

## Features and News

### Book's and Box-Offices

#### Books: *The Beginning of Everything*, by Robyn Schneider

This is the story of Ezra Faulkner, a high school senior in a small town in California. He is the golden boy, the star athlete, prom king, and owner of a shiny BMW, or at least he was before a speeding SUV ran a stop sign and ruined it all.

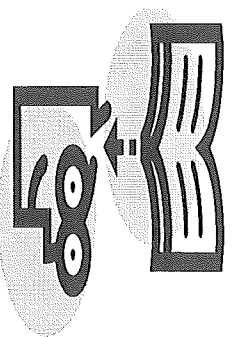
Now he is handicapped by his shattered knee, dumped by his beautiful and popular girlfriend, and ostracized by his teammates. He believes that he's lost everything, but that starts to change when he meets Cassidy Thorpe.

A ball of fierce spontaneity, Cassidy helps him to see that the world is so much wider and wittier than a tennis court. It is a place where you can dance to your own music and are free to figure out what your music is.

Ezra is so deeply committed to Cassidy that he can't see that maybe, just maybe, she isn't the one changing the way he thinks. That maybe that change was in himself all along...

A loose retelling of *The Great Gatsby*, Robyn Schneider explores teenaged popularity the same way F. Scott Fitzgerald explored wealth. The plot twists in such a way that it stays very true to the retelling but keeps readers agonizingly, excitedly on their toes. It is hilarious and heartbreaking, throw-the-book-out-window sad and smile-like-and-idiot-in-public addicting. The characters are so real that they could suddenly appear in the halls of RHS and not seem the least bit out of place. Most of all, it is honest and original. It will not be soon forgotten.

**5 out of 5 stars**



### Mall madness

By: Elizabeth Urban  
Features Editor

Red, orange, yellow and... black?

Those first few colors remind you of the sensational season of fall. But now for the last several decades, shoppers look forward to the Friday after Thanksgiving. That day has grown darker and more intense each year.

"I think the whole thing is overhyped," said Justin Vollmer, junior.

As the date grows closer, stores come up with bigger and better deals that are not refusable.

Shops are opened earlier than the previous year, and stores that are open 24 hours start their deals at midnight.

"My mom's gone a few times. She's not one of those crazy early shoppers though," said Parker Theend, junior.

Breanna Farnam, senior, went to several stores last year, and got some amazing deals. She plans

#### Movies: *Romeo and Juliet* (2013)

Yes, there is another version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Although this versions is still in theaters\*, it doesn't have a modern interpretation. It is set during Shakespearean era with traditional costumes and settings. It sticks mostly to Shakespeare's original language, but many of the lines are distorted as to be better understood by modern audiences.

This was a very good idea, however, this particular production did not do a good job.

This technique does not work if it distorts the original meaning of the text. The inflection and deliverance of the lines are contradictory to what is being said. It was obvious that most of the actors/acresses were ignorant to what they were supposed to be saying. They kept original lines that no longer made sense with the simpler language, simply because they were famous.

If they were going to make the language simpler, they should have done it in a way that made the plot more apparent, not just biased interpretations of the poetry. Shakespeare is difficult enough without misleading audiences. Other than poor acting and skewed language, the show was really good.

Tybal, Juliet's cousin played by Ed Westwick (Chuck Bass fans!), gave the best performance of Tybal of any mainstream movie in decades. He displayed his character's unrelenting rage with evident emotion and passion. He was Tybal in every way. Props to him.

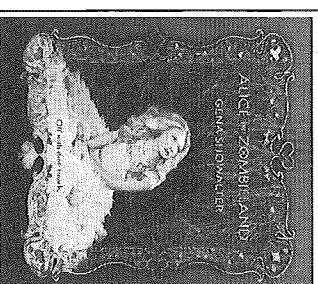
It also had an interesting structure. There were many details that were added – like Rosaline having lines and showing Friar Lawrence's original plan for Romeo and Juliet to run away. These details really enhanced the experience.

Another detail they changed that, surprisingly, worked was the reworking of ages. Benvolio was much younger than Romeo and Mercutio. At first this seemed very out of place, but it actually worked very well in showing his good nature.

Overall this was a good interpretation. The language and acting could have been better, but the mechanics of the show were great.

*\*It is still playing at MDR Partridge Creek*

**3 out of 5 stars**



**4 out of 5 stars**

#### Book Review:

#### *Alice in Zombieland* (by Gena Showalter)

Down the zombie hole?

This modern twist on the classic tale of *Alice in Wonderland* (by Lewis Carroll) tells of zombie, gore and loss.

The main character, Alice Copper, known as Alle, loses everything she's ever known when her family dies in a tragic car wreck.

Forced to come to terms with the accident, Alle moves in with her grandparents and starts off her junior year at a new school. She makes fast friends with a girl named Cat, who has secrets of her own.

The most secretive person however, is the bad-boy Cole, and his mysterious violet eyes. His muscles are that of a 30 year old body-builder and the scars her bears look like he's fought in many wars.

Things become stranger when she starts to notice movement at night outside her window. Finally she see's what she's been trying to believe don't exist. The zombies.

Joining forces with the super secret zombie army at her school, Alle trains with them to prepare for the upcoming war that seems to be approaching.

Typical high school drama gets in the way sometimes, but in the end it's all about killing the zombies, which aren't physical beings, but spiritual beings.

Each time she encounters these undead creatures, she has to leave her own body to fight with her spirit one. That's where the training comes in. Some people aren't who they say they are and lies are shown through each time a fight occurs. The big plot twist at the end will leave you speechless but I won't ruin that for you.

A sequel is set to be released in 2015.

to go out again this year with a few friends.

"I started going last year and it was really fun. I'll probably go every year from now on," said Farnam.

On that fateful morning, people will leave their homes while it's still dark out to take advantage of all those sales.

According to <http://www.fatwallet.com>, in 2009 30% of shoppers had begun waiting outside the stores as early as 5:00 in the morning.

Farnam said, "I'm going to Lakeside and I'm going to buy gifts for friends and family."

There, she plans to visit stores like JCPenney and Hot Topic. She said she is excited for all the deals she will find there as those are two of her favorite stores.

Black Friday, whose name came about in the 1960's, is thought to be the busiest shopping day of the whole year.

The term Black Friday comes from the accounting term, "in the black," meaning the businesses are making a profit instead of being "in the red," which means they are losing money. However, the name originally referred to a stock market plunge in 1869.

Now, this symbolic day is the of the start of the holiday shopping season.

A first time attendee, Max Leesch plans to spend the day looking for good, cheap deals. He will be looking for gifts for his family and to just have the experience of it all.

"I think everyone should go at least once. You hear all these stories of people going insane over deals," said Leesch.

People can get crazy on this major shopping day. Some individuals have been known to resort to violence in disputes over things like Barbie (™) dolls or other popular toys. Because of the potential violence, kids aren't usually in the stores during this time.

This madness has stopped some people from going.

Sophomore Stephanie Woodruff said, "My family and I don't really do the Black Friday shopping thing. When I go shopping I like to have a leisurely stroll and take my time."

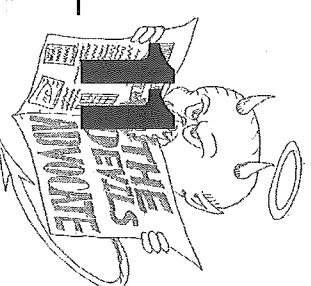
Many people just don't want to deal with the busyness.

Vollmer said, "None of my family really like being involved in the rushing through stores thing with the huge crowds."

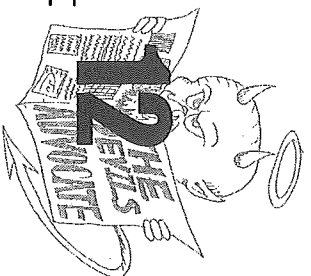
"I think it would just be so chaotic," said Woodruff. "There would be too much madness during Black Friday."

## Features and News

## November 22, 2013



# Features and Games



## WORD SEARCH

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

Celebrate - Indians - Corn - Mayflower -  
 Fall - Meal - Family - November - Feast -  
 Pilgrim - Friends - Pumpkin - Harvest -  
 Thanks - Holiday - Turkey

## SUDOKU

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# HOROSCOPES

By: Elizabeth Urban  
 Features Editor

### Sagittarius - November 22- December 21

Don't listen to other's opinion on you. Your own self-image is the most important. Mid-month you will have a decently sized change in your life, watch out for it.

### Capricorn - December 22- January 19

Disagreements and arguments are seen as huge parts of your everyday life lately. Gain some patience or you'll be quite sad in upcoming days.

### Aquarius - January 20- February 18th

You've been running yourself thin lately and are not sure that you are happy with how things are going. Notice that you have to set aside time for yourself or you will soon regret it greatly.

### Pisces - February 19- March 20th

You're a very inconsistent person and you love to have fun. But sometimes seriousness is exactly what you need. By the 24th, you'll understand exactly what this means for you. Realize what you need to change so that you'll be better off in the end.

### Aries: March 21 – April 29

Someone you've been trying to meet will soon come into your life. Catch their attention with something outrageous to say, and sparks will soon be lighting fires.

### Taurus: April 20 – May 20

Your tendency to think first and act later has gotten you feeling left out and bored. Spontaneity is good. Use it to your advantage. By the end of the month, something will happen in your love life; it may be big or subtle, positive or negative, but watch out for it.

### Gemini - May 21- June 20

Your family and friends have been getting on your nerves lately. You may not even notice it yet, but by the 23rd, it will become apparent. See to it that you don't let it taint their idea of you, should you snap at them or act harshly.

### Cancer - June 21-July 22

You've been a bit short on things this month. Weather it be time, money or patience. Understand that these things are only temporary set backs and by the next full moon you'll be back to normal in no time.

### Leo - July 23 – August 22

Life has gotten you feeling down lately. All you can think about it what you don't have, what you want or what you're going to get. Focus on other people for a change and see what you can do for them.

### Virgo: August 23 – September 22

Don't assume the worst of everyone or everything. Give things a chance that you never thought would be good or fun for you. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

### Libra: September 23 – October 22

Sometimes it will feel like people aren't appreciating you enough. If you try and tell them you make them feel worse. Wait it out and the next time you do something wonderful, they'll be there with great praise.

### Scorpio: October 23 – November 21

You've been avoiding something very important to you in the past few weeks. You're scared something will go wrong if you confront it. By the beginning of the end of this month, you will have dealt with it, and it will have gone your way.

# Stories

## Journey back to state title

By: Emily Swanek  
News Editor

After having a respectable 37-5 record but losing in the State Championship, the Blue Devils have been working in the off season to take back what they believe is rightfully theirs.

Coach Brandon Day said, "We had great summer camp participation this year. We have a great group of athletes here ready to compete and be successful!"

Losing can have either negative or positive effects on a team.

"Losing last year actually made us work harder," said Junior Devin Skatzka. Skatzka wrestled in the 145 weight class last year and was an individual State Champion.

This year, some of the team members will have to some adjustments.

Skatzka will be moving up to the 152 weight class and Senior Jake McKiernan will be moving up from 189 to 215.

"This year I will have to wrestle at 215. I've only wrestled at that class last year for a few matches. It's a tough weight class especially when you are one of the smaller ones, but the advantage is I'm faster," said McKiernan.

McKiernan finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the state last year. "If you're not first, you're last," said McKiernan. He added that his goal this year is to finish higher.

Sophomore Cody Keller will be in the 112 spot. "I wrestle on both A and B team. Going up against a guy is harder because it's a lot faster," said Keller.

Unlike other kids on the team, Keller has a certain condition that will always be with him. "I have a leaky heart valve. I've had surgery on it and have to get regular check-ups too. I am cleared to wrestle and it doesn't stop me from my performance," said Keller.

For freshman Roy Costello, being on this team will take a lot of hard work and dedication. "I wrestle at 103. It's really hard because there are a lot of good kids that are more experienced," said Costello.

With being a freshman, the experience of being a high school wrestler is new. Some of his teammates have helped him adjust. "I have always looked up to Jake McKiernan since I was little. Him and Austin Yannatter helped me perfect my moves," said Costello.

McKiernan has high hopes for these freshmen. "There's no primadonnas. mnu They are all ready to work," said McKiernan.

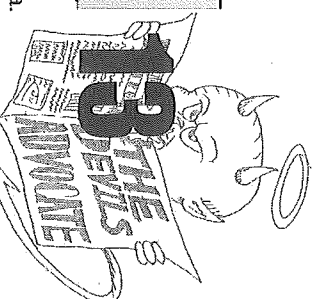
Skatzka added, "There are a lot of tough young ones that will be able to wrestle in the smaller weight classes."

Just like everything in life, there is always room for improvement. "To get back to States, we need to lift more and have longer practices," said Costello.

McKiernan added, "We need to be more disciplined with ourselves, especially when it comes to weight management. We need to all work hard and make sure everybody stays out of trouble and stays eligible."

Skatzka said, "We need all the returners healthy and ready to work and keep a constant weight."

The Devils lost two valuable players last



year: Nate Henke and Austin Cattera.

"Losing Austin and Nate is like losing family members. They have been in the program since 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Their spots can be replaced, but their personalities can't," said Coach Day.

Skatzka added that Austin Pawlak and Nick Burg will most likely be replacing their spots. Coach Day has been in the program for 11 years. Last year, Coach Hamblin retired, which left Day as the head coach instead of co-head coach. "Even though Coach [Hamblin] isn't on the coaching staff anymore, he is still much involved. We still talk on the phone every day," said Day.

Wrestling isn't an easy sport; it requires, like any sport, hard work and dedication, long hours, and most of all, teamwork. The Blue Devils have proven to be successful because they know what they need to accomplish and take it a step further.

"I love coaching these kids because I like helping them accomplish their goals," said Day. To get back to the state championship will not be easy, but the Devils have been preparing. Skatzka said, "We have been lifting more and our practices have become shorter and more intense."

According to Skatzka, their toughest competition will be Dundee, St. Johns, and Catholic Central.

With this team, returning home without a state title is not an option.

McKiernan said, "Nothing less than a team State Championship is acceptable."

Their first match will be December 18 against Crosswell-Lexington.

## Field Trips

Continued from page 3

Mrs. Underwood, history teacher, created Chester Cook Day after asking her students if they could take on the role of Chester Cook.

"We had been covering Christianity in World History. I played the interview of Chester Cook for the kids as an example of a modern day Christian, and I asked the students if they could take up his job for a day. They agreed and it became a day," said Mrs. Underwood.

She added, "I talked to Mrs. Michon about the idea and she loved it."

Every year Mrs. Underwood's students vote on a color to wear to symbolize Chester Cook Day. This year it was orange.

"Each year I would have the students vote on a color to wear, and this year they voted on orange. The first time we celebrated Chester Cook Day, the color was yellow," said Mrs. Underwood.

For five to six years, Chester Cook day has been celebrated

"We have been celebrating Chester Cook day for five to six years now; however we stopped doing it for a while, and then started it back up again," said Mrs. Underwood.

If a student was noticed by a teacher for their positive act they were put into a raffle to win a prize.

Ryan Wilkerson, junior, was one of those students that exhibited a positive act.

"I helped someone in my class do his math homework and put his calculator away," said Wilkerson.

He added, "It felt good to be nice to someone else. I didn't expect that I would be given the chance to be put into the raffle," said Wilkerson.

Each student that was put into the raffle received a prize. The prize was a snack out of the vending machine. Students that were drawn out

of the raffle, received a bigger prize.

Corrina Andress, freshman, is a student in Mrs. Underwood's World History class. She explained her thoughts on Chester Cook Day.

"Chester Cook Day teaches others to be kind and nice to others every day. It should not just be a day that we celebrate once; we should be positive and treat others fairly everyday," said Andress.

She added, "The most positive outcome of this day is that people have been nicer even when they don't have to. There is less bullying as well."

Andress participated in this day by exhibiting her own positive act.

"If someone was feeling sad, I would talk to them and try and brighten their day," said Andress.

Chester Cook Day has showed students to be more positive, kind, and selfless. Mrs. Underwood intends on keeping this day going for a while in Richmond.

## Salt Presentation

On November 5, Mrs. Volpe and her Earth Science classes furthered their knowledge on salt.

George Lutz was invited by Mrs. Volpe to come and speak to the students about why we need salt, where it comes from, and what we use it for.

"We were studying about minerals at the time in my earth science classes, so I decided to bring in a guest speaker about the topic," said Mrs. Volpe.

In order to obtain a guest speaker, Mrs. Volpe had to make an important call.

"I called Cargo and asked if they had a representative who does presentations for schools and they did," said Mrs. Volpe.

Mrs. Volpe plans on continuing bringing in guest speakers for the students.

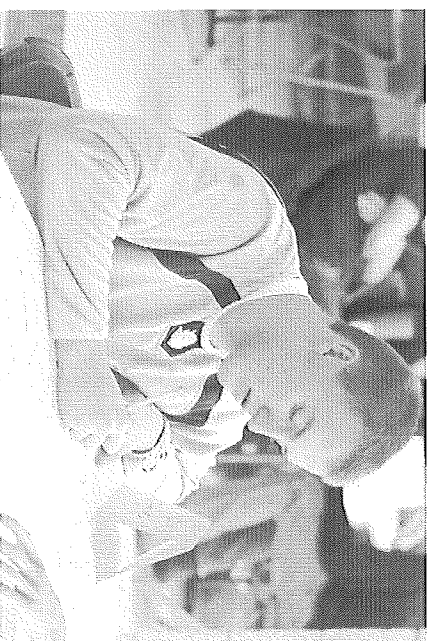
"I plan on having a few more guest speak-

ers come in for the rest of the year," said Mrs. Volpe.

Owen Yannatter, freshman, attended the presentation and discussed what he learned.

He said, "He brought in two giant salt rocks that were crystallized, and said that they were 99% pure salt."

He added, "I enjoyed learning about the different brands of salt and how the more finer brands are more expensive. I also learned how salt is one of the most important minerals."

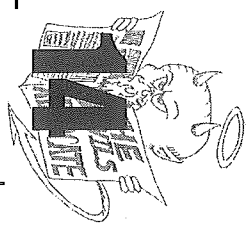


Dillon McInerney finishes his work on his in-school Government field trip.



Kevin Maas enjoys his field trip with Mr. Whitney.  
(Photos courtesy of RHS Yearbook.)

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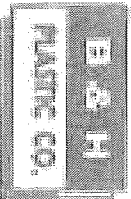
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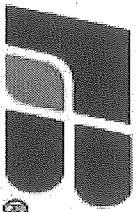
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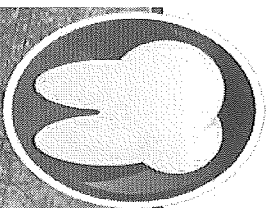
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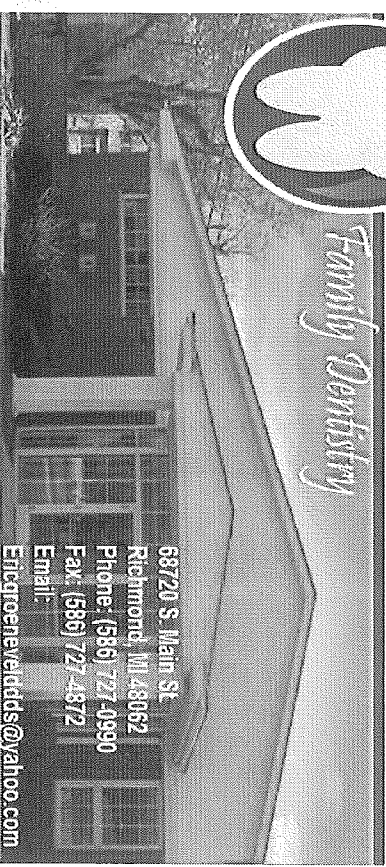
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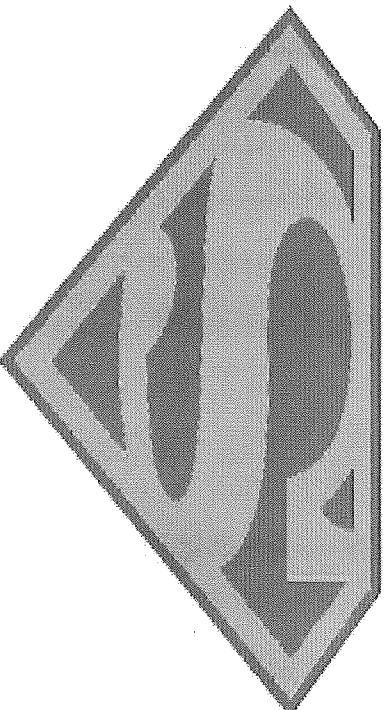
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