

Lemont High School  
800 Porter St.  
Lemont, IL 60439



# THE TOMMY TOM

## CLASS OF '09

# TOOK

# VEGAS

photos courtesy of Emily Hartl



# Homecoming '09

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## NEWS

To see more pictures of LHS homecoming week go to :

*Amxp file*

*Mr. Clarks file*

*Tom-Tom file*

*2009-2010 TOMTOMBLUEDAY file*

*Then select the Homecoming pictures 2009*

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### Progress Reports

#### Go Digital

by: Andrea Earnest

*News writer*

Furthering its attempts to “go green”, LHS is no longer mailing progress reports home. The Family Access grading system will provide up-to-date information on students’ grades, which can be viewed by both parents and students. Some students like this change and junior, Jimmy Myers, agrees, “My parents check Family Access weekly, so it doesn’t matter.”

There are two Progress Reporting periods (PR’s) in each semester. The first PR ended on Sept. 28, and the second will end on Nov. 9. The PR’s are around 6 weeks apart, making a total of four throughout the entire year.

The Family Access grading system provides an accurate display of students’ progress and can answer any questions about points received on certain assignments. Teacher comments can be given, and missing assignments are shown, so raising your grade is a much easier process. Teachers appreciate the system and Math teacher, Mrs. Huling, says, “I love [the Family Access system]. Kids can easily see what they’re missing.”

Parents and students are still encouraged to check grades during the school year, as problems can be resolved much easier that way. The Family Access system is cost-effective and environmentally-friendly as well.

Report cards will continue to be mailed home at the end of each semester. However, final semester grades can be found on the Family Access system as well. Some students are disappointed with report cards still being sent home. Junior, Molly Mazur, says, “I like [Family Access] because it’s easier to check. I don’t have to worry about getting it in the mail, and there’s no room for error.”



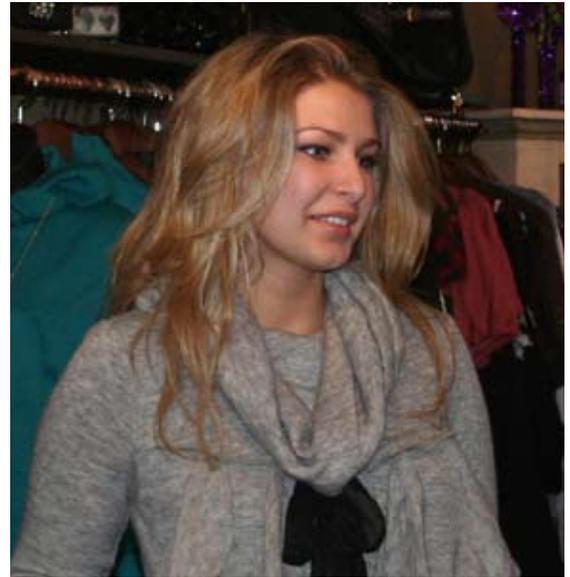
## NEWS

by: Courtney Miklos  
News writer

# 1 Happy Store

Paige Schwartz, 19, owner of new boutique, 1 Happy Girl, has recently expanded her website merchandise to a small shop on Canal Street in downtown Lemont.

Schwartz, a fashion enthusiast, began by launching her fashion website in 2008 after going to California for her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and seeing many great boutiques. In an email interview, Schwartz said, "Why can't I do this [and open my own boutique?] So three months later I opened my online



*photo courtesy of Ruta Biskis*



*photo courtesy of Ruta Biskis*

web-business."

This website offers teens and young adults trendy, budget-friendly merchandise. Schwartz's website first served local customers in the Chicagoland area, but has now expanded throughout the country.

After seeing the success of her website, Schwartz decided it was time to open up her own shop. "My mom's friend had owned a floral shop in this space and moved into a larger [one], so I started working on the store here since I love the space so much."

1 Happy Girl has a "vintage feel with modern accents." The merchandise includes dresses for special events and tops for school or going out. Denim Rock, LuLu, and Big Buddah are brands this store offers. Prices range between \$20 for a vintage shirt to \$60 for an oversized bag.

This season, 1 Happy Girl is all about oversized sweaters, bright coats, and a lot of jewelry. "Big bulky scarves are a must, along with a great knee-high boot" Schwartz said.

1 Happy Girl offers clothes in every color and fabric imaginable. "My shop has a little bit for everyone" Schwartz said.

1 Happy Girl is open Tues. through Thurs. from 11-6 and Fri. through Sat. from 11-5.



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**ABYSS HAS BEEN VOTED THE BEST  
NEW HAUNT IN CHICAGOLAND!!  
COME SEE WHY... IF YOU DARE!**



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25	26	27	28	29	30	31



OPEN 7-10



OPEN 7-11

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# Editorials

## Don't ~~cut~~ the budget of our *brains*

by: Kelly Lyons  
Editorial writer

### Tearing apart the *arts*?

On Sept. 30 the District 113A School Board officially approved making financial cuts to balance its unstable budget. This may seem like a reasonable idea, but band, art and music classes could possibly be cut as a result.

The district's goal is to make students' lives better, but that won't be achieved if the art program's budget is reduced. Lemont High School junior Kristin LoBurgio agrees, stating that art "expands your horizons. If art was taken away from kids, they wouldn't be able to be creative."

What the school board doesn't realize is that there's a link between being proficient in the arts and coordination general intelligence. If the district cuts these crucial programs, the idea of improving the schools could backfire.

In 1993, researchers Frances Rausher, Gordan Shaw and Katherine Ky came up with the "Mozart Effect," stating that "Mozart makes you smarter." In other words, when they played classical music for college students prior to their exams, the students performed better on exams dealing with right-brain activity. Although the performance boost was only short-term for adults, younger people reap long-term benefits.

As stated on chordpiano.com, after eight months of music and art lessons, preschoolers had a 46% increase in reasoning IQ including mathematics and other skills. Rausher and colleagues concluded that studying music and arts enhances the development of the brain.

Though many more experiments have been done on the topic of music in relation to intelligence, the typical results show that people with a musical background tend to excel in intelligence. Although subsequent studies contradicted this theory, a study by Toronto University researcher E. Glenn Schellenberg showed that even if music doesn't necessarily affect the brain, it typically increases mood and happiness in people.

Because of the district's need for money, tightening the budget is a fair idea. In order to keep the school system running smoothly, some changes have to happen. However, if district 113A decides they must cut budgets, the arts should stay untouched.

Without the continuation of music and art in grade schools, many children won't even be given the chance to begin learning any sort of art.

Although nothing is certain about what budgets are being cut, Lemont High School Band Co-Director, Mr. Matt Doherty, is "absolutely concerned" about schools all over the nation taking away arts and music in schools. He said, "My biggest fear is that kids won't have the opportunity to play and grow on that artistic level."

Though the arts may not seem as important as typical academic classes, they are what truly train the brain to adapt many aspects of knowledge. If the school board wants to continue this district's standard of excellence, the arts program should continue its legacy.

Photo courtesy of Annette Dzielski



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# FEATURES

## Craig Owens kicked out of Chiodos

By Hannah Johnson  
Features Editor

The band announced on Sept. 24 via MySpace that they have separated with their frontman Craig Owens. He played his last show with the band on Aug. 23 at the Los Angeles stop of Warped Tour.

According to the band's website, "To all of our friends, family, and fans: We would like to let you know that we have let Craig Owens go as the singer of Chiodos. This decision was a necessary one. Out of respect for all of the hard work that we have put in together for all of these years we will not be discussing the specific reasons that this needed to happen. We wish Craig well. We will absolutely be continuing on as a band and we will keep you informed as this next chapter unfolds... Brad, Jason, Pat, and Matt."

The band formed in 2001-2002, depending on whom you ask, and is from Davison, Michigan. The former lead singer is also participating in a variety of side and solo projects, most notably two super groups including The Sound of Animals Fighting and Isles & Glaciers.

Before Owens gave an official response he tweeted, "Home for months - first time in a long time. I plan to write a song every day, take vocal lessons & become much better at what I already do." Owens also recently announced plans for a solo covers EP.

Later, Owens tweeted a statement regarding leaving the band: "thank you for all of your support. I'm going through a tough time & need some time to figure things out. Your support means the world to me." To receive Owens's Twitter updates, enter the Twitter username: craigeryowens.

LHS senior, Justin Doebert, thinks, "Chiodos will be nothing without Craig Owens. He absolutely made the band, and without him it won't be the same." This thought seems to be unanimous among Chiodos fans.

The reason for Owens's removal is still unknown, but just days before the announcement, Chiodos keyboardist Bradley Bell tweeted, "You've become inconvenient," which one can only assume relates to this decision.



The Heartless Control Everything  
(Released in 2003)  
4.5 stars



All's Well that Ends Well  
(Released in 2005)  
4.5 stars



Bone Palace Ballet  
(Released in 2007)  
5 stars

Images courtesy of Google.com



# Homecoming '09

# FEATURES

## To Tan or Not to Tan? *That is the question*

By: Orla Ruane  
features writer

Many students at LHS came to the first day of school with bronzed bodies and glowing faces. After Chicago's long winter and cool summer, tans were well deserved.

When the leaves begin to change and the sun fades away, how are these students keeping their golden color? Tanning seems to be the new trend at Lemont and with the opening of L.A Tan tanning salon, more and more people are receiving their sun from a bed. But is it safe? The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has added tanning beds to the list of most dangerous forms of cancer causing radiation. Although tanning beds provide users with vitamin D, they also increase the risk of skin cancer and the aging of skin. And who wants to look 16 going on 46?

Some people believe that the easiest way to go about getting a tan is to take a trip to the tanning salon. But, to have a steady tan, you don't necessarily have to get it from a tanning bed. The scares of skin cancer have led to an increase in sunless tanning. Sunless tanning Lotions and sprays give the same effect as lying under UV bulbs for duration of time. Sometimes if you don't use these products carefully, you may notice an orange tint to your skin. Although sunless tanning, also known as "fake bake," has no harmful effects, the risks of possibly looking like an Oompa Loompa are apparent.

If you don't have to harm your body, why do people still go tanning? Students from LHS were asked about the why's and why not's of tanning.

### *Why do you go tanning? :*

"Tanning is really relaxing, especially in the winter months when you are barely seeing the sun anymore. Plus, everyone looks better when they are tan!" – Maggie Francisco, senior

"In the winter, I lose my tan so easily and I can't stand being ghostly white. So I go maybe twice or three times a month to keep some color, and not scare people, pretty much" – Haley Haase, sophomore

"It's so warm and relaxing. It just makes me

### *Why don't you go tanning? :*

"I don't go tanning because I don't want to look gross when I'm older. They're cancer beds, and it doesn't look natural in the winter time especially." – Alexis Caspers, sophomore

"I just don't have the money, and I am scared of getting skin cancer." – Sarah Pawelko, senior

"My mom won't let me go tanning. She says

Not every person in Lemont suffers from "Tanorexia," although perhaps Ultimate Exposure and LA Tan tanning salons wish they did.



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# SPORTS

Lemont

Image courtesy of Melanie Bagal

# INDIANS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Pat Driscoll

By Emily Pellegrine  
Sports writer

Football is the most watched and supported sport at Lemont High School. And who is more dedicated to the sport than Senior Pat Driscoll? Pat's dedication and love of the sport has earned him two offers to play college Football. This kind of hard working athlete certainly deserves to be recognized as this week's Athlete of the Week.

**Tom Tom:** What are your goals for the rest of the season?

**Pat Driscoll:** My goals for the rest of the season are to make the playoffs and get as far as we can and hopefully make it back down to state.

**TT:** What are your long-term plans for playing football in college?

**PD:** I plan on playing college football at the Division 1 level. I have 2 offers now, but I'm hoping to add more.

**TT:** What are some of your pre-game rituals?

**PD:** My only pre-game ritual is that I don't talk to anyone until we get out on the field for warm ups.

**TT:** What's on your playlist that pumps you up before your games?

**PD:** On my playlist for pre-game is a lot of rap and some hard rock songs. My favorite song to get pumped to has to be "New Noise" by Refused.

**TT:** If you could play for any college which one

would it be?

**PD:** My dream college that I would want to play for would be Illinois because I have been a big fan of them for a long time.

**TT:** How have your coaches and teammates influenced you?

**PD:** My coaches influence me by teaching me what I need to do and what the other team is going to do so I can know before they actually run the play. My teammates influence me pretty much by screaming in my face, ha,ha.

**TT:** Anything else you'd like to add?

**PD:** STATE '09!



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## Boy's Cross-Country

by Jamie Wiatr  
Sports writer

With a strong team effort and a highly talented group of kids, the boys' cross-country team is aiming to win big this year. Team Captains Tom Hoster (junior) and Matt Lemming (senior), along with other senior runners Lee Koepke, Pat Hopkins, Camil Machaj, and Scott Powers, are hoping to continually improve their times and lead the team to success. "This season has been going very well so far, and we are looking forward to the very 'big' races at the end of the season. That includes Conference, Regionals, Sectionals, and, hopefully, State", says Coach DeGuzman.

Veteran runner Pat Hopkins hopes for the team to make it to the State competition this year.

Q: When did you first start to run cross-country?

A: I started running cross country in 6th grade at Old Quarry and ran both 7th and 8th grade. In high school, I didn't run freshman year because I saw how many miles I would have to run each day, and was too scared to do it. But sophomore year, two friends convinced me to run.

Q: Is there a specific reason you run cross-country?

A: I run, not because I like running, but because the guys and girls I run with are some of the greatest people I've ever met. I never stop having fun when I'm around them, and that is pretty much what gives me the sanity to run 6 or 8 miles a day.

Q: Do you do other sports besides cross-country?

-If so, does it help keep you in shape for those sports?

A: I play tennis in the spring, which is also a blast. Cross country does help keep me in shape for the most part, but after a winter of being lazy, I don't know just how good of shape I'm in by the time spring rolls around.

Q: What is your favorite memory from cross-country?

A: My favorite memory of cross country is either going to Peoria this year or last year. So many funny

# SPORTS



Image courtesy of Tony Hamilton

things happened: playing the original Super Smash Bros, interesting encounters with other teams, and waking up 8 minutes before the bus left.

Q: Is there something specific you do to prepare for a meet?

-If so, how does it affect you and your performance?

A: Before meets, I almost always listen to music to get myself zoned in and serious before my race. It keeps me pumped for my race and actually helps me run some of my better times.

Q: What is your favorite sport otherwise?

A: My favorite sport other than cross country is definitely tennis. Being on the tennis team has been an awesome experience. The level of competition between the seniors this year has been and will be great, but we still have so much fun no matter what.

Coach DeGuzman and the team have high hopes for this year's team making it to the State Invitational this November.