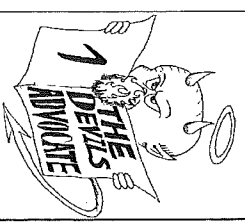




The BLUE DEVIL'S



Read up on Kony 2012
See page 9

Advocate

Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 8, Issue 6

March 19, 2012

Bill Nye isn't the only science guy

RHS students compete in the field of science

By: Lizzie Urban
Staff Editor

RHS is state champions in wrestling, cheerleading and bowling. Next we'll be Olympians.

Science Olympiad is a club for students who enjoy science. Each year, RHS forms a team that will compete against other schools. Topics range from all areas of science. This year, 10 students will go to compete at Macomb Community College for their chosen topic. Every year, a team meeting is held in October, where up to 15 people can join.

From there, the team meets about every two weeks. Each person chooses their topics and type of competition.

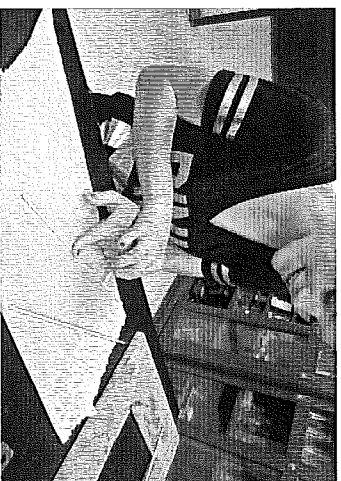
Sarah Maro, senior, said, "They're different events of science experi-

ments and learning about the topics.

Some of the events are tests, while others are interactive with the students."

Some topics include anatomy, physiology, forestry, robot arms, waiter quality, chemistry labs and many others.

"Science Olympiad gets kids interested in science and different aspects of science and you do things that you can't do in the classroom," said Mr. Roodbeen, RHS teacher and Science Olympiad advisor. He has been involved since he started teaching at RHS in 2001. He was



Junior Lindsay Omelia works on her helicopter. Photo courtesy of RHS yearbook

the assistant to the coach then, Mrs. Wood.

While students prepare for the March 24 competition, Mr. Roodbeen

plays a crucial role in helping competitors prepare for competitions. Students either prepare by taking practice tests or building models like the ones they would be doing at the event.

"Currently this year, they're building a helicopter and they can do tests in the different subjects," said Mr. Roodbeen. A helicopter is a structure that

consists of two propellers, one is stationary and the other moves. One end and rubber band is attached that winds up, and when you attach the other rubber band end, to the other end of the helicopter, the rubber bands spin and causes the helicopter to fly, said Lepior. Participants have from mid-October to right before to build the helicopter. Mr. Roodbeen said the goal is for it fly for two to three minutes. Sophomore Alajiah Bashi has been involved for two years. She said the experience helps because she knows what will happen. All involved have different reasons for joining. Bashi said, "I find science interesting. It's a

OLYMPIAD cont. on pg. 3

ACT-ing up: Students reflect on high-stakes testing

By: Jake McKiernan
Staff Writer

Last week marked the date for an extremely important date for the juniors of RHS: The ACT and MME testing days.

These two tests can have a great effect on what students can and cannot do once they graduate from high school. Many students can become overly stressed from the tests; others have no issues with the test.

Whether you stress out or not, the ACT is important. Juniors know this.

And dealing with the stress of the ACT can be almost too much for some students. Some students break out in acne, while others might suddenly become sick. When preparing for the high stakes test, the ACT was dealt with differently by all juniors.

"I had taken some ACT prep courses, so I went into the test fairly confident," said junior Nick Mlot.

"I just kept a positive attitude, and it helped me not to stress out," said Junior James Bauman

Junior, Trevor Wurminger said he expects to get above an 18 out of 36. "I didn't really worry about [the test] I just kept a positive attitude," said Mlot

"I was confident because I have taken it before," said junior Hannah Townsend. "The ACT prep quizzes that I took in English class helped me to know what to expect."

Throughout the year, students have been taking ACT preparation tests, especially focused on reading and essay writing. These tests are very similar to the actual test.

"The English quizzes helped a lot; they helped us to know what to expect from the tests," said Wurminger.

Mlot agreed, and said that the English tests helped a lot.

Students had mixed feelings about how difficult each test was. Some think the ACT is more difficult, while others said they had more trouble with the next test: the MME.

"The ACT requires a lot of reading of articles, short stories, graphs and charts," said Townsend. "The MME is more having knowledge of things such as formulas and other scientific facts."

Junior Steve Radzom said the test was difficult, but not as difficult as it is said to be. "The test puts too much pressure on students, and the short time period allowed puts even more pressure on," said Radzom.

ACT cont. on pg. 4

Richmond Robot Rumble

Richmond Robotics going to their first competition

By: Samantha Schafer
Opinion Editor

Think back to the beginning of the year, all the way back; do you remember a very special guest in our lunch room?

The one with wires and remote controls?

The robot?

That was the result of the incredible determination of senior Michael Graham, business manager of the World level, Chairman's Award winning robotics team Fighting Pi from Armada Academy, and a few interested students.

Graham said, "For a long time, Armada has had [a team]—Capac, Romeo and New Haven, too. We wanted to have one because we were falling behind, and there were a lot of kids here that wanted one."

Last year, Graham started the journey from idea to reality with giving a robotics team presentation to the superintendent. From there, he presented to the high school principal, Mr. Olsen, then the assistant principal, Ms. Michon, then the Athletic Director, and the teachers. They were gaining more and more support. They also gained a commitment

from Mr. Roodbeen, a science teacher at RHS. He became the team's advisor.

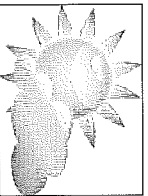
"Basically, my duties are to assist the kids in any way; in building [the robot] and getting the parts and also a little bit of participation, but I try to make the kids do a majority of the work themselves," said Mr. Roodbeen.

This is the team's first year. They don't have the knowledge that other, more experienced teams do. They don't have the resources that other teams do. They don't have the money that other teams do. But they have not let this bring them down.

They have a supporting network.

Fighting Pi has helped the Richmond team tremendously. They have allowed them to use their work and testing space at the Ford Factory in Romeo. This is where the team spent a majority of their time while building, programming and testing their robot. Brandon Pots, freshman and mechanical manager, said,

ROBOTICS cont. on pg. 14

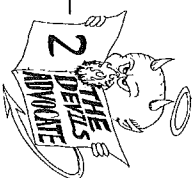


Today's Forecast:
Sunny with a few clouds
High: 72
Low: 52

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Check out our Staff Editorial on
High School testing, located on
page 8



RHS takes on the election

Dr. Ladd takes students to visit Rick Santorum

By: Hannah Townsend
News Editor

With the 2012 Presidential Election looming, this nation's current political climate is lively and complex.

And RHS students got to be involved.

On February 16, Dr. Ladd took a group of students to see Rick Santorum at Cobo Center.

Rick Santorum is a Republican running for president. He came to Michigan to campaign for the February 28 primary.

Dr. Ladd said, "He is the former senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

Eight students went to the event: five juniors and four seniors.

The event lasted from 9:00 to

12:30 and consisted of hearing from Santorum twice.

Dr. Ladd said, "We went down and had a question-and-answer session and got to hear his speech to the Detroit



Students stand alongside Rick Santorum
Photo courtesy of Dr. Ladd

Economic Club while we had lunch."

The Q&A session was about 35 minutes with nearly 50 people, and the speech lasted about 30 minutes in front of 400 people. Between the lunch and speech, the class took a group picture with Rick Santorum.

Senior Michael Graham said, "We

were probably with him a good minute where we could shake his hand and take a picture."

Some students regretted not asking questions.

Junior Anna Smith said, "I wish I would have asked him where the money would go once the programs were cut. I want to know if he

would be willing to give the money back to the people instead of a different sector of the government."

However, she did enjoy the fact that some other students asked questions.

Smith said, "I liked that we got to ask Santorum about issues that are important to us rather than just listening to him talk."

Santorum's speech also seemed to resonate with students.

Smith said, "I feel like he addressed the issues in a straight forward way."

Graham said, "It was a really good speech, especially when he held up a solid piece of shale rock and used it to explain why we should we be getting more energy from oil. He was saying that the president isn't talking advantage of the natural resources that the country has."

SANTORUM cont. on pg. 4

Devil of the '70's makes its return—RHS assembly set for Thursday Mar. 22

By: Brett Brincefield

Staff Writer

Heroin: a drug that has made a return into our society, and may be as big as it was in the '70s. Because of its resurgence, Richmond Police have decided to put together assemblies on March 22 for students during school and at 6:30 pm for parents.

Mrs. Michon said, "It was brought up by Officer Franz of the Richmond Police department because they have found syringes in the park, increases in cases involving heroin, and a past student died from usage. The Police Department asked the school to participate in a student-parent meeting."

Mrs. Michon hopes it will be helpful in making students more aware of legal consequences, where they can get help, and how it affects families. She added that when

students are accused or suspected of using drugs, some admit it, while others are in denial.

She also said that there are consequences if she has proof of drug use, possession, sale, paraphernalia or distribution including illegal or unauthorized medicines, or look-alike drugs. "They are automatically suspended until they have a hearing before the Board, where the School Board decides the consequences."

There are signs to heroin addiction. Ms. Duvynslager, a health teacher, said, "Some things to look for when someone is using drugs are that their eyes change, grades drop, they sleep a lot, shaky, wearing long sleeves even though it's hot out to avoid showing that they're injecting. There are a lot of different variables that are played out depending on the drug."

She added that the best thing to do

is to get them help right away and have an intervention before it is too late. She said, depending on the person and their body size, if you have used it before and other variables depend on the lethal amount of any drug."

According to TheVoice.com, in Macomb County, there were over 300 heroin overdoses of people under the age of 25 in 2011. In 2010 police made 17 arrests dealing with heroin and apprehended 71.8 grams and that has risen stupendously in 2011 as police made 25 arrests and have obtained 93.2 grams of Heroin.

The rise of heroin in Macomb County has Coach Hamblin concerned.

Coach Hamblin, a coach and an experienced health teacher, said, "The major thing is awareness."

Spread the word that this popular drug of the '70s has made a return. I

thought people were smart and learned their lesson. Unfortunately, it's getting here through Canada, Port Huron and Detroit and has made its way into our community.

He added that other effects are the change in eye color; the eyes are dilated and may not be functioning properly, along with slurred speech. "At home, there may be changes in behavior, eating and sleeping patterns, evidence of needle marks and skin color loss."

Hannah Tas, freshman, feels that this assembly will help students with better decision making. "If one of my friends was using, I'd try to help them first, talk to them and then get help. Heroin is a whole different thing. If one of my friends was using it, I'd confront them about it because it can kill you."

ASSEMBLY cont. on pg. 14

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- Driving permit

Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. K. Hamblin for details on upcoming classes.



School News

Seniors salute the ASVAB test

By: John Gaffney
Sports Editor

RHS seniors have recently taken the ASVAB, and many students feel as though they did well on the test.

The ASVAB or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is the basic entrance exam required by most branches of the military. This test is a basic test of a student's general knowledge, and can often tell a student where his/her skills lie, whether it is math and sciences or a more mechanical knowledge.

The questions within the sections varied between the different forms of the test, but the typical math question involved either a test of basic algebra skills or some form of

three digit multiplication or division.

Science questions were ranging from knowing how the water cycle worked, to knowing what class of animals a cat belonged to, while the paragraph comprehension section was pulling information out of a reading to answer questions.

"We use this test as a data point. The State requires us to show improvement and student growth," said Mrs. Michon.

The test is scored as a percentile score, from 0-99, meaning that if a student was to score in the 89th percentile, that person scored higher than 89% of the people who took the test.

This information is not only helpful to student but to the school as well. "The school also analyzes the students' scores and will look at

them and see if there is a section everyone does poorly on. If we find that, then we know where the weaknesses in our curriculum are," he said.

The weaknesses in the curriculum, if existent, can be found by analyzing each section of questions.

"For example, if a class took the test and we saw that, as a whole, they did poorly on a section about fractions, we could alter the curriculum to make sure that the teachers spent more time dealing with fractions," said Mrs. Michon.

Not only is the senior class analyzed every year. The school sends the State reports on all classes, including the ACT, MME, and CT plans.

"The school uses this test for seniors similar to the way it uses the MME test for juniors or the decom-

missioned ACT's for sophomores. It is just a standard test form that we can use to collect data points," said Mr. Olsen, Principal.

All classes test during the week that the juniors take the ACT. This way it is convenient to get them all done at once.

"The whole school is testing, so the ASVAB is the test we choose to give the seniors to collect data. Then we can look at whether or not the scores improve from year to year," he said.

According to the new laws in the State of Michigan, schools have to show they are growing in the direction of their school improvement plan. By using the results of the ASVAB and MME, RHS can show there is improvement in our school.

OLYMPIAD cont. from pg. 1
fascinating subject on many vast topics."

Michael Lepior, junior, likes the way he can work both individually but also with a team. This is his second year on the team. He said, "You've already been through the process once and you know what to expect."

Maro likes the way you can learn about so many different things. She said, "You interact with other people and you learn about things you'd never think of. Experience helps, but they change the events all four years that I've gone."

To get ready, Bashi looks up and reads about information on her subjects. She is learning about rocks and minerals, and dynamic planet, but she still learns little bits of everything else. She said, "My favorite part is getting prepared and actually getting there."

She spends two to three hours a week to study for her part. It helps her stay prepared and on top of things, she said.

In order to win a medal for their competition, the team has to place in the top six slots out of dozens of teams. Each event has its own medal, based on criteria set by judges.

Maro said, "I like going there that one day and seeing the competition. I like to see it all come together. It makes it feel like all the hard work was finally playing off."

Choir and Chorale hit a high note

By: Adam Boyd
Staff Writer

Every year on March 14, Michigan Schools Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Mr. Osadchuk's RHS Choir and RHS Chorale are signed up to compete in the annual Choir Festival at Rochester Stony Creek High School. However, this year Mr. Osadchuk's RMS choir will also be competing. Schools with a choir program from all over the Macomb and Eastern Oakland counties go to compete in the singing festival. This year there are about 125 different schools competing.

"The 'festival' is more of a competition. You go on the stage and sing two songs for the three judges. Then you go into a separate room to sight-sing, which is where you are given a note sheet and you are to sing and are judged on sound," said senior Brooke McInerney. "I have been in this event ever since freshmen year," added McInerney.

McInerney likes the festival a lot. "I

think festival is fun because I love to sing," said McInerney. "What makes the competition beneficial for me is you learn a lot from the judges. The judges give you corrective criticism so you get the chance to improve on the little things that will allow you to become a better performer."

Although this was freshman Sulema Gallardo's first year competing in the choir festival, she agreed that it is a learning experience. She said, "Although I have never been to or competed in this festival, the prep work that Mr. O does to prepare the singers has helped. I think just on the focus they have alone on what they do will allow them to do well."

Jessica Murphy, senior, has also competed in the festival four years as well. She said, "I get nervous before I go on because it the feeling that most people get before they perform. I don't know how other people feel. They might be confi-

dent and ready, but I for sure get nervous because I want to go to states and always want to perform well."

She said, "I enjoy festival because I love to sing. The fact that the judges act more like coaches it's a big bonus. The clinic that they put on before we go on is extremely helpful. Lasting about 15 minutes, the judges bring the choirs into a separate room with the rest of the choir and we run through a song that we are required to perform and he critiques us and helps us on the little things."

Preparing for festival is hard work but the singers that compete at festival say that it pays off in the long run.

Mr. Osadchuk said, "The choirs are judged or graded based upon a rubric which contains categories from Tone, Rhythm, Diction, and even Presentation. The objective is to get the lowest possible score, which is a 36."

CHOIR cont. on pg. 4

On This Day

1918 The U.S. Congress establishes time zones and approves daylight saving time.

1944 World War II: Nazi forces occupy Hungary.

1953 The Academy Awards were first televised

1966 Texas Western becomes the first college basketball team to win the Final Four with an all-black starting lineup.

2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom is launched with air strikes on Baghdad.

2011 Libyan War: Foreign Military Intervention begins in Libya



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CHOIR cont. from pg. 3

In past years, we have done pretty well! Women's Chorale has qualified for states for three years in a row now! The concert choir has also qualified last year as well."

The choir and chorale started preparing for Festival in late December. The students spend the days studying and fine tuning the two music selections they are going to sing.

They also practice different sight riding strategies and practice previous year's sight reading examples to prepare use for that portion of the festival.

Mr. Agosta, accompanist for RHS and RMS choirs, said, "Many hours of hard work go into preparing the students for this Festival. Ultimately, each student must take responsibility to know their music selections well without the need to depend on looking at the music. This is where a good instructor such as our own Mr. Osadchuk, can make the world of difference, and has! Typically I have prepared a 'practice CD' with the piano accompaniment on it for each music selection that is accompanied. However some are a cappella – without accompaniment."

Both Mr. Osadchuk and Mr. Agosta love going to festival. Mr. Osadchuk added, "Even though it's a ton of work it's nice to show other schools around the area what great choirs we have here in Richmond. It is also a good opportunity to hear other choirs as well. Anytime you can go perform in front of people, they will only help you in future performances. This also gives the opportunity for our choir students to get the recognition they deserve, they are doing a marvelous job! I am very proud of them!"

"I mostly like how this gives all students involved an opportunity to demonstrate how their hard work can pay off. It shows how it truly can make a difference if people work together and support each other. There is a common thread that travels throughout all schools involved, which simply makes enjoyment of knowing you have accomplished something very special. I, personally enjoy accompanying the kids. It is a privilege and an honor to be part of that presentation," added Mr. Agosta. In all competitions there is an elite competition also known as the "State Competition." Going to states for choir or any other team competition is not easy. It takes a lot of time, dedication and skill.

In choir RHS did very well overall. The all-girls chorale received a two which falls under the excellent category, and they qualified for states.

McInerney said, "In the warm-up room we were nervous but when we went onstage, we gained confidence because we thought we did good. However, it was also very nerve-wracking because we didn't think we did good enough for an excellent because of site singing."

Murphy agreed with McInerney that the warm-up room was rough because it did not sound good. She added, "It's my senior year so I tried my best to make it the best it could be and it was because we qualified again."

students aired that evening. With Dr. Ladd having taught government the students who went to the speech, the experience was valuable.

Dr. Ladd said, "It relates perfectly because of the presidential politics involved. It exposes students to the people who are making decisions for them."

ACT cont. from pg. 1

"I thought the MME was much more difficult. The questions on it were much more complicated than the ACT questions," said Wurnlinger.

The atmosphere surrounding the two tests really emphasizes the seriousness of the assessments.

"The high pressure, short time atmosphere makes the test harder because of little distractions that can affect your results," said Radzom.

"The atmosphere is very quiet, and very strict," said Mlot.

The tests were tough, but now they are over and done with.

Next year the sophomores will have to take the tests.

Some juniors have advice to offer to the tenth graders.

"If I had advice to give to a sophomore, it would be to study hard, and to make sure they prepare well," said Radzom.

"Get a practice test booklet, and then do the practice test," said Townsend.

Soon, juniors will get the results from the test; they may be happy or they could be disappointed.

The good news is if the results are not up to the student's standards, they can take the test over again, and again, and again, as many times as they would like.

to see both of the candidates up close, and I saw how Mitt Romney was much more scripted."

However, seeing Santorum's speech made him more confident about voting for him in the primary. Graham said, "I had already decided I was going to vote for him, but it made me 100%."

After the speech, Fox 2 News interviewed Richmond students. The main focus of the interview was Michael Graham, but other people were featured.

Graham said, "The reporter lady was talking to our class, and she asked if any of us could vote. I was the only one who could so all of a sudden, the microphone and the lights were all in my face. She asked me what I thought of Rick Santorum."

He said, "I said that I liked his speech. I thought he was the right person to beat President Obama, and I would be voting for him when I voted for the first time."

Fitzsimons said he went on Fox 2 News and publically endorsed Rick Santorum. The story featuring the

Dr. Ladd has taken students to see:

- Senator Carl Levin
- The U.S. Ambassador for South Korea
- Alan Mulally, President of Ford
- A Presentation from the Federal Reserve
- An Environmental Debate
- The Detroit Mayoral Debate
- The American Civil Liberties Union
- The Arab American Museum

Dr. Ladd was the only RHS student old enough to vote in the primary.

He said, "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience because I got to see him in person and shake his hand."

Recently, Graham saw Mitt Romney, the other Republican presidential nominee, at Kettering University in Flint. He said, "I really got

SANTORUM cont. from pg. 2

He added, "I was really impressed that he was willing to say that he was against the auto bailout which is really unpopular in Michigan, but he said it anyway. He doesn't feel it is the place of the government to say which companies will succeed and which will fail."

Santorum's speech addressed a variety of topics.

Graham said, "He talked about education, the economy, the proper role of the government and family values."

Dr. Ladd said, "It had a good message about the need to protect the family in America."

Junior Nick Fitzsimons considered the experience amazing. He said, "I was a Ron Paul supporter, but now I feel Rick Santorum is a slightly better choice."

This experience gave students their first exposure to Rick Santorum.

Smith said, "At first I did not know him, so this helped me know exactly who he was."

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The Blue Devil's Advocate

March 19, 2009



4-peat in the near future Wrestlers have won three can they pull off a fourth?

By: Emily Swantek
Staff Writer

Fans lined the sidewalks of the school cheering as the Foster bus pulled into the parking lot. Winning States this year and receiving a three peat was big for Richmond.
The team was happy that they won. The final score was Richmond 34, Dundee 23.

Their coach, Mr. Day said, "I felt so relieved. It felt like we could finally smile and relax and celebrate with our friends and family."

There were several major contributions from wrestlers in the final. Freshman Devin Skatzka won by a pin.

"Being a freshman and winning a state title was really cool," said Skatzka.

He went on to say he was a little nervous, but focused on getting the

win and not getting pinned.

Wrestling at 119, sophomore, Nick Burg also won by a pin.

"I was so happy I started screaming. I was really nervous because I was the second to last match and we were down," said Burg.

Junior Nathan Henke wrestled at 135, and won his match by a decision.

"I was nervous because we were trying to get the 3-peat," said Henke.

Senior Stephen Ireland wrestled at 125 and pinned his opponent.

He said, "I knew that I had more heart than my opponent and wasn't going to lose no matter what."

Each wrestler had their favorite moment about the weekend.

"My favorite moment at States was after I won my match. I pointed to the crowd," said Henke.

Burg said his favorite part was winning his match and winning as a whole,

With this victory, came the excitement from the crowd behind them. Ireland was one of those individuals that enjoyed winning in front of all the supporters in the stands.

Everybody got their moment to hold up the trophy and feel victorious.

Day said, "My favorite moment was probably watching Coach Whitney lift up the trophy. After he graduated, his goals were to come back to Richmond and teach and help coach. When he held it up, you could tell he realized his goals and dreams were accomplished. He is a true blue devil."

Preparation

Getting to States is definitely not easy. It requires physical and mental

preparation.

Skatzka said, "We have to work hard every day and can't ever slack off."

Henke also agreed that hard work is needed to be successful.

"I visualized myself winning the match. I think we were prepared though because we did it before and we could get the job done again," said Burg.

It wasn't just past experiences that helped.

Ireland said, "Physically, I pushed myself at every practice, and mentally I just thought that I didn't want our team to lose the state title."

Day said, "They worked extremely hard six days a week for two-and-a-half hours during the season. We worked out at Olivet College the night before while most kids from other teams were in their hotel rooms."

Continued on page 6

Stunts and Tucks

Cheerleaders come home with a ring!

By: Mitchell Smith
Staff Writer

Let's go Blue! Let's go!

Coming back from the Delta Plex as a State Champion was a feeling that RHS cheerleaders were all looking forward to. To the senior captains of the team, it was a dream come true.

Kelsey Kasom, Melissa Graham and Alana Timmerman, all seniors, were ecstatic to hear they were bringing home the State Championship trophy.

On March 3, the RHS cheer team TOOK IT ALL!

Melissa Graham said it was an absolute unreal feeling winning a State Championship. She said it did not

really sink in until that night at the hotel when the seniors were in their room talking about it. She said it was good to know after four years of being on the team, that they accomplished the goals that they set.

"Me being a senior this year States meant everything to me. I had to worked that much harder to accomplish my goal," Kasom said.

Graham said she was not nervous, but she was more excited and ready to go. She said she was confident and was ready to compete in her final competition. She didn't think anyone on the team was nervous. They knew what to expect, so they were ready to go as well.

She also said the feelings she felt were feelings she never felt before

because this was her last competition.

"When we won, I was stunned. I asked my coach if this was real life. I was so overly excited.

Could not believe it happened," Timmerman said.

Joanna Fenwick, junior, said the feeling is indescribable, but it's something that she worked hard for a really long time.

Chelsea Wolfe, junior, said,

"For the team it was a long journey that ended the right way."

Kelsey Kasom, senior, has been a cheerleader since seventh grade and has enjoyed it since day one. Kasom said, "Cheerleading requires a lot of determination and commitment. Without those, you



Alex Leduc

Nickname: Al

Age: 16

Grade: 11

Sport(s): Basketball and Tennis

Favorite pump up song: Here comes the boom

Favorite Movie: Project-X

Favorite Food: Cheeseburger

Favorite class: Pre-Calculus with Mrs. Germain

Future Goals: Go to D-1 college and get a degree in accounting

Senior Highlights

Ashley Barrett

Nickname: Ash-Trash

Age: 16

Grade: 11

Sport(s): Competitive Cheer

Favorite pump up song: Domino-Jessie J

Favorite movie: Bridesmaids

Favorite food: Ice Cream



Favorite class:

Government with

Delore

Future goals: Go

to college, room

with Taylor Job

and become mil-

lionaires

can't have a successful season. We practice 11 months out of the year, and the one reason we don't practice in March is because the MHSAA doesn't allow it. She said this year required even more determination and commitment because last year they were runner-ups and it gave them all the more drive to bring home the gold this year. Alana Timmerman, said to get herself ready for each round she visualizes herself hitting all her stunts and sticking the landings. Timmerman also said she felt a little bit of pressure of having to stick all of their moves to come out top.

Kasom said judging gets really intense. Things like having your wrists or knees bent during routines is points off and can sometimes affect your place in the end. Judging is based on a scale of ten and you have judges in front taking notes and marking points for your score. They also have judges on the side making sure cheerleaders do not break any rules.

The rules and the intense setting at the Delta Plex created a situation with much pressure.

"The atmosphere is really intense. You feel excited and nervous at the same time. It's just a big bunch of emotions. The pressure is heavy, with the weight of the past 11 months is on your shoulders. Our coach brings us into a huddle and tells us: 'What do you feel? What do you hear? What do you see? What do you smell? Now imagine and feel the weight of the medal on your neck.'" Kasom said.

Kasom said it can be really hard to remember the whole routine, but she practiced it constantly and got used to it. She sometimes second guesses her next move and then she gets it down right before her next stunt.

Kasom said they do not really focus on who they're going up against. Still, they had to face some tough competition. The teams that really gave them a challenge were Comstock Park, Notre Dame Prep and Grosse Ile.

Continued on pg. 7

The Blue Devil's Advocate

Bowling their way to States

Girls bowling team to collect the runner up pin

By: Samantha Kowalczyk
Staff Writer



"At first, I wasn't nervous at all. It just seemed like any other tournament. Then when we were in qualifications, someone told me we were out of the cut and I got really nervous and tried to pump everyone up so we stayed focus," said senior Jolene Ureel.

With hard work and dedication from each team member, the RHS bowling team headed into States.

Bowling States took place on the weekend of March 3, at Airport Lanes in Jackson.

Although neither the girls team nor the boys team brought back a State Championship, the girls team is now able to call themselves State Runner-Ups.

Girls Bowling Team

With a combined team effort, the girls bowling placed second at States. Going into States, the girls experienced different emotions.

This was Ureel's first time at States. "It was a bit surreal, but still disappointing to know that you were in grasp of first," said Ureel.

Leonard thought going into States was really exciting.

"The experience was very thrilling and scary," said Leonard. "I was crying because I was excited and nervous."

Conner experienced a different emotion and said it was a lot of pressure. Achieving State Runner-Ups was not an easy task; they had to be qualified first.

"First off there is qualifications where we bowl six baker games, and then two regular games. After that, it's head-to-head match play where we bowl two bakers' and one regular game," said Ureel.

A bakers' game is when five people

bowl during a game. The first person will bowl the first frame, and the second person will bowl the second frame. Once they have all gone through once, the line-up will start over.

Who the team bowls depends on the order in which they qualify.

The higher qualified team will take on the lower ranked team first.

After the girls qualified, they played Paw Paw, Kellogsville and Flat Rock.

Once they started to bowl, it was important for the girls to keep their spirits up to take home second.

To achieve that, Ureel said hard work and perseverance was what made them take second. Flat Rock won.

As a team, it is important to bond and stay focused in order to make it to great heights.

"We stay focused by pumping each other up. Even when we made a bad shot or miss a spare, we're constantly high-fiving each other and saying it's okay. There's never a moment where we aren't encouraging our team to do the best we can," said Ureel.

Their main struggle was picking up spares.

"We miss them constantly and it is hard to pick them up," said senior Sam Connor.

Both Ureel and Leonard echoed Connor and said picking up spares was a struggle the whole team had.

Oil break downs were another issue that the team faced. An oil break down is when the lane is fresh and you have to pay attention to what your ball will do.

Ureel said you have to find a new look on a lane someone else has been playing and that it can be tricky.

"The only thing that was difficult was more than half of our team got sick at one point and they had to come back and go into States," said Ureel.

"We did pretty well as a team," said senior Raeshelle Leonard. "Had our team struggles here and there, but we could have won it if we didn't give up or put our heads down."

Preparing mentally is another way the team kept focus.

"We all have our little routines," said Ureel. "The last day of practice we all get our balls washed, dulled down or shined up. Or we go home and soak them to get all the oil out."

Ureel said she always spend the night before every tournament with Heather Bruci and Payton Dickson. "We hang out and talk about what we want to accomplish and that helps a lot."

Conner was able to stay focused by concentrating. She said she did this by listening to music and going to bed early.

Another way the team focused was by having team dinners. It was a great way for them to bond and have fun. There was an important lesson in competing.

Ureel said, "Biggest lesson is just not to give up, even when you know you're not doing well. As a team, the best thing we can do is be there for each other when we start to get discouraged."

Boys Bowling Team

The boys had obstacles of their own to conquer in order to make it to States.

"We didn't make our first three cuts in our tournament, then we pulled together and won our region. We became more of a team," said sophomore Jacob Folske.

Junior Kyle Soldan said winning

their conference and going to States was another challenge the team had to face. The team had to face their rivals: Armada and Cros-Lexington.

The boys team placed fourteenth at States going up against teams such as Duran, Muskegon and Orchard View. Senior Captain Jonathan Kowalcik said his team fell apart and they could have picked up a lot more spares.

"We lost our mojo. We couldn't pick up spares and make decent pocket shots when it really mattered but Jon Hartway and Marc LaGrois really picked up the slack, but it wasn't enough," said Kowalcik. Going into States, Soldan said it was as normal as it was last year. He was a little nervous, but he was pumped and excited as well.

Folske also said he was excited going into States.

In order for the boys to make it to States, it was important for them to bond as well.

Kowalcik said having team dinners was what brought the team closer.

"We need to connect with each other," said Soldan. He said talking with each other helped them become closer.

Folske said his team needed to get along with each other and not get down on themselves.

With bonding came preparation. To prepare him mentally, Folske had to get a good night sleep and have fun the night before.

Soldan gets prepared by staying focused. "If you lose focus, you can't see the light ahead." In order for him to be focused he listened to music.

Having this experience, Kowalcik had advice for his returning players. "My advice is the same as always. Slow down, pick your spares and win a State Championship."

Cheerleaders,

Continued from pg 5

Graham, another captain, said they were really confident throughout the whole season. She said they were more confident than cocky because they still knew the team had to stay on top of things because of the tough competition.

"I would say our biggest challenge of this year would definitely be Grosse Ile because they execute really well. They don't really mess up that much and at States they didn't have any mistakes really, so they were definitely our biggest challenge. They did really well in every round," Graham said.

Despite the challenges, she had confidence in the team.

"I felt great every round. Going in, the team had a great attitude. After Round One we knew that we hit it because we got a great reaction from the coaches and

that pumped us all up for Round Two. In Round Two nothing really went wrong, and nothing really went wrong in Round 3 either. Round 3 takes a lot of mental preparation. We all do our best to pump each other up and get focused. That can only help the team," Graham said.

Timmerman said, "I felt nervous after Round 1 because we usually win Round 1, but it's very close because all the teams there are really good in Round One. After Round Two, I felt much more confident and excited because we nailed all of our tucks and stunts. Round 3 felt like we did our jobs and won because everyone's stunts went well and the crowd's reaction was really good."

Wrestlers

Continued from pg. 5

Arriving at the Kellogg Arena

Nerves were high from the moment they arrived until the moment they left.

Day said, "I'm always nervous. Trying to make history which is extremely hard. I was nervous up until Stephen pinned; then it was like an elephant stepped off my chest, and I could breathe again."

Ireland said he was nervous too because they had the chance to make history in Division 3 by winning three state titles in a row.

Burg said, "I was scared because I didn't want to fail, but once I won, I was excited."

Henke said, "I was pretty nervous to keep the streak going on to win another state title. I also felt a lot of pressure, but when it was all said and done it was a huge relief." Some kids were pretty confident that they could win their

matches.

Both Ireland and Henke said they were pretty confident about their match because they had wrestled their opponent before and had beaten them.

Tough Times

Day said, "We lost Jake McKiernan during the season to an injury which was tough, but his teammates stepped up and got the job done."

Coach Day said, "Wrestling is a tough sport, and we were competing in a tough division. You have to maintain weight and keep up with your school work. This year, we set up a study hall before practice. You also have to get everybody to believe that they can win."

He went on to say that everybody had to adjust to his coach George Hamblin not being there. "It was different not having him there around school, but he made sure he was at every practice and every meet," said Day.

Not only is it hard to prepare for the sport, but it's also hard to be a participant in the sport.

Ireland said the hardest part was probably wrestling in the finals under so much pressure.

Henke said, "The hardest part about winning states was probably counting on some of my teammates to pull through for the team and they did."

Burg said just getting through Dundee was a challenge.

Even with all the bumps in the road, they still managed to succeed.

Coach Day said that they were pretty confident about winning in the quarterfinals. In the semis they had great competition.

"Our wrestlers wrestled great and after winning, I think that's when they became more focused," said Day.

There are always challenges to competing for the State Title. Everybody is after it and wants that taste of victory.

Most Memorable

Coach Day said, "All of them are special and different. 2010 got it started, also exciting. By 2012, we knew we were the best team from day one and

See Wrestlers pg. 10

Sports

March 19, 2012

The Blue Devil's Advocate

Shooting their way to fame

Lady Blue Devils score big with their successful season

By: Jacob Marlow
Staff Writer

This was the year of the Lady Devils. The 2011-2012 varsity girls' basketball had a break out season, ending up with a 17-6 record, making it all the way to the district championship for the first time in over 15 years.

The Lady Devils had a tough 2010-2011 season, going 10-11 record, finishing fourth in the BWAC.

This year, things went much better. Sophomore Haley Shweiger, two-year varsity basketball player said, "It was a kind of a good year for me and the team, because we had a winning record, but we lost BWAC and lost in the district championship

The team improved greatly throughout the year, led by six very talented seniors: Rachel Baumgarten, Kim Boyd, Jenna Brickel, Isabella Kesler,

Samantha Wolsleger and Holly Uhl.

Three of those seniors were captains, Rachel Baumgarten, Samantha Wolsleger and Holly Uhl. "All of them did a good job on the court," said Kim Boyd, senior, and two-year varsity player.

Shweiger said, "Our captains were good leaders on the court and off the court. They were committed and very focused while playing."

Holly Uhl, senior, and team captain, said, "Myself and the other captains did a good job communicating and keeping the team focused and motivated during practice and during the game."

The leadership from the captains helped, as did all the players' commitment. Coach Pearson

said, "The quality of basketball play and hard work that these girls put in, improved greatly over the summer"

The dedication really showed this year, as they went to the District Championship, and overcame last year's record by winning seven more games and losing five less.

"The biggest win this season was against Cross-lex because it was a bit of an upset in the BWAC. But the biggest loss this year was definitely against Maryville in the District finals," said Shweiger

Uhl thought the biggest win was against the Armada Tigers because there are long time rivals and they best RHS at Armada. To beat them at home was sweet.

"The hardest loss was against Capac because we definitely overlooked them and they caught us by surprise," said Uhl. Capac ended up

winning the BWAC.

The success of the team was not just led by the seniors but had four important juniors and two key sophomores on this year's roster.

Coach Pearson is thinking next year's team will be just as good or even better if everybody returns.

Put into mind that the JV and freshmen girls' teams did fairly well this year, with both teams going 13-6. Coach said, "If the sophomores work hard and have a good off-season, varsity will have a good 2012-2013 season."

Shweiger said, "We will be a good team next year because there are a lot of good players coming up, but we haven't played together at all so the team chemistry might not be there."

Uhl said, "The team is losing a lot of talented players, but there are good players coming up from JV."

Red Wings home streak gets Canucked!

By: Hunter Tousignant
Staff Writer

The Detroit Red Wings have done it: they went 23-0 at home with a victory over the San Jose Sharks. That streak was a record breaker for winning the most games at home in a row, but it finally came to an end against the Vancouver Canucks in a 3-2 shootout on February 23, ending the streak.

Mike Justice, sophomore, said, "The streak went great, but I think if the team would have played harder, they would've went further."

The Red Wings started this accomplishment on November 5, 2011 against the Anaheim Ducks and ever since that night, they broke the previous single-

season mark of 20 shared by the 1929-30 Boston Bruins and 1975-76 Philadelphia Flyers, according to Fox Sports Detroit.

There were a lot of Red Wings players that shined and helped take the home streak to the next level.

Steven Romatz, senior, said, "I thought Pavel Datsyuk, Johan Franzén, Joey McDonald and Todd Bertuzzi had a major impact on the streak."

Many people around Michigan want to know what went wrong on Feb. 23 against Vancouver in that shootout. Romatz said, "It was the skill in the shootout that

gave Vancouver the victory and also Vancouver's goalie Roberto Luongo was too good of a goalie for the Red Wings that night. Luongo just stopped every Red Wings player cold."

While other NHL teams wanted to stop the streak, 16 different clubs didn't, and the Canucks only avoided becoming the 17th streak victim when Daniel Sedin scored with 16 seconds left in regulation to force the extra session, according to Fox Sports Detroit.

Since then, the Wings have cooled, losing a few games.

Here in Richmond, Red Wings fans have different opinions on

what the Wings could work on to get back winning.

John Tomakyo, sophomore, said, "They waste so much time on power plays. They need to get the puck down to the opponent's side and try to score. They shouldn't waste their time passing the puck around to each other."

Josh VandenBussche, sophomore, agrees but added, "They need to focus and work on their defense more and try and get the puck away from the opponent before they get into the Wings' territory."

They have only won two out of their past seven games since the loss of their record victory.

Romatz said, "It was kind of expected after they lost their streak. They started to play with less intensity after the loss. To fix this slump they will have to get more healthy players back on the roster and they need more experience."

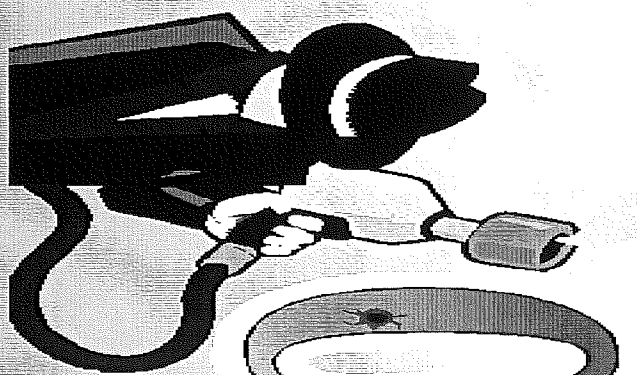
Currently on the injury list are Nick Lidstrom, Jimmy Howard and Pavel Datsyuk. Tomas Holmstrom, Patrick Eaves, Todd Bertuzzi and Dan Cleary have been injured but still played.

Since the Stanley Cup Playoffs are coming up in April, Red Wings fans are getting worried about how the Red Wings are going win in the playoffs. Ryan Calemoni, junior, said, "To get into the playoffs and win the Stanley Cup, the Wings will have to increase the power play percentage and the PK percentage."

Romatz agrees but also said, "Right now, I don't see them in the playoffs. But if they do make it, they will have to increase the powerful hits, need to fix the rookie mistakes and build up their defense."

The Wings are second in the central division and are a couple points behind the St. Louis Blues, who are in the lead. For the whole conference, the Wings are fourth and trail the third place Dallas Stars and the second place Vancouver Canucks.

Their current record is 44-24-3.



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Sports

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