

TRICK or TOM-TOM

Lemont High School
800 Porter St.
Lemont, IL 60439

LHS Prepares Against H1N1

by Andrea Earnest
News Editor

Health experts from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are predicting that at least 40 percent of Americans will be infected with H1N1 in the coming winter. Schools, restaurants, hospitals and many other facilities are making preparations against H1N1. LHS is no exception.

While some people are in a panic, not everyone believes the media frenzy. Junior, Stephanie Normantas, said, "I'm not worried about it because things like that are usually blown out of proportion."

Not worrying about H1N1 is one option, but students are still advised to stay home if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, headache and general fatigue. If a student or staff member is diagnosed with H1N1, LHS does not plan to close.

To prevent an outbreak of H1N1 at LHS, lunch tables are wiped down with sanitizer after every lunch period.

Alcohol-based sanitizers have also been added throughout the school for students' convenience.

"It's not that big of a deal. Millions of people die each year from regular flu. Swine flu is no different," senior, Sam Rydberg said.

More than 200,000 Americans are hospitalized annually from seasonal flu complications. The CDC recommends a yearly seasonal flu vaccine as the most important step in preventing seasonal flu for all children, ages six months through 18 years.

In an effort to prevent normal flu outbreaks as well, seasonal flu vaccinations were available at LHS on Oct. 13 and Oct. 16. The vaccinations were available for students and community members.

This immunization will not prevent against H1N1; it will just help protect against seasonal flu. Vaccines are available at Jewel-Osco and most health care facilities.

Vaccines that protect against H1N1 are not being released to the general public right now, but will be in coming months. If a vaccination for H1N1 becomes available, LHS will try to make plans to provide a similar clinic.

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photo courtesy of Google



.....Happy Halloween.....

NEWS

LHS ALUMNA RECEIVES Capitol Hill INTERNSHIP

by Courtney Miklos
News writer

Sarah Heth, 19, LHS alumna, finished an eight week internship on Capitol Hill as Legislative Special Assistant this past summer.

As an intern, Heth worked for the Association of the United States Navy (formally known as the Navy Reserve Association). Heth was the special assistant to the Legislative Director Capt. Ike Puzon.

As a special assistant, Heth attended senate and house confirmation hearings in relation to armed services and other military related committees.

Every day, Heth attended these meetings on the director's behalf, and reported on [the meetings] for him. In an email interview Heth said, "My boss, Capt. Ike, would circle which [meetings] for me to attend and I would attend them." A usual day for



Senator Cochran, Sarah Heth, and the other intern Jeremy.

Heth consisted of one or two meetings a day Monday through Friday.

Heth was able to receive this internship since her mom is in the navy and "knew that this association offered college students internships who are studying political science."

"I was receiving senior level college credits for the work I did," Heth said. She received six credits all at the 400 level.

As an intern, Heth also had the opportunity to meet with Senator Roland Burris. Heth said, "Mr. Burris and I had a ten minute conversation about where we were from and about the military." Burris was only one of the many senators Heth met with. Heth encountered Senator Cochran from Mississippi and also met with John McCain on a daily basis.

"My experience in Washington D.C was incredible to say the least. I enjoyed every bit...and learned so much," said Heth. She is planning on a career in political science.

Currently, Heth attends St. Josephs College and plays on the golf team.



Senator Landrew's staffers from Louisiana, Sarah Heth, and Jeremy.



.....Happy Halloween.....

NEWS

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

by Kristen Peterson and Courtney Miklos
News writers

This Thurs. Oct. 29, a hazardous waste collection will be taking place at LHS. People will be able to bring in unsafe items from their houses and dispose of them quickly and safely.

Courtney Smalarz, a senior, says, "I'll probably bring in old computers and my dad's old lawn mower engine, because we've been trying to get rid of stuff like that around the house."

Jason Walsh, a freshman, agrees that this day will be beneficial to Lemont. "It's important to help get rid of pollution." He adds that he would be able to contribute many

items to the collection day.

Some items that will be accepted are tires, batteries of all kinds, pool chemicals, antifreeze and a common household hazard, bleach. Insect killers and sprays will also be collected.

Even the Science Department took advantage of the drive a couple years ago, says science teacher Ms. Boyd. "We took all of our extra chemicals in the lab, like mercury, to be disposed of."

Unfortunately, items such as smoke detectors, pressurized fire extinguishers, explosives and gunpowder will not be accepted because of the pressure they are under, says the Health Safety Security Environment.

The Fall Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Day will be held from 6am to 2:30pm in the administration building parking lot.

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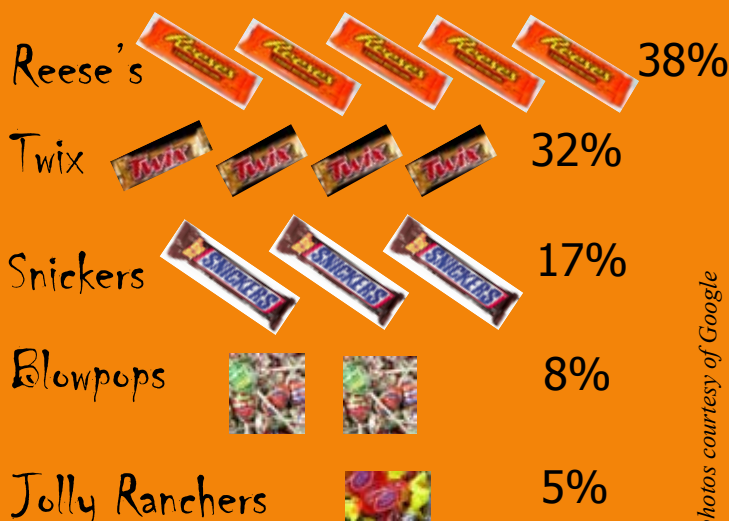
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TOM-TOM HALLOWEEN POLL

What is Lemont High School's favorite Halloween candies?



photos courtesy of Google

Survey was taken by a variety of English classes and a Math Center class.



.....Happy Halloween.....

Editorials

Fast food: consuming our lives?

Waist bands *stretching* and wallets ^{SHRINKING}

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials writer

In a world where most people worry about a struggling economy, the fast food industry still manages to consume a hefty annual revenue of over \$120 billion. Although complaints about dwindling salaries, layoffs and scarce job opportunities are now prevalent, the average fast food eater will still shell out as much as \$100 a month in order to keep up the habit, according to media-awareness.ca.

Lately, the fast food industry appears to be more a place of addiction than a source of sustenance. People are perfectly fine with paying any amount for a greasy hamburger several times a month, but then complain about paying their bills or making ends meet.

Imagine the average family of five stopping at a McDonald's for dinner. If everyone decides to order a Big Mac value meal, which consists of a burger, fries, and a drink and costs about six dollars, that single dinner would be over \$30. And when the burger weighs in around 540 calories alone, according to *Eat This, Not That* by David Zincenko, think about how much calories as well as money could've been saved.

With over 30 percent of adults in America medically classified as obese, it seems logical to cut down on fast food intake. But instead of putting down that Big Mac and using money wisely, the people of this nation continue to make foolish choices about their diets as well as their wallets.

Though the occasional fast food treat isn't disastrous financially or diet-wise, eating store-bought food and produce is much more beneficial. Fresh food and produce provide a plethora of nutritional benefits. And as smart shoppers know, there are hundreds of different coupons to save even more.

Eric Schlosser, author of the best-selling book *Fast Food Nation*, accurately describes the devious turn of America's relationship with fast food. "An industry that began with a handful of modest hot dog and hamburger stands has spread to every corner of the nation, selling a broad range of foods wherever paying customers may be found."

It was once manageable, but now this business is draining the money of many during a time of economic crisis. "It requires a certain kind of mind to see the beauty in a hamburger bun," said creator of the McDonald's franchise, Ray Croc, according to associatedcontent.com. And he's right: it certainly takes a twisted mind to take something as simple as food and turn it into the giant of an industry that fast food has become.

What started as a simple way to occasionally enjoy a tasty treat developed into a corrupted corporation that now has an extreme pull on the current status of the economy. Hopefully people will soon wise up and realize how much money they are really wasting by indulging so frequently in fast food. Although this industry will never cease to exist, it shouldn't be as big a priority as it currently is.



.....Happy Halloween.....

Editorials

Teenage **Trick-or-Treating**

WE'VE FALLEN SO FAR...

by Emily Hartl
Head Editor

This upcoming Halloween, a significant portion of our student body will be looking forward to one thing: walking around town ringing dozens of doorbells in anticipation of free candy, but sadly being turned away, hearing front doors slam, or feeling the rejection of gloomy, scornful adults grumbling, “Stupid teenagers...” under their breath.

According to a survey by Harris Interactive, 28 percent of the 2400 adults questioned found teenage trick-or-treaters “annoying.” Basically, one out of every four houses you visit will contain adults who think you’re obnoxious for even ringing the doorbell. Their opinions of your costume are an entirely different story.

We should be following the example of Belleville, IL. Last Halloween, the town signed an ordinance banning anybody in ninth grade or above from trick-or-treating; parents of offending teens had to pay a fine.

Tiny ballerinas, three-foot-tall tigers and kindergardeners dressed as clowns are all undeniably cute. A 16-year-old in a t-shirt and jeans, wearing a mask and asking for candy, is the epitome of condescension. If you are not bothered by the multitudes of preschoolers strolling alongside you on the hunt for free sweets, there’s something wrong.

Where’s the independence? We’re all old enough to earn money and buy our own candy. Are we really going to stoop to the pathetic level of asking other people for free food?

Unfortunately, some of your peers will use unnecessary amounts of energy trudging up and down sidewalks dressed in ridiculous costumes—or lack thereof—begging innocent families, in their own homes, for fattening snacks that easily could have been purchased from the school vending machine on any other day of the week.

And if you’re worried about making a dent in your paycheck by purchasing some Skittles for yourself, you’re working for the wrong people.

Leave the free candy for the kids who have been planning princess and Power Ranger costumes since last year, in anticipation of the long annual trek to fill up a bucket, a pillowcase or even a small vehicle with excessive amounts of sugar.

Better yet, do a good deed for elementary-schooler society: go sit on a sidewalk and distribute some Reese’s Pieces or Hershey’s Kisses. Give out candy to some exhausted but desperate middle-schoolers while nibbling on an apple or some celery and laughing in the face of the climbing obesity rate...you’ll be mocking those who start their diets on Nov. 1.

Don’t waste money on an overpriced, under-quality costume that’s too revealing, too boring, too ugly, too scary, or has some other problem that the door-slamming, grumbling adults will eventually point out to you.

If you are incredibly attracted to long nighttime walks, go to a haunted house with some friends on Halloween. If you’re someone who just really loves to eat and not spend money doing so, dig through your fridge and cook some *real* food as an alternative to wandering around town for complimentary cuisine. Sport an absurd outfit as you watch a scary movie, if it will satisfy your craving for insane attire.

But whatever you do on Halloween, please avoid at all costs the embarrassing Walk of Shame, better known as Teenage Trick-or-Treating.

photo courtesy of Google



.....Happy Halloween.....

HORRORSCOPES

Aries March 21-April 19

Your fiery personality will come out this Halloween. Make sure you find a sassy costume to match it.

Taurus April 20-May 20

You aren't too cool to dress up for Halloween. You may find trick-or-treating will be the highlight of your year.

Gemini May 21-June 21

You tend to be the leader of the pack. Try breaking away from that. Treat someone special to a scary movie, just the two of you.

Cancer June 22-July 22

Stop being such a scaredy cat and visit a haunted house. Watch your back though, you never know what ghost or goblin will be around the corner.

Leo July 23-August 22

You love the spotlight. Share the love this halloween and throw a cool party for all your friends.

Virgo August 23-September 22

Don't let others tell you you're too old to dress up. Get creative this halloween, do the right thing and get into the spirit of Halloween.

Libra September 23-October 22

Your easy going attitude guarantees a stress-free Halloween and a big bag full of candy.

Scorpio October 23 - November 21

Don't let Halloween bring you drama. Just remember it's all fun and games. Try playing a fun game like "bobbing for apples" with your friends.

Sagittarius November 22-December 21

You like to live life to the fullest. Don't let your extreme personality get the best of you on Halloween. Stay out of trouble!

Capricorn December 22-January 19

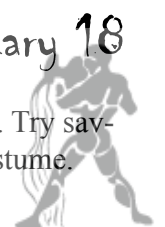
Don't be too proud this Halloween. Surprise everyone and dress as something just a little goofy.

Aquarius January 20-February 18

Let your unique and original ideas shine. Try saving some money and make your own costume.

Pisces February 19-March 20

Halloween is your time to reveal your mysterious side. Go on a hunt for the best neighborhoods to trick or treat in.





.....Happy Halloween.....

FEATURES

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SLEEP?

PARANORMAL
ACTIVITY

DON'T SEE IT ALONE

by Hannah Johnson
Features Editor

Paranormal Activity was directed by Oren Peli and was first released at the 2007 Screamfest Film Festival, where it won an Honorable Mention. It was released at AMC Loews Woodridge Theater on Oct. 16. The film only cost \$15,000 to make and it brought in \$62,477,000. Here's a quick summary of the movie (courtesy of IMDb.com):

After a young, middle class couple moves into a suburban 'starter' tract house, they become increasingly disturbed by a presence that may or may not be somehow demonic but is certainly most active in the middle of the night, especially when they sleep. The couple suspects that their house is haunted by a malevolent entity. They set up video surveillance to capture evidence of what happens at night as they sleep. Their surveillance and home videos have been edited into the 99 minute feature film "Paranormal Activity".

Personally I would never step into a theater playing Paranormal Activity; I change the channel when a trailer for it comes on. Though there probably are a few people who agree with me, Paranormal Activity has been the movie talk of LHS. Here's what students had to say:

Alannah Polino (senior): "Couldn't keep my attention, one of the duller movies I've seen in awhile"

Meagan Johnson (senior): "I thought it was funny, creepy and eerie all in one. But I liked it a lot."

Maclane Nutting (junior): "The film kept my attention and kept me wanting more throughout, but I felt the movie was more hyped up and the scare factor just wasn't there."

John Farmer (senior): "Creepy, terrifying and spine chilling."

Saeda Aljazara (Sophomore): "The acting was really bad and slightly ridiculous. I was laughing the whole time."

Jerry Murphy (senior): "It was scary, but it had a bad ending."

Alyssa Baffoe (senior): "I thought there were scary parts but the movie over all didn't scare me. It had too much down time."

Maggie Galara (sophomore): "I thought it was really good."

Sarah Shah (junior): "Thinking back about it now it really wasn't that scary, but when I was in the theater getting into it, it was pretty scary."

Chris Nottoli (senior): "I liked it a lot because I like paranormal stuff. I'm not a weirdo though."

Brendan O'Brian (Senior): "I thought that all the hype about it wasn't worth it. It was like a reality TV show or a like a show from the discovery channel called A Haunting. The movie was good but only in the end because it was so messed up."

Keaton Wall (freshman): "I thought it was really good, but the only thing I didn't like was that a lot happened in the last 10 mins."

Taylor Thanos (senior): "It was the scariest movie I have ever seen. I saw it to weeks ago and I still can't sleep"

Laura Martin (junior): "It was a little funny, then really scary. I plan on buying it on DVD when it comes out."

Click here to see the trailer for the movie: <http://www.hulu.com/watch/103986/movie-trailers-paranormal-activity>



.....Happy Halloween.....

FEATURES

When *classy* turns *trashy*

by Orla Ruane
Features writer

Most people believe that the excitement and spirit for Halloween ends after grade school. But at LHS, the fun carries on.

Throughout homecoming week, we saw many students dressing in crazy costumes and wacky wigs which promoted a head start for picking out the best Halloween gear. The fight to get the greatest costume hardly leaves time to come up with a well developed one, which leads to people changing their cute, classy costumes into something risqué and trashy.

Remember when you were younger and the Party City advertisement came in Sunday's paper and it had all the coolest costumes from a Power Ranger, to Cinderella, to Darth Vader to a rock star? Sure you had your favorite ones marked with a big circle, and you knew exactly what page it was on and how much it was, but did you ever notice the costumes on the next page over, the teen/adult costumes? In a flip of a page, your cute little princess costume turned into a short skirt and belly top, and your Batman outfit turned into a no shirt ensemble. Why all of a sudden when you hit a certain age do the costumes designed for you seem to have less and less coverage?

When a boy dresses up for Halloween, they aren't expected to be seen wearing tight shirts and short shorts, but costumes for boys are just as "showing" as they are for girls these days.

Senior Alex Nelson dressed up as a "Sexy Sailor" for last year's Halloween festivities, and shared his reasoning for choosing that specific costume out of many. "I was walking through the store and found the 'Sexy Sailor' outfit and I just thought it would be funny, so I decided to buy it!" said Nelson. Alex believes that the perspective of Halloween costumes is completely different between boys and girls, "It seems to be when boys are looking for their costumes, they pick the so called 'sexy' ones to be humorous, and girls' only priority is representing that costume name"

It seems as though boys would get made fun of for wearing short shorts or a girly top as part of their costume, but most would say that a girl gets most of the criticism. By not being fully dressed, girls are seen to be trashy looking instead of classy.

After flipping that page of the Party City ad, you realize that those days of classy pretty princess costumes are long gone. Stores today sell costume packages for teenagers that generally consist of a short dress with knee high socks, or half of a top and a tutu type skirt to complete the look. It is very difficult for a teenage girl to find a cute costume that doesn't bear all.

The fight for the best costume keeps the excitement of Halloween rolling, and although the fun and enjoyment of this wonderful holiday carries on throughout the years, it's tough to say the same for the amount body coverage this era's costumes provide.



..... Happy Halloween.....

FEATURES

Mojoe's to host "Night of the Living Dead"

by Annie Fox
Features writer

This Halloween you could spend your night on the couch, handing candy to little kids, or you could head to Orland Park for a zombie themed night of live music, tricks, treats and new tunes from all of your favorite local bands.

Mojoe's Rock house, with the help of the local boys from A Kidnap in Color, is hosting this year's unforgettable Halloween experience entitled "Night of the Living Dead." The lineup is complete with all of the Chicago local music scene's favorites. Hometown Heroes, Breathe Electric, The Fastest Kid Alive, Danger is My Middle Name, Just Left and headliners, A Kidnap in

Color, are all on the menu getting ready to serve up some tricks and treats to make your night unforgettable.

Guitarist/vocalist for Hometown Heroes, Josh Ortiz, encourages you to join the festivities, "It's going to be awesome, you get to dress up and hear good music!" Dan Boone, lead guitarist of A Kidnap in Color, is psyched to reveal what the boys have in store. New music is on the way, and their loyal following is on the edge of their seats, counting down the days until Halloween night. The band is known for their crazy tactics and hilarious cover songs. They like to keep the audience on their toes, and this Halloween you will not be let down.

"How else would you want to spend your Halloween?" Boone asks. So pull out your costumes, the party starts at six and this Halloween Mojoe's is the place to be. You can buy your ticket ahead of time at www.ticketrumba.com or wait and pay just ten bucks at the door. For additional info on Night of the Living Dead you can visit myspace.com/akidnapincolor.

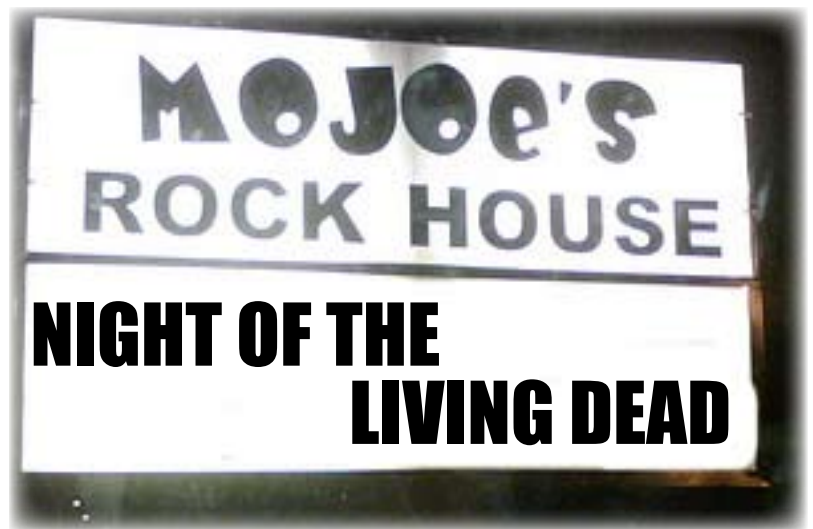


photo courtesy of google



by Melanie Bagal

Features writer

Do you want to go and see your favorite movie? Then try going to the Tivoli in Downers Grove. If you haven't been there then you are really missing out on a good time and great value that you want to have over and over again. Instead of going to the AMC Theater in Woodridge and paying \$10 for a ticket wait just a few months to go and get the ticket for six dollars cheaper at the Tivoli.

The Tivoli is one of the better theaters I have been to because not only is the ticket four dollars but you also get free refills on popcorn and soda. If you see a show on a Friday or Saturday there is an organist to entertain you during the previews. Unlike modern and more popular theatres, the Tivoli is clean and friendly, according to co-manager Michael Enders.

TOM TOM: Why pay only \$4 for a ticket?

Michael Enders: "We are an intermediate theater which means that we get the show with in the first three months after being in AMC theaters and they do show 3-D movies but those shows are \$6.

TT: Who decides on how long a movie stays at the Tivoli?

ME: "Usually a week but it also depends on how well the movie is doing and if it is filled with 200 to 300 then it stays for a week

.....Happy Halloween.....

Haunted Illinois

by Brittney Garcia
Features writer

Come October people are all looking for that book, movie or whatever it may be that will scare them silly. People seem to enjoy being scared because of the adrenaline that is released even though we know were in no real danger. Like that rush you get when you step into a haunted house or place. Those of you who want to step inside a 'real' haunted place are in luck because Illinois is covered with haunted places. "I've been to thousands of haunted places in Illinois." said Allison Cooling, a junior. "It's interesting to see if anything will happen in a haunted place, I'm always waiting for a glimpse at something."

Chicago's best known ghost story is Resurrection Mary; the legend is that Mary was dancing with her boyfriend at Oh Henry Ballroom. At some point they got into a fight and she started walking up Archer Ave., avoiding spending another moment with her boyfriend. Mary became a victim of a hit and run not too far from where she started to walk. Many brave souls travel to resurrection cemetery off of Archer Ave.

There are other people who are believed to haunt Illinois like the notorious Al Capone. Capone's grave is located in Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hillside and it's not unlikely to find cigars or flowers placed on Capone's grave. While taking a walk through the cemetery you might spot Al Capone wandering around. "I wouldn't go," said LHS social studies teacher Jodi Nye, "I don't believe that his ghost is there, but I would go to the Excalibur nightclub, that place is supposed to be really haunted."

There are also stories of victims of the shipwreck of Lake Michigan being brought to the building that was previously there. "I'd love to go to a real haunted place." said LHS senior Vicky Villagomez, "it would be an awesome feeling, your adrenaline rush and never knowing for sure what's lurking around, sounds like a good time to me I'd totally go to the Excalibur nightclub to see if it's haunted."

Now when you're in a room and you feel a cold spot don't go screaming ghost, but realize that there might just be a ghost nearby.

longer and it also depends on what other movies we have available."

TT: Why don't you show the midnight showing of certain movies when they are released?

ME: "Not that profitable for a midnight showing and we would need to keep our workers longer."

The Tivoli also offers live performance and book signings.

If you would like more info you can visit their website at

www.classiccinemas.com



.....Happy Halloween.....

SPORTS

Bump, Set, SPIKE!

by Ruta Biskis
Sports writer

Volleyball is a sport everyone enjoys playing whether it's at the park, at the gym or in your own backyard. But to see volleyball as it's really meant to be played, you have to go see one of the better school teams in our area – Lemont, for example. Senior Danielle Maturo plays back row for LHS. Her love and dedication for the sport has led her to success.

photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton



Tom Tom: How is your season going so far?

Danielle Maturo: It's going well. Our record is 13-0 in conference [and] 28-7 overall.

TT What is your biggest challenge?

DM: Getting past sectionals. [We] have to play JCA everywhere.

TT: Who is your biggest competitor in conference? What are your goals this season?

DM: Oak Forest. Some goals are to get past sectionals.

TT: Are you excited that this year is your last year playing for LHS?

DM: It's sad that this is my last year.

TT: How many years have you been playing volleyball?

DM: Since 3rd grade, so 9 years.

TT: Do you have a scholarship or are you hoping to get one?

DM: No, but I plan on playing club.

Lemont's first playoff match is this Thurs. at 7pm at Lemont.