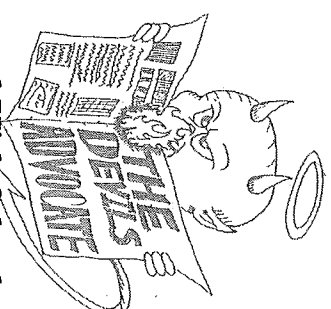


The BLUE DEVIL'S

Advocate

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Turning in a Gift this Holiday Season

By: Alexa Dentai
Co-News Editor

'Tis the season at Richmond High School.

Every year at RHS, there is a Giving Tree in the Media Center that students who are willing to make a change in the community can donate to.

This year, students, staff and the community are able to donate to a women's and children's shelter in Mount Clemens called Turning Point.

But what is Turning Point? Turning Point shelters women and children from domestic and sexual abuse.

In the past year the shelter has given refuge to 356 children and 2,441 women.

Although, it isn't just a shelter. There is also counseling, or therapy, for victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault.

Last year Turning Point counseled over 2,985 clients. 528 of the clients were children.

Some gifts on the shelter's list include gift cards to any store or gas station, paper or foam plates, disposable utensils, styrofoam cups, garbage bags, sandwich bags, dish or hand soap, clothes for toddlers and older children, diapers, baby wipes and much more.

Matt Bauman, senior, said, "I do donate. Knowing that the items aren't too expensive or not expensive at all, and knowing that I can help make lives better, is the reason I donate. Also, Mr. Murphy's persistence helps."

Mr. Murphy, English teacher, is the advisor of Key Club.

Mr. Murphy said, "We've had good communication with Turning Point throughout the past years of working with them. I think they benefit from the generosity of Richmond. It's a good organization who helps women and children in difficult situations."

Mr. Murphy added, "I emailed Vicki Putnam, who is Turning Point's Office Manager, in November and she sent a list. I also emailed out the list of needed items to Richmond Community School's teachers and staff. The staff always participates and is very generous."

After Key Club delivers items to Turning Point, they are very, very grateful. Turning Point helps unload the presents and they send a letter to the Key Club thanking them for what they have done.

A member of Key Club, Kylie McCloskey, junior, said, "I donated socks and hand soap because I like knowing that I am making a difference in people's lives."

The artificial tree in the Media Center holds a variety of colored paper ornaments that has gifts needed written on them.

The ornaments, shaped like trees, mittens or stars, can either be green, pink, yellow, white, or any other colors.

Key Clubbers cut out the ornaments, wrote on them, and took paper clips to hang them on the tree.

McCloskey said, "It was a fun project to do. It was even better since I got to decorate with my friends, especially Emma Perry." Emma Perry, a junior, has been a

part of Key Club since freshmen year and has helped take part in the Giving Tree every year.

Perry said, "It's always fun to decorate the tree. I do it every year. This year I donated paper plates; it's something simple but will hopefully help them a lot."

However, people who donate aren't necessarily in Key Club.

Haley Dzialewski, junior, said, "I like to help out kids that don't have much and would like to help them have a fantastic Christmas.

I have decided to help out by buying socks and lotion."

There are also people who would've liked to donate before but had never gotten the chance.

Bailey Pierik, senior, said, "I never knew that there was a giving tree here at the high school. I regret not donating earlier to help others when they needed it the most."

The Giving Tree has been around at RHS for many years.

Pierik said, "Turning Point is so much more than just a shelter or counseling place to help others. They seem to give hope and support to everyone who needs it, and that is one of the reasons this season means a lot to people, including myself. I plan to donate sandwich bags and paper plates this year."

Donating even the simplest items, that some people may take for granted, can change lives for people

who live in the shelter. The women and children who live in the shelter share beds, meals and their everyday lives with one another.

Their stories, what they went through that led them to the shelter, give them hope for a better future.

After leaving the shelter, women and children reported that they felt 82% more in control of their lives, and 76% felt more hopeful for their future.

"I've always been impressed with our school's generosity over these years. We, as a school community, have been very fortunate to work with Turning Point, as it is an organization that truly gives light to people in need," said Mr. Murphy.

gaged. In a competition, the competitors complete a 100-question test that focuses on a specific event that they chose. There is an incredibly wide range of events. There are more than 30 events.

Bauman said, "They recently added a new event to DECA, but it is not allowed in Michigan. New events are added, so in the future there will be even more."

The events vary from all situations based around finance and business finance. There are events that involve stock trading and advertising jobs. Then they act out the job specified and handle the situation.

Then they create a scenario through role playing where they are scored on how well they pursue the

DECA: Educating Our Future Financers

By: Joe Bergen
Advertising Editor

DECA stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America, and is also known as the largest student organization that associates with business and entrepreneurship. DECA's website says, "DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe."

RHS has a DECA team, having a

roster of 12 competitors with Mr. Brown as the advisor.

The RHS roster includes the following students: Dylan Allor, Matthew Bauman, Sebastian Belt, Christian Falla, and Alex Wyatt, all seniors. As for juniors, the team has Makenzy Gaigalas and Lauren Makyntuk. The sophomore class includes Eric Donato, Raechel McKiernan, Lauren Molnar and Mikayla Evans. And, the only freshman is Clayton Makyntuk.

Only Bauman and Allor have

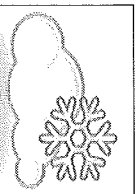
competed in an actual competition so far. They have also both qualified for the States competition. Coach Brown said someone qualifies for States on the team every year.

Since last year, Bauman has done a lot to prepare for this year. He said he took multiple tests titled "Principles of Finance." He also took a "Finance Cluster" test that helps him prepare for DECA this year.

He said, "These tests helped me very well on the district test that I just took. And of course Mr. Brown helped a lot too."

Bauman and Falla both thought they did very well on the test they recently took.

The competition is very unique when it comes to how they are en-



Today's Forecast
Mostly Cloudy
High: 26
Low: 24

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Sports Update.....9,10,11
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Student Star.....15

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Word Search16
Art Comic.....13
Show us your stuff.....13

MYLlead: A New Start For Sophomores

By: Lauren Duché
Staff Writer

It started as a weekend away but turned into a life changing experience.

Mackenzey Gaigalas, a Junior, attended MYLlead last year as a sophomore. MYLlead is a program offered at Michigan State University to all sophomores who want to develop leadership skills, meet new people, and try new things.

"I walked in not knowing anyone and came out with some of my closest friends," she said.

Before the program, Gaigalas noticed it was hard for her to dive head-first into new situations. After MYLlead, however, it was much easier for her to take the plunge.

The young leaders took part in many activities that brought them out of their comfort zones.

One of the workshops involved everyone standing in a straight line. The people in charge would ask for their opinion on a topic and everyone who agreed would go in one line and the people that disagreed would go in the other. By doing this, everyone's voice could be heard.

"This workshop really opened my eyes and showed me I can really share my opinion and not be completely turned down. Even if I am turned down, that's okay because I still have a voice. I might not be impacting a group of people but what I say could impact one person and that's all that matters," she said. Guest speakers were brought in as well to get the youths excited about making a positive impact and to encourage students to help others.

To break the ice, at the start of every day, directors led a series of cheers the young leaders participated in. Not only was it something fun they did, but it also helped them break out of their shells.

She said, "I think the guest speakers and cheers made me realize that

it's okay to be different. It's okay to have different opinions and it's okay to take your own path."

This year, to get the word out about MYLlead, Mackenzey spoke to the sophomores about it.

She said, "I wanted to talk to them about it. Not many people know about it and I wanted to get the word out."

This year, sophomores, Rachel Rigole, Brendan Ray, and Alyssa Gall applied and were accepted into MYLlead.

Rigole has been to leadership camps before and thought this would be a great opportunity. She had been to a leadership camp at CMU and a camp called Lautzenheiser at Port Huron High.

Rigole may become a drum major in the band next year and it's a huge honor. With a new prestigious role, she feels she needs as much help as she can get to improve her skills.

She said, "To be a good drum major you have to be able to take initiative, and I have a hard time with that. I really think these camps with that, and I'm really excited."

Rigole hopes to gain the leadership skills she needs to march the Band to success.

Much like Rigole, Brendan Ray has been to a leadership camp before. He attended the Student Leadership Conference in 2013 and 2014 and plans on going back in the summer of 2015.

He said, "I've been going to the same camp for two years and it's time for a change. I'm going back to SLC, but I think MYLlead will be good for a change."

Ray already notices a difference in his social skills as a result of SLC. He said, "I went from being reserved to outgoing. Now I feel like I can make an impact on others. It's a great feeling."

When Rigole and Ray pack their bags, they'll have an idea of what to expect. Alyssa Gall, however, is

going in not knowing a thing. Gall describes herself as a recluse and wanted to do MYLlead to become more outgoing.

She said, "I'm really shy and I want MYLlead to help me gain social skills. High school is about trying new things and that's what I plan on doing."

Gaigalas recalls feeling overwhelmed when she walked onto the campus for the first time. To help put the three students' minds at ease, she decided to give them some

advice.

She said, "Come in with an open mind. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. Participate. If you don't do the cheers or take part in the activities you won't get anything out of it."

As 2015 approaches, Gaigalas reminisces her experience.

She said, "MYLlead has changed my outlook on life I can voice my opinion without the fear of judgment and I can be myself. It's amazing."

Mulan, Junior: Richmond Aud Embarks on Oriental Journey

By: Maximilian Leesch
Staff Writer

A young woman, defying cultural traditions, brings honor to her family by becoming a soldier, helping defeat the ruthless Huns.

The Richmond Aud Regional Youth Complex has just finished their latest theatrical production, one that is familiar with Disney fans alike. The curtains opened for Mulan Jr. December 12, 13 and 14.

Josiah Pankiewicz of The Richmond Aud directed two separate casts in this production. He has been a part of numerous other shows at The Aud and Mulan Jr. is one that he was elated to direct. "I'm happy with how it's been turning out," said Pankiewicz.

Although he expected to see more kids audition, many who did come to try their hand at acting were new to The Aud, and some, to theatre in general.

One of the newcomers to the realm of acting was junior Alex Goodhand. Goodhand was convinced to audition on the last day auditions were held. He received the role of Shang, a captain of the army in which Mulan enlists. "I was expecting a smaller role," said

advice.

She said, "Come in with an open mind. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. Participate. If you don't do the cheers or take part in the activities you won't get anything out of it."

As 2015 approaches, Gaigalas reminisces her experience.

She said, "MYLlead has changed my outlook on life I can voice my opinion without the fear of judgment and I can be myself. It's amazing."

Goodhand, "I can't complain."

The audition process for Mulan Jr. was the same as other Aud shows. Those auditioning were assigned numbers, each of them sang a snippet of a song, and then they were called up in groups to read cuttings from the script.

Goodhand read through his lines with other members of this cast to learn his lines. Goodhand said that it took "lots of practice" to prepare for this role. Haley Fortuna, freshman, who plays the character Mulan, said, "I talk in my lines throughout the day."

Fortuna, an Aud veteran, said she would also perform her role in front of her family to prepare for the show. "I watched the movie a gazillion and one times," she added.

Playing the spunky and elderly Grandmother Fa, Emma Haack, sophomore, developed her character by researching Fa and her accent. Haack said about her lines, "[I would] read them over a few times and recite them to myself."

There are many familiar Audgoers other than Fortuna and Haack who were part of this production as well, such as Daniel Seguin, sophomore. Seguin played the role of

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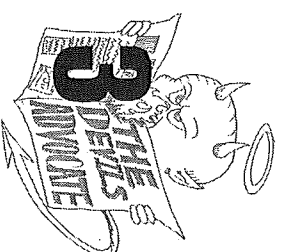
Segment 1 -- \$279.00

- 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. Harbitt for details on upcoming classes.



DECA

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scene. They take notes and explain what they would do within that situation.

The last competition took place on the 9th of December and the role play will take place on the 10th of January. The role play will be at Lake Orion High School.

At the competitions, there is one role play and at states there are two.

Students have been practicing role plays after school at their practices.

They run through the basics and what they may have to do during them. It helps them become more comfortable when they have to do it in front of the

officials.
Preparing for these competitions is very crucial.

Two after school practices a week are required.

More practices can be scheduled if the students want to. Mr. Brown said, "I am always willing to help out more if a student wants to go beyond the limits."

When students practice role plays, they practice broader versions of the ones they can choose from. They are usually allowed 10 minutes to prepare their scenario, then Mr. Brown judges their performance.

Allor is a third year competitor. He said experience is the best way to improve performance in DECA.

Many skills that are developed through participating in this program.

"By being involved with DECA, they learn how to think on their feet more, and learn more interviewing and critical thinking skills," Coach Brown said. He also said they feel more comfortable when talking to powerful people if they are put on

the spot.

Failla said, "I learned more business knowledge and more related business skills." He is a new member this year and is hoping to participate in college.

Some DECA students went to the Palace to watch a Pistons game. But they did not go there only to just watch a basketball game.

Bauman said, "We talked to some of the directors there about their jobs. They had jobs that you wouldn't even think existed. And, they described their business background and everything that goes into making something such as the Palace function properly." Some of the jobs involved are stat recorders that work on social media

such as Twitter and Facebook.
There were people that worked at the Palace that

asked questions, but Mr. Brown had a great question that struck out from all the others. He asked,

"Do your jobs differ based on the performance of the team?" The officials responded, saying yes, the better the team competes, the more people show up to the games.

When the team plays good, more effort is needed. The Palace "field trip" was a fun, educational experience according to members that tagged along.

The students that participate in DECA said they really enjoy it and want to do it in the future.

To the students, this year looks like a success to them. They are determined and motivated to do their very best at the competitions this year.

Sebastian Belt, a new member this year, shared something inspiring he learned while at the Palace: "There are so many different career options in our country. Many different paths can be taken in your life."

Ocegüera and Family enjoy Christmas in Mexico

By: Cecily Mepherston

Opinions Co-Editor

While most of us endure the bitter cold and snow flurries the winter holiday brings, Leslie Ocegüera spends her holiday soaking up the sun in Cancun, Mexico.

Every year, she and her family make the long journey down to Mexico either to visit her dad's family that currently reside there or just to have some fun.

While there, the family stays in her uncle's house.

Leslie said, "Houses in Mexico are not at all like the houses here. You may see the occasional American-inspired home, but for the most part, they're not at all similar." In Mexico, houses are all connected, like condos.

Leslie said that in Mexico, many homes, including her grandma's, have open patios in the back. There are also no hallways. To get from room to room, Leslie has to walk outside through a garden-like patio.

"It may be sort of strange, but it really is beautiful," she said. The trip tends to last up to three weeks, and it is a trip the Ocegüera family has taken ever since Leslie was born.

Leslie enjoys the warm weather most. She said, "The weather's a bit bipolar throughout the day. It is cool in the mornings and really warm in the afternoon."

She will often spend much of her time just soaking up the sun on the beach or around the exquisite city. According to Leslie, Cancun is a city surrounded almost entirely by ocean. It is very tropical and encompasses much life.

In fact, being an avid shopper, Leslie highly enjoys the shopping aspect of her trip.

"Instead of standard malls," Leslie said, "there are many sellers out on the streets, and once a week people set up small shops down one big long road. It's pretty bomb!" There is no limit to what can be bought at these stands; they sell

practically anything.

One of Leslie's favorite things she has ever bought was a necklace. It was pink and had her name on it, almost as if it was meant for her then ten-year-old self.

Leslie's trip is not limited. When she is not shopping or hanging out on the beach, one might find her and her family exploring some Mayan ruins or even scuba diving in the Gulf.

Being only ten years old at the time, Leslie does not remember much about the Mayan ruins. One fact she can recall is an altar that she was told was used to sacrifice the prettiest girl to the Mayan gods.

"It's scary to think that people actually died at that location," Leslie said. She is happy that since that period, Mexico has come a long way.

However, what her trip really comes down to is family.

Only seeing her family a few times a year makes reuniting all the more emotional. The Ocegüera family tries to spend as much bonding time as possible with each other before they have to go their separate ways once again.

"Family is of course really important to us. I guess you can say we're pretty tight," Leslie said.

Leslie feels blessed that she gets to spend every Christmas in a culture-filled city surrounded by family.

When it comes to her fondest family memory, Leslie said, "My grandma and I used to watch TV together. She would always buy me lots of chocolate."

The Christmas season shares much in common with that of America.

Many people decorate their houses with sparkling lights and intricate wreaths very similar to what America is familiar with. And despite the weather, Christmas trees are still present in most households.

"Yes, Christmas trees, not pine trees," Leslie said.

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New Year, New Goals

By: Brendan Hart
Sports Co-Editor

What is a New Year's Resolution?

Webster defines it as a goal one sets at the start of the year that they plan to better themselves by following it. Urban dictionary defines a

New Year's Resolution as something that you say you're going to do at the start of the year and then two days later you are not following your resolution.

According to statisticbrain.com, less than half of everyone who makes a New Year's Resolution

lasts more than six months. And only a whopping eight percent of people actually last the whole year.

The New Year's Resolution has a religious background in ancient times as both the Babylonians and the Romans made promises to their gods at the beginning of each year.

The knights of medieval times would also make promises to their king to ensure their loyalty to the chivalry code.

Thanks to the pride Richmond takes in their sports, many students' New Year's Resolution has something to do with preparing for next season or something along those terms.

"My New Year's Resolution is to spend more time getting ready for

baseball," junior Max Fahmney said, "which means that I'll have to find a way to get in the batting cage whenever my schedule allows me too."

Kyle Logghe, another junior, committed as much of his free time from this previous January to this past September in the weight room preparing for another year of the gridiron.

"I did that freshmen year too, and it definitely paid off," said Logghe a defensive end, who played quite a bit on the line.

However, Richmond students aren't just about their school sports. Some people set personal goals, goals they feel will be a little easier to reach.

"I want to be nicer to everyone, my girlfriend in particular," said junior Alex Andonoff. Alex, however, isn't too sure about how long he'll be able to abide by this standard.

"I am too sarcastic for that to work very long, but I'll shoot for a couple days," he said.

Alex isn't the only one who doesn't think they'll follow their New Year's Resolution. Fahmney said, "I'm too lazy to commit to baseball nonstop, so I'll probably only last a few weeks."

Not many people take the resolution seriously anymore. An article from the Washington Post blames

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