

LemontHighSchool
800 Porter Street
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by Kristen Peterson
News writer

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FBLA

makes state



Twenty students will be competing in the 2010 Illinois Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference because of their performance at regionals at Lincoln-Way West. They will go on to the 2010 FBLA State Leadership Conference, held in Decatur, Illinois. The team will be led by their sponsors John Aspel and Bill Mondrella, both Career and Technical Education teachers at LHS.

“Students will be competing in 18 different areas of business & technology,” says Aspel, “[They] will also have a great opportunity to attend breakout sessions on Leadership in the workplace and to network with business leaders/owners.” The students moving on to state will be the ones who competed at regionals in January.



Photo Courtesy of Google

At regionals, Junior Michael Carusiello got first in Business Law. He was followed closely by seniors Ziggy Baran and Kevin Rafacz, junior Krystian Paszek, and senior Mike Dvorak, placing respectively.

Team competitions placed second. In the Entrepreneurship event, the qualifiers were junior Stephanie Normantas and seniors Megan Beechen and Beckie Hunter. “Together we took a long test,” explains Normantas, “We were given few resources to study with prior to the test. After, we had to give a presentation. They gave the topic after the test and we had twenty minutes to prepare our resolution to a business problem based on the scenario we were given. Then we presented to two business leaders.” Coming in second in the Management Decision Making event were seniors Natalie Bujak and Jessica Leff and junior Michael Hayes.

In the Impromptu Speaking event, junior Danny Banas took third place. Sophomore Paulius Medonas grabbed first in the Computer Applications event, while senior Nick Ruggerio was able to do the same in the Web Design and Development event. In the Business Math category, junior Dylan Matthews took second and junior Will Collins took third. Adding to their success, many students placed in the top ten in the Accounting II, Marketing, Public Speaking and Sports Management categories.

The team is excited to compete and move on to state. “Mr. Mondrella and Mr. Aspel make it really fun and easy going,” says Normantas, “I think that’s why we all did so well; there wasn’t any pressure.”

The FBLA State Leadership Conference will take place March 26 and March 27. For more information about FBLA, the largest business career student organization in the world, you can visit www.fbla.gen.il.us



Science Teacher Receives Grant

by Andrea Earnest
News Editor

Science teacher, Karen Aleman has been busy collecting grants for LHS. She has recently secured three grants totaling more than \$11,000. In a recent email interview Aleman said, "I wanted to be sure my students did not miss out on the experience so [I] wrote grants to support our field experiences."

This is not the first time Aleman has received a grant. Last summer, she secured a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for \$10,000. A solar panel was installed in the courtyard and students were provided with information about renewable energy.



Environmental Science student Jimmy Myers said, "I think the grants are a really good idea. Learning more about how we can save energy and help the planet is always a good thing."

The poor economy is forcing many schools and businesses to find new ways to procure revenue and funds. Grants are a way to increase revenues for various projects in schools. Concerning this situation Aleman said, "There are lots of grants out there and lots of \$ to take advantage of one just needs the time to do it."

Aleman's most recent grants come from Target, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Lemont High School Education Foundation (LHSEF). The Target Field Trip Grant is worth \$800 and will benefit 60 students from all grades. The grant will fund a field trip to Lemont's Black Partridge Stream.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency approved a \$500 request for Lake Education Assistance Program funds. This will support student activities that involve studying lakes or lake watersheds.

The last grant is funded by LHSEF for a project called Advanced Placement Stream Research. AP Environmental Science students will collect important data on water quality using chemical analysis.

"I believe the best way to learn about the environment is to get out and really experience it. Rather than just discussing water quality and wildlife in the classroom we actually wade in a stream, take samples with nets and study the organisms found there," Aleman said.



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by Kelly Lyons
Editorials writer

When you see someone walking an adorable puppy down the street, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Are you making judgments about the dog based on where it came from? Not likely.

This dog could be from a shelter, breeder, pet store or a puppy mill, and you might not even know. So unless you're planning on raising a champion show dog, it shouldn't really matter if the dog is of pure pedigree or not.

But if a dog isn't from an esteemed breeder, there's a stigma that comes with it. Animals from shelters usually aren't full-bred, so they're referred to as "mutts." Something about having a second-hand dog from the pound just isn't as appealing to some owners.

However, most dogs in shelters don't have terrible problems: most are just abandoned by previous owners. But they are in danger regardless.

Junior Arthur Laciak said, "I would most likely adopt a dog from a shelter because it would save dogs who were abandoned. And if a shelter becomes too full, some dogs may be euthanized."

Many animal shelters have a policy of putting down dogs that stay too long, so adopting from a shelter is a lot like saving a life. According to petrescue.com, about four million of the approximate 8 million animals brought to U.S. shelters yearly are euthanized.

And although animal shelters get a bad rep, puppy mills are blatantly looked down upon. Consumertipsreports.com advises, "Never, under any circumstance, buy a puppy from a puppy mill," because breeders "only care about profit."

And because puppies in pet stores are generally bought from mills, many potential adopters are hesitant.

So why should the puppies have to suffer? The dogs are treated terribly because they're given just enough care to survive. Even if they need more help adjusting in a new home than a dog from elsewhere, this shouldn't result in complete ignorance of dogs in puppy mills.

Breeders, on the other hand, are seen as the perfect place to adopt a dog. However, that is what confuses me most. If you're just looking to have a dog as a companion, there's really no point of a breeder. Have people really gotten so shallow that adopting a dog is like buying a new handbag: the more "designer" the better?

It is true that breeder-bought dogs will most likely be in perfect condition with minimal health or emotional problems. But since most people aren't interested in showing their dogs, it shouldn't matter that much. I've owned a mutt from a shelter for nearly eight years, and he's just as healthy and happy as a dog from anywhere else.

Puppies from breeders are typically treated like any owner would treat their own pet. What's so great about adopting a designer dog if you could get an equally nice companion while simultaneously saving its life?

I will never understand the appeal that premium-bred dogs have over dogs that actually need help. Even if they aren't of perfect pedigree, dogs from shelters and mills deserve a home just as much.



True life:

I'm a new ballet teacher

by Emily Hartl
Head Editor

Since September, I've been assisting a weekly pre-ballet class for seven- and eight-year olds at Elite Dance Academy, alongside a pregnant dance teacher whose stomach has at least quadrupled in size since the beginning of the season.

Lately, she has consumed much of her time making preparations for her maternity leave and designating replacements to overtake her classes after she leaves. Her due date is in early April, which seems like an eternity from now to me. However, as a first-time mother, the dear woman is taking extra precautions to ensure that her darling students are taken care of.

One of these precautions included her approaching me in mid-February and asking that, in the coming weeks, I begin to take on not only the pre-ballerinas, but also her vibrant group of nine kinderdancers, and eventually teach the classes on my own.

Naturally, the prospect of having two of my own classes, of teaching the girls new steps and combinations, of solely increasing their flexibility and grace, is exhilarating for me.

At the same time, the prospect of maintain harmony in a room full of rambunctious five-year-olds, of memorizing extensive lesson plans, of pleasing picky elitist parents, is daunting to say the least.

I've slowly begun to take over the classes, first leading only their warm-ups and stretches, and week after week teaching more and more of each hour-long class. I didn't realize how much effort is required in teaching ballet to little girls until I tried it.

Luckily I've acquired an assistant of my own; I figured I would need a little help considering I hardly breathed during my first full teaching session.

But despite the intense stress of being closely watched by 15 sets of little eyes, a multitude of judgmental mommies and daddies, a new assistant, and a very pregnant professional, the job has more rewards than I expected.



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Now each time I enter the dance studio on Wed. afternoons, I'm greeted with little hands waving to me and enormous toothless smiles saying, "Hi, Miss Emily!" as if I am the Messiah of ballet. Just the sight of their tiny dance shoes and petite hair buns makes me grin.

I've found that their innocence and youthfulness pleases me even more than their miniature beings, though. We often tell the girls that ballerinas always imagine wearing diamond necklaces and silver tiaras; we tell them to pretend that they are on a stage donning enormous tutus, with a big audience cheering them on. I love that they believe every word and play along with our scenarios.

Towards the end of each class, if time allows, we give each girl a streamer and turn on some Hannah Montana music or a song from Glee, and just let the dancers jump and twirl and leap across the room. If one presents this type of game to teenage dancers, they will scoff at the idea and immediately deem the activity as "childish."

My dancers, though, think that "the streamer dance" is the greatest invention of mankind. They do not judge each other's dance moves, or even care that they aren't necessarily doing ballet. They are paying attention to the music and their streamers, and nothing else.

Not one of those girls is concerned about the essay she has to write for a class the next day, or all the laundry she has to wash when she gets home, or whether she'll make it to work on time after class is over. Some refer to the absence of worry as ignorance; I call it the bliss of being young.

Of course, this bliss cannot last forever. Life doesn't allow carelessness for very long. But when you're five years old and someone tells you to imagine you're wearing a tiara and dance around a room with a green streamer in your hand, you're complacent and loving your life.

Every Wednesday at 4pm, I am in constant freak-out mode attempting to secure my lesson plan and appear professional. I am chugging water in an effort to swallow my nerves. I am fixing my hair and tugging on my ballet shoes, barely breathing normally. First graders, a seemingly harmless species, somehow intimidate me.

But when class starts at 4:15 and my dancers are itching to enter the ballet studio, suddenly I am consumed by one thing: the desire to be just as enthused and harmonious as my dancers. I envy their youth....where did ours go?



Photo Courtesy of Google



8 FEATURES! Summer music FESTIVAL

by Annie Fox
Features writer

Dreary weather got ya down? You're not the only one. Seniors are counting down the days until graduation and everyone is excited about what summer 2010 holds. As spring comes and goes, the music festival season begins. Are you saving your money, LHS? Your favorite bands are coming to a venue near you.

Pitchfork-July 16-18

Union Park, Chicago IL

- The folks at Pitchfork have once again created a fantastic lineup for their three day festival this July. With more bands yet to be announced, they have hipsters on the edge of their seats. So far, they have announced performances by Modest Mouse and LCD Soundsystem. To check updates in the lineup visit pitchfork online at www.pitchforkmusicfestival.com

Vans Warped Tour-July 31

First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre, Tinley Park, IL

- Last year the Chicago Warped Tour date broke the record not only for a painful amount of crowd surfers during the Chiodos set (R.I.P) but also for the massive amount of teenyboppers who came out. This year the lineup looks good, and it even features some local boys like Breathe Electric and The Frantic. With appearances from Nevershoutnever! (hopefully he'll mosh again this year....), Emarosa, iwrestledabearonce, and Mayday Parade, Warped Tour 2010 will simultaneously give you your acoustic-pop and hardcore fix. To see dates and details on Warped '10 visit www.vanswarpedtour.com

Lollapalooza-August 6-8

Grant Park, Chicago, IL

- Only rumors have surfaced about the lineup for Lolla 2010, but the rumors are pretty satisfying. Appearances from MGMT, Arcade Fire, Lady Gaga and The Flaming Lips have all been spoken in hushed whispers. Although I cannot confirm these appearances, I can confirm that if these rumors are true, I will pay the ridiculous ticket price and trek to Grant Park. For updates on Lollapalooza see <http://www.lollapalooza.com/>

Bamboozle-May 1-2

Meadowlands Sports Complex, East Rutherford, New Jersey

- Okay, so this tour is half way across the country, but the lineup is incredible; it's on the Jersey shore, and I'm going! *fist pumps* If I wasn't sure about taking a mental health day from school and hopping on a plane with my best friend to spend four days near the ocean the announcement that Ke\$ha would be performing both days convinced me. The two day tour features oceanside carnival rides and sets by Paramore, Drake, MGMT (they



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are all over the place this summer), Weezer, Escape the Fate, Say Anything, Minus the Bear, I See Stars, and a lot more. To see the full Jersey Bamboozle line up head to <http://party.thebamboozle.com/profile/TheBamboozleNewJersey>. To see details on the Bamboozle road show headed our way see <http://www.thebamboozle.com/>

Bonnaroo-June 10-13

Manchester, Tennessee

- If you've got the urge to pack your car, drive south and pitch a tent in the summer heat and Tennessee mud, Bonnaroo will not disappoint. The lineup is close to perfect again this year. Bonnaroo serves as the Mecca to hippies of the 21st century. The lineup includes Dave Matthews Band, Kings of Leon, Regina Spektor, She & Him (Zooey Deschanel, anyone?), Kid Cudi and Deadmau5. Pretty impressive. For details on tickets and a complete lineup www.bonnaroo.com/

Crossroads Guitar Festival-June 26

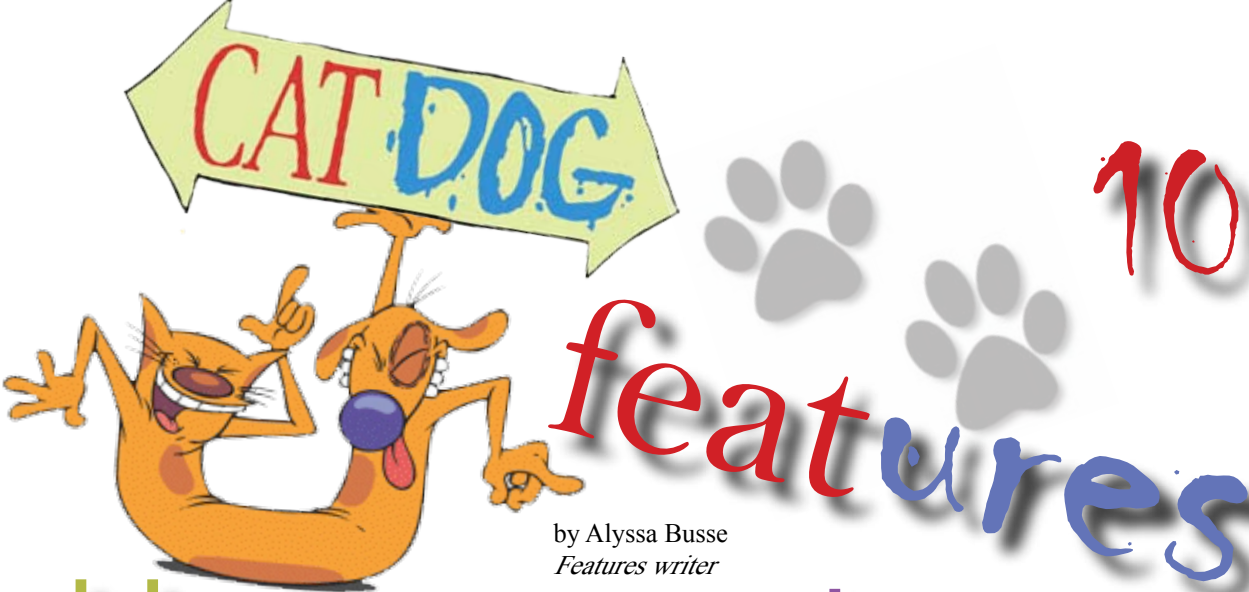
Toyota Park, Chicago, IL

- Rock 'n roll lovers will flee to Toyota Park to hear riffs by guitar legends and legends in the making. The tour will feature old school artists like, Eric Clapton, the Allman Brothers, and ZZ Top, as well as new artists like John Mayer. On the festival's website Clapton says "the Crossroads Festival is the realization of a dream for me, to gather a group of amazingly talented musicians to perform on one stage,



the Crossroads performers are all musicians I admire and respect." Clapton organized the festival to benefit the Crossroads Centre of Excellence for addiction treatment; his goal was to "provide quality, affordable treatment for alcohol and other drug dependencies." Although you might be out of luck on finding tickets you can head to www.crossroadsguitarfestival.com/

No matter where you're headed this summer, the music follows, you're sure to find a music festival you like.



by Alyssa Busse
Features writer

Could you survive the Vault?

Twelve people, one year, no way out. This is not a drill, please evacuate to the nearest underground shelter. The predictions are true. Doomsday is here and there is no escaping the inevitable. May God spare you, He is the only one who can.

There have been countless beliefs about the infamous predictions of 2012. Some believe that the world will turn on its axis, and others believe there will be a series of natural disasters resulting in the complete destruction of the human race.

Although there are modern predictions of 2012, the concept of Doomsday dates back to time of the Mayan civilization. Many view the ending of the ancient Mayan calendar on December 21st 2012 as an alarming sign of the end of the world. Movies such as Day After Tomorrow, 2012 Doomsday, War of the Worlds, The Last Man and The Aftermath depict the idea that the world will end, agreeing with the Mayan calendar.

In addition to this epidemic, the idea of reality television has become increasingly popular. Americans are intrigued by other people's reality, adding to our fascination with celebrities, weight loss and the internet. Reality TV has become so predominant that Fox has created a reality network.

Considering these Doomsday predictions and the progressing popularity of reality television, Chicagoan, Russ McCullough, was inspired to create the new internet reality show The Vault.

The show will be broadcasted on The Vault website, beginning episodes in April. Viewers can subscribe to the show for \$9.95 a month. The show consists of twelve cast members who will be challenged to spend an entire year (April 2010-2011) in a 1960's fallout shelter. They will need to live day in and day out without leaving the vault. Each cast member will sign a contract that says they are not allowed to leave the vault for any reason other than a health emergency.

The final twelve have not yet been chosen, but the finalists are eager to discover if they have made it onto the show. One finalist, Gabriel Hooker, owns a fitness center and is finishing his degree in Bio-medicine and Nutrition and Economics. Hooker explains on the website that his, "ultimate goal is to become U.S. Senator or Ambassador." Another finalist, Maryann Leszczynski, graduated with a Bachelors degree in fashion design. She says her goals are to, "start my own fashion line and open up my own boutique." Each of the contestants share a common goal; to become well known and established in today's competitive society.

So the real question is, will they be able to live with each other for an entire year, with no TV, no computer, no cell phones or radio? Or will the crack under the pressure? This entirely original, captivating experiment may give us the insight into the life of possible Doomsday survivors. Learn more about the upcoming show at The-Vault12.com.



Wrestling State Finals

by Danny McKevitt
Sports Editor

The wrestling program has become one of the most successful in the state under the guidance of Coach John Saint Clare. The wrestling team placed third at the IHSA Class 2A Wrestling Team State Finals. Four wrestlers, Class 2A State Champions Matt Leibforth and Angel Cabral, senior Cody Kamberos and Sophomore Bobby Bromberek, won all three of their state finals matches.

Lemont (23-3) defeated Triad by a 33-25 count in the IHSA Quarterfinal, but lost a close 39-36 match to Crystal Lake Central in the IHSA Semifinal and finished the season by defeating Champaign Central 37-26 to receive third-place.


In the Crystal Lake Central match, Lemont jumped out to a 30-17 lead with five matches left, but couldn't hold on to the win. Cabral (285 lbs.), junior Derek Nagel (171 lbs.), sophomore Jake Latanski (103 lbs.) and sophomore Glenn Malecki (119 lbs.) all won by fall for Lemont. Bromberek (112) and Kamberos (160) each won by decision, and Leibforth won by default.

Cabral said, "I'm a little disappointed that we lost such a close match, but that's just the way it works sometimes. Even though we lose every once in a while Lemont Wrestling 2010 is still legendary!!!"

Champaign Central jumped ahead by a 15-3 count through four matches at the start of the third place match but the Indians won seven out the following ten matches to win the match. Cabral (285), Leibforth (135), Bromberek (112) and sophomore Giovanni Schmitt (125) all won by fall. Sophomore Jake Latanski (103) won by major decision, and Kamberos (152), junior Derek Nagel (160) and sophomore Erik Kirkman (145) all won their matches.

By winning the Champaign Central match, the team not only won all of their matches but the program now has its first ever undefeated wrestler in school history. Leibforth finished his senior year with a perfect 45-0 record in the 135 lb. weight class.

When asked about this season, Leibforth said, "It's a great feeling to do something like this. It was a great feeling to win a state championship but it was awesome going undefeated too. There's no shroud of doubt that I couldn't have wanted any more from this season."



Ren & Stimpy Sports 2010 olympics

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by Bryan Clark
Sports writer

The Olympics may be the ultimate challenge for any athlete. They not only examine an athlete's strength or the amount he or she has trained but it also tests the athlete's will to win.

The United States are not known for their success in the Winter Olympics. The United States have not won the Winter medal count in since 1932. That's not to say they haven't come close. In 2006 the U.S. lost the medal count by four medals, and in 2002 they lost by only two.

This year was a different story. The United States took first place in the medal count by defeating Germany by seven medals.

One of the standout Olympians for the United States was speed skater Apolo Ohno. Ohno went into the 2010 Winter Olympics already having won 5 medals in previous Olympics and after the games he would have many more.

Going into the games, Ohno, was to compete in four races. After two Korean skaters collided and careened into the wall during the final lap of the 1500 meter final, Ohno was able to skate his way to a silver medal.

Ohno would eventually qualify for three more races and win two more bronze medals. He was close to another silver medal but on the final lap of the 500 meter final, he was disqualified. Ohno placed a hand on fellow skater Francois-Louis Tremblay's hip, causing Tremblay to fall. The referee disqualified Ohno, forcing him to give up his eighth medal at the time. Only hours after this incident Ohno skated the 5000 meter relay and helped his team take home the bronze.

Ohno is now the most decorated American winter Olympian with eight medals: two gold, two silver, and four bronze.

The most exciting part of the winter games was the clash between the Canada and the United States mens hockey teams. Canada last won the gold medal in 2002 and this year looked to do the same.

In exhibition play, the United States had upset Canada with a 5-2 win. This gave the United States the number one seed in the final bracket.

The United States went on to play Switzerland in the quarterfinals and defeated them 2-0. The U.S. team faced Finland and came away with a victory from a score of 6-1.

The U.S. had one final challenge, beating Canada again. The Canadians were leading by two practically the entire game until a shot from U.S. player Zach Praise tied the game 2-2 in the final seconds sending it into overtime.

Unfortunately for the U.S., Canada's Sidney Crosby scored the game winning goal only eight minutes and forty seconds into the overtime period.

With crucial medals from Apolo Ohno, the U.S. hockey team and many more Americans athletes, the United States have stopped a 78 year drought by winning the medal count.

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sports



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by Nick Celis
Sports writer

Boys Track

Spring is here and it's time for the runners, jumpers and throwers of Lemont's boys track team to bust out of their winter cocoons and prepare for this seasons' grind.

This year's team is a little outnumbered though, consisting of about four seniors, ten juniors and a healthy mix of about 25-30 freshmen and sophomores. Although lonely at times, Captain James Tuscher, senior, still has reason to smile; "I love doing track," said Tuscher, "It's the most wonderful time of the year. I'm getting a good vibe off this crew and I'm interested to see where this season goes."

Looking forward to running? Is he crazy? "I don't know what it is about it, but I feel like the fastest kid in the world out there on the track," said Tuscher, "Plus we have tons of shenanigans to make sure that we are the coolest and funniest team around."

These "shenanigans" are quite strange to say the least. The upperclassmen assemble every member of the team and teach them a ritual dance. They are then to dance around the captains as they start to recite inspirational speeches from assorted featured films. A sudden deathly silence strikes the air, followed by a building whisper. Suddenly, a loud roar of groans and moans emerge in unison declaring, "Team!"

Returning senior captain Connor Riley describes his vision of the future for the sport of track. "This season we're really looking to 'up the ante'. Everyone is training a lot harder and focusing more on getting wins for the team. Our goal is to make sure that none of these kids even think about quitting next year. We're out to have the most fun possible doing what we do."

The season is looking bright for the Indians, outstanding leaders and promising newcomers are getting the fans excited. In the words of Tuscher, "With talent like this were bound to win state!"

Their first competition will be this Saturday the 13th, for more info click here

<http://www.highschoolsports.net/defaultcal.cfm?ct=m&schoolid=IL6043911418&spt=12&division=1&timeoffs et=360>

