Cancun and Orlando, but the most pop-

ular spot for Richmond High Schoolers is Panama City, Florida.

Senior Ashley Barrett will be visiting Panama City along with 25 other seniors for spring break.

"My favorite part of the trip was all

the free food and ice cream," said Yore.

It will be the first time Ashley is going on away on spring break by herself.

"I'm excited to go by myself for the first time," said Barrett.

Of course the best part of being in Florida will be enjoying the warm weather on the beach.

"It's going to be a great time. The best part will be going to the beach and meeting new people," said Barrett.

Sophomore Dylan Yore recently experienced a cruise to the Bahamas for a spring break trip.

"I went with my family to the Bahamas. The

This was a smart option to take. The baby, now a toddler is considered to be cured of this vicious disease.

Mr. Schleder, Anatomy teacher, said, "Medically this offers hope for cures of other diseases. It shows that if we stick to finding a cure, it can happen."

However, considering that this child didn't actually test positive, this is just a possibility of finding a permanent cure.

Similar to other pandemics through out history, a lot of people who contract the disease result in death, because factors hinder their ability to take care of themselves. People who can afford health care, have a better chance of surviving this disease. They have the resources to stay healthy, while those who are less fortunate, don't have those same resources.

If kept healthy, people have a better chance of surviving this disease.

The problem is a lot of individuals that have HIV, live in developing nations, where healthcare is less available. They aren't able to take care of themselves.

As a society, this is given a new hope to children who have contracted the HIV virus. In addition, it is also more cost effective, as children who are cured as infants, won't need life-long treatment.

This is a giant leap forward for the medical field, and it brings hope that other incurable diseases will one day be able to have a vaccine and a cure.

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cruise was for 7 days," said Yore.

Recently there was a cruise that broke down and lost power on the ship. The people were left stranded for a week on the ship. Unfortunately, the Yore's experienced this on their trip.

"The ship broke down and the crew didn't know what to do, so we were stuck on the ship for two days and had to take a plane back to Florida," said Yore.

Although there were some flaws to the trip, Dylan still enjoyed the time away.

"My favorite part of the trip was all the free food and ice cream," said Yore.

Dylan has been to Florida previously as well.

"I have been to Florida before on a spring break trip. I went with a group of friends to Panama City and it was a great time.

Even though Dylan had a great experience his first time going to Florida with friends, he said he enjoys being with family more on Spring Break.

Dylan plans on staying home and playing baseball with his time off from school next week.

Disney World is also a popular spot for a spring break trip as well.

Emily Showers is one of many that will be visiting Disney World for spring break.

"I'm going with Summer Teeters and her family to Disney World," said Showers.

Emily is excited for the warm weather that waits in sunny Orlando, Florida.

"I get to go to the beach and wear a bathing suit which is really exciting," said Showers.

Emily is excited to revisit Disney World again as she plans on visiting Animal Kingdom, Epcot and Magic Kingdom as well as the water parks.

"I'm excited to get the Princess's autograph at Disney World. That will be the best part of the trip," she said.

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