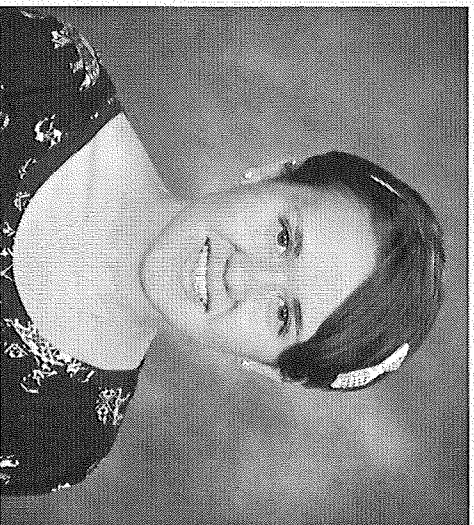


Star Students of the Month



Haley Fortuna

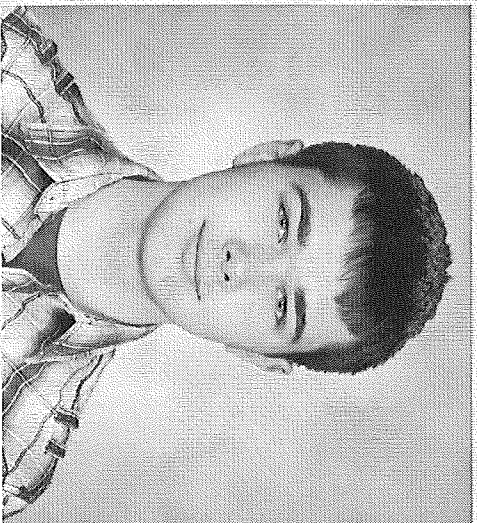
Favorite subject: English

Favorite activity outside of school: Theatre

Role Model: Her mom

Favorite thing about high school: The higher expectations and challenges

Goals for the Future: To be valedictorian and go to a college out of state



Eric Brinkey

Favorite subject: History

Favorite activity outside of school: Painting

Role Model: Dr. Ladd

Favorite thing about high school: Getting a higher education

Goals for the Future: To attend college

Bergen Brothers to Reunite

By: Nick Thomas
News Editor

Many students look forward to summer vacation and a nice three month break from school. Many students will go on vacations and do exciting things with their family. Joe Bergen is among some of these students. Joe Bergen, senior, will be going down to Virginia for a week this summer to visit some of his family members.

"I'm going down there in August to see my older brother, Paul," said Bergen. "The last time I saw him was six months ago."

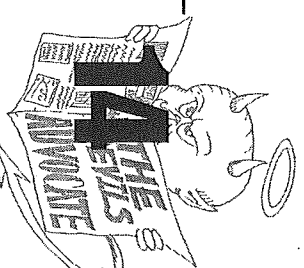
Joe's older brother, Paul Bergen, is in the Navy and Joe rarely sees him because of it. "I'm lucky if I get to see him twice a year," said Bergen. "We're really close so when I do see him we do a lot together and hangout."

When Joe goes down to Virginia to see his brother, he is going with his father and some of his family from his dad's said of his family. "I get to see him in August when we go to Virginia because he's coming home from a classified mission he had go on in Dubai," said Bergen.

Bergen and his family have gone to visit his brother before over the summer, last year Joe and his family went to West Virginia to see Paul.

"We went and saw him last year in West Virginia. This year we're going to see him in Virginia. It just depends on where he's stationed," said Bergen

Everyone who has an older sibling knows that as being the younger sibling, you look up to your older brother or sister and learn from their choices and experiences. This is especially true for Joe since his older brother is in the



Navy.

"Having my older brother be in the Navy teaches me a lot. He's had a big impact on me. He's taught me to not think about myself but to think about other and the greater common good," said Bergen.

Not only does Joe look forward to going down to Virginia to see his brother, he is also excited to spend time with his family and enjoy the weather.

"I don't usually go on a lot of vacations with my family so I'm excited to do that, and I've heard Virginia is really nice so I'm excited for that too," said Bergen.

Joe's older brother is 28 and has been in the Navy for nine years and five months as of right now. He's been deployed in the Middle East since January and will be coming home in August when Joe and his family go to visit him. Paul plans to stay in the Navy for 10 more years and then plans to retire.

Joe's older brother was always there for Joe and was always home when Joe was younger. After Paul graduated he went to the Navy and moved out of the house.

"When my brother moved out, it wasn't easy for me. He was always there and when he moved out, I missed him. I'm glad we're still close though," said Bergen, who said he talks to Paul on Facebook about once a week.

When Joe and his family go down to Virginia to see Paul, Joe is excited to hang out with him like when they were younger.

"We'll go to the beach and do some fun stuff together and chill at the hotel. Whenever I go to see him we always have a good time so I'm looking forward to it," said Bergen.

Dr. Ladd

Continued from page 13

It is all about teaching the kids about the sport of track," he said.

The two years he taught at Algonac were because he wanted to be the head coach again, but he soon realized he did not like head coaching.

Dr. Ladd said, "I am a teacher that coaches, not a coach that teaches. To be a varsity head coach, you have to be fully committed, and I am not. My passion is teaching."

Outside of school in general, Dr. Ladd puts all of his focus on his family. He has a wife that he has been married to since they were 19,

two daughters—one who lives in New York and another who is the girls' varsity track coach, — and a grandson named Marek.

It is through Marek that Dr. Ladd tries to pass on important lessons he has learned.

"I try to teach him to be honest and to care about other people," he said.

Dr. Ladd is still not done becoming a better person himself.

He said, "If everyone does a little to get better, the whole world gets better. I have an obligation to improve myself and others."

A good person is ultimately what Dr. Ladd wants to be remembered for.

He said, "I want to be remembered as a person that people thought was honest and never compromised integrity."

The Last Song

By: Emma Gillem
Staff Writer

On May 29 at McMorran Place at 7:00 PM, the seniors of RHS will walk across stage to get their diplomas to begin a new chapter in their life.

Before this huge step in all of their lives, the RHS Band will be performing.

The band will be playing a song from *Phantom of the Opera* immediately after all seniors walk on stage giving them one more chance to perform all together.

One senior who will be playing their final song with this group is Marc Lagrois. Lagrois has been in band for seven years and is excited but sad to be performing one last time with this group.

"I like that we will play after we walk because we are already going to be excited from that and not that nervous," Lagrois said. "We will do just fine."

Lagrois plans on going to college after graduation and hopes to be able to still play a little bit. "It's been in my life for so long I'm not planning on just stopping," he said.

Senior Joe Gusumano, who has also been in band for seven years, also feels the same. "I'm very excited but also sad," Gusumano said. "Excited because I'm finally graduating but sad because it's the last time I get to play with this group of seniors."

With both seniors feeling the same way it is easy to see that they love this activity.

"It's hard to believe my high school band career has finally come to an end," Gusumano said. "I remember first joining band and the first time I played in front of my grade, and now I'm playing in front of all of them one last time in a little less than 15 days."

However, they have been practicing for this occasion for a few weeks now.

"We started practicing for this right after our spring play was finished," Gusumano said.

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