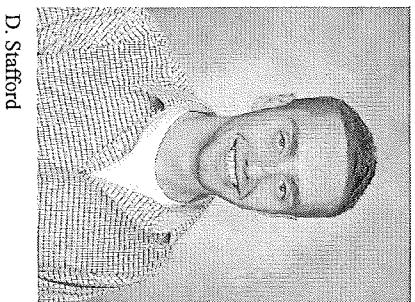


He's not cutting class... He's cutting grass

By: Beth Beindit
Staff Writer

Dave Stafford, senior, has been cutting away at his future.

It all began at the age of 10 for Stafford. His neighbor decided to ask Stafford to cut his lawn because he was too busy and didn't have enough time to get it done. So, Stafford got the job done.



D. Stafford

Stafford's other two neighbors noticed him outside cutting grass and requested Stafford's services as well. After reaching three clients, Stafford realized how much money he could make especially if he expanded his clientele and business.

So he took baby steps. "I began to make a couple crappy business cards and flyers to pass out," said Stafford.

Each season, Stafford managed to pull in more and more clients. Almost two seasons in, his dad bought a new lawn mower as a starter for him, which eventually Dave had to pay for.

Most people don't know that Stafford runs his business all on his own; his dad and mom do not help him with it.

Stafford said, "I wanted to be my own boss. I did not want to work for someone that tells me what I need to do."

He said it's something he's always wanted to do. Running his own business provides him with self-gratification and pushes him to follow his dreams.

Maturity and independence are key skills when managing a business.

"I used to want my mom to talk to my customers on the phone because I was afraid to. That fear got erased quickly when my mom told me that if I didn't start talking to my customers my business will be over," he said.

This made Stafford realize that he had to take charge and stop being scared because he had nothing to lose going.

Stafford knew he had a lot of potential in this field to become successful. He was determined and motivated to reach the highest point of success that he possibly could.

Having to run a business forces owners to be independent, especially Stafford. It surely has been giving him a taste of the real world.

His parents stopped buying him things so he has to purchase his own clothes, shoes, and so on. They also do not give him money to go out to eat or for gas.

"I had to learn how to manage money, time, expenses (payroll and taxes), team members (employees) and all the needs of my customers," added Stafford.

He said it can often be difficult because he has to remember to do all of those jobs on top of all the other work during the day. Days can get really long and busy.

Around 6:00am, Stafford's day begins. He wakes up and gets all the equipment ready for the day ahead. Stafford and his team usually begin work between 6:30 and 7am and finish at about 4pm—sometimes even later depending on the day.

"We don't have such things as 'breaks'. Our breaks are the truck rides between jobs," added Stafford.

After leaving the last job site, Stafford's work doesn't end. He has to put all the customer information into the computer for billing purposes.

Stafford says being young and managing a business himself can get the best of him especially because he has a very busy social life; he somehow has to balance high school as well as the activities that come along with it and his job.

Time management is very important. Today, Stafford runs a full service landscaping company, which means full lawn service (mowing, trimming, edging, blowing), fertilization programs, landscape design, tree and shrub trimming, spring and fall clean-ups, mulching. In addition, Stafford's company also does paving and brick work such as retaining walls.

Stafford said, "I started with one customer and now I maintain near 30 lawns per week—commercial and residential."

But, wait, look out there's a new blade clipping the grass.

Juniors Brad Pedri and Bret Zihlavsky have decided to create their own lawn care business

this summer (B&B's Lawncare).

There will be some local competition in town for Dave Stafford.

Stafford said, "What does it mean to be the best? It means you have to be better than the number two guy. But what gratification is there in that? Competition is good because it allows your company to reach its full potential and full efficiency. This is important because you don't want your customers to go to someone else. Competition just makes my business better."

Pedri and Zihlavsky are not worried about the competition, either.

Pedri said, "Competition helps our business improve for the benefit of the customer. It's all about making the customer happy."

This summer won't be the only time Pedri has been mowing away.

He said, "I did it last year by myself, and this year Bret is going to help me with it."

B&B provide customers with weekly cutting, trimming and clean-up.

Throughout this experience, Pedri and Zihlavsky hope to learn how to establish a good work ethic and how to run the hurdles of a business.

B&B's Lawncare company is mainly a summer job.

Zihlavsky said, "Brad and I tend to get busy with sports and school during the school year so this summer we'll have more open time to run the business."

B&B's Lawncare is set to open at the beginning of May.

Zihlavsky said, "I'm excited to start. It'll be nice to have some extra money for the summer."

Zihlavsky isn't the only one looking forward to the summer.

Pedri said, "We both wanted to make some money over the summer and running a lawn care business provides us with something productive to do."

Although Stafford hopes to continue his business, his sights on college haven't vanished. He will most likely be attending Oakland University in the fall for business. But being away at college won't stop the business from growing.

Stafford said, "I will have a couple of my team members run the business when I'm at college and am unable to work at certain times."

etann War and her brother currently serving in the Marines has given her an interest in the military forces.

"With my brother serving in the Marines and both of my grandfathers having served I want to give back and serve our country," said Allen.

Most people who know Allen probably wouldn't expect a military future, but the increased amount of women and the mental toughness required in the armed forces are a couple of reasons she may enlist.

"Women are getting more and more jobs in the military providing more opportunities after high school. The military breaks you down and brings you back up as a person. They turn your life around," said Allen.

A backup plan is in place though if Allen decides not to go in the military.

"I would like to go to Ferris State University to study criminal justice if I end up not going into the military," said Allen.

Allen says the best part of criminal justice would be helping others.

"I want to stop people from doing harm and help deceased victims. I would like to do missing persons and be a part of the FBI if I could," said Allen.

Marching on after graduation

By: Jacob Thomas
News Editor

Joining the military is a brave decision.

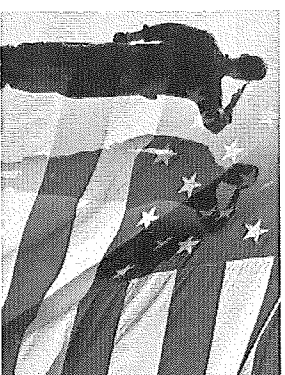
A couple of RHS students, seniors Aubrie Allen and Brian Coleman, have made the choice to possibly put themselves in position for a future career in the United States military.

Brian Coleman has enlisted to be a part of the Marines.

"I have enlisted in the Marines. It is a really good opportunity for me because I will be able to see more of the country and receive many benefits being in the Marines," said Coleman. Coleman plans to serve a four year term once he graduates high school.

"I signed a contract in July to serve a four year term. I had to first interview and take the ASVAB test and then I was able to sign the contract," said Coleman.

The ASVAB is a qualifying test for the mili-



tary applicants to see what jobs they may qualify for.

"I plan on being a legal administrator of some sort or possibly a military court reporter," said Coleman.

There is much to gain from being a part of the military as well.

"I really think that I can gain more individual skills and grow as a person which is one of the biggest reasons I wanted to enlist," said Coleman.

Coleman would recommend others to pursue a military career.

"I would recommend it because you don't have college debt and the training is good. Your marketability increases as well and there are many opportunities that exist after your term is up," said Coleman.

Aubrie Allen is possibly looking towards a future in the Air Force.

Having both grandfathers' served in the Vi-

Features and Games

WORD SEARCH

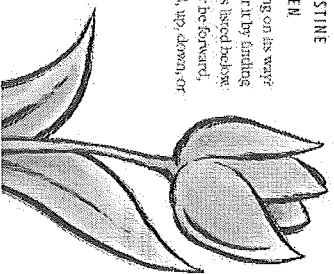
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Search for Spring

BY CHRISTINE SORENSEN
Is spring on its way? Search for it by finding the words listed below. They may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.



A E T A O N K E M E G M U T Y O L L Y

Amusement
birds
blossoms
breeze
bugs
bunnet
Christ
Easter
eggs
flowers
fun
general conference

grass
joy
kite
puddle
rifle
Resurrection
seeds
spring
sprouts
sunshine
tree
umbrella

7	4	2		6			
		5				9	2
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HOROSCOPES

Aries 3/21-4/20

You're ready for summer but it's not quite here yet. To thoroughly enjoy the summer you have to succeed through the rest of the school year. Don't give up. Summer will be worth the work.

Car: Boat-mobile

Taurus-4/21-5/21

You're a fighter. Don't forget to fight for what you believe in. Stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. There will be times when you have to fight with yourself. However, as long as you keep reminding yourself of your own values, you will overcome the obstacles.

Car: Snow Plow

Gemini-5/22-6/21

Just remember that life has a lot of up and downs. Just remember to keep a strong head high above your shoulders. Don't be too focused on the downs but don't get too cocky about the ups. Cherish the life you have in its entirety; the good and the bad.

Car: Monster Truck

Cancer-6/22-7/22

Don't be tempted to fall into your shell. Keep yourself social. It may be tempting to isolate yourself from the world and all the anxieties of life, but the only cure to your problems are being social.

Car: Volkswagen

Leo-7/23-8/21

Don't take advantage of the people in your life. When you face troubles, they will be there to help you if you keep them around. Friendship is crucial in this time of your life. It would be wise to keep your friends closer than your enemies.

Car: Bus

Virgo-8/22-9/23

Creativity is what fuels you. Use your imagination to help you through troubling times at life. Think with pictures and see with colors. Don't let the gray of stress mute your colors. Shine through the rough times in your life.

Car: Ford Escape

Libra-9/24-10/23

Knowledge is power. Research is the tool. When solving a problem don't forget to use your head. Leave emotions from your decisions for a while. They tend to cloud your judgment. Knowledge on the problem will create a solution that will benefit you in the end.

Car: Smart car

Scorpio-10/24-11/22

Don't overlook the obvious. Sometimes what you want is right in front of you. Whether what you want is love or money, the answer may be in your life already. Don't overthink your problems or you'll lose the answer.

SUDOKU

Car: Jeep

Sagittarius-11/23-12/22

Money has a huge influence on things right now. Financial transactions may benefit you but don't forget to save for a rainy day. Think before you waste money. There may be a time where you want what you already have.

Car: SUV

Capricorn-12/21-1/20

Along with the change in weather comes the change of life. Keep a steady pace as the things around you begin to change. Find stability in your life and don't take advantage of the people that are there to help you.

Car: Convertible

Aquarius-1/21-2/19

Romance has a strong influence in your life right now. While making decisions from the heart, make sure to include the mind. Look before you leap. Fall for someone who will catch you.

Car: Mini-Tan

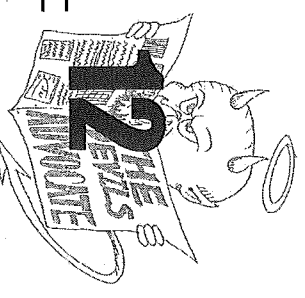
Pisces-2/20-3/20

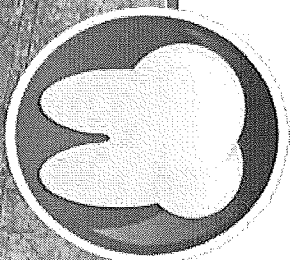
Don't forget that you control your own life. Others may impose rules to bring you down but you need to be your own pilot. Make your own decisions based on what makes you happy, even if they're hard to make.

Car: Truck

Features

MAY 5, 2014





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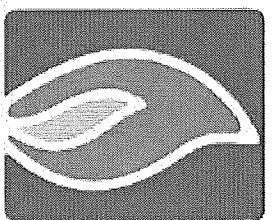
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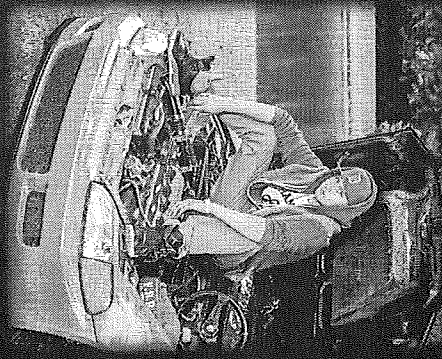
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