

TOM-TOM

Change Can Be a World of Difference

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Writer

Imagine growing up in a different country, being brought up with influences of different traditions and language. Then, picture leaving familiar faces behind to start a new life in an unfamiliar country. Doing this requires adjusting to a new lifestyle containing different customs and a new language.

Many Lemont High School students have gone through similar journeys when they moved here. Most students moved here when they were just kids.

Senior Agne Ribikauskaite moved from Lithuania to the U.S. when she was 4 years old, and she moved back to Lithuania when she was fourteen. A year later, she moved to Ireland and lived there for 3 years. She then transferred mid-September of this year to Lemont. She said, "Ireland may be more similar to the U.S. than Lithuania is, but out of the 3 countries, American schools are by far the best. They are newer, larger, and more high-tech than they are in Lithuania and Ireland. A lot of Lithuanian schools have not been renovated since the time that my parents went to school. American students have the opportunity to participate in more after-school activities and sports than they do in Lithuania and Ireland. The U.S. offers far more recreational activities than in Lithuania and Ireland."

Junior Greta Zilyte moved from Lithuania to the United States shortly after turning five. About a year later, she moved from a Chicago suburb to Lemont. She said, "It was nice to come to a
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Greta Zilyte

Photo courtesy of Greta Zilyte

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place that didn’t seem totally different, because there was, and still is, a large population of Lithuanians in Lemont and they were all really welcoming. But a bad aspect of it was not being able to see family as often as I was used to.”

The process of adjusting to a different country at such a young age can be very difficult. The majority of people who have gone through this adjustment say that the most challenging part of the transition is learning a new language. Zilyte says that, “Learning a new language was pretty difficult. I started off learning numbers, the alphabet and some basic phrases. The help of great teachers and some new friends helped me get to where I am today.”

Ribikauskaite says that, “Lemont High School helped made the transition very easy for me. The teachers and staff are very nice and helpful by getting me up to speed on what I’ve missed, and the students are very friendly too.”

Moving to a new country can be a very difficult process, but most say that their lives so far have benefited from it.

Zilyte believes that her transition to the U.S. ended up in her favor. “The help of having great teachers and friends has made me who I am today. I am very blessed for the opportunities that I have been able to have here in Lemont.”

Ribikauskaite has been provided with great opportunities here at Lemont to help her reach her goals of becoming a lawyer. “The U.S. provides more guidance to students concerning their futures and academics. It helps having the opportunity of taking Business Law and U.S. Government classes in high school.”

Moving to a new country has shown to be a more complex process than it seems. But after hearing insights about Zilyte and Ribikauskaite’s transitions, they have proved that the amount of effort that is put in can help make the journey worthwhile.



Agne Ribikauskaite



Agne in her youth.

Photos courtesy of Agne Ribikauskaite

National Honor Society Adds Nearly 100 Members

by Marisa Mars
News writer

Lemont High School’s chapter of National Honor Society is one of prestige. Students can apply to be inducted into the Harold Julian Chapter of the National Honor Society their junior or senior year. Applicants are selected for membership based on their character, service, scholarship, and leadership.

This year, NHS welcomed 97 new members, including both juniors and seniors. A list of the full inductees can be found at <http://www.lhs210.net/news/default.aspx?ArticleId=541>.

83 juniors and 14 seniors joined the Harold Julian Chapter of the National Honor Society last Wednesday, Nov. 30. Lemont High School would like to commend them on their outstanding achievement.



Kyle James Wostratzky

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Writer

Kyle James Wostratzky was born on December 1 at 12:45 a.m. to proud parent, social studies teacher Rob Wostratzky. He was born at 7lbs. 15oz. Lemont congratulates the Wostratzky family on their newest addition to their family.



Photo edited by Mary McKeivitt



Nourriture Francaise a LHS

by Shannon Ehle
News writer

To celebrate National French Week, French chef Paul Young came to LHS on Monday, Nov. 21 and Tuesday, Nov. 22. Young's visit was a great opportunity for the French students to celebrate the language and culture they're attempting to master and get some exposure to traditional French cuisine.

Young showed the students how to make a traditional French grilled sandwich called a *croque-monsieur*. The students then got to attempt to make the dish themselves. "This year, I found out which students are truly interested in the culinary profession," said Kelly Ercoli.

He also demonstrated how to make *mousse au chocolat*. Having been a contestant on last season's "The Next Food Network Star," Young was able to give the students some great tips for beginning cooks.

Rebecca Rachan, a French IV student who went to France this past summer with her classmates, said, "The best part of the presentation was how he interacted with us, and the food was great. We had both of the dishes Young made while we were in France, and the food he made tasted incredibly similar."

Ercoli heard about Young through a current French student who happens to be Young's cousin.

"My students work hard every day so I like to have a fun day of celebration during National French Week," said Ercoli. Not only was Young's presentation a cultural addition to the course, it was also a chance for Ercoli to "see another side of her students."



What Can Lemont Do?

by Ashlee Berner
News writer

Oct. 28, 14 Kelli O'Laughlin, 14, from Lyons came home to find a burglar robbing her house. The intruder stabbed her to death. The Lyons community was affected by this tragedy and will always remember her.

Tragedies happen like this all the time. Many people wonder why? What can be done to stop this? Working as a Lyons cop for 28 years, Charlie Wright IV said that "it was a tragedy, something that never should have happened." Even though he didn't have anything to do with the case personally, his department did, but not only his department, but surrounding detectives that come together to solve major cases like this one.

"There was nothing that could have been done" said Wright. "This was a rare occurrence." Most burglars would run out in the situation that the family comes home. But in this case they were dealing with someone who is "mentally challenged" When O'Laughlin walked in, she probably startled him and seeing that he was unstable he killed her.

Is there anything that can be done to avoid something like this? "There's nothing you really can do" said Wright. Burglars are there for property, not to harm you, and usually there during the day when they know no one will be home.

"If you notice the house in disarray, get out and call 911," advises Wright. If and when you come and notice something is wrong, get out, go to the neighbor's house, call and tell them your address so that they can locate you.

Because of the "geographical areas" of Lemont and Lyons, Lyons does have a higher crime rate than Lemont does; Lemont is more isolated.

Burglaries aren't planned, some are, but it's usually a random house. If there is suspicion in the neighborhood, it wouldn't be a bad idea to talk to your neighbors or contact the police. If there is suspicion, report it.

Nothing could have been done to help save this girl. She startled him and he thought he had no other choice then to kill her. Seeing that he was a homeless person, he left a trail of evidence so it wasn't that difficult to find him. He is now in jail and has a criminal history.

There was nothing that could have been done to save this girl, it was a rare case that doesn't happen often and shouldn't have happened.

If placed in this situation, like Wright stated, get out of your house right away, go to a neighbor house and call the police. Then wait to see what they say from there. Even though this is a rare occurrence, it is still good to be well informed if it happens.

"I wasn't really worried about situations like this because I know Lemont is a safe town, but when I found this out, I'm going to be more aware now," said Erika Truschke. Lemont is a safe town and not a lot of violent activity goes on here, "but its still good to be prepared and aware," said Truschke.

No one ever expects these things to happen, but they do. If placed in that situation, what would you do?



Kelli O'Laughlin

photo courtesy of Google

Girls Night Out

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Copiers Save Money

by Marisa Mars
News Writer

Lemont High School will be saving \$15,000 each year with the new OCE Copier upgrade plan that will be implemented Jan. 9.

Through this plan, most of the school's copiers will be upgraded. This includes the P.P.S. Mailroom and the PAC copy room, both of which didn't have copiers before the plan. Copy speed will be increased, along with energy savings and faster "wake-up" times. Teachers will also be able to wirelessly send copy/print jobs to any updated OCE copier from an updated OCE copier.

Kristi Kramer of the humanities department is "really excited" for the updated plan. Since these updated copiers will warm up faster, she won't have to spend as much time in the copy room. The updated copiers will also allow her to send a copy job electronically to any copier, which is a plus for Kramer since the copiers aren't located conveniently near her room. "Finally, all the copiers will look and work the same, so there won't be any time wasted trying to figure out how to do something one way on one machine and another way on another machine," Kramer added.

Teachers will receive training to use these copiers. Training will take place during the teacher institute day on Jan. 9. According to Jim Poss, District Administration of Information Technology, this training will be done "walk-in style", meaning faculty/staff can drop by at anytime that is convenient from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at any one of the three copier locations to receive their training.

Poss asks teachers to, "bring sample copy jobs to try during the training to make the experience more meaningful and valuable to them."

These copiers will also save the school \$15,000. These savings are due to a new copier lease, which is cheaper than the lease the school has now, according to Poss.

Saving money is always a plus, and Lemont will be able to save money while improving the quality of the school with the new copiers.

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photo courtesy of Google



by Sam Moffett
Features Writer

To be honest, I didn't know what to write for this article. I said to myself, "I'll just do another article about why *Twilight* is stupid" or something like that. My creativity well was running pretty dry that day until my father helped fill it back up with a single word. *Inspiration*. What does inspire me? What inspires other people? Inspiration is something that can come easy to one person but difficult to another, sometimes an idea never appears right away, leading to frustration and ill-conceived work. But then...BAM! it hits you like a lightning bolt. You can feel it inside you as inspiration finally hits you. But what is your inspiration? A song? The sky? That chair in the corner? Sources of inspiration are limitless.

On the website **thetamom.com**, the creator said regarding her inspirations, "Photography, books, blogs, media and personal experiences." That's just an example of what inspires *one* person. Anything can be a source of inspiration, for example: my inspiration generates from mostly one song. "Watch Me Fall Apart" by Hard Fi is a dark but beautiful song that helps me create countless story ideas. Music plays a big part in my inspiration, along with nature and the supernatural. My father's inspiration is work; my mother's family.

Inspiration sounds like a simple word but it holds so much impact. The Mona Lisa, The Walking Dead, architecture...all of those things were results from someone's inspiration and hard work to make the idea come true. The smallest thing can generate the biggest ideas.

By the way, my inspiration is the twenty somolians my pops flipped me.

Photo courtesy of Google



by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

Remember waking up on Christmas morning to find the tree covered with giant boxes? You couldn't even see the floor! Now the electronic items teenagers usually want will barely cover the floor. This is a part of growing up: shrinking holidays.

But hey, there's nothing wrong with the satisfying feeling of getting the latest games and phones this Christmas. Here are a few of the most popular electronics to add to your list this season.

You'll probably find lots of apples under the tree this year, no, not the fruit. Apple products such as iPhones, iPod Touches, iPad 2, and iTunes gift cards. The late innovator Steve Jobs is gone, but the sensation that is Apple hasn't.

We love Wii. The infectious game console is fun for everyone. You don't have to be a big gamer to enjoy Wii. Just Dance 3 will likely be a popular game this season, as may The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3, and Wii Go Vacation.

Playing games with no remote whatsoever? Well based on all the newfangled inventions we've seen in our lifetime, we knew this day was coming. Kinect from Xbox is changing the way we play video games. All you need to play is your body and your voice. This is going to be a big ticket item this year.

Flat screen TVs, digital cameras, and e-Readers were the most popular purchases during Cyber Monday. According to content delivery network Akamai, Cyber Monday increased online traffic by 43 percent. That's a lot of TVs, cameras, and e-Readers.

It wouldn't be a big surprise if some of these electronics were on your Christmas list this year. Hopefully you'll get lots of the things you've been wishing for this Holiday season. Plug it in, and enjoy!



Photo by Emily Lejman



Boys Swimming begins third season

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

As the cold weather comes, so does the boys swimming season, as team members begin the long, tiring practices at the Lemont Park District's Aquatic Center at the Core.

Starting training in November, "the team," says head coach Erin Boyd, "has been doing a lot of yardage and practicing strokes," in order to get ready for competition.

In just the third year of the program, Boyd has high expectations of the team, saying she would like to finish second place or better at conference, where they earned third last year. She of course also wants to finish with a better overall record, although the team went a very respectable 9-3 a season ago.

Leading the team will be returning juniors Brent Husa, Justin Stanwyck and Connor Ganzer, who Boyd considers some of her top swimmers. On Dec. 2, at practice, Husa, Ganzer, and senior Matt Kubowitsch were voted as captains by the team.

With a long season ahead, the boys swim team has a lot of hard work to do, but also has great potential. "We are working very hard so I think we are in for some surprises," said coach Boyd.



Photos Courtesy of Google



by Paul Grossi
Sports writer

Tis' the season to be happy that's for sure for most basketball fans, as the NBA season is right around the corner. Teams prepare for the first game of the NBA season which is to come Dec. 25. Many fans were afraid that there would be no season, however recently, coaches and players came to an agreement, and the first game will start Christmas.

The NBA lockout is only the fourth lockout in the National basketball association (NBA) history. The disagreement between the players and the coaches lasted several months and many sleepless nights for many of the players, coaches and some dedicated fans. An agreement was eventually reached, however the deal wasn't the best for the players. Neither side wanted the lockout, so they all came to agreement early in the morning last week.

The owners began the lockout strictly on July 1, 2011. The main issue that divided the players and the coaches was the revenue sharing as well the structure of the salary cap. The lockout will officially end when the players, represented by the NBPA, ratify a deal with NBA owners.

The lockout canceled pre-season games, and many regular season games. But many are questioning if this could have been all avoided. Baseball deals with contract deadlines are handle a year before the contracts up, and the NFL handled their problems in a quick matter. So then why did the NBA lockout take several months to come to an agreement?

Now with a season just about ready to start, how will players and teams perform? Will there be a team that people haven't seen on top this season? Every basketball fan will have to tune in for the opening game of the season of the NBA.

FORMER LHS GRADUATE, **Molk,** NAMED BIG TEN'S TOP OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

by Emily Lejman
Sports writer

Class of 2007 graduate, Dave Molk, is underway on his fifth and final year of college football at the University of Michigan. Starting 41 career games at center, Molk has lettered three times and is currently a season captain for the wolverines.

After recently contacting Molk to gain more insight on his personal experience as a wolverine and being awarded as the Big Ten's Top Offensive Lineman, the Tom Tom realized he had a lot to share.

Tom Tom: What was your reaction to being named the Big Ten's Top Offensive Lineman?

Dave Molk: Being named offensive lineman of the year is my greatest accomplishment through sports so far. It is a culmination of years of hard work and it feels great to be recognized for such a prestigious award. It is also a credit to the rest of my team because I would have not been able to do it without them.

TT: What is your pre-game routine if you have one?

DM: I really don't have much of a pregame routine. Right before I go on the field I like to close my eyes and take a quick nap. It rejuvenates my mind and relaxes me. Once I'm on the field, I head butt one of the younger lineman to get the juices flowing and prepare myself for the violent contact of the game.

TT: What advice would you give to high school football athletes that want to become as successful as you?

DM: The best advice that I can give is that hard work will pay off. Give 100% effort in everything you do and if you are meant to succeed in the sport the cards will fall where they are supposed to.

TT: Are you hoping to go pro? If so, do you have any teams in mind?

DM: I will enter the NFL draft in 2012. Because of how the draft works I do not have a choice on where I go but since I'm from the Chicago area the bears would obviously be a satisfying option. Other than that I don't have a preference.

Molk has also been named to the Rimington Trophy and Rotary Lombardi Awards preseason watch lists; the winners will be announced in early 2012.



David Molk, leading the Wolverines out to the field

Photo Courtesy of Google



Spotlight: Bill Bozue

by Tom Folliard
Sports writer

21 winning seasons, 565 wins and a 2010 Lemont Athletic Hall of Fame induction are just a few of the accomplishments on girls basketball head coach Bill Bozue's resume.

Bozue also holds the record for the most wins by any coach in Lemont's sporting history, which will keep climbing as his coaching career goes on.

Bozue led his 1979-1980 team to a third place finish in the first-ever IHSA Girls Basketball Class A Tournament. Bozue accomplished this feat in only his second season of coaching.

In his career at Lemont High School, Bozue has also led the team to five IHSA Regional titles and sixteen conference championships.

Bozue has even served as an assistant softball coach, assistant football coach for 23 seasons and assistant baseball coach for five years.

Just as Bozue began his season with the 2011-2012 team on Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Tom-Tom sat down to have a talk with the Hall of Fame coach himself.

Tom-Tom: How did you first get involved in coaching?

Bill Bozue: I coached Lockport Central Boys' Basketball team for two years in the summer while in college. Then I did my student teaching at Lockport Central in 1978 when they won the State title (33-0). I always wanted to be a coach because I knew a person could only play a sport so long, by coaching I could continue to stay involved.

TT: Did you ever think you would end up with 550+ wins?

BB: I never really thought about it. That was not a goal. I have always been very competitive and want to win each game.

TT: What is your favorite coaching memory?

BB: My favorite coaching memory would have to be the 1980 team winning third in State and looking up into the stands at Assembly Hall in Champaign and seeing a large portion of the town of Lemont in attendance.

TT: Do you still remember the first group of girls you coached?

BB: I definitely remember the first team I coached at Lemont. They finished (21-2), undefeated in conference and lost in the district championship to Hinsdale South. Most of the team members



Mr. Bozue, head coach of girls basketball

Continued on page 12

Photo by Tony Hamilton

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returned for the 1980 third place team.

TT: What is your favorite team since you started coaching at Lemont?

BB: It would have to be the 1980 team because of their success, we have bonded for life. All the ladies from that team have become very successful. In recent years I would have to say the 2008-09 team that went (25-6) Sweet Sixteen and won conference. They were a very determined group, great work ethic and excellent people.

TT: What is your ultimate coaching dream?

BB: That would be every High School coach's dream, to win a State Title.

TT: What advice would you give to young basketball players who want to be successful?

BB: I would tell young players to work on their fundamentals year round. They are the foundation of you as a player and add to the success of your team. A player that can dribble, pass, shoot, rebound and defend is hard to stop. You mostly need heart to work hard and compete, if you have natural talent for a particular sport that's even better.

TT: 1980s style of basketball, or 2011 style of basketball?

BB: The fundamentals have not changed. There is no doubt in my mind that the early teams at Lemont could compete with the teams of today. Their deliberate style could frustrate many teams, but the 2011 style is more fun to coach and watch.

Over the top?

by Ian Stratta
Sports editor

Touchdown celebrations have caused uproar among fans and players alike in the NFL the last few years.

Terrell Owens and Chad Ochocinco have graced the main stage of touchdown dances and have innovated them more than anyone else.

Known for using props to his advantage, Owens' most famous touchdown celebration to date is when he took a fan's popcorn bag and threw the popcorn in his own face.

Ochocinco has been known for being more "out there" with his touchdown dances. One of his more famous celebrations was when he pretended to bribe a referee (with a whopping one dollar) during a challenge. That incident got him a fine of \$20,000. In another one of his many celebrations, he went to the sideline and put on an NFL Hall of Fame jacket which said "Future [Hall of Famer] 20???" on the back.

During a game with the Jets earlier this season, a Bills wide receiver, Stevie Johnson, caught a touchdown pass and promptly began to dance and then pretend to shoot himself in the leg afterwards. This is obviously a mockery of Jets wide receiver Plaxico Burress.

In 2008, Burress accidentally shot himself in the leg while dancing in a Manhattan night club. According to ESPN.com, the following year he was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of felony possession of a weapon in the second degree.

This brings up the question of when a touchdown celebration goes from entertaining, to offensive. Throwing popcorn in your face after catching a touchdown is hardly offensive, but Johnson took it too far with his celebration.

Offensive coordinator for the LHS football team, Brent Gagnon, commented, "Our players are instructed to 'act like you have done it before, and act like you will do it again.' Be happy, be excited, but get the ball to the official and get off the field. Your teammates can congratulate you on the sideline. Showboating is for selfish people, not people who are part of a team."

The NFL needs to get its priorities straight. A full-blown mockery of a crime should not force half the size of the fine Ochocinco received for the obvious fake bribery incident.



Photo Courtesy of Google



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Nicole May's

FINAL YEAR

by Effie Tounas
Sports writer

After three years of hard work and dedication, senior Nicole May begins to wrap up her Lemont High school cheerleading career this year. Since freshman year, May has made the varsity team and was able to become a part of the last three state championship titles. Although May has an interest in continuing her cheerleading career after high school, she is still uncertain whether it will get in the way of her studies and all the other community service activities she plans to be involved in.

Tom Tom: Prior to your Lemont career, have you cheered?

Nicole May: I was an elite gymnast for 12 years prior to LHS cheer. Seeing that Lemont has no gymnastics team, cheerleading was the only option.

TT: How has cheerleading impacted your high school experience?

NM: Cheer has definitely altered my high school experience for the better. As a freshman on varsity I met a lot of upperclassmen early in high school which better prepared me for the rest of my high school days. Their leadership and dedication was an inspiration. They influenced how I captain the team today. Although cheer takes up almost all of our Friday nights in the fall and winter, the bonding that we do as a team makes it all worthwhile.

TT: What do you enjoy most about cheerleading?

NM: My teammates through all the years. They have pushed me to accomplish things I never thought possible and have taught me so much. They have allowed me to be myself and I used cheerleading as an outlet to life's problems. Through the years we have had so much fun and success including three state titles. The memories I have had with my teammates are priceless and I couldn't ask for anything else.

TT: Does the sport conflict with your academic career?

NM: As much as I would like to say it doesn't, it definitely does. We are a smart team and a majority of us are on the honor roll. Time management is key. The week of state it always feels impossible to focus in class with what we have ahead of us, but we persevere and help each other out.

TT: Do you have any advice for any future cheerleaders of Lemont High School?

NM: We have started a tradition of success and it is your job to keep it going. If there is one thing I have learned it's that hard work pays off. I hope the tradition continues after I'm gone. LHS cheerleading will forever be number one in my heart.

Photo by Tony Hamilton



Lemont Varsity Cheerleader of four years, Nicole May



14

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.

Athletic Performance of the Week

Boys Basketball:

Juozas Balciunas

In his first two starts for LHS, Balciunas is averaging 20.5 points per game and five assists per game while leading us to our first 2-0 start in many years. He has done this while playing point guard which places the responsibility of leading our team on offense squarely on his shoulders.



Photo by Tony Hamilton