



Books of Hope

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Writer

Every year, LHS National English Honor Society (NEHS) lends a hand to several causes. For the past three years, NEHS has participated in an organization called “Books of Hope.”

Books of Hope is an outreach program that helps out sister schools abroad. NEHS has a sister school in the Gula district of Uganda named Idure Primary school.

NEHS supports Books of Hope by fundraising money for different schools around the world. The raised money helps these schools receive clothes, food, and shelter.

Another activity NEHS does for Books of Hope is writing actual “Books of Hope.” LHS students write informational texts on many subjects and then send them to the school electronically. These “texts” actually serve as the school’s textbooks.

NEHS sponsor Anna Kemp says that, “We send everything from alphabet and counting books, to Shakespeare and Calculus. Students choose subjects they are proficient in and write about a topic. They illustrate it and make exercises for the students like crosswords, questions, quizzes, and activities.”

LHS NEHS is very happy about the participation rate that they have had in these past three years. Kemp also states that, “Every year our efforts grow! We have sent over 600 books and now many students even outside of NEHS participate. Many teachers have participated as well, making class projects to produce quality Books of Hope in their subject area for us to send.”

Keep up the hard work this year NEHS!

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SSC Publications Conference

by Sarah Newton
News writer

This past Friday, the writers, photographers and designers for the LHS Tom-Tom along with members of the Yearbook Committee went to the SSC Publications Conference at Moraine Valley Community College.

The conference featured keynote speaker, Chuck Burke, Design Editor for the Chicago Tribune. Following the speaker were breakout sessions to help advance the skills of the student journalists and yearbook members.

Senior Rachel Hunter, Design Editor for the Tom-Tom, said "there is always more room for improvement when it comes to design so it was really cool to get new ideas."

One of the many sessions was a mock competition for Yearbook Copy Writing, News Writing and Review Writing.

Senior Mallory Christine, Features Editor for the Tom-Tom, took second place in Review Writing.

"Most of the time I was thinking, so I didn't think I was going to win," commented Christine. "Basically I just needed a really good lead and kicker."

The win came as a shock to Christine at first, but she quickly realized why she won. "My lucky scarf had everything to do with my win," Christine stated.

The SSC Publications Conference was a great success, giving staff members a great learning experience and fresh new ideas.





4 LHS SPEECH TEAM

by Shannon Ehle
News writer

The LHS Speech team is continuing their excellent record this season. Their first competition was held Saturday, Oct. 29 at Homewood-Flossmoor High School. The team finished with two tournament champions.

The speech competition season starts the last weekend of October and ends on the last weekend of February. Competitions occur every Saturday unless there is a holiday. Team members participating in these competitions must be at LHS by 6 a.m. when they take a bus to the location of the event.

At these events, each member of the team performs individually in separate rooms for judges. After a mid-day lunch break, the judges announce the top six performers. These six that are chosen then perform again.

After those final rounds, the judges deliberate, and the winners are announced for each category.

The LHS Speech team has two coaches: Dan Franke and Phil Lazzari. There are also four student captains: Rhiannon Lindgren, Lindsay Simonetta, Kevin Driscoll, and Alexander Vjestica.

Although the team sees many talented members leave at the end of each school year, it is constantly replenished with a fresh supply of new team members each new school year.

Kathy Machaj, Senior and new member of the speech team, said, “Speech is a really big time commitment, but it’s definitely worth it. You have to work hard, but you also have a lot of fun.”

Saturday’s results were not unlike a typical LHS Speech team performance. Last year, the Speech team had an extremely successful season. They finished in the top five as a team in every tournament they attended and made it to the State level.

Rhiannon Lindgren, one of the captains of the speech team, said that, “there are some really talented additions to the team this year, and if we work hard we can do just as well as we did last year.”



ACT PREP CLASSES

by Marisa Mars
News writer

Lemont High School is now offering *ACT 36*, an eight-week ACT prep course designed to help students improve their ACT scores. The class is taught by instructors who have been specially trained to help students achieve their true potential on the ACT exam.

ACT 36’s first session begins Monday, Jan. 23, and will continue to meet every Monday through March 19, with the exceptions of Feb. 20 and March 5. Each session runs from 6:30-8:30 pm at Lemont High School. The second session begins Feb. 1 through March 21. They will meet at the same time.

The prep course is not free though. There is a \$290 fee for all eight sessions. The school asks for the money to be paid in two checks made payable to Lemont High School, with the first check for \$240 and the second for \$50. If the student attends all meetings, the \$50 check will be refunded to the parents. The money should be turned in to Dana Browne in Lemont High School’s Pupil Personnel Services Office alongside the completed registration form. The form can be found at <http://www.lhs210.net/news/default.aspx?ArticleId=528>.

Registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 9.

Last year, “146 students participated. 86% had perfect attendance. 28% had a composite score of 25 or higher. 59% had composites above 21,” Kathy Brockett, building administrator, says.

Brockett also points out that while *ACT 36* had been successful in the past, it is not for everyone. She says some online programs are very successful, but “they can be very expensive and require a great deal of personal commitment and discipline to complete.”

Brockett maintains that no matter what class a student takes, he or she will still have to work hard to achieve a positive end result. “Busy students may have good intentions of sitting down to work through online prep courses, but without firm dedication and discipline, it becomes very easy to put things off to the last minute. We know the brain retains information best when there is frequent practice over an extended time period. Cramming will tend to raise anxiety instead of building confidence.”

The strict structure of attending sessions at a certain time seems to help most *ACT 36* students, and Brockett attributes this partially to students being given the opportunity to ask questions of the instructors as well as learn surrounded by peers. For many juniors, Brockett believes the social environment aids in students’ learning abilities.

Since the *ACT 36* sessions take place in an environment very similar to the environment of the actual ACT test, Brockett says this reassures nervous students.

According to Tony Hamilton, “The goal of *ACT 36* is to give students the confidence, strategies and content necessary to score their personal best on the ACT. The course does this by familiarizing students with the elements of the ACT, from content and timing to pacing and strategies. The course also reviews difficult concepts, specifically in English and mathematics, and allows students an opportunity to take a practice exam.”

Practice ACT exams can be taken on either Wednesday, March 14 from 5:30-9:00 p.m., or on Saturday, March 17 from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Lemont High School officials encourage juniors to enroll in *ACT 36* to them improve their ACT scores.



6 *Illegal Music Downloading*

by Ashlee Berner
News writer

Illegal music downloading has been a problem for some time now. People are always trying to get music for free instead of buying it online from iTunes. Buying songs on iTunes is now more expensive, so people have found other ways to get the same music, but for free.

Downloading music illegally is an issue because of the copyright protection laws. When you buy the song on iTunes you have all the rights to the song seeing that the company knows you bought it. On iTunes they have all your information like your name and email and billing information when you buy a song, so if you tamper with the song they can know and find out about it.

But when downloading it from illegal music sites, you don't have the copyright protection laws. When you buy it, the money goes to the company that produced it and the artist and number of other people that put work into the songs and albums. When you download it for free, you don't pay for it, hence the money does not go to the artists and people who produced it.

When you download illegally, you are taking the song without their permission. This is taking property that isn't yours, hence making it illegal. You are taking something that isn't yours to have.

This doesn't stop people from downloading illegally. People don't look at it as taking it from someone, or property. Researchers have said that people don't like iTunes because it has become too expensive to buy anything, and why do that when you can get it for free.

If people are caught downloading illegally they will be fined a lot of money as a consequence. Yet, this does not stop anyone.

People will find a way around it if that means saving money.

NEW TOM-TOM FEATURE



FIND TOM-TOM *the thumb monkey*

Be the first Tom-Tom reader to email Mr. Clark, with the page number and location, of our new mascot: Tom-Tom! He will be hiding in every issue, send emails to SEANC@lemont.k12.il.us to win a prize!

GOOD LUCK!

[RULES] The following may not participate in the search: all the members of the Tom-Tom staff and their family members. The winner of an issue may not participate in "Find Tom-Tom" in the next two issues. Be very specific in terms of location of the thumb monkey.

Drawing by Charmaine Balisalisa



Photo by Maddy George



Behind the Scenes: A Play About A Dragon

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

Drama Club brought you a lot of laughs on the stage of *A Play about a Dragon*. But what is it like offstage?

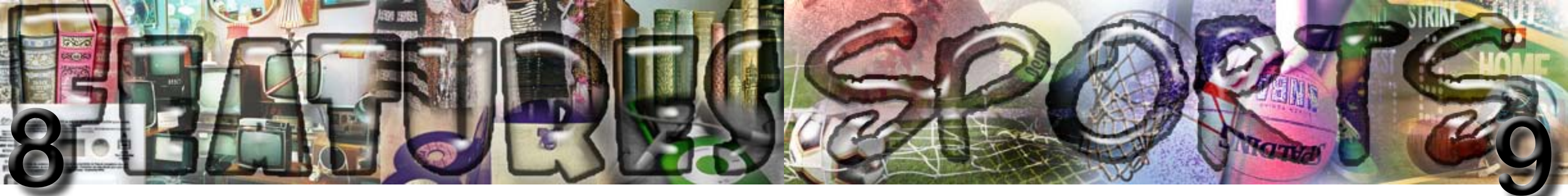
Putting on a play requires time and effort from actors, backstage crew, Theatre Tech students, construction and directors.

Each of these groups have responsibilities: theatre technicians are in charge of curtains, lighting and sound effects. Members of backstage crew work with props, costumes, makeup, prompting, directing, promoting the play and working the night of the play. Actors obviously act. Sharon Jacobs and Roy Nees are the directors. They give the actors directions on how to play their role and assist backstage crew. All of the students involved work with Dan Franke to construct the set.

With all of these components together, voila a play is performed. With all the fun onstage, it seems like there'd be lots of fun offstage. Which is true, but it takes a lot of work to turn this production into perfection. Nees said that the work behind the scenes was fun but difficult. He said it was similar to "herding cats".

Dustin Bradley, a student from Theatre Tech, stated, "I enjoy working on the play. It's a lot of fun. A lot of work, but it's well worth it." Many of the actors shared the same opinion. Many others added that it's a great way to meet new people. Everyone working on the play is fun, kind and crazy.

Regarding the difficulties of the play Kristen Molnar expressed, "We get yelled at, complain, but it's entirely worth it when we see our hard work pay off." Robert Rigler said, "It is surprisingly difficult to pretend to be someone you're not" and jokingly added, "but not for me."



INHUMANITY

Is a Girl's Best Friend

by Sam Moffett
Features Writer

Clueless. That's what the world is. You think it's beautiful, don't you? You think it's perfect on your finger, perfect against the soft skin of your throat. When you look at them, can you see it? You can't? Well look harder.

Can you see their faces?

Millions of faces, dark skin streaked with tears and blood, painted with the expressions of horror and dying hope. Can you hear the screams? Can you smell the smoke and death?

If you hear it, if you see it, what will you do? Ignore it, you decide. You can't do anything about it. But those images will stay forever. As you watch the stories unfold, watch the adaptations roll, hear the news, it will fade away into the fog of your forgotten memories.

It's eight at night. As you eat your dinner, you turn on the news. You behold these images and clips of people sifting through mud and water, clothes bloody and gritty, eyes and souls dead and tortured. Twelve year old boys hold guns to their heads as they laugh at the trembling captives. As the reporters carry on, you mutter to yourself what most people whisper.

"Oh, my God."

Then you switch it over to the Bears game to discover to your distaste that they are losing to Dallas.

They slip into your consciousness as you sleep. Hor-

rifying images that make you ponder. You pray, the moonlight catching the shimmering glory of your engagement diamond. The screams echo. The blood spatters and the tears fall.

All for what's not even the size of your pinky nail. Your ring could be tainted, or as they call them, a conflict diamond. Not all diamonds are conflict stones, but there is a good chance that they are.

Anything for business, right? Business is business. Even if it costs people their lives and sanity.

Causing wars for trinkets that most of those people have never even seen.

One day in the future, will you recall those images and stories that you kept locked away for all these years? Will you bring to mind those boy soldiers sniffing cocaine and holding innocent humanity at gun point? Could you picture those trembling hands as they dig through muck to find what now rests on your now withered finger? Those tear streaked faces, those bloody clothes. The murdered society.

Will you remember?

Will anyone?



Photo courtesy of Google

FANTASTIC

Finish

By Emily Lejman
Sports writer

The Chicago Bears came out victorious 30-24 for Monday's game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Bears got out to a 10-0 lead early in the game with a touchdown from Jay Cutler to tight end Matt Spaeth on the opening drive, and later a 58 yard field goal from Robbie Gould. The Eagles then answered back with 10 points of their own on a 54 yard field goal and a fumble recovery returned for a touchdown.

Before the half, the Bears capitalized on a late turnover by the Eagles and scored a touchdown on a Marion Barber run, giving them a 17-10 lead at the end of the second quarter.

The Eagles came out firing in the second half with touchdown runs from Ronnie Brown and Lesean McCoy in the third quarter to take a 24-17 lead. The Bears, however answered back with a 45 yard field goal, cutting the Eagles' lead to 4 points.

The Bears did all of the scoring in the fourth quarter, with a 4 yard touchdown to Earl Bennett and a 29 yard field goal from Gould.

Jay Cutler led the Bears in passing with a 56.3 completion percentage with 208 yards, two touchdowns, and zero interceptions. Matt Forte led the Bears' rushing attack with 24 carries for 133 yards.

The Bears have a 5-3 record going into next week, where they will face the Detroit Lions on Chicago's home turf.

HAWKS SET SIGHTS ON THE CUP WITH NEW PLAYERS

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

The Chicago Blackhawks are off to a very good start early in the season. After losing on opening night on Oct. 7, the team went 5-0-2 in its next seven games, earning points in each.

The Hawks had a disappointing season last year, as they went 44-29-9 and just barely made the playoffs as the eight seed, after winning it all in 2010. They lost to the Vancouver Canucks in game seven of a tightly contested first round series.

Hawks General Manager Stan Bowman brought in a lot of new faces this offseason, mainly looking for the grit and toughness missing last year. New to the team this year are wingers Daniel Carcillo, Andrew Brunette, Jamal Mayers, and Rotislav Olesz, as well as defensemen Steve Montador, Sean O'Donnell and Sami Lepisto. The team also signed goalie Ray Emery to backup second-year starter Corey Crawford. All new players are signed to one year contracts.

In order for these signings to take place, Bowman had to sacrifice some of the team's better players as Troy Brouwer, Thomas Koepke, Brian Campbell and others were traded to make cap space.

"Our objective was to find some players who played a certain style and also bring some experience, and I think it's a nice mixture," Bowman said in a Chicago Tribune article. "All these guys are very good hockey players — they're not just tough guys willing to fight."

Carcillo, especially, was seen only as an enforcer coming in, but he has shown good offensive skill early on, and was playing on the second line with Patrick Kane and Marian Hossa, before missing two games due to suspension.

Another move comes from head coach Joel Quennville's decision to switch Kane from wing to center this year. The move was questioned early on, but it has paid off as Kane has done a tremendous job in his new role and leads the team in points.

The Hawks currently hold second place in the Western Conference and are looking ahead to what could be a long run in the



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Tuesday Night Lights

by Tom Folliard
Sports Writer

This year's playoffs did not end any different than the last two for the LHS boys soccer team, with all three seasons ending in Peoria, against the Irish of Peoria Notre Dame. The 1-0 loss on Nov. 1 was the closest Lemont has come to defeating the Irish.

Lemont cracked the elite eight for the third straight season. Its playoff run has come to a dramatic ending, but this year's team will go down in the record books as the best boys team in Lemont's history, standing at 20-4-3.

Lemont won the sectional title against Bremen for the third straight year. The final score was 1-0, which added another shutout to the season for junior goalie Andrew Putna. He ended the season with 19 shutouts, one short of the single season record.

Senior Nick Tiedt was named to the 2011 Illinois All-State team. Tiedt was taken out by an Irish player in the last minutes of the game, breaking his wrist in four different places. "Tiedt being gone for the end of the game really hurt us. He was the best player on our team, and I know the game would have ended different had he been in," said senior Mikey Walus.

Lemont will be losing eight seniors this year, five of which were starters. They do have a young team with a lot of experience looking into the 2012 season. They will be led by juniors Kyle Hamann and Andrew Putna. Both of these boys were named to the 2011 All-Sectional squad.

"The things I will miss most about this year are the guys and the times we had. In my fourteen years of playing soccer this was the closest team I have been a part of. I just want to thank my coaches and teammates for all they have done for this senior class," said senior Kyle Koehler.

Koehler played for the varsity team all four years, as did Walus and Tiedt. These three boys combined for over 50 goals in their high school career.

"I could not have asked for better soccer coaches, better teammates or a better school," said senior Connor Cunningham.

As these boys head off to college their teammates and coaches wish them luck in the near future. "This year's seniors were what made soccer

Some

teams having a

good

college football season

by Paul Grossi
Sports writer

After hours of practice and determination, teams that have in the past not been so great are making it big this season. Although there were tough schedules for most of the teams in the NCAA, teams put that aside and fight until the end of the game. Nebraska is one of the new teams that joined the Big Ten, and they are certainly not showing any problems as they are 2-1 in the conference and 6-1 overall.

Illinois was looking good early with an undefeated record but recently lost its last three games. Some critics could argue that their schedule is fairly easy, facing only three tough teams.

Ohio State which lost most of its valuable players as well is not having a season they want. Much improvement is needed and they will have to win the rest of their games in hope of even qualifying for a bowl game. Improvement is being seen as they have rebounded from a bad opening season and recently beating the Wisconsin Badgers.

The power house team in the Big Ten would have to be the Badgers; they have proved once again why they could make it big and possibly to another big bowl game. The Badgers have a 6-2 record and hope to continue their success, but struggled in a loss to Ohio State Saturday night.

FINAL

toll of

GIRLS VARSITY

volleyball

by Effie Tounas
Sports writer

Lemont girls varsity volleyball concluded the 2011 season as the girls lost in the regional competition against Nazareth on Oct. 27. The team won their first regional game, however, against Riverside/Brookfield the Tuesday before on Oct. 25.

The team's season had a great start. The girls had won the first place title in the Blue Division, enabling them to advance for first place of conference. They lost their first game against their greatest rivals, Oak Forest. Coach Chris Zogata recalled of the game that it was a "must win" game and team to defeat. Down 11-2 the second game, the girls came back and won the second game. The team ended up defeating Oak Forest in the final game, and the girls ended up placing first in conference. They finished conference with a 12-1 record. "This year's team was great. I'm really going to miss playing with these girls when I leave next year," said senior defensive specialist Katie Pellegrine. Compared to this year's team, last year's varsity had made it to sectionals. However, the girls were defeated by Joliet Catholic Academy in their final game. The Lemont team ended the season with twenty wins overall. They recall one of their major accomplishments to have shared a double victory over Hinsdale Central High School during the season. Coach Zogata said, "The girls were great. They were so much fun and very competitive. They also improved every single day." What is to come of next year's season? Junior Kiley Rendak says, "We expect to go further in the playoffs next year." Great job to the Lemont 2011 girls' varsity volleyball team and good luck to next year's 2012 varsity team.

LHS

girls swim

team

returns to sectionals

by Ian Stratta
Sports editor

With two official Tom-Tom Athletic Performance of the Week awards this year, the Lemont girls have had a productive season so far.

After a 7-3 regular season record, the team did well at conference last year with varsity finishing third and JV finishing fourth. The team continued their success to a seventh place finish at Sectionals.

Head coach Erin Boyd commented, "We've been pretty consistent the last couple of years. We've been [in the] middle of the pack which keeps us up with the larger schools [in the conference] like Naperville Central, Downers Grove, and Neuqua Valley."

The team made a large jump from last year, going undefeated (11-0) throughout the course of the regular season this year. Senior captain Morgan Costello has led the team with a strong 500 free time of 5:58.92, however sophomore Erin Bendle has the team's best time at 5:48.30.

The biggest surprise just might be freshman Annette Lesnicki who leads the team in a staggering four events. She has a 2:10.37 in the 200 free, a 1:06.12 in the 100 back, 1:01.02 in the 100 fly and a 2:23.20 in the 200 IM.

Other team leaders include senior Patti Zaporowski in the 100 free (58.24), junior Lauren Lumsden in the 50 free (26.10) and Anne Finnely in the 100 breast (1:16.65).

With their great momentum from the regular season, the team did very well at conference. The JV team won conference while the varsity team finished third. Lemont won the Sportsmanship award and Boyd won Coach of the Year at the event; she was ecstatic to receive the award, "I was surprised and excited that all the girls' hard work is pulling off. I was really excited for our team."

The girls hope to repeat last season's sectionals results this year following their excellent play so far during the season and at the conference meet. Sectionals will be held on Nov. 12.