



Devin Skatzka Wrestles His Way to IU

By: **Katie Brown**
Staff Writer

Three individual state titles.

One team state title.

And now a commitment to Indiana University in the fall of 2015.

Devin Skatzka is just starting a long journey of a successful wrestling career. Wrestling for 13 years and having an All-American wrestler as a dad, Skatzka knows his way around the wrestling mat pretty well.

Going for his fourth individual state title is not the only big thing that Skatzka has coming up for him in the next year. His recent commitment to IU to wrestle is also in his future.

Visiting numerous colleges including Virginia Tech, Michigan State University and Central Michigan University, Skatzka was faced with a tough choice. "I looked for a really nice, clean campus, a good wrestling program and coaches that would help me get where I need to

be," Skatzka said.

Aspiring to be a chiropractor, Skatzka also looked at Indiana's pre-med program. The pay was one of the main reasons he wanted to major in that profession, Skatzka said.

When making the decision of what college was right for him he had to take a lot of things into consideration including leaving the state. "I wasn't sure if I wanted to go somewhere closer to home," Skatzka said. When he finally made his choice, there was a lot weighing on his decision, but he knew he wanted to wrestle in the Big 10 Conference.

Skatzka has already gotten to know most of the guys on the IU team pretty well which will help him fit into the college life a little better. "I know almost everyone now, a couple of them are from Michigan too so I know them." Skatzka said. Leaving during the summer, Skatzka is looking forward to getting his college wrestling career started.

Coaching Skatzka for five years now, Coach Day, head coach of the wrestling team, has taught a lot to Skatzka but has also learned a lot about him too.

Coach Day admits that anyone that comes out of Richmond's wrestling program is prepared to wrestle at a high level.

"We wrestle one of the toughest schedules in the country and our workouts are college-style workouts," Coach Day said.

Coach Day believes the hardest part of going to college for Skatzka will be being away from Richmond and his family. After years of giving Skatzka advice, Coach Day said, "Don't change, continue to have high morals and to lead."

Anticipating all the upcoming opportunities, Skatzka said he will have to have a good mindset, good wrestling partners, the right coaches and, most important, hard work to be successful. Being part of a Big Ten college is what excites him most about college wrestling.

With college-level wrestling being a lot different, Skatzka has a lot of challenges to overcome and obstacles that will stand in his way, but Coach Day and so many other people support him. "As long as he stays healthy he is going to do great things," Coach Day said.

Signing Thursday Nov. 13 to Indiana in front of his friends, family, and the city of Richmond was nerve-wracking he admits "I'm not that good at talking in front of people," Skatzka said.

Not signing alone, Evan Kratt, senior, signed to play baseball. University to play baseball.

"It was cool, Evan is one of my best friends and it was pretty sweet to share that experience with him," Skatzka said.

Now that Skatzka is all signed, he can focus on the last year of high school wrestling season. "A lot of pressure is off my shoulders, I don't have to worry about committing and just focus on wrestling," Skatzka said.



Devin Skatzka's official Signing Day card (Photo courtesy of Indiana University.)

Playoffs

Continued from page 9

game and had gotten the first touchdown in the first quarter. "Getting the touchdown in the first couple seconds changed momentum. The early lead and being up 7-0 pumped everyone up. It was pretty cool and huge to score five touchdowns for a playoff game," Skatzka said, who had over 200 yards rushing.

Scoring the first touchdown of the game brought a lot of intensity to the game, and led to more big plays. Junior, Stefan Fenwick who got a touchdown later in the game, said, "It was pretty intense. I was running so fast I couldn't stop."

Skatzka had five touchdowns, Fenwick had one, and Brandon Meyers junior, had one also. "It was awesome to get my first varsity touchdown. Especially in a district final game," Meyers said.

To prepare themselves for the second game of playoffs against Marysville, the team did a lot of reps and looked at their work from the first game of playoffs. Also, they used the motivation of being told that they

were going to lose to motivate them to win.

The team didn't take Marysville lightly, despite beating them the first game of the season. They came out strong and ready to play. Fenwick said, "When I got my first touchdown during playoffs, it was energetic. Everyone was cheering and it was loud. It gave me some momentum."

Along with the touchdowns, the team had to keep their plays on point. Barrett said, "It wasn't nerve-wracking to make sure all our plays were right because we had a tough week of practice following up to the game. We were pretty confident."

Junior Brandon Kunce, the team's kicker, also played a part in the team's victories. "It had been fantastic to get all my kicks down, but playoffs aren't over yet. I don't want to jinx myself," Kunce said.

Going into the game not knowing they were going to win, the team was confident but didn't take the game or the other team lightly. Coming out with a victory over

Marysville, the team traveled on to Lansing to play Sexton on Saturday, Nov. 15th.

Zihlavsky, Skatzka, and Kunce all agreed that the Lansing game was going to be their hardest but they're willing to work hard to win.

Yale Game: The District Semi-Final

Richmond started the 2014 playoff season against Yale.

To prepare the team for playoffs, the boys had a lot of strict practices, they had to be a little more serious, work extra hard and watch a lot of film for good offense and defense.

As the game started and Yale scored the first touchdown, Richmond was down 8-0.

That's when the nerves started to kick in. They knew they had to change something.

Zihlavsky said, "I wasn't really nervous before the game. The nerves started to hit when they got the first touchdown and they were up."

The weather for the game had

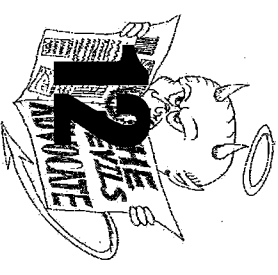
been a game-changer for the RHS Blue Devils.

It rained all night for the game which affected the team. Skatzka said, "It actually helped for running the ball, but we missed tackles." Kunce added that it was a lot different of a game plan.

"Knowing any of these games could be my last is kind of scary and sad. We're trying harder to make it father than we have been before especially it being my senior year," senior Jake Schmidt said. Schmidt played defensive end against Yale. He played good with having some recovered fumbles throughout the game.

Zihlavsky said, "It was nice to win against Yale. It was a solid win. Plus they also said we went tanning too much. We grew as a team through team bonding which helped the season a lot."

Richmond had a victory over Yale 42-14 which kept the season going. Richmond's next game in the playoffs was Friday, Nov. 7 against Marysville.



Art Students Strive for Creativity

By: Brandon Stein
Staff Writer

Art and drawing students of RHS are changing the drawing board. Students recently completed projects that encouraged creativity and collaboration with their classmates. They created trading cards with any design they wanted, as long as it represented them in some way.

Students could use any materials to portray personal creativity and personality. Some students brought items from home or used items they found outside.

Creative freedom was a big part of this project, but students did have requirements to follow. Students had to draw on both sides of the cards, make sure they were baseball card size and use some sort of item to develop style.

"It's a great collaborative project. Students make their own little community where everyone feels like they belong," said art teacher Mrs. Belf. Students had a very fun time with this project. To start, students were given a large sheet of paper which they then cut multiple cards out of. 34 cards were to be made per student. Once that was done, students were to create their designs and drawings on both sides of each card. This process took an average of two weeks per student to create all 34.

"It was kind of annoying to do the second side and not screw up the design on the other side," said senior Odin DeFazio.

Odin created many designs, but his favorite by far was the card he made with a large eye surrounded by cookies and pancakes.

Freshman Danielle Hunt created the symbol from the band The Misfits, which is an interesting looking skull. Danielle also created many other cards that had a dark theme to them such as skeletons.

"My favorite part of doing these cards was the personalization and freedom that we had," said Danielle.

After students made their cards, they showed up to class and went around a table and introduced themselves to classmates.

They showed their cards and explained what each one meant and represented. Students tried to make their cards as relatable to themselves as possible. Some students even used materials like grass or nails to represent their personality.

"I really liked one card I saw, that had wrapping paper and cupcakes on it," said junior Lauren Maksymuk.

These trading cards were a project that many students enjoyed and would definitely do again. However they were not the only recent big news about what has happened in art. Some students took a trip over to Richmond Elementary school and did some face painting on kids' faces during the Open House Night. With around 200 elementary kids running around getting their faces painted, it was a bit crazy.

"It was a good thing I had about 15 high school kids to help me set up and paint some faces," said Mrs. Belf. At her previous school, Mrs. Belf would only have two or three kids to help her, so this year having as many kids as she did help her was a positive change of pace.

The elementary kids loved the face painting activity and many pictures were taken to share memories. The high school kids were very excited to do the face paintings as well. They were very helpful in setting up for the event and had a blast doing it.

"The kids wouldn't quit moving and were squeamish. It was difficult to get the drawing right, but it was fun," said Maksymuk. This took place during Homecoming week so many of the elementary kids got the Richmond "R" and other community spirit designs. Some also got various kinds of animals.

"It's a really good community activity. It's good for others to see high school art because I feel the department deserves a lot more recognition than it gets," said DeFazio. With these recent art projects, a lot was asked of the students, and they delivered. Students had the freedom and personality to create whatever they wanted, and they took full advantage of it. "High school art class is very different from middle school. You have more freedom and it's more personal," said Hunt.

Stay tuned for more great things out of the art and drawing classes as the year progresses.

Teachers Attack Subject of Terrorism at RHS ISIS is A Growing Subject Matter Among Teachers

By: Trevor Barrett
Sports Co-Editor

Here in America, we go to sleep at night, not having to worry about not waking up the next morning. In other parts of the world, however, this is not the case.

Due to recent actions of the group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Middle Eastern countries are living in constant fear. Women and children are being raped and killed, whole towns are being devastated and people's lives are changed forever.

According to CNN.com, this radical group is a splinter group of al-Qaeda, who caused turmoil in the same region for the longest time. Why are they doing all of this?

They want to create an Islamic State, or a caliphate, all across Iraq and Syria.

The leader of this terrorist group is Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. There is very little known about him because he has kept himself so well hidden. BBC.com says there have only been two authenticated pictures of him and one video.

Dr. Ladd, Social Studies teacher, has a lot to say about this. He said, "Two things cause terrorism: rejection and oppression. This group has been there, but now they see their opportunity, and they are acting."

U.S. involvement is another great concern. Should we or should we not? That's the question.

"The U.S. has to get involved. It is our role in the world," he said. "We're the only ones that can do anything."

This is arguably the most important world news going on right now. Teachers realize that, and they are teaching their students plenty about this subject.

Plenty is being taught about the Middle East as a whole.

"I'm trying to teach them that not everyone in the Middle East is a terrorist. People see the Middle East and they automatically think oil, and everyone is rich. This is not the case," Dr. Ladd said.

In World History, the class is currently learning about the Middle East, so ISIS and terrorism is an automatic when it comes to this region.

"I'm trying to get them to understand the causes of terrorism and why it happens," Dr. Ladd continued.

Students are starting to handle these lessons very well.

Breman Dolan, a freshman, had a lot to say about the Middle East and terrorism.

"I understand why terrorist attacks happen and how they think in the region," he said.

The students in Dr. Ladd's class have done a lot to gain this extensive knowledge.

"We wrote an essay about terrorism and if it was based off religion or not," Dolan said. "It helped me understand that the actions of the Middle East are not based off their hatred for America; a lot has to do with religion."

The religion Dolan talks about is Islam, not just any Muslim, but Muslim extremists. This is the group of people responsible for terrorist attacks.

Dolan said, "Islam is a big religion in that area but not every Muslim is a terrorist.

Some Muslims are really extreme. If you say something bad about their religion [the extremists] try to harm and kill you."

There have also been lectures all about the topic.

"He talks about how important the Middle East is to the rest of the world for oil and how the rest of the world is affected when the region goes to war. These lectures help me understand that the Middle East is not out to hurt the rest of the world," Dolan said.

Much like Dr. Ladd, Mrs. Wolfe, another Social Studies teacher, also believes that it is vitally important for the students to grasp this situation.

"It is definitely something they need to be aware of. It is a current event. It's going on in the world around them," she said.

Social Studies is not the only class learning about ISIS. In Newspaper class, students are becoming well aware of this situation as well.

They have read articles that pertain to the thoughts and feelings of those affected by this terrorist group, as well as having in depth discussions about ISIS, their goals, where they are from and why they are doing this.

Beau Brockett, senior, said, "I learned how terrible this group is and about the death and destruction they cause. In the news they show the general outline of what this group does, but the article brought into perspective how many people are being hurt and how many refugees are being created because of this group."

this by passing out smarty's that said, "Be a smarty and don't drink and drive."

It would not have been possible without the help from a sophomore, Lauren Molnar. "Even though she didn't attend the dance, Lauren donated her time by passing out the candy to make sure people got home safely," said Mr. Delore.

Molnar decided to donate her time because she wanted to try and send a message of how crucial one mistake can really be. "One stupid decision can not only destroy ones person's life but can destroy many others as well," Molnar said.

When asked if she believed that passing out the candy messages was successful, Molnar said,

"Nobody got in any accidents, so I would say it was pretty successful!"

Mr. Delore's favorite activity during SADD is the Mock Accident, which is where they reenact a

car crash when students are under the influence of alcohol. "I believe that this is a very important event because it allows students to feel the full effect of how dangerous drinking and driving really is," said Mr. Delore.

Even though SADD has been very successful over the years, Mr. Delore is still finding new ways to fundraise money. In the future, they are thinking of doing a dating website that allows kids to find their perfect companion from all the kids who go Richmond high school.

Each person will have to donate \$1 as every cent of it will go to charity. Mr. Delore said, "I think this is a great idea because it will interest a lot of young teens and is a fun way of doing a fundraiser. As SADD keeps generating new ideas on how to fundraise money, the Program will just continue to get better and better."

SADD

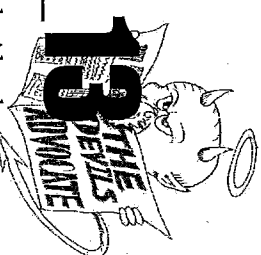
Continued from Page 4

Kurtis Kaltz, a sophomore member of SADD, had a big impact on the bake sale as he spent a few hours of his time making sales and also participating on making a few baked goods. "I'm very happy to have had such an important role in helping the less fortunate children. I feel that the bake sale was a huge success," said Kaltz.

When asked what made the bake sale so successful, Mr. Delore said, "The variety of baked goods and the parents being able to be involved to support the Richmond bake sale."

During Homecoming SADD did their absolute best to prevent students from drinking and driving.

They think it is very important to try and teach students that one mistake like drinking and driving can really ruin a person's life forever. They did



The Budds' 'Sonic' Associate

By: Haleigh Beedon
Staff Writer

There's something pokin' 'round the Budd household.

And it has four legs. Its name: Florence. Hannah Budd, a junior, loves her pet hedgehog. For her, she doesn't face any challenges when caring for Florence.

"They're definitely not a pet for everyone," she said.

Sadly, Budd couldn't have the experience of going and getting Florence herself. Being only 13, she was in school. However, she had a wonderful experience when she got home from school.

"I went into the room of our house and she was sitting in the middle of this little pouch," she said. "I was really overjoyed and almost scared when I saw her baby nose pop out."

Budd has had Florence since December of 2011. She was born in October of that year, so that makes her three-years-old today.

Out of the 15 species of hedgehogs there are, the Budds have an African Pygmy Hedgehog.

All hedgehogs have specific things that need to be tended to.

The room a hedgehog is in needs to be between 77 and 85 degrees. Hedgehogs are used to warmer climates. If they aren't acclimated to the right temperature, it could shock them and possibly be fatal to their life.

Hedgehogs also need to have at least seven hours of playtime each day in order to have them get used to their owner. The reason for this is so the hedgehog gets used to your smell, the sound of your voice and so the hedgehog becomes comfortable around



Hannah Budd snaps a selfie with her hedgehog Florence.

its new owner. For play, they usually crawl around and go in and out of little play tubes designed for smaller pets.

Hedgehogs are small, only about a half a pound to a pound and a quarter, so they get scared easily. The room the hedgehog is in needs to be quiet or else they can get startled.

To bathe Florence, Budd uses a toothbrush so she can get under her quills and make her as clean and possible. She also uses sensitive baby shampoo/conditioner so it's not too rough on her skin. Hedgehogs need special

food; they can't just eat ordinary fruits or vegetables. They best food for them is to be ordered online and kept refrigerated. In their diets, hedgehogs need to get the proper amount of fiber and protein to stay healthy.

For Budd, there are many good things about having a pet hedgehog, such as the little cute things she does. For example, how she makes cute squeaky noises, she always wiggles her nose and she itches herself with her back leg just as a dog would.

Following the good things, there are some bad things about having a pet hedgehog. "I can't spend enough time as I'd like to

with her because I have homework. Also, her quills make it difficult to hold and pet her and when she's scared, she makes this noise that sounds like shoes in a washing machine," Budd said.

Sometimes if a hedgehog likes the scent of something, they'll chew up the item and spread it on their back. Budd has experienced this before. "One summer, she chewed up grass and spread the green all over a section of her back and she looked like she rolled in an avocado," she said.

Unfortunately, Budd couldn't get Florence at a local pet store. Her parents had to go to a special hedgehog breeder a couple hours away.

"From what they said, there were hedgehogs everywhere and it was really cute," Budd said.

When they bought Florence, she cost somewhere between \$150 and \$200. The price of a hedgehog depends on their color and special birthmarks. Florence cost a little more because she has a half pink and half brown nose.

Budd has three other pets along with Florence. She has two dogs, Henri and Benji, and a cat named Heidi.

"They absolutely love Florence," Budd said. "They all get along great and it's the cutest thing to watch!" Along with the love from her other pets, her family loves Florence as well.

Since hedgehogs are used to warm climates, they're unable to go outside when it's cold outside. In the summer, Budd likes to take Florence outside. She likes to crawl around and embrace the sun.

Hedgehogs have quills like porcupines so it wouldn't be the easiest thing to put pet clothes on them. Although, Budd said that on Florence's birthday they put little crowns and little hats on her.

"I've loved Florence from the second I first saw her," Budd said. "And since then, I've been happy with her."

WORD SEARCH

U C B S P C H E I R E H T A G L
 Y E K R U T R F X F H H N N O
 B K S W M M C A V A N X H A E
 W R A I P O C U N R O C E X G
 A A B C K X I K N B V R K M Q
 G O U O I C S F I E E T M Z A
 V L Q E N G P Y A L M R O D O
 S E E F I P A E B E B E R R Z
 M Z B V W P C A Q C E S Y X Z
 Y X I U R J T U C R R S B K V
 H N G L I A B T O O F E A S F
 G Y V P G R C U V Z Z D A M H
 R M Y E W H W M C K F L B X F
 G X V K Q P S N G B W M J R K
 Y Z U A C B G G B X U J N J F

Word Bank

AUTUMN	GATHER
CARVE	NOVEMBER
CELEBRATE	PIE
CORNUCOPIA	PUMPKIN
CRANBERRY	THANKSGIVING
DESSERT	TURKEY
FEAST	VEGETABLE
FOOTBALL	

Goblin' up Memories: Thanksgiving Traditions at RHS

By: Ashleigh Stier
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is a heart-warming time. The smell of food, the laughs of family and friends, and the feeling of thanks surrounds the room.

Families and friends come together on Nov. 27 and they spend quality time together and cherish the good company.

Another year, another tradition followed. Many people follow many different traditions.

"The day before Thanksgiving, my kids, my husband and I go to the Original Pancake House to get pumpkin pancakes," Mrs. Wolfe, a teacher at RHS, said. On Thanksgiving, her family, including herself, gets up in the morning to watch the Thanksgiving parade on TV.

In between watching the parade, Mrs. Wolfe is preparing food to take to her family's house. Mrs. Wolfe's favorite food on Thanksgiving is stuffing. Her favorite part about the holiday is spending time with family and eating the delicious food.

"I am thankful for my family and friends and that they're in good health," Wolfe added.

Sophomore, Karissa Bruinsma, celebrates similarly to Mrs. Wolfe. Like Mrs. Wolfe, she goes to another family member's house to have dinner. She eats dinner at her sister's and she has been following this tradition for as long as she can remember. While making the food, Karissa helps make the desserts.

Dinner is served in the evening around five. "My favorite food is the cheesy potatoes," Bruinsma said. Before eating they pick their secret Santa people so they can start shopping for Christmas. While eating, the family watches the Lions' game.

This is something new for Bruinsma because the past three years she has danced in the half time show at the Lions game with her dance team.

This year, she won't be dancing in the half time show but she is happy she gets to spend the day with her family.

"Our family doesn't live so close, so Thanksgiving is a time where we can all be together and I am thankful for my family and friends," Bruinsma said. An interesting tradition, done by Ms. Denapole, RHS's Media Center

Continued on page 15