



Legislative Actions Could Force LHS to Cut Programs

by Marisa Mars
News writer

Lemont High School has worked very hard to keep the school financially sound over the past years. However the state of Illinois has not been paying money to the school districts which caused a low number of funds.

According to communications director Tony Hamilton, the teachers, school districts and the state are all mandated to pay certain amounts of money each year in order to keep teachers' pensions funded. Hamilton

says the school district and staff have made their payments each year but the state hasn't. The state has put money towards other programs instead, leaving education underfunded and not enough pension money for the teachers.

In the past, the school has made many conservative choices not to spend money in order to save funds. Now though they don't know if their choices will be enough to keep the school out of a financial crisis.

The state may also be shifting their responsibility to pay teachers' pensions to each individual school district. According to Hamilton, this would cost the school around \$730,000 each year. This money is the equivalent of salaries and benefits for ten percent of the teachers or sixty percent of Lemont High School's yearly budget for extracurricular activities and athletic programs.

In the years to come Lemont will have to wait and see how the financial shortages pan out and how it affects the school.



photo by Tony Hamilton

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LHS Students Place at WYSE Finals

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

Senior Colin Konicki and juniors Lynn and Justin Stanwyck were more than wise this month; they helped Lemont High School's Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) squad successfully match the school's record at the state final competition. For the first time since 2009, the LHS WYSE squad returned to the WYSE Academic Challenge State Finals held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign on April 4.

In order to make it to the state competition, teams must place first or second in the regional and sectional competitions. Though the competition was tough for the sectional competition, Lemont placed second out of the seven schools that competed.

After placing second in its division at the North Central College sectional competition last month, Lemont's squad advanced to state and finished 12th out of 21 teams – the best finish in school history. "I think the results reflect the amount of time the students put into reviewing for the exams taken," said head sponsor Tim

Leffler.

"Everyone involved had a lot of fun going to different colleges to take the tests. Mr. Leffler and Mr. Huber worked very hard to make sure we all placed well and had fun," said Konicki.

The Academic Challenge is a competitive series of tests created by WYSE for high school students

"I believe we'll continue to do well; it's dependent upon the students and the time and effort they put in."

in Illinois and Missouri. According to Leffler, there are seven different tests and each student takes two exams.

Justin Stanwyck placed fourth overall in the Engineering Graphics competition, which was this year's top performance for LHS. Lynn

Stanwyck placed fifth in the Chemistry category and Konicki took sixth in Biology. "It was a really cool experience to place that well at state," said Konicki. "But how well my teammates did made it even better."

Lemont finished with a team score of 349 points, which was less than four points away from a top-ten finish. "Everybody is so busy, especially at this time of year, so I was very impressed with our results," said Leffler.

The state competitors for this year also included seniors Ashley Barajaz, Peter Cairo, Marjorie Dallmann, Jackson Montalbano and Morgan Rex; juniors Aaron Oldanie, Sarah Reaves and Joe Ruggiero; and sophomores Alexandra Albrecht and Jeff Mason. Half of the team was made up of underclassmen, which Leffler believes is very promising for next year.

"I believe we'll continue to do well; it's dependent upon the students and the time and effort they put in. That is my mantra: put in the time," said Leffler.



Hand Dryers

by Nicole McKeivitt
Editorials Editor

There is a problem at this school that everyone has experienced, but no one has ever spoken up about it. Our school's hand dryers in the bathrooms are relatively old, and they are starting to malfunction.

Whenever I wash my hands at school, I always try to use the hand dryers. I will keep my wet hands underneath them for almost a minute, hoping that they will become somewhat dry. In reality, my hands are only a little

bit dry because the cold breeze only moves the water around on my hands instead of drying it away. In the end, I always end up wiping my wet hands on my pants, which brings the germs back onto my hands.

Most people now use the hand sanitizer dispensers in the bathrooms, but how well do these work? Do they even remove any bacteria from our hands?

Some say that a solution for this problem can be purchasing a paper towel

dispenser, but using so many paper towels at school can be a waste of paper.

I think the best solution for this problem is for LHS to purchase new hand dryers for our bathrooms. With this school year ending and a new one around the corner, buying new hand dryers can be a great addition to the next school year.

Junior Amanda Ruban agrees because, "New hand dryers would not only dry our hands faster, but they can help prevent spread-

ing more germs around our school."

Success in school is directly related to the amount of time students spend in the class room. I am curious to see if we could increase student attendance by improving the hygiene of our bathrooms. Could our testing scores and grades improve because our hands are drying more efficiently? Ask yourself this question when you see all the high fives and hugs we give during the school day.



Commercialism's Impact

by Luke Whittingham
Features writer

You open up your new Nike shoe box and the new shoe smell fills your nose. As you try them on and walk around the room, the five minutes of excitement overcome you. This moment was totally worth a child's suffering in a third world country right? . At least you can show them off to your friends.

Men, women, and children in underdeveloped countries suffer each day for the manufacturing of commercial products. Major corporations take advantage of the cheap labor and exploit the workers. Working conditions are unbelievably disgusting and the treatment of the employees is worse.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office defines a sweatshop as an employer that violates more than one federal or state labor law governing minimum wage and overtime, child labor, industrial homework, occupational safety and health, worker's compensation or industry regulation. Abercrombie and Fitch, Hanes, Ikea, and LL Bean are just a few of the hundreds of companies utilizing cheap labor.

"I think it's terrible," said Lemont High School Senior Catie Crutchfield, "that in today's world, even with all the advances and modern technology we have, that people can still be mistreated so badly in workplaces." Workers are paid so poorly that they have to get rid of their children at times because they can no longer support them. In Hong Kong China, one of the biggest abusers of this system, over 3,000 men and women have died from the harsh working conditions. As we continue to push our commercial needs on others, more and more lose their lives.

Consumerism is corrupting society. Society's focus is narrowing in on selfish reasons and humanity is paying the price. Research can help defeat the label names that corrupt our moral values today.

Vans Warped Tour 2012

by Sonia Vavra
Features writer

Do you love bands like Rise Against, Mayday Parade, New Found Glory, Breathe Carolina, Taking Back Sunday or All Time Low? Then the best place for you to be this summer is Vans Warped Tour.

Warped Tour is an across-the-country music festival, showcasing more than 100 bands, ranging from punk to pop to alternative rock music. Sophomore Gabby Blinstrubaitte shared her excitement for Warped Tour.

"I plan on attending Warped Tour this summer to find new music," said Blinstrubaitte. "The fact that there [are] a lot of familiar bands that I used to listen to playing this year is also exciting."

Beginning in June, the festival will make its debut for 2012 in Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 16. From there it will continue on to more than 40 other locations across America, ending in Portland, Oregon, on August 5.

Your reason to be excited: this summer, Warped Tour will be returning to Chicago for its annual visit.

On Saturday, July 7, Warped Tour will be in Tinley Park at the First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre. Not only is this a wonderful opportunity to see your old favorite bands, but also to widen your musical spectrum and discover incredible new bands.

"There's nothing like walking past a stage and having to stop because the music speaks for itself," said Blinstrubaitte. "That's the best feeling ever."

Check out the Vans Warped Tour lineup, concert dates and more at <http://vanswarpedtour.com/>.

First time attending Warped? Check out the [WARPED SURVIVOR GUIDE!](#)



HUNGRY FOR SOMETHING LIKE THE HUNGER GAMES?

by Maddy George
Features writer

Did you love *The Hunger Games*? If you're looking to delve into another fantastic dystopian novel full of suspense, romance and political injustice, be sure to check out these three novels!

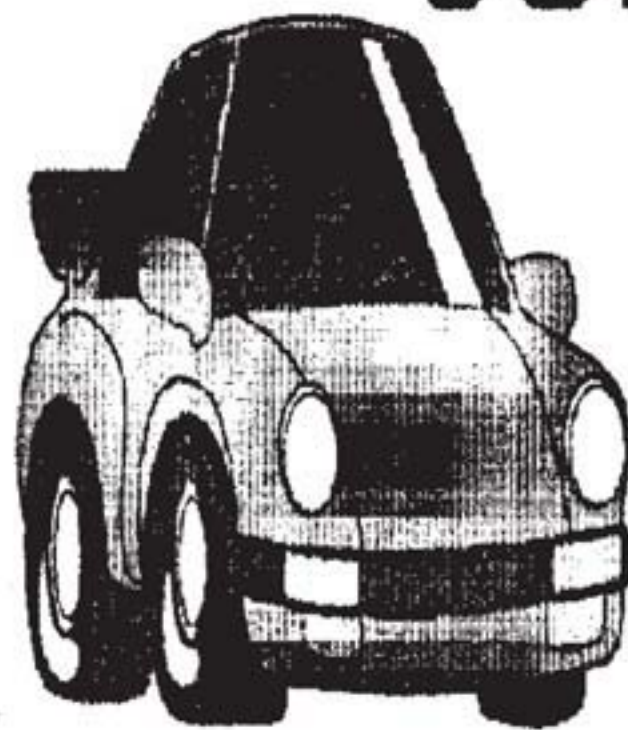
1. *Divergent* is the first book in a highly-anticipated series by Veronica Roth. The story is set in a future Chicago, one very different from the one we live in now. The city is separated into five factions that all live by a different virtue: Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful) and Erudite (the intelligent). On a teen's 16th birthday, each person is forced to make a decision: either choose to stay and live in the faction they have grown up in or pick one of the other five factions, promising to live by their virtue and start anew. The story follows Beatrice Prior who is sixteen and about to make her choice. Will she stay with her family in Abnegation and live a life of selflessness or will she choose another faction and start her life over? And, what will happen if she decides she believes in more than one virtue?
2. *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman is set in a post-war future where, at the age of thirteen, a parent has the right to have his/her child "unwound." The process of "unwinding" a child (willing or unwilling) is to have his or her organs harvested and donated to recipients across the country. The story follows three kids, all condemned to "unwinding" because of various life decisions, and how their paths tangle and cross in the process. *Unwind* is full of cliff-hangers, political unrest, romance and characters you'll love.
3. *Matched* is the first book in a trilogy by Ally Condie. Also set in the future, *Matched* is the story of Cassia, a sixteen year old who is just beginning her life completely controlled by the government. They choose her job, husband and future, all while monitoring her food intake, education, leisure time and even her dreams. The story follows Cassia through the complicated process of being "matched." But, when a mistake is made in her "matching" process, and Cassia sees the face of Ky, a boy who was never even in the matching pool, she is immediately visited by officials and told to erase his face from her mind. Even with a new match in place, Cassia can't forget Ky, and when she begins searching for her own answers, she learns things about her controllers that she could ever imagine to be true. Will Cassia continue her life as it was always "planned" to be, or will she fight for her right to choose her own life and love?

From the charm of the characters to the futuristic setting, all these books share the components you loved from *The Hunger Games*. Check out *Divergent*, *Unwind* and *Matched* at the LHS or public library and enjoy!



Photo edited by Maddy George

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Prangen Wins Coach of the Year Honors

by Ryan Peraino
Sports writer

Did you know that one of the best high school girls' soccer coaches in the state is just downstairs in N104?

That's right, Lemont's girls' soccer coach Rick Prangen was named the 2011 Illinois High School Girls' soccer Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America in the Small School category.

"This honor is a very humbling thing. It is very difficult for team sports to be highlighted for individual accomplishments," said Prangen.

To be considered for this award, coaches must excel in a number of areas, including knowledge of the game, rapport with his/her team, team image, conduct on the field, community involvement, and rapport with coaches, officials and media, among other areas.

Prangen clearly did all of that as he led the Indians to a 23-5 season including a perfect 11-0 record in South Suburban Conference play. The season ended with a 3rd place victory at state, which made this the only Lemont soccer team to end the season with a win.

Even with all this success Prangen is quick to pass the accomplishment off to others. "Coach T (Mark Tomczak) has been with me over a decade. He is the dream assistant," said Prangen. "He is committed, just as passionate about the game and the program and gives great advice."

Prangen has been the only coach in the program's history, having taken it to varsity status in 1995. Prior to this season Prangen had a 223-134-10 record with nine IHSA



Coach Rick Prangen

Photo by Tony Hamilton

Regional titles and eight conference championships.

Many people have influenced Prangen's coaching philosophy but his dad, Angelo Di Bernardo (Wabonsee Valley Head Coach), Willie Faijkus (Prangen's Club Coach), and Tomczak have influenced him the most.

In addition to this honor, Prangen was also named the Southtown Star "Coach of the Year" in both 2009 and 2011.

Lemont High School doesn't have to worry about Prangen leaving any time soon. "I'm happy where I'm at. The high school game is pure and it's all about experience," said Prangen. "I want to win a state championship in the next 15 years in boys or girls."

"He is committed, just as passionate about the game and the program and gives great advice."



ROUND ONE AND DONE

by Adrian Kalata
Sports writer

Phoenix's Mike Smith, three damaging home ice loses, numerous regrets in overtime, and the Coyotes' tight playing system are only a few reasons the Chicago Blackhawks will be hanging up their jerseys and pads so early for the summer.

Despite a strong opening to the '11-'12 NHL season, the Chicago Blackhawks experienced many ups and downs including a nine-game losing streak in late Jan./early Feb. However, after finishing with a 45-26-11 record, the Blackhawks ended their season with a 4-0 game six loss to the Coyotes in the first round of the NHL Playoffs.

The Coyotes' goalie, Mike Smith, was one of the hardest factors the Blackhawks faced during this playoff series. During game six, Smith refused the puck to kiss the net, blocking all 39 shots the Blackhawks took. Smith helped the Coyotes clinch a first-round playoff series win in six games; their first since the '96-'97 season.

On the other side of the ice, things were not going as well. Blackhawks' goalie Corey Crawford missed two easy saves during overtime that cost the team during the playoff series. The Coyotes scored 17 goals on Crawford, leaving him with a .893 save percentage. As the last one to enter the press room after game six, Crawford told the press that it was "Obviously a disappointing finish...I thought we could have gone further. ... It seemed like it was a year with a little bit more frustration [that] set in than it should have. ... but overall it wasn't as bad a year as most people would think."

With a total of five out of six games heading into overtime, this series proved itself to be an exciting one nevertheless. Defenseman Brent Seabrook and left wing Patrick Sharp both brought the game into overtime after scoring with only seconds left in the third period. Captain Jonathon Toews led the team with four points, with two goals and two assists. Center Patrick Kane always had four points after assisting four goals. Right wing Marian Hossa received an illegal, blind-sighted hit from Coyotes' forward Raffi Torres that Hossa to the hospital in a stretcher. Torres is now serving a



Photo courtesy of Google

25-game suspension that put him out of the playoffs and will eventually bleed over into next season.

Heading into the offseason, the Blackhawks need to improve on their goaltending and poor special teams which proved to be a difficult obstacle this season. Coach Joel Quenneville told press that "The penalty killing wasn't much better when you look at the stats. I'm going to absorb some responsibility for this year." Kane also told media that not having a big body in front of the goal during power plays makes it more difficult to score: "That's a huge part of the power play." We will see if the Blackhawks make any significant changes during the offseason now that they know what to work on.



Perfection

by Eric Gruber
Sports writer

This is only the 21st time in MLB history that a perfect game has happened. Phillip Humber of the Chicago White Sox pitched a perfect game on Saturday, April 21 against the Seattle Mariners.

Humber's perfect game was the fourth perfect game in the last four years and the second by a White Sox pitcher since Mark Buehrle in July of 2009. Throwing a perfect game is a feat that many of the greatest pitchers of all time haven't even achieved. "I don't know what Phillip Humber is doing in this list. No idea what my name is doing there, but I'm thankful it's there," said Humber.

Lemont baseball starting pitcher senior Fred Schuett said, "Pitching a perfect game would be a dream come true and an honor to do."

He retired all 27 batters and didn't even reach 100 pitches. Humber had nine strikeouts and the final one was a dropped third strike against Brendan Ryan to finish off the game of his life. "I saw it get away from A.J. and saw the umpire ring him up and at that point, a ton of emotions and a lot of joy and excitement," said Humber.

The perfect game by Humber was also his first complete game of his career. This was also just his 12th win in his career and by far his most memorable.



Photo courtesy of Google

"I have been pitching my whole life and have had perfect games for four and five innings before but I couldn't imagine what it would be like in the major leagues going through all those great hitters," said Schuett.

Humber was the third overall pick in the 2004 MLB draft right after the 2011 Cy Young award and MVP winner Justin Verlander. He was drafted by the Mets and traded to the Minnesota Twins in the Johan Santana deal. The White Sox claimed him off waivers in 2011 to take a chance on him and it paid off.

Humber has put himself in the same category as Randy Johnson, Sandy Koufax and Cy Young with his perfect game performance. This game goes down as one of the best individual performances in sports history because of the rarity of a perfect game.



NBA Playoffs Preview

by John Fiori
Sports writer

Another year, another playoffs; teams look to crown themselves the 66th NBA title winner.

Many predict with their expertise that top-seeded teams with their outstanding records will dominate the board, but is that really true? With the shortened season teams really did not get off to the start they wanted.

Returning champions Dallas Mavericks are seeded seventh very unlikely as a team with that caliber of players. With four of their starting players shooting it double digits a game, that's hard to beat. Matching up against the Oklahoma City Thunder in the first round, people should have upset written all over it.

Adding onto the inexperience of the Thunder, the Thunder's first playoff appearance came last season.

Let's not forget the 4-1 beat-down the Mavs put on the Thunder in the Western conference final last season

Comparing all the rosters, very few changes from each team had been made over the offseason. People could say the Thunder had a bad series, but let's be truthful here: the Denver Nuggets and Memphis Grizzlies weren't finals material.

There are many factors that played into the loss to the Mavs, but it breaks down into inexperience in the playoffs.

On the east side, the seventh seed Knicks stand in the same position as they take on the high-powered Miami heat. There is never a time a team should look past a team with Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire on it. LeBron James either will make or break your team in the postseason.

Keeping in mind Heat coach Erik Spoelstra benched the "big 3" at the end of the regular season giving them rest. This seems smart to 99.9%



Photo courtesy of Google

of the population, but keep in mind taking three selfish players and putting them on the court after weeks rest loses chemistry.

Looking back on their season it came to light when facing the Chicago Bulls. Their record against each other finished at deadlock 2-2. The Heat managed to beat the Bulls with either and injured Derrick Rose or a beat up playing Rose showing there is little depth on the heat.

Overall, besides the two upsets, the playoffs seem very clear-cut. The higher seeds on both sides of the bracket have a solid starting five with depth on their bench. The bulls and San Antonio spurs are rolling smoothly into the playoffs tied with the best record in the NBA.

With weak opponents in the Utah Jazz and Philadelphia 76er's, the number one seed is looking better and better for them for the Bulls and Spurs.

Don't forget about both teams in L.A. The Lakers are always in contention with Kobe Bryant. Clippers are building chemistry between the young duo Blake Griffin and Chris Paul.

Lastly, eastern conference three seed Indiana Pacers vs. six seed Orlando Magic seems to have been decided when star magic player was pronounced out for the season with a torn ACL. The Magic needs a lot of magic to surpass the red-hot pacers.

Only time will tell who the true champion will be; we can only speculate and predict. Will the Mavs repeat? Or LeBron be finally crowned? Maybe it's time for the Bulls to bring the championship mentality back to Chicago. It will be a post-season to remember.



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NFL Draft: Choose Carefully

by Kurran Buck
Sports writer

There are so many to choose from, but it would be hard to make a bad pick in this 2012 NFL Draft. It almost has the feeling of a kid looking at a bowl of candy and having a hard time of choosing one bad piece.

It is true that we are nowhere close to the NFL regular season starting, but right now might be the most important time outside of the playoffs for everybody. It is known that the Indianapolis Colts are going to take quarterback Andrew Luck with the first pick of the draft, and the Washington Redskins are taking quarterback Robert Griffin III with the second pick. But what happens with the other picks?

There are many players available in this draft that you could either shape your defense or offense around. Who would you be willing to do that with? Other than the top two picks, players like cornerback Morris Claiborne of Louisiana State and Justin Blackmon of Oklahoma State are definitely players teams are willing to take. But for most of the players teams can get in this draft, they will only be contributing factors to the teams they are now joining.

Ray Emery, Chicago Bears general manager, will be making the picks in the draft this year for the first time. This means there will be some pressure on him to make picks a good general manager is expected to make, unlike our last one in Jerry Angelo. The Bears have a need for an offensive lineman, a defensive end, and a good wide receiver. They had the 19th pick in the first round of the draft and picked defensive end Shea McClellin. Rounds 2 on to Round 7 occurred after this article was written.

Important times call for important measures, and team executives took those to get the college players they wanted. The futures of these teams have been decided, so now we can look forward to preseason starting.

Photo courtesy of Google

SPOTLIGHT: Kelly Trojak

by Effie Tounas
Sports writer

The Lemont girls' soccer team has had a good start to the 2012 season. Senior captains Shannon Briggs, Sydney Goushas, and Kelly Trojak have led the girls to stay positive and do their best in order to achieve their current record of 9-1-2.

With this being her fourth and final year to play with the Lemont team, Trojak's final games with the girls

have been ones she will remember. She commented on how the team is what she enjoyed most of high school, and how the coaches, Rick Prangen, Mark Tomczak, and Amanda Huling, were what she will miss the most.

After playing for six years, on the Lemont Raiders team and Chicago Intern club team in the fall, Trojak will continue her soccer career in college next year by playing for the Saint Xavier University girls' soccer team. What made Trojak choose St. X? "It's close to home, and when I met the team they were all welcoming," she said.

Many people have expectations of the Lemont girls to make it to state this season. With all the pressure, Trojak answered the question coolly about whether she believed the team has what it takes. "As long as we continue to work hard, we have a chance," she commented.

Trojok only has only nine more games left of her 2012 Lemont season before qualifying for regionals. An event fans will not want to miss is the Lemont invitational on May 4-5 at home, which will also be senior night.



Senior Kelly Trojak

Photo by Tony Hamilton