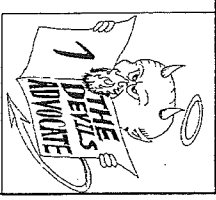




Exam Blues?
Study Ideas on Pg. 11

The BLUE DEVIL'S



Advocate

Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 8, Issue 4

January 24, 2012

Troops return home

RHS students, Brenden and Jordan Adams look forward to their father's return

By: John Gaffney
Sports Editor

Families were reunited this month, following the decision by the United States government to start withdrawing troops from Afghanistan and Iraq. This was a joyous occasion for many families all over the country as their sons, daughters, husbands and wives came home safely.

Among these rejoicing families was the Adams family from right here in our community.

Master Sergeant John Adams, a Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Craftsman, was reunited with his family at Selfridge Air National Guard base on January 9, 2012.

"It's hard to leave my family, but I love what I do, so it makes things a little easier. Having the ability to contact my family all the time makes things easier too," he said.

"It's great to be home and see everyone in the family again. I'm glad I will be home to watch the kids' sports; plus it's nice to not have to worry about when the next rocket is going to come flying toward the base."

Training helped prepare Master Sergeant Adams.

"We trained hard at home before we left so we were well prepared so life wasn't much different other than being in the desert and not having our families around," he said. "It's almost like a sport, if you practice hard, you will play well."

The family met their father at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Jordan Adams, freshman, said, "I was shocked when I saw him, because he had lost a bunch of weight. It was good to see him again."

His brother Brenden agreed. "I'm excited to have him home again,"

said Brenden. "It's really good to know that he's coming home safe after being gone."

"It's going to be really weird to have him around," he said. "But it will be really nice to have him home to come to the wrestling meets. My mom usually comes, but she doesn't know the sport like he does so she can't critique me like he can," he added.

Jordan echoed his brother's sentiments. "It's going to be nice to have him home to help my mom out with the kids," he said.

Brenden and Jordan's mother said it was hard to have to hold down the fort at home by herself.

"Being a single parent, I have a million things to worry about. Plus I have to worry about his safety," she said.

Thanks to modern technology, her worries and stress levels were low-

ered incrementally.

"It was a lot easier this time because we used Skype to talk every night. There is also a support group on Facebook for people whose husbands are overseas. The combination of those things, plus the support from my family really helped. I don't think I could have made it otherwise," she said.

She added, "It is great to have him home. It feels like a huge weight has been lifted from my shoulders. Now I have help at home and I can get a break every once in a while."

The boys did their part to help out at home while their dad was away.

"I did a lot to help out while my dad was gone. I took out the trash

TROOPS
CONT. on PG. 4

Choir gets competitive

RHS choir competes in solo and ensemble

By: Regan Blissett
Feature Editor

We all know how wrestling and cheerleading is competing to go to States, but what about Choir? On January 27 and 28, individual students from the Choir department will start their quest to go to States as well. They will compete at Solo and Ensemble at Chippewa Valley High School.

It is not a normal competition. It is a competition where you have to sing two songs in front of a judge. One in English and one in a foreign language, and they have to sing in front of a judge.

Students that are attending are seniors Jessica Murphy, Brooke McInerney and Jared Jurgens, juniors Julie McCuisten and Kelsey Williams; sophomores Kayde Hambaum, Lizzie Urban, Rosie Urban, Anna Fraser and Summer Teeters; and freshman Amanda Vinson. They are coached and taught by Mr. Osadchuck.

RHS will be a part of 800 students participating in Solo and Ensemble. All school districts in Macomb County and some schools in Oakland including Lake Orion schools attend. Since there are so many

people that go, there will be 14 judges.

Students will be taken into a room with one judge and will have 12 minutes to sing. Then, students are judged on how well they do through a number scale.

Mr. Osadchuck, director of the RHS Choir, said the scale is one through five, with five being the highest.

"Receiving a one, you qualify for State Festival," said Mr. Osadchuck.

Kayde Hambaum will be attending Solo and Ensemble as well.

"They judge according to how well you know the music, your breathing and if you tell the story through the song," said Hambaum. Last year Hambaum went to Solo and Ensemble and received a one, qualifying to states. There she got a two.

"It felt really good. I accomplished one of my goals," said Hambaum. Hambaum added that her goals for this year are to make it to States and receive a 1.

For Solo and Ensemble, there are many rules. For example, singers have to behave professionally, memorize songs,

CHOIR
CONT. on PG. 4

High School or Law School?

RHS Mock Trial Team prepares for competition

By: Lizzie Urban
Staff Writer

Students who like sports can join sports. Those who like theater have that too. But for kids who like law? That's where Mock Trial comes in.

At RHS, Mock Trial is offered to students that want to be in club that is based on law. Mock Trial lets students who want to go into law, have practice and to see what it is about before making the final career choice.

Each student involved with Mock trial has an important part.

There are three main parts including the defense attorney, who defends the accused. The prosecuting attorney, that represents the state. The third is the witnesses that can give a firsthand account of what they have witnessed about the case.

Madison Zarkowski, freshman, said, "I was thinking about being a lawyer. It sort of helps deciding."

To learn about the case, the team is presented with a packet of information that they have to read. It includes the testimonies as well as pictures from the crime scene. During each competition, high schools compete to see who is best.

On the defense are freshman Thomas Biafore, sophomore Anna Fraser, and junior Lindsay Omelia.

For the prosecuting attorneys junior Anna Smith, junior Hannah Townsend, and sophomore Alajiah Bash, are the students involved.

Witness includes sophomore Colleen Gaffney, sophomore Sam Schaffer, and junior Michael Lepior.

This year, the trail focuses on a musician who was found dead in his studio listening to a song he had just recorded, "Hanging at Death's Door." The suspects include a former band mate with a grudge and an eccentric son, with a passion for bathing in a swimming pool.

"It's a brain twister," said Zarkowski.

At the actual competition, the team performs their part and works together in an attempt to persuade the judge to side with the participants. For example, as a witness, the student has to memorize an assigned statement and try to act out that person in a convincing way.

"It's kind of like a play. You **MOCK TRIAL**
CONT. PG. 3



Today's Forecast:
High: 33 Low: 27
Mostly Cloudy

School News: 1-4, 10
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Student of the Month: 11

The Blue Devil's Advocate

NASCAR: not the only race taking place at the speedway IDS prepares for their day on the track



By: Sarah Verschure
Feature Editor
Richmond students are charging up for a race around Michigan International Speedway.

The Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences provides a year long class for IDS, which is how students have this opportunity. In it are four Richmond juniors: Anna Smith, Victoria Breiling, Hannah Townsend and Alexis Verstraete.

Together, they make up four of the six students in the morning IDS class. The class is offered to juniors in the Academy only, where a year-long project takes place.

Students must convert a gas go-kart to one that runs on electricity.

"We get to communicate with companies which specialize in alternate resources, specifically electricity. Last year's juniors scared off a lot of this year's juniors from the class by talking about the difficulty of the class. Because of that, there are only six students in the class. It's better that it's smaller," said Breiling.

The class offers a variety of jobs for students to perform. Hannah Townsend is the morning team business manager and is in charge of finding sponsors to fund the project.

Money raised is used to purchase parts to rebuild the engine and redesign the kart. "Our electric is basically like a battery. It can be recharged. Right now we're trying to get sponsors," said Townsend. The main companies targeted are ones that promote the "go-green" agenda.

"I help with contacting future sponsors and with performing different tests with the kart, like its top speed or its acceleration time," said Anna Smith. She works with others in the team contacting sponsors through formal business letters.

From there, businesses respond to the team about sponsoring the team or not. The more sponsors the students receive means the more money they will have to work with.

The class only meets on Wednesdays all year long, which has caused a problem for the class with

teach in their classroom."

Mr. Roodbeen, science teacher, applied for the grant.

He said, "I applied for a comparison microscope. This way, students can compare two objects or specimens to each other." A comparison microscope costs a little over \$3,000, and Mr. Roodbeen has wanted one ever since he saw one three years ago.

Mr. Roodbeen added, "It's going to help us a lot in the comparison of objects like cells or hairs and fibers."

Science is not the only department that is making use of the grant money.

Mrs. Woodruff said, "I am ordering business simulation software to use in my business classes, and I am also ordering a set of books covering career readiness."

Mrs. Woodruff added that with the simulation software students can make, design and run a restaurant, and it is more engaging than what they would get in a textbook.

While some grants can be competitive, this one is

not.

Mrs. Michon said, "It became more of a cooperative piece than a competitive piece because teachers are pooling their money together."

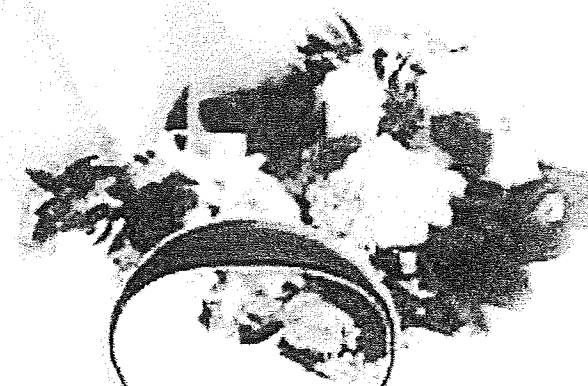
Mr. Germain and the rest of the math teachers are combining their money together to buy more graphing calculators and Elmo projectors.

He said, "We applied for graphing calculators so everyone has a full classroom set, and we all applied for Elmo projectors so the students can show the work that they did."

Mr. Germain also added that there are two main ways graphing calculators will help students: it will provide students another resource to solve problems and every student will have one when they take the ACT. He also believes that the Elmos will allow students to present to the class different ways of solving and approaching problems. The English Department also had similar applications for the grant.

**GRANT
CONT. on Pg. 3**

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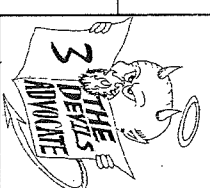
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Student News

January 24, 2012

The Blue Devil's Advocate



GRANT cont. from pg.2

Mr. West said, "I think white boards and Elmos are what most of the English Department are doing."

He said the Elmo will give teachers the ability to display better examples of good writing and what it looks like, and it will make writing a more hands' on topic.

Mr. Delore, social studies teacher, said he and the Social Studies Department are applying for thumb drives and Elmos.

He said that what they are applying for should provide better instruction for learners of all types.

Teachers are not the only people applying for the grant, but also other members of the Richmond Educational Association Bargaining Units such as counselors.

Ms. Lepak, high school counselor, said, "We applied for updated computers in the Student Center for student use. The ones we have now are slow and lack some of the basics students need."

What teachers are applying for has impressed Mrs. Michon.

Mrs. Michon said, "Our teachers in this building really thought how best to use the monies. I know that many of them met with Mr. Olsen to talk about the possibilities. I believe that what they are purchasing will help them in their teaching."

Richmond Middle School and Lee

Elementary School are also a part of this grant.

Lee School principal Mr. Benoit said many teachers at the Lee School are looking to purchase interactive white boards called SmartBoards.

With 16 teachers applying for them, that should put a SmartBoard in every grade level classroom. There are also teachers at the elementary school applying for other things.

"The P.E. teacher is trying to get a brain-based learning classroom that is all research-based materials and activities that should benefit

students in the classroom," said Mr. Benoit. "I think this will benefit students taking all forms of test whether M.E.A.P. or otherwise."

Just like the elementary school, the middle school is taking advantage of the grant.

Middle School assistant principal Ms. Borwick said, "Some of the requests have been SmartBoards, literacy series for fifth and sixth grades, and computer stations for classrooms. Some of the specials teachers as well have looked to update their supplies and equipment to benefit students."

Both Ms. Borwick and Mr. Bartels think this grant will benefit the students.

Mr. Bartels said, "I think it will

help teachers be more efficient because it is based on what they think they need to improve student achievement."

While many students do not know about the grant yet, some think that it will be beneficial to the school.

Michael Graham, senior, said, "I think the new technologies will help enhance the learning of the students by allowing the teachers to effectively get the point across and teach the concepts to the students."

When talking about Elmos, junior Alexis Fraley said, "It will give us better examples in English."

School Board President Mrs.

Margaret Tellow believes allowing teachers to decide what to apply for will be helpful for the school. She said, "In my opinion, I think what it does is allow our teachers to think outside the box to get something that they have desperately wanted that they otherwise couldn't purchase because of lack of funding."

The majority of the funding for this grant came from two sources.

Every year, Richmond Community Schools receives a certain amount of money per student, just like every other public school. The school then budgets accordingly planning on how many students they expect to have. Last year, RCS budgeted for fewer

students, which gave them extra money. That extra money went into the Bright Idea Grant.

Money that also went into the grant was Best Practice money. The Best Practice money is money from the State given to schools that meet four of the five Best Practices defined by the State. It is a one-time sum of money. RCS met four of the five goals and is receiving the Best Practice money.

To apply for the grant, teachers filled out an application that was around 1-2 pages long. The applications will then be sorted and approved by a committee. After applications are approved, teachers can buy their supplies.

Some items teachers are ordering will take longer to arrive and set up than others. For instance, SmartBoards require more set up and training for the teachers.

However, Mrs. Tellow said, "Definitely by the start of next year, the technology and things the teachers are purchasing will be up and running."

MOCK TRIAL cont. from pg.1
get a quote-on-quote script that you read about a made up person and you read their script. You have to become that person," said Lepior.

Just like any other group, they cannot get by without a leader.

Richmond has been competing for 13 years under the direction of Dr. Ladd.

"[I]t is like a real court case, scored by judges and a jury to see

the winner," said Dr. Ladd, RHS teacher. The process has the students get the full experience of a real court case.

Each year, Dr. Ladd has attorneys come in to help the team work. They help with the objections, or the how the lawyers can stop a possibly belligerent question. Along with that, they help to organize the layout of the entirety of the case.

"It helps people participate in law and see if that's what you want to do. It's kind of like a test run," said Smith, who has been involved since last year.

Smith went on to say that Mock Trial helps the participant become more prepared in other areas of life.

Fast thinking is a skill that can be utilized to help with a lot of other situations in her life.

Fraser has been on the team since her freshman year. She plans to stay with it for the next two as well.

"My brother wanted me to get involved with it and once I joined, I realized it's a really fun group," said Fraser. "It helps with your public speaking, critical thinking and creativity. It's a really interesting way to learn about the court system."

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The Blue Devil's Advocate

Taking the next step Ms. Till and Mr. Bloink taking masters classes

By: **Samantha Kowalczyk**
Staff Writer

While students are working hard at RHS, so are a couple of teachers. Ms. Till and Mr. Bloink are in the process of receiving their masters' degree.

Ms. Till already has one masters in counseling.

"I'm going back for one in educational technology," said Ms. Till, English teacher and counselor. "Education is changing and technology is the way to go to help you guys learn better."

Ms. Till is at the beginning of a two-year program that began last summer. She attends her classes four times a week online, and she has book work due every Monday. She is earning her masters at Central Michigan University. Right now, she is taking an education assessment class.

Like Ms. Till, Mr. Bloink is also in his masters program.

"I've always wanted to be a bigger part of the school, and help develop student needs for curriculum-wise and help incorporate new policies," said Mr. Bloink, special education teacher.

Mr. Bloink is studying at Saginaw Valley State University to get his Masters in Administrative Leadership to possibly become a principal. He will be receiving his masters this year after six years of schooling, while taking two classes at a time. His classes are 16 weeks long.

Mr. Bloink said his favorite part of being in a masters program is collaborating with other peers on new issues.

An advantage of being in a masters

program is to learn from other people and feed off their ideas. "I just like the professional collaboration when I get in the class."

Ideas they learn are put into the classroom.

"I really like how I learn new things to use in my room. I really liked just having a group of people from different schools to see what they are doing," said Ms. Till. She said that she is incorporating the use of more digital assignments in the classroom. "Wiki [is] a site everybody can download stuff on and get feedback." This is a good tool for students to use and get ideas from their peers.

There are ups and downs to everything, and Ms. Till stated that trying to keep up with the class in addition to keeping up with school work is the most challenging part.

Mr. Bloink values his time with his wife, and being away from his family and five kids is the most challenging part of his program.

Both Ms. Till and Mr. Bloink are taking a total of 33 credit hours, but the requirements for each of their programs are different.

Ms. Till is taking three elective courses and 18 cognate courses. She works on different technological projects and compares them with other people.

"Maintain a 3.0 or higher, which I have a 4.0," said Bloink. He also has to have his bachelors to enter the program.

There are many important reasons for teachers to earn their masters degree.

"It makes me a better teacher. State requires you to take more

difficulty varies, depending on the grade. Music can vary from really easy or difficult.

They have been working on songs since the beginning of December, even coming in on Christmas Break to practice. Mr. Osadchuck also sets up rehearsals after school, spending about 45 minutes with each student who comes in.

"I have been very impressed with the amount of work being put in," said Mr. Osadchuck. He went on to say that he will do anything in his power to try and help them.

Students have noticed how he has helped.

"He really helps you go over the music a lot, and breathing, and mainly the sound," said Hambaum.

Many students will be singing solos, but for three girls, they are changing it up. Julie McCuisten, Brooke McInerney and Jessica Murphy will sing as a trio.

McInerney decided to be in a group of three for a couple reasons. "Julie and Jessica did it since they were freshmen, and I know they could go far because all our voices fit together good," said McInerney. They will be singing "Scarborough

education to keep your teaching certificate," said Ms. Till. "It's opened my eyes to different ideas to use in my room. I believe everyone should continue education."

Education can be the key that opens many doors in the future.

"I think it is important for everyone to continue their education. One, for personal growth. I'm always finding ways to increase my education. Personal growth in our field is an everyday thing," said Mr. Bloink.

Job shadowing, dissertations and projects are required in order to receive his masters.

"Right now I'm in the process of putting a design unit of persuasive essays," said Ms. Till. Some projects she has done in the past were putting together an instruction video, a digital story telling project and doing a study on kids in her classroom.

Like Ms. Till, Mr. Bloink also has projects he is working on.

Mr. Bloink has to do a 100 hour internship working as or next to an administrator. Right now Mr. Bloink is job shadowing Mrs. Michon. He is also making a presentation at a board meeting.

"I also plan a school-wide lip dub," said Mr. Bloink. A lip dub is a combination of lip syncing and audio dubbing to create a music video. Mr. Bloink said that it was sweet that he gets to plan it.

Mrs. Michon has no problem with Mr. Bloink job shadowing her. "I feel it's part of my professional responsibility," said Mrs. Michon, assistant principal. She and Mr. Bloink oversee the school on what is going on, and how they deal with issues.

Fair" and "Flanders Fields". McInerney said she likes being in a trio better because she knows when to go and in a solo you are on your own. She added that the best part of Solo and Ensemble was learning she does not have to be afraid and that she is getting more confident in her singing.

Out of the eight people going to Solo and Ensemble, Jared Jarges, senior, is the only guy.

"I'm used to it by now. It's a little more nerve-racking being the only guy, but it is still fun," said Jarges.

Last year, Jarges went to ensemble and qualified for States. There he received a one.

"It was pretty good. My biggest accomplishment in Choir," said Jarges. He went on to say that his biggest goal for this year is to make it to States again and get a one.

Jarges said he prepares by practicing with Mr. Osadchuck and practicing at night. He will be singing an Italian piece called "Per La Gloria".

Amanda Vinson will be the only freshman attending.

"It's kind of scary. It's my first year and everyone is more

Teachers are also supportive of Ms. Till and Mr. Bloink being in their masters program.

"Anytime someone gets more education, it's a good thing. The more information people have, they have a greater ability to share that knowledge with people," said Dr. Ladd, social studies teacher. "It gives you expertise and some specific portion of your major or profession."

Mrs. Michon had the same sentiment. She said, "In education, we need to stay current. I've always believed if we are not learning, then we need to get out of the business."

TROOPS cont. from pg. 1

and stepped in to be like the father figure for my foster siblings Devin and Mariah," said Jordan. Devin is 7 and Mariah is 4.

The homecoming may be short-lived.

"My unit is scheduled to deploy again in 18 months, give or take about 6 months either way. There is a rotation between my unit and all the other A-10 units," said Master Sergeant Adams. "I love what I do so it doesn't feel like I am just going to work. It's been a part of my life for about 20 years, and I knew I wanted to serve our country since I was 18."

Master Sergeant Adams said he loves being in the military because he gets to see the world. Before he landed home, he had the chance to visit Ireland.

"I have had great opportunities. I got my degree paid for, I was an instructor for 3 years, and it allows me to afford a family. Plus I always have a job so I don't need to worry about my family," he said.

experienced," said Vinson. She is singing "Go Way from my Window" and "Star Vicino".

Vinson has never done anything like Solo and Ensemble, although she has done musical plays.

"I sang before, but I've never done anything classical," said Vinson. She decided to attend Solo and Ensemble for the experience and to become a better singer. She practices anytime after school whenever Mr. Osadchuck is available.

RHS Choir has participated in Solo and Ensemble for the last five years. "We've done really well the past five years. More people participate, and everyone who goes usually qualifies to States," said Mr. Osadchuck. He also said that everyone going has a potential to make it to States.

"I think they are going to do fantastic. It amazes me every year vocally and the talent," said Mr. Osadchuck.

CHOIR cont. from pg. 1
have original copies of the music and they must be sung how it was written and intended to be performed.

"You can't take an art song and sing it like a country singer," said Mr. Osadchuck.

Songs have to be an "Art" song or classical song such as songs by Johann Sebastian Bach. Singers cannot choose anything heard on the radio.

Songs will not be sung acapella. They will have piano players Mr. Agosta and Mrs. VandenBussche, who have helped the Choir program, playing while they sing.

Learning a foreign song can be hard, but when singing it, it can become even harder.

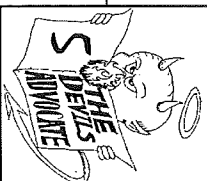
"First you have to learn to pronounce the words and research what the song means. Learning a different language is difficult, as it is singing it. It makes it even harder," said Hambaum. This year, she will sing a foreign song called "Seben Crudele" and an English song called "Cloud-Shadows".

"The songs are difficult, but once I have them, I'll be more confident," said Hambaum.

Mr. Osadchuck said, "The



DEVIL SPORTS



Richmond wrestlers place highly at Macomb County Tournament

Focus remains set on bigger goals

Angela Staba
Sports Editor

The weekend of December 16 was a big weekend for high school wrestlers in Macomb County, but for the Richmond back to back State Championship team, it was just another tournament.

Thirty six teams came ready to compete to Chippewa Valley High School where the tournament was held. These included Dakota, Anchor Bay, L'Anse Creuse and Chippewa Valley.

"This is the biggest tournament in Macomb County," said Assistant Coach Lance Whitney.

Though it was a major event, the outcome was less than surprising with Richmond taking first. Second place went to Dakota, Anchor Bay placed third.

Jake McKiernan, a sophomore who

wrestles in the 152-pound weight class, was pleased with himself for placing first in his bracket.

"It's not a big deal for the program to win the MCC. That's something we're supposed to do.

But winning as an individual, that's a big accomplishment," said McKiernan.

Wrestlers like McKiernan placed highly individually, but the focus was,

as always, winning as a team. Senior Alex Morang placed third in the 160-pound weight class.

"I wrestled bad one match, but came back and scored some points for my team," said Morang.

Coach Whitney said, "I thought the whole team wrestled well regardless of how they finished because

we won the tournament as a team by a big margin and that's always Richmond's goal: to wrestle well as a team." He continued, "RHS has become one of the most winningest teams in Macomb County because of it."

"It's not a big deal for the program to win the MCC. That's something we're supposed to do. But winning as an individual, that's a big accomplishment."

Brandon Day is happy with the outcome of the MCC. "Some younger guys stepped up and I'm proud of them for persevering and taking care of business."

The team came in 8th at the Medina Tournament, which is the third toughest tournament in the country, and is ranked 18-1, with Bedford being their only loss so far in the season. These impressive statistics show just how well the team is doing this

each signified a different cancer and the proceeds were split between specific cancer foundations. A separate donation for brain cancer research and treatment were taken for Norton and his personal battle.

"It was very intense," Coach Brandon Day said. "You've got two good teams going at each other and a large crowd. Very festive too." Wrestlers, parents and friends all gather in which totaled to about 900 spectators. This added to the thrill in the air. This large turnout did little to intimidate the Richmond wrestling team.

NORTON
Continued on page 7

Tapping Out Cancer

RHS Wrestlers pin for Scott Norton

Victoria Breiling
Editorial Editor and Staff Writer

More than just a former wrestler, a man, a father, a brother and a friend.

Scott Norton is fighting a battle. More than just a wrestling match, a community coming together. Scott Norton is wrestling.

More than just two teams competing for a win. They are two teams learning that there are larger problems in life than wrestling.

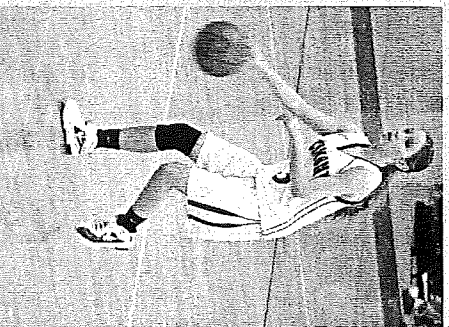
Former Richmond wrestler Scott Norton's opponent is cancer. And he needs a pin, a tech or a major decision.

While wrestling isn't the most important activity in life, it has taught Norton the importance of

dedication and a never give up attitude. This was explained by Norton in a video he sent to the RHS coaches since he was unable to attend the match personally.

Norton grew up in Richmond and in the Richmond Junior Wrestling program. His older brothers were immersed in the Richmond Wrestling program as well, and also experienced the dedication it takes to be the best.

During winter break, spectators packed into the RHS gymnasium and cheered and supported Scott Norton during a fund raiser match. There were rubber bracelets and tee shirts that anyone could purchase and proceeds would go to support cancer research. The difference colored bracelets



Beth Beindit

Nickname: Babs

Age: 14

Grade: 9

Sport(s): Basketball, volleyball and softball

Favorite pump up song: Up Up and Away by Lil' Wayne

Favorite movie: The Lovely Bones

Favorite food: Chinese Food

Favorite class: Dr. Ladds class, because he cracks us up because he's so funny.

Future goals: To get into a good college.

Devin Skatzka

Nickname: Skatzkers

Age: 14

Grade: 9

Sport(s): Football, Wrestling, and Baseball

Favorite pump up song: "Despicable" by Eminem

Favorite Food: Pizza



Favorite class: Gym because I don't have to sit down in a classroom

Future Goals: Attend a Big 10 college and wrestle in college

year.

"We're still number one in the state, and we're getting better every day.

We're trying to put the kids in uncomfortable situations to see how they react to that," said Day.

The team is beginning to prepare for States, and coaches are satisfied with how things are looking.

"The team trains hard every day, and we're taking all the steps necessary academically and athletically. The study hall implemented this season has helped a great deal," said Day.

As far as making it to States, coaches and the team show no less confidence.

"We're in pretty good shape. We feel confident that as long as the kids train hard, we feel pretty confident that we can do things right to win it," said Day.

The team is excelling in the season, but they still face challenges. The coaches still stress good work ethics to the team and some wrestlers have been injured, including Macomb County champ Jake McKiernan.

McKiernan recently broke his femur wrestling Portage Central, and may be out for a while. However, his injury and those of other team members don't let pain get in their way.

"When you're trying to win three state titles in a row, there is a little complacency that takes place. The kids sometimes need a reminder about how it felt to lose the title when they were freshman," said Coach Day.

The strong team values that the coaches preach consistently keep the team looking at the big picture, not daily difficulties.

"Winning as a team, that's our main objective. We tell the kids if you take care of the team, the team will take care of you. Our kids get the best of both worlds; they can win the team title and win for their school, community and alumni and they can win the individual title and show the State how much work they put into it," said Coach Day.

Upcoming Events

Boys Varsity Basketball
1/27/12 vs Almont @ Almont 7:30
1/31/12 vs Algonac @ Home 7:30
2/03/12 vs Imlay City @ Home 7:30

Girls Varsity Basketball
1/24/12 vs Armada @ Home 7:30
1/27/12 vs Almont @ Almont 6:00
2/03/12 vs Imlay City @ Home 6:00

Wrestling
1/25/12 Armada @ Armada 5:45
1/28/12 Oakland/Macomb Duels @ Waterford Kettering 8:00am
2/02/12 Massillon Perry @ Massillon Perry, OH 6:00 pm

Cheerleading
1/28/12 Lake Orion Invitational @ Lake Orion
2/01/12 BWAC @ Algonac 6:00

SPORTS

Sports

January 24, 2012

The Blue Devil's Advocate

New Years brings New Life to RHS

By: Mitchell Smith
Staff Writer

New Years brought new life at RHS.

Mr. Barnes, physical education teacher, and Mr. Whitney, English teacher, had children born over the holiday break and they couldn't be happier.

"Having a child is great. My wife is health along with the baby and it's great. Everything is good," Mr. Barnes said.

Mr. Barnes' son's name is Bradley Dillon, and he was born on December 30, 2011 at 2:40p.m. Bradley was 7 pounds, six ounces and was 20 inches long.

"We wanted the gender of our baby to be a surprise, so we kept sealed the envelope because we wanted to wait and see what happens," Barnes said. "There were hundreds of feelings going through my mind. I was joyful, overwhelmed a bit, but my wife is healthy and so is the baby. There aren't really any words to express

how you feel when you see your baby for the first time."

Mr. Barnes said his wife's and his life has completely changed. He said having the baby was kind of stressful, and it affects how he and his wife sleep eat, work and how long they are able to work.

"Having a baby impacts the decisions my wife and I make everyday," Mr. Barnes said.

Mr. Barnes also said that it is sort of stressful because every decision impacts the baby. Mr. Barnes said every decision is made with the baby in mind.

The family has been interacting great, but the baby wakes up every two or three hours so he is always sleepy, said Mr. Barnes

"The best thing so far is having a little boy to come home to everyday.

Everyone tosses the word family around but it means a lot more when you have a little one at home," Mr. Barnes said.

His extended family helped a lot with clothes to.

"My wife did a lot of the clothes

shopping, but we didn't have to do as much as you think. My wife had a baby shower and people have been very generous so we haven't shopped as much as I thought going in."

Mr. Barnes' wife decorated the room, but he said it was hard for her to do because he did not know if it was a boy or girl. Mr. Barnes said the baby hasn't really been outside, but he's been in the car a few times and that's about it.

Coach Whitney's daughter Svea was born on December 27, 2011 only two days after Christmas.

"Having a baby is the most awesome feeling in the world and it changes everything you ever thought you knew. It's great," Whitney said.

Mr. Whitney said he and his wife found the name on the internet. They searched baby names and found Svea.

"We wanted our baby's gender to be a surprise, so we kept it sealed in the envelope until we found out," Mr. Whitney said. "I don't know

how to put it in words.

Having a child is a feeling you can't describe. I had fear, excitement, anxiety and love all rolled into one big emotion."

"The family life is great now. They baby is sleeping through the night, and through the night means 11 at night to 6 in the morning which takes a lot of stress off," Mr. Whitney said.

Mr. Whitney said the best thing so far is being able to see his daughter everyday when he gets home.

He and his wife did not over prepare before the birth

"We really didn't do that much shopping before because we didn't know if it was a boy or a girl so we just got the basic stuff," Mr. Whitney said.

Mr. Whitney said that the room is a safari theme because of the monkeys, elephants and lions on the walls. Mr. Whitney also said that Svea has been a few places like a restaurant and the mall.

He said his life has changed in many ways but there was one big change that stood out.

Post-Season Football Madness

By: Jacob Marlow
Staff Writer

It's been a long, grueling year for the National Football League; it went from the Green Bay Packers winning the 2010-2011 Super Bowl to the 132 day Lockout to a big dispute between the players and owners over games played, and labor deals.

As the 2011-2012 season began on September 8, 2011 with the defending Super Bowl champs Green Bay, playing the 2010 Super Bowl champions New Orleans Saints. The game ended 42-34, with Green Bay being the victor.

Since then, the NFL season has been surprising and intense with Green Bay showing why they were the defending Super Bowl champs with a record of 15-1 with a hard loss by the Chiefs.

Another big team that had an uproaring year was the Detroit Lions.

After coming off an embarrassing 0-16 record in 2008, they have come back to what Detroit football once was in the 90s with the all-time great Barry Sanders at the helm.

The 2011-2012 Lions had their first winning record since 2000 with a 10-7 record.

All this talk about the Lions was because of their first playoff game in over 10 years; they faced off against the New Orleans Saint, and sadly lost 45-28.

Many teams were still in the post-season after the Lions left: Green Bay Packers, New York Giants, Houston Texans, Denver Broncos, Baltimore Ravens, San Francisco 49ers, New England Patriots, and New Orleans Saints.

The Top 8 teams played Saturday January 14, with the San Francisco 49ers defeating the New Orleans Saints 36-32.

Later that Saturday night, Tom

Brady and the New England Patriots defeated Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos in a blow-out victory 45-10.

As Sunday, January 15 rolled around, Ray Lewis and his Baltimore Ravens took their dominant defense to Arian Foster's Houston Texans with a 20-13 victory to Baltimore.

By far the game of the week was the 2011 Super Bowl champs Green Bay Packers taking on the 2008 Super Bowl champs New York Giants. It was a battle through out the whole game. But Manning and his G-Men took it to the Packers with a 37-20 victory.

Many people thought the 15-1 Packers had and easy W over the 9-7 Giants. I thought myself "The Packers had the game easy. C'mon it was the Giants! What have they done since 2008?"

The mindset I went into watching that game was probably the same mindset of the Packers. That's why they lost; they didn't put the end in mind. They thought the game was won before it started. They looked past them like they were a pee-wee football team.

As for the Tebow vs. Brady game,

I have no words to describe the game but dominance: pure offensive dominance shown by the Patriots.

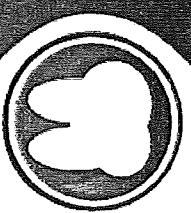
Brady threw for a whopping 363 yards with six touchdowns. And the Patriots' total offensive yardage was at 509 yards.

The better player, the better team showed up on Saturday night and Brady proved himself all over again and will most likely win his fifth Super Bowl Ring.

The Conference showdown took place Sunday, January 22, with the AFC match up pitting Brady and the Patriots against Ray Lewis and the Ravens.

SUPERBOWL

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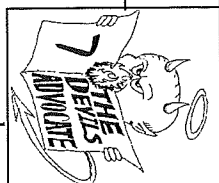
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Am I lovin' it?

The Blue Devil's Advocate

Norton: Wrestling team goes to the mat to help former wrestler



Continued from page 5

Day said, "We just wanted to obviously provide some help for Scott and teach our kids a good lesson." He then added, "Athletically, we wanted to create an environment like the State Finals: Loud. And we did that."

Scott Norton had wrestled for Richmond when he was younger. After his family moved, he wrestled during his high school years for Romeo.

"His family wrestled for Richmond. The majority of the Norton brothers have all stayed close with Coach Hamblin. If you ask the coaches about the Norton family, they know the family well," Day said.

The family was at the fund raiser match, but Norton was unable to attend. Even though physically he was absent, he was there in the spirit of the competition.

Day said, "We watched a video Scott prepared for us. It affected Hudson too. The kids got very emotional not only because of the match, but because of the message."

The video was a message from Norton giving thanks to the two schools for competing and to the coaches for holding the match as a fund raiser for him.

Romeo's current wrestling coach, Jim Cali, had similar feelings about the atmosphere at the match. Cali had been Norton's coach for his four years of high school at Romeo.

"I think when they played the video," Cali said, "I thought it was captivating. It got everyone's attention and it was very inspirational."

But there was more adding to the excitement of the match, mentioned Cali, "Then in the back of your mind, you got two great teams, Hudson and Richmond wrestling each other. Everyone that knew Scott, knew he would have loved that atmosphere during the fund raiser."

The Richmond, Hudson, and Romeo wrestling programs worked together to put this program

together. "Between Brandon Day and myself and I'm sure the other coaches we just started talking that we have to do something. Day said he talked to the Hudson coach and he thought it was a great thing. It was a kick off to a series of events," Cali said.

The main message was to raise money for Norton and his family. But it was two-fold to teach the high school wrestlers that after wrestling

is over, there is discipline that needs to be carried on into adulthood.

Also, helping out to others in need should come first.

Cali said, "One thing, to promote and there are powers in numbers. So we sold t-shirts and wrist bands. We just wanted a lot of prayers for Scott and his family. Also to raise some money for his family and to get thoughts and prayers."

Romeo wrestlers came, parents came, alumni came and even audiences came from Hudson's area. The RHS varsity competitive cheer team came and performed as well. The cheer team performed stunts while the stands were filling up and performed their Round One routine.

Regan Blissett, sophomore cheerleader, said, "It was a great tribute to Scott Norton. I felt that their win was more meaningful because his family was from Richmond."

Blissett continued, "Cheerleaders have never cheered for a wrestling event before, and I felt this was the best one to do it at, for Scott Norton."

Garret Edwards, RHS senior wrestler said, "It was really loud. A lot of people came. It was good to wrestle for a cause like that. And of

course wrestling Hudson was good too."

Hudson, a state championship team, proved to be a small obstacle in front of the Blue Devil freight train. Richmond pulled out of the match on top with a final score of 40-29. But the win was not the most important part of the match.

"Norton was a pretty special kid. We wanted to teach our guys an important lesson that you know that we may think wrestling and athletics is extremely important, but at the end of the day having a healthy family and a healthy family is the most important thing," said Day. "We will do something [next year]. We've talked about not only a cancer fund raiser, but maybe a fundraiser for SADD. Wrestling is pretty important in our community, and we can draw large crowds."

Currently, Norton is living in Arizona and his cancer has been responding well to the six weeks of radiation treatment. He plans to go back to work when he gets "Okayed" from the doctors. He works as a nutrition coach for companies and their employees.

There will be a second fund raiser held at Romeo High school on Wednesday, January 25 against Utica Ford. All are welcome to attend.

Back-tucks, big stunts, loud voices: Oh my!

By: Samantha Schafer
Staff Writer

Blue is back and better than ever! On January 11, RHS hosted their first home BWAC competitive cheer competition in two years.

The RHS cheer team has had a very successful season. As of now, they have won three competitions, making them an undefeated team. They are currently ranked first in the state.

Tiannah Banks, sophomore, said, "It feels amazing because we have never been ranked first. Last year we were always ranked second!"

There are three rounds in a cheer competition.

Round One is scored on team formations and jumps. At the BWAC competition, Richmond earned 230.8

points out of 240 in this round.

Jessica Bishop, sophomore, said, "Round One [on January 11] felt really smooth. I felt like we were loud and clapped loud." This was their highest score of the season for this round.

Round Two is scored on precision, five skills (one jump, one flexibility, one tumbling, and two extra skills), and general impression. Richmond earned 246.363 points out of 258.48. This was also a high score for the season.

Courtney Russell, junior, said, "It was the best we have done so far. We all stuck our back tucks, which was a good feeling."

Round Three is scored on stunting and tumbling. Richmond earned 308.042 points out of 330. Bishop said, "Even though some groups didn't go up right, we still did

really good. We got another high score—we have never been in the 300s for this season."

Judging is complex.

Head Coach Kelli Matthes said, "The judges are judging on what is in each category and are deducting from there."

Richmond won with a total of 785.662 points.

To get this score, Richmond used a very impressive skill.

"Last year's team was the first in school history to do a team back-tuck. We still have that this year,"

Coach Matthes said. Full team back-tucks score very highly in

competition. Richmond was the only team to perform a team back-tuck.

The team did not achieve this feat on their own.

They had help from a tumbling

instructor, Adam Drader, as well as a former competitive RHS cheerleader and current middle school coach Melana Fenwick. "I help a lot with the tumbling, and I also help out with anything the other coach tells me to do," Coach Fenwick said.

The girls have been doing a lot to prepare for the season. Every practice, which takes place in the elementary school gym, cheerleaders stretch for about 15 minutes, then go on to warm-up by doing 100 wall jumps. They move on to tumbling next, doing each of their skills ten times. Finally, they go on to practice their rounds, one by one.

Angel Deal, freshman, said, "It's challenging but worth it because we know it's making us better, and it's fun because we are all pretty close."

Their hard work shows on the competition mat.

When cheerleaders get to competition, they get ready and go to the practice mat where they run through their rounds.

Sarahanne Marshall, freshman, said, "We have this thing called tunnel vision. It's when we don't look at any of the other teams and we focus on what we have to do."

For freshmen and sophomores on the team, the BWAC meet on January 11 was their first home competition.

"It's comforting, almost, because it's your gym. It's like you own the place. It's fun to show our school how much we've improved," said Deal.

Keisey Kasom, senior, said, "[It's hard] getting ready and setting up

and not getting to excited to where you forget what you're there to do. We were there to do it right."

Melissa Graham, senior and team captain, said, "We have all our fans wearing our colors; it gets us more pumped up and have more school spirit."

RHS fans in the stands were impressed by the team.

Mrs. Gabridge, English teacher, was one of those fans. "The crowd was cheering. I haven't seen that much spirit in a long time," Mrs. Gabridge said.

Paula Fitzsimons, former middle school cheer coach, said, "I think they're going to go all the way."

The girls have high hopes. McCloskey said, "We encourage each other to succeed in what we want—which is States!"

Superbowl Superfinish

continued from page 6

It was a good, hard fought game, with the fierce Ravens Defense and the outstanding throwing game the Patriots brought.

The very intense Ravens-Patriots game came down to the nitty-gritty, with the Patriots overcoming the Ravens defense. During the last seconds of the game, Ravens kicker Billy Cundiff shanked a 32-yard field goal that would have put the game into overtime. The game's final score had the Pats winning 23-20

On the other side of the hill in the NFC, the 49ers took on the Giants. Both are very skilled teams and was a tight game. Both teams have the defense, but both teams also have the great offenses with Eli Manning leading the Giants and Vernon Davis's pro bowl hands.³

It was a tight game as well but the Giants overcame the 49ers, 20-17. Manning threw for an astounding 316 yards with two touchdowns and went 32 for 58 throws.

Everyone tune in on February 7, 2012 and watch the Giants face the Patriots in a Super Bowl rematch.

A high scoring Super Bowl is on the horizon. The rematch of the 2008 Super Bowl New York Giants and New England Patriots will face off in Indianapolis. Will history repeat itself, with Manning and the G-Men over come Brady and the Patriots? Everyone will have to wait and see.