

A Mid-From THE TOM-TOM Nights Dream

World, Local Community Mourn Loss of Leader

by Dylan Blaha
News Editor

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From the large city of Warsaw, Poland to the Chicago suburb of Lemont, Illinois, the world stood still watching the story unfold. The news of a fallen leader, along with roughly 100 more people, flashed across televisions around the globe; Polish President Lech Kaczynski, age 60, was dead.

During the early morning hours of Saturday, Apr. 10, a plane carrying Kaczynski, his wife and a Polish delegation crashed at an airport in western Russia, leaving no survivors. According to official statistics, 97 died in the crash.

"The air traffic control officer gave several orders to divert but the plane continued with its descent," said Alexander Aleshin, a top Russian Air Force official told CNN.com. "Unfortunately, this ended in tragedy."

Bronislaw Komorowski, Parliament Speaker and acting President, stated to his country that the initial period after the crash will be "a time for national mourning." In addition, Prime Minister Donald Tusk assumed charge of

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the government in Kaczynski's absence.

Magdalena Hendrysiak, a Polish resident, told CNN.com, "There is going to be a huge gap in public life in Poland. The most important people are dead."

"It was a horrible, tragic moment when I found out," said LHS junior, Melanie Nemec. She also stated that her mother felt "very upset" over the matter.

The plane carrying Kaczynski had been traveling to Russia for the 70th anniversary of the Russian massacre of Polish prisoners of war in the village of Katyn. Some 20,000 Poles, including soldiers and civilians, were executed there during World War II.

In response to the crash, Russia declared the following Monday, Apr. 12 a day of mourning. The funeral for Kaczynski, who was buried alongside his wife, Maria, took place the Saturday following his death.

A White House statement given days before the funeral said United States President Barack Obama "will travel to Krakow to express the depth of our condolences to an important and trusted ally, and our support for the Polish people, on behalf of the American people." Unfortunately, Obama was unable to keep his promise due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland.



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News



G-day

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Editorials

Competition: *a mindset*

by David Timm
Head Editor

Competitive is a word used to describe people in many different arenas of life. You can be competitive in business, school or sports, even in curling. The word is used in different ways as well- someone might be “ultra-competitive,” or perhaps “uncompetitive.” One fact remains, however: there are no bounds to the places in life where a competitive mindset can change your circumstance. Whether those changes are good or bad is really up to you.

Already, I know you are thinking about those jerks on the insert your team of choice here who are insanely competitive and have decided to make everyone else look bad in gym class, or maybe you are thinking of the teacher’s pet who is constantly comparing grades and sucking up to get extra credit.

I get it; I really do. I understand the fact that in general, no one likes these people or their attitudes; however, I do think there are things we can learn from them and apply those things in our own lives to be more successful.

“A fixed mental attitude or disposition that predetermines a person’s responses to and interpretations of situations:” this is the definition of a mindset. Having a set attitude can be positive or negative; avoiding lapses into the negative is vital.

Why should you have a competitive mindset and why is it more effective than others? Simply put, a competitive mindset creates a desire to do well. Successful people are not always the most talented people; more often, they are just more competitive. No matter how talented you are, without a desire to do well you won’t get anywhere in life.

Your perspective on life has a huge impact on how you will do in all areas of life; from relationships, to your job, sports or school, your outlook alters your view of yourself and achievements.

For example, in a study of low-achieving seventh graders conducted by Carol Dweck, a professor of psychology at Stanford, and Lisa Sorch Blackwell, they discovered the following: “the key...isn’t ability; it’s whether you look at ability as something inherent that needs to be demonstrated or as something that can be developed.”

In Michael Graham Richard’s article on “Fixed mindsets vs. Growth mindsets, which one are you?” he summarizes a competitive mindset perfectly: “And how do you improve? First, you embrace challenges, because you know that you’ll come out stronger on the other side. Similarly, obstacles...do not discourage you. Your self-image is not tied to your success...failure is an opportunity to learn, and so whatever happens you win.”

The most important thing to take away from a competitive mindset is to remember that effort goes farther than talent in almost every situation. An article on iamsooverme.com summed this point up excellently. “If you are around people that you feel are more talented or more experienced than you, don’t approach the situation

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Editorials

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with your head down...Hold your head up, put a smile on your face, and show some energy. This triggers instincts in people to naturally “see” you as a winner.”

Now, as good as a competitive mindset can be, as I mentioned before, you don’t want to turn into a competition crazed imbecile. Moderation is key. Think about winning, but remember the most important area to succeed in is relationships, because without people to share your success with, you have nothing.

To read the aforementioned iamsooverme.com article on competitive mindsets, click [here](#).

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Photo by Stephanie D’Amato



LHS seniors David Ehle and Connor Nagel during the American Problems simulation.

Photo by Stephanie D’Amato



LHS seniors Taylor Black, Lauren Dohse and Katie Padilla during the American Problems simulation.

LHS state wrestling champions Angel Cabral and Matt Leibforth.

Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton

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Editorials Our Very Own

by Katie Callaghan
Editorials writer



Hometown Heroes

By the end of the day on May 28, many of us seniors will be concluding a chapter in our lives only to begin a new one in fall. Some may be attending a 4-year university, while others may be going to a junior college and working to earn cash to further pursue a degree. We tend to forget the people who are choosing neither of the two, and instead are choosing to serve our country.

Most seniors at LHS are facing the choice of which college to attend next fall. There are some, though, choosing whether or not college is the right decision for them. Too many of us don't give enough thought towards those who decide to follow different paths, one of those being the military.

"[Joining the U.S. Marines Corps has] always been something I've wanted to do. And when I want to do something, I usually follow through with it," said LHS senior Todd Roy.

For senior Cole Hollan, entering the military has been a long-lived dream.

"Ever since I can remember I have always had a fascination with the military. I can recall numerous times playing in my sandbox setting up armies and having them go to battle. So for me this is a somewhat easy decision," explains Hollan. "I will be joining the US Army come this fall."

Both Roy and Hollan have made a definite decision that is not only going to affect their lives, but also the lives of everyone they know after they receive their diplomas.

Vince Distasio, another senior, is struggling to choose. "I want to go to college, but I'm still looking into what the Navy has to offer me," stated Distasio. He went on to list the pros and cons of each decision but said that "if

Stop looking down upon people who choose the military. Quit labeling them as "screw-ups" or even go as far to call them "failures." They should instead be recognized for their life changing decision and given the credit they deserve.

Images courtesy of Google

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“Hometown Heroes” cont. from pg. 6



LHS senior Vince Distasio



LHS senior Cole Hollan



Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton

LHS senior Todd Roy

I choose the Navy, my education will be paid for and I will also learn many life skills.”

Making a life-changing decision like these boys have takes a lot of courage. But some didn’t make it alone.

“What influenced my decision most was the fact that my grandfather served our country in World War II and the Korean War as an airborne combat medic in the US Army,” Hollan said while explaining that past as well as present family members have been in the U.S. Army.

Some people view the decision of joining the military as a fall back plan, or because those people have no other choice but to join the military. And for some that is the case, but for others, joining the military has been a dream of theirs to serve our country.

Stop looking down upon people who choose the military. Quit labeling them as “screw-ups” or even go as far to call them “failures.” They should instead be recognized for their courageous decision and given the credit they deserve.

These post-graduation goals are something to admire. While some of us graduates will be waking up for a 12:30 pm lecture on a Wednesday afternoon, these boys will have been awake for hours working hard to keep our country safe.



Image courtesy of Google

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Features Cabin

by Jessica Wienand
Features writer

It's a tradition for Lemont High School juniors and seniors to go out after prom, most desirably to a cabin or hotel for a night out of town with close friends. These times become some students' best high school memories but can also be dangerous when they make irresponsible choices.

Lemont High School recently sent a letter to parents reminding them of the dangers young people face when they consume alcohol, as well as the trend for students to partake in drug usage after festivities such as prom. But should parents disallow their sons and daughters from going out to after parties because of these fears?

"Although teens who are 16 and 17 feel they're ready to go out on a night on their own, they're just asking for trouble, especially if they're not accompanied or supervised by an adult," said Cathy Slee, mother of two Lemont High School students and principal of Oakwood School. She feels that teenagers don't need to go out of town or to a party in order to have a good time with friends after prom or other school events.

On the other hand, students who have attended a post-prom celebration outside of Lemont and not experienced the negative side of teen partying "can look back on it and think of how relaxing it was to just get away and hang out with a group of close friends," according to senior Zachary Burns. Even younger students look forward to prom and have already thought about what they can do afterwards. Sophomore Carl Chanda said, "My family owns a cabin in Michigan and I think it would be great to bring my friends there after prom next year."

Whether you are renting out a cabin up north or sticking around Lemont after prom, the best way to ensure that you and your friends enjoy your time is to be safe, or a good night can go very badly. According to Slee, "Teenagers feel invincible and don't realize how their lives can change in an instant."

FEVER

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Features



Bon Voyage!

Before I die,

I want to see the world.

by Christine Alwan
Features Editor

And, apparently, I'm not the only one. As travel costs become cheaper and international curiosity increases, more people are finding themselves longing for adventure and travel.

Senior Eileen Batistich has been to nine countries, including France, Croatia, Ireland, Slovenia and Bosnia. "Traveling has shown me so much about other cultures and how different they are from ours. It has given me the experience of a lifetime and I am very privileged to have gone where I have gone," said Batistich, who hopes to visit Greece, Australia and China soon.

Swamped with high school sports and activities? Consider traveling abroad when you go to college. Universities usually have sister schools in other countries. They also have cooperative education programs that will allow you to earn the same amount of college credit while exploring another country's customs and ideas.

Travel is a vital part of living and experiencing an education outside of the classroom. Junior Delia Ercoli appreciates the unique educational experience traveling offers: "You learn about the culture and language of a certain place. You get to visit that place and reinforce what you learned. It's pretty great!"

I know traveling can be extremely entertaining as well as educational. The summer before my sophomore year, I was lucky enough to go to Europe for seven weeks. I spent one week in Sicily, two weeks in Bordeaux, France and four weeks in Rome. As I look back on my high school experience, those weeks were probably some of the best of my life.

It's a funny thing: when you look to explore new places and learn about new cultures, the one thing that you learn the most about is yourself.

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Features

Can You Go

by Kathleen Clark
Features writer



Photo courtesy of Google

The Distance ?

Relationships, in one word, are intricate. Making time for your significant other often becomes very difficult, especially during the school year with all the clubs, activities, sports and honors classes. When you have a moment, most people can drive the five minutes to their better half's house to spend time with them. But what if your significant other lived thousands of miles away from you? That makes everything just a bit more difficult.

Long-distance relationships are often viewed negatively and are seen as hopeless. I understand why many would think that, but from firsthand experience, I know it's not always true.

Being so far away is harmful to relationships. While dating, one important thing is to have a physical presence with one another, but when there are many miles between each other, that becomes difficult to maintain.

Here's a list of ways to make a long-distance relationship work:

1. **Have Skype dates!** Technology has advanced so much that now even though your boyfriend or girlfriend might be on the other side of the world, you can still see them while you are chatting with them. So, on Saturday night, why not grab Skype, call your boyfriend, jump onto the couch with popcorn in hand and watch your favorite movie together!
2. **Send Letters.** Yes, it's old fashion, but it's also very romantic. Instead of getting a quick, almost thought-less text, receiving a letter in the mail is exciting and more personal.
3. **Send care packages.** Since they're far away, send items through the mail that remind you of them and say "I've been thinking of you :]."
4. **Call each other.** It's very important to hear your significant other's voice as a way to stay connected.

Just because there are thousands of miles between you and your significant other doesn't mean you can't make the relationship work. Although it does take more effort than normal, as long as you trust, respect and love each other, your relationship can be strong and wonderful!

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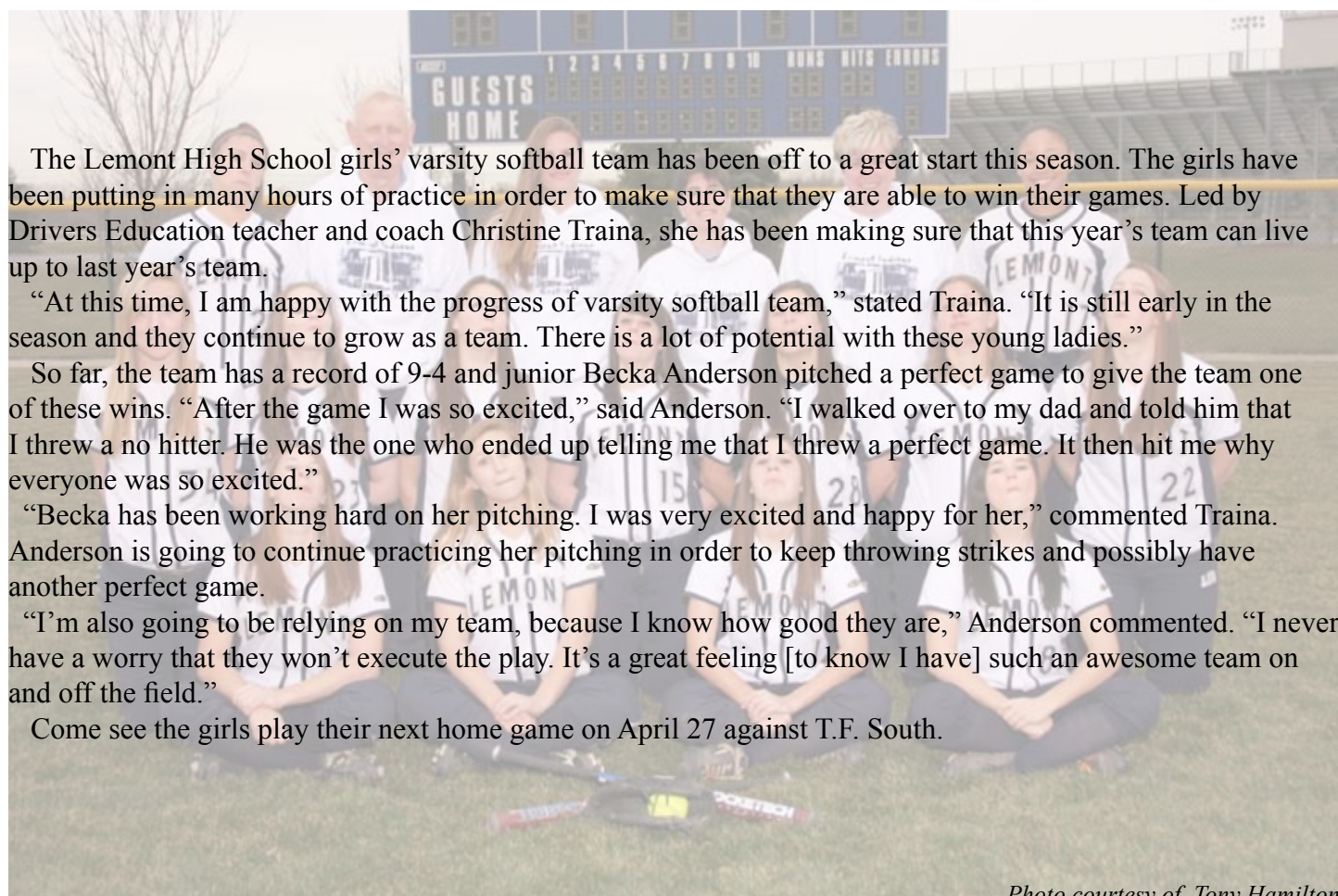
Sports

The

Perfect

Game

by Stephanie D'Amato
Sports writer



The Lemont High School girls' varsity softball team has been off to a great start this season. The girls have been putting in many hours of practice in order to make sure that they are able to win their games. Led by Drivers Education teacher and coach Christine Traina, she has been making sure that this year's team can live up to last year's team.

"At this time, I am happy with the progress of varsity softball team," stated Traina. "It is still early in the season and they continue to grow as a team. There is a lot of potential with these young ladies."

So far, the team has a record of 9-4 and junior Becka Anderson pitched a perfect game to give the team one of these wins. "After the game I was so excited," said Anderson. "I walked over to my dad and told him that I threw a no hitter. He was the one who ended up telling me that I threw a perfect game. It then hit me why everyone was so excited."

"Becka has been working hard on her pitching. I was very excited and happy for her," commented Traina. Anderson is going to continue practicing her pitching in order to keep throwing strikes and possibly have another perfect game.

"I'm also going to be relying on my team, because I know how good they are," Anderson commented. "I never have a worry that they won't execute the play. It's a great feeling [to know I have] such an awesome team on and off the field."

Come see the girls play their next home game on April 27 against T.F. South.

Photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton