

# Features



## Brace Yourself for the Ex-FEAR-ience RHS Students Seek Spooks

**By: Devon Dentai**  
*Staff Writer*

It's that time of year again—haunted house season! Senior Mckenna Pollauf went to the "Blake's Haunted Hayride" for an admission fee of \$17, which she said is, "A little more than I'd like to pay." The average haunted house/hayride costs between \$15 to \$20. Mckenna went with some of her good friends from Algonac on October 1st.

"The scariest part had to be the clowns, for sure! I hate clowns. Always have, always will," Mckenna said.

Haley Saikowski and her friends, RHS seniors Kacie Blish and Megan Weller, joined the fun and set off to a local haunted house and haunted forest called Pinestone Hallow.

Saikowski shared the same feelings as Mckenna. "The worst part had to be the clowns...Clowns are just creepy," Haley said.

"You have to go with friends. It's half of the fun to be scared with your friends," said Saikowski.

While there might not be the nightmare-inducing clowns at Pinestone Hallow, the frights were definitely scared.

"The scariest part of Pinestone had to be when three chainsaw-wielding ghouls in the forest started to chase after us. Kacie and I ran away as Megan was still back there. We finally decided to go back for her. When we found her, she was trapped up and we were just freaked out. Pinestone Hallow was definitely an 8 out of 10 in terms of scary," Saikowski said.

Anthony Zukowski, however, went a little farther to meet his terrified needs.

"I went to Cedar Point's Haunted Slaughter House as well as their Haunted Maze," Zukowski said.

Cedar Point is a theme park and not just a local Haunted attraction. The price of admission was \$75.

"I went with my sister, my mom, my dad, and a lot of other family," Zukowski said.

Zukowski thinks that it was because he was older now that he could enjoy this haunted attraction. "I was surprised I liked it as much as I did. I'm one to hate scary crap. My first haunted house I was blinded by my hands the entire time."

Although Zukowski only gave his experience a 6 out of a 10, he did get a few moments of good scares.

"The worst part by far had to be in the haunted slaughter house, and I hated the corn maze. There was nothing scary about it at all. A big, weird-looking pig guy jumped out of the walls to try and scare you. I felt scared to eat bacon after that," he said.

Zukowski went on to talk about how he had only gone to the haunted attractions, so unfortunately, he couldn't experience the other joys of the theme park had to offer.

All three said if they could change something about the overall haunted experience, it would be to have shorter lines. Saikowski, Pollauf, and Zukowski all agreed this is something they will all do again in the future.

## Fright Night Delights Halloween Plans for RHS Students

**By: Ana Kinkela**  
*Staff Writer*

It's time for scary costumes and scrumptious candy to eat; the time of year has come to go and trick or treat.

This year's students have created their Halloween ideas.

Blue Devil students, including senior Noah Schroeder, senior John Ilowski, junior Chelsey Emerson, junior Hailey Reed, and freshman Shelby Auito about their Halloween plans.

Schroeder is very excited. "My friend and I are dressing up as Left and Right shark from Katy Perry's half-time show a few years ago," Schroeder said. They plan to just walk around, see if people get their joke and to just have a good night.

"We are excited to just have some fun and we thought it was pretty cool to be something silly this year," Schroeder said.

Emerson is also ready for Halloween, and she is going with a group of friends and her boyfriend Dustin.

"We are going as the Purge. We decided that it was a good fit for a group of us going, to be from the same movie," Emerson said. They are all going to be walking around having a blast, and hoping to spook some kids while they are at it.

"I plan to hang out with my friend Kali and go trick or treat. We haven't decided what we are going to be yet though," Auito said. Auito is looking for something scary to wear and is also wanting to scare kids too. She wants to be able to go all out this year as a high schooler. Auito and Kali are looking forwards

to a fun night with each other and to be able to dress up as something different.

Reed is planning to have a Halloween party with some good friends, all dressing up and looking the part for Halloween.

"I'm happy to be able to have a fun night with my friends, even if we look a little crazy all dressed up," Reed said. Reed thinks it's always a good time being with the people you care about most, even when you look like a zombie.

Last but not means least is John Ilowski. Ilowski's plan for Halloween is to spook little kids that come to trick or treat.

"My cousin Noah Rhien and I have planned to dress up as Michael Myers and Jason to scare kids who come for candy," Ilowski said. They have their costumes all planned out and ready to go.

Ilowski is going as Michael Myers, with a mechanics outfit and mask that makes him look like a Halloween decoration. He'll sure scare some kids.

Rhein is going as Jason, with the same idea as Ilowski; his costume looks like a decoration as well, giving the illusion they aren't real to the trickier treaters.

"We've had these plans for a while now, so I'm really excited to be hanging out with my cousin and hopefully scare some kids on Halloween," Ilowski said.

Everyone seems to have the same idea this year, having fun with the trick or treaters and being with their friends to have a fantastic night talking, laughing, and scaring as well.

# From Big City to Small Town

**By Ally Oddo**  
*Staff Writer*

For Richmond High School foreign exchange student Ivan Torregrosa, opportunities are endless and the future is bright.

On September 14, Ivan arrived in the U.S. and was greeted by the Szczesniak's. Allan Szczesniak is a senior at RHS. Ivan will stay with his host family until at least June 10<sup>th</sup>, or possibly a later date.

Ivan is a 16-year-old boy from Valencia—the third largest city in Spain. It was quite a change of scenery for him coming to bitterly cold Richmond, Michigan. "It's colder here and there's no beaches," said Ivan.

For this city kid, a small town is quite a change. Valencia is to be known as one of the touristic beauties of world.

Ivan said, "There's a lot of cars, but a lot of people walking too. Most of its touristic part is pretty but the common life area is okay."

Compared to Valencia, Richmond is quite an eye opener.

Houses in Valencia are more compact compared to homes in the U.S. Tourists go to look at a new way of life and expose themselves to a different culture.

The architectural aspect of Valencia draws tourists in. Places like the Chapel of the Holy Grail, Central Market, and even the North Station are all attractions that provide a jaw-dropping scenery that provides a historical story with the building and its inside contents.

The common area is very practical. Although there is not grand architecture this area

is how most people normally live. Houses are smaller than in Richmond and closer together since streets are still narrow. Each home has its own story and its own way of expressing the values each family follows.

By moving to Richmond, Ivan has gotten a little taste of an American student life. Ivan said, "It has been fun because of the homecoming and the games." Getting involved in the school and sports is hard due to the language change, but it's getting easier for this Spaniard.

Since he has arrived, Ivan has gotten involved in varsity soccer, homecoming, the excitement of football games. He even ventured to Stena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan.

Although Richmond High School has many extra-curricular activities, Ivan's main focus is on soccer, spending time with new friends, and his future. Ivan is also enrolled in U.S. history, chemistry, government, anatomy, advanced P.E. and English.

Ivan hopes to go to college in the U.S. and is searching for colleges to suit his interests. "I would like to go to U.S. for college, but it is more expensive than back at home," Ivan said.

As far as soccer goes, Ivan is excited for the opportunities it offers him. Ivan said, "I do want to play in college, but no [I haven't gotten] offers." This is considering he is only a junior and from a different country.

While the language may be tough to get used to, soccer is a breeze for this young man. "[It is] very different. Everyone plays soccer at home, so the difficulty is higher," said

Ivan. Since soccer in Spain is very popular, the majority of kids play it, which makes the difficulty higher than in the United States.

The teachers and students of Richmond are helping Ivan adjust to the language change. "I think I like them all so I can't really choose who my favorite is," Ivan said. "Everyone talks to you and tries to comfort you here, even though they don't know you."

The exchange program is a chance not many student have, so Ivan made sure he snatched the opportunity that was given.

"I know it's a big opportunity and take advantage of it in my future," Ivan said. Michigan may not have been Ivan's first choice, but he seized the opportunity to learn a new culture and see a new perspective on education and activities.

It was his father who inspired him to participate in the exchange program. "My father did the same thing I am doing, but 30 years ago," Ivan said. He decided to do the exchange program due to the experience it offers and to follow in his father's footsteps.

Even across an ocean, Ivan's family still manages to talk to him frequently. "Every week they talk to me, more or less," Ivan said.

Since Ivan's stay is so long, a trip back home is possibly on his agenda. "My parents would like [me] to, but I don't think my friends are allowed to [go]." Ivan said.

Once June 10 comes around, tears will fall from the eyes of Ivan's dear friends and especially his host family, but he plans on coming back to visit again.

## Clowns Krashin' Around Richmond

By: Daniel Seguin  
Web Editor

It's late. You're in bed. The dog is barking, but you aren't quite sure at what. You get up to take him outside, because why else would he be barking like that in the middle of the night?

You get up, put on your slippers, and leash your dog. You walk outside. It's a bit brisk, the wind is nipping at your fingertips. As you walk, you feel uneasy. Something doesn't seem quite right. As you walk, your dog starts to bark and pull. He yanks his leash free of your grip and takes off.

You start to chase after him, when, suddenly, you see what he was barking at. There's this figure in the distance.

It's colorful. It appears to be moving an appendage back and forth, as if trying to wave. You freeze. It walks toward you. Your dog is running further and further away all the while. His barks getting quieter and quieter.

As the figure moves closer to you, you start to realize exactly just what it is.

It's a clown. A sinister, nothing-funny-about-it clown. He has a crooked smile on his face, and he's holding balloons. He offers you one. You're paralyzed with fear.

He reaches out to grab your hand, to give you a balloon, but as soon as he touches you, you sprint off in the other direction. You trip. You get back up, keep running. You're finally back at your house.

"I'll find Ranger in the morning," you think to yourself.

This story may sound ridiculous, like

something out of a Stephen Schwartz or Stephen King anthology, but this is no tall tale. For many people, this scenario has been a reality. There seem to be herds of clowns running amok all across America, and in the nice, little, suburban town of Richmond.

That's right. The town with a parade second in size only to Detroit's Thanksgiving parade. The town that overpaid county music stars write songs about. The town that you live in. The town that you walk home in. That town is overrun with clowns.

People are scared, and rightfully so. Derek Thomson, junior, said, "They make me quiver, bro. They make me quiver."

Other scared locals include junior Alexander Yarnboon, who moved here just before the school year started. "What a time to move here," Yarnboon said. What a time to move here, indeed.

Others aren't so scared, but intrigued. In fact some have taken to participating in a new sport that spawned because of recent sightings: Clown hunting.

Clown hunting is when people go out and try to find clowns. Dangerous? Maybe. Is that part of the appeal? Again, maybe.

One student, a junior, said, "I'm gonna go find me some clowns."

Some are more scared for the clowns' safety than our own, and this does seem to be a valid concern. Especially in Richmond.

Let's say a clown is spotted by a hooligan. There's a good chance he could get hurt.

And I don't care how scared those clowns make you feel, there's no reason to hurt Bozo.

Right now, you may be thinking to yourself "I am never going outside again. Not

with these clowns. No thanks." And that's valid. If you look at social media, or this article, you would probably draw the conclusion that the streets are just infested. That

we are now in a state of martial law, and that we need to stockpile our weapons in anticipation of the Clown War. However, that really couldn't be any further from the truth.

If you go for a midnight stroll, odds are you will not see a clown. Perhaps there was a time when you might have seen one or two, but that time as long since passed. The streets are pretty much devoid of color and happiness as usual.

This whole clown "epidemic" is more of an example of the power of social media. News spreads fast. It explodes. Pretty much no one would even know about the few clown sightings if people on social media and "news" programs trying to satisfy the 24-hour news cycle hadn't blown it out of proportion.

So, go outside.

Find Ranger.  
Live without fear of clowns flexing on you.

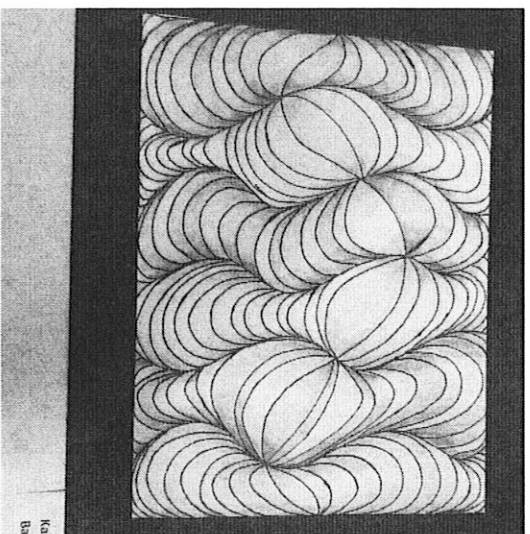
Although, it is a bit strange that all of a sudden the clowns just left everyone alone. It's almost as if they're biding their time. Recruiting, maybe. Training, perhaps. For what? I'm not quite sure.

All I really know is that October 31 is less than a week away. And on that day, you won't be able to tell which clowns are kind children just looking for a candy fix, and which... aren't.  
Happy Halloween.

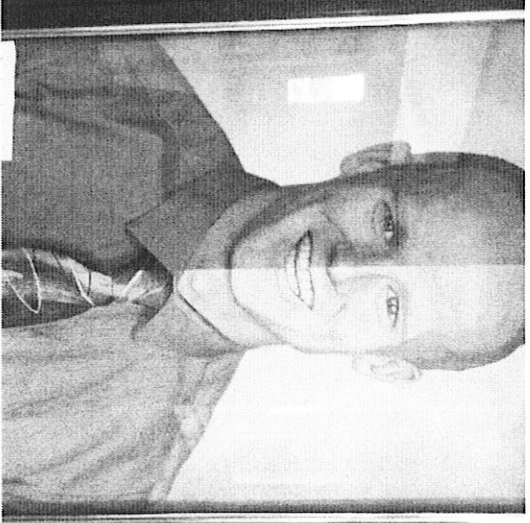
# Show us your stuff!



By: Mikala Evans, senior



By: Kaleigh Taylor, senior



By: Jessica Weaver, junior