

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

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Issue 20

Shut Up and Say Something

by Marisa Mars
News writer



Ryan Luzzo and Aubree Tally pose before the stage at the Speech State Finals

On Feb.15 and 16, senior Aubree Tally and junior Ryan Luzzo competed at the state level for speech at the Civic Center in Peoria.

Tally performed a piece in Dramatic Interpretation about a mother who loses her child. According to Tally, the child is born premature, but “the doctor screws up and the baby dies.” She finished seventh in the preliminary rounds. “Overall, it was a good experience,” Tally said, adding that she had a lot of fun.

Luzzo competed in Prose Reading with a piece from John Green and David Levithan’s Will Gray-

son Will Grayson (about two teenagers, Will Grayson and will grayson). In this piece, the “not-so-gay” gay teenager, will grayson, attends a meet-up with a boy named Isaac, whom he’s been talking to online. However, once he arrives at the meeting place, he “tragically finds out Isaac was a fake profile made by [will’s friend] Maura” to find out if will was gay, Luzzo said.

With this piece, Luzzo made it to the final rounds where he finished sixth in state. “I never thought I could make it there, let alone make it to the final round,” Luzzo said. He is “grateful for the experience,” and looks to make a return to state next year.

Lemont’s speech team has already achieved greatness, but Tally believes it can continue to improve. “The upcoming years are going to be good,” Tally said. “We have solid coaches and a solid team.”

Regardless of what the future holds, Lemont’s team has had a great year, complete with two state competitors.

“Lemont’s speech team has already achieved greatness, but Tally believes it can continue to improve”

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Lemont's Proposed Economic Generator

by Monique Devitt
News writer

The Lemont Township has proposed to build a 21 million dollar sports complex in downtown Lemont. The village board believes it will help revive businesses in Lemont and resuscitate the lacking downtown area.

The indoor/outdoor all sports facility has been proposed to be built at a 26 acre site at the north end of Stephen Street in Downtown Lemont. The 160,000 square foot, year-round, indoor/outdoor facility will include two full sized indoor turf soccer fields and two full-sized basketball courts.

The belief is the sports complex will introduce customers to downtown Lemont causing them to spend money there. They anticipate traffic to be over 600,000 people a year through the downtown area. "With this traffic now we become more marketable as a community," said village board member Paul Chialdikas.

On Feb 6, the Village Board of Lemont held a meeting to address many unanswered questions that townspeople had about this proposed economic generator.

"Many people are opposed to this sports complex because they think it will raise taxes when in reality the

money that it will make in profit will pay back the loan and it won't cost taxpayers a dime," Said Chialdikas.

If executed properly, the business plan will bring in approximately \$3 million a year and cost only 1.7 million to operate each year. The 1.3 million of profit will pay the loan back and the rest will be put aside in a reserve fund for when the complex needs repairs or is going through a tough economic time.

"The South Suburban region is in need of a sports complex and Lemont is the perfect spot because it is right next to Archer and Route 83," said Chialdikas. Travel teams would rather stay closer to home to play games and tournaments. Twelve league teams have already asked to rent this sports complex because they would rather stay closer to home for various competitions and tournaments.

If anyone opposes this being built, they need to get 785 registered voters living in the village limits of Lemont to sign a petition by March 4. Fourteen months later it will be voted on at a referendum to decide whether or not the town will be allowed to follow through with the building process.

"If executed properly, the business plan will bring in approximately \$3 million a year and cost only 1.7 million to operate each year."

Have Some R-e-s-p-e-c-t

by Kayla Neetz
Editorialist

Crop tops, cut-offs, miniskirts and pants that leave nothing to the imagination. These are all things you might see on the typical high school girl walking down the halls. Why has this become the norm?

In girls' minds love has been obscured. Many believe that in order to receive love from a boy they have to sell their bodies—but is it all the boys' fault?

Yes, it is true that men can at times be piggish and inappropriate but they aren't forcing girls to dress like pin-ups. In fact, I would argue it is the fault of the girls who dress like this that turn men into the idiots some of them are. According to senior Alex Wontorczyk, "Guys only want those girls for a week or two. It's like a used tissue; when you're done you throw it out."

Or maybe the media is partly to blame, with every magazine cover reading "How to lose 10 Pounds in 10 Days!" After all, when is the last time you read a magazine article about how to love yourself?

The truth is everybody deals with insecurities. Unfortunately, a trend has begun where the only time a girl feels good about herself is if she is approved or praised by men.

What's worse is that girls are not wrong to think that if they dress in what is close to being their birthday suit, they will get more attention. The evidence is everywhere. Senior Stephen Tuscher said, "Girls that expose more of themselves in pictures [on Facebook] get more 'likes' than a modest but equally pretty girl."

But no one says it better then Johnny

Diaz's song *More Beautiful You*.

"There could never be a more beautiful you, don't buy the lies disguises and hoops they make you jump through," says the songs.

Girls, do you get it yet? You do not need a man to be happy and you certainly don't need a gawking, horny boy to make you feel beautiful.

Start walking with a confidence that shows that you could degrade yourself by dressing along with the "norm", but you have too much respect for yourself to give men any control over the way you think. Guys really aren't all that bad; they just don't know that calling a girl hot because of a low-cut shirt makes the girl wear more low-cut shirts. In fact, senior James Slesure said, "I wouldn't date a girl that dressed like that. It's not classy and I have too much self-respect." Maybe you dress a certain way for yourself. But you should ask yourself why you like it—what about dressing that way is so appealing to you?

No man will give you respect if you don't respect yourself. Be confident knowing that only you can make yourself truly happy. No man can do that for you and if you depend on a boy for happiness he will always let you down. It's time to make a change. Stop letting others sway your perception and start loving yourself again.



Stamping Away Misconceptions Part 2: Inside the Pantry

The fact that the Food Stamps program is severely lacking may seem irrelevant to many, but to some people, it's personal. One woman, Caroline Caligiuri, decided to take on the Food Stamps challenge and live off of just \$31.50 a week.

"I was immediately interested in bringing an awareness that people lack when it comes to this program," said Caligiuri. "I asked for the information on this challenge and starting thinking through how I could pull this off."

Caligiuri started the day after the Superbowl and set aside just \$31.50 for food for one week. Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects she faced was making healthy decisions on such a low budget.

"The first thing I thought of was chili because I know it would last for a while and that I could do several things with it. My intention was to make a beef or turkey chili but I couldn't afford it. Ground beef was a minimum of \$3.99 a pound and I couldn't find a small amount," said Caligiuri. "The cheapest things to buy are starchy items like rice, pasta and potatoes."

With hunger serving Caligiuri perpetual discomfort, Caligiuri states, "I was always hungry. I'm used to eating what I want when I want it. I wasn't able to drink pop and I bought tea at the dollar store for my beverage. It was awful." She goes on to say, "I did learn that spacing out the portions of the meals helped to not be so hungry. For example, the first three days I had yogurt and a banana. I ate the yogurt and then ended up waiting to eat the banana until the afternoon as part of my snack. The longer I could wait between meals, the better off I was. I also drank a lot of water to fill me up."

Through this experience, Caligiuri learned a little about her body's needs. "I found out that my stomach missed vegetables on a more consistent basis and I was very tired."

The central focus of this challenge is to bring awareness to the problem of hunger and to clear the misconception that those living off Food Stamps are "taking advantage of the system." In reality, the people living off of just \$31.50 a week are nutritionally lacking and have hunger as a constant reminder of their financial status.



The Carrie Diaries: Part III

by Rachel Bogo
Features writer

From a regular college student to one of the biggest authors, Candace Bushnell has grown into a writer that any woman can look to for advice on relationships, friends and how to survive the city.

At the age of 19, Bushnell moved to the big apple and attended New York University and Rice University. Even at a young age, Bushnell started to make her trademark on the writing scene by writing her very first children's book for Simon & Schuster.

Bushnell began *The Human Cartoon* in 1990, a column that would start the beginning of *Sex and the City*. Little did Candace know, the project she started in 1994 would shape her career for the future.

At the time she started a column for the New York Observer: *Sex and the City*. The following year her small column was published as a book. In 1996 it was sold to HBO to be made into the famous show we know today. Mother of three Carol Rojas said, "I love *Sex and the City*. The four friends have such different personalities that anyone who watches can relate to at least one of them."

Of her seven books, three are shows (*Sex and the City*, *Lipstick Jungle* and *The Carrie Diaries*) and two are movies (*Sex and the City* and *Sex and the City 2*).

Bushnell has written two books for *The Carrie Diaries* series. Providence High School senior Gabby Senese said, "I like Candace's writing because I can really

relate to what is going on to Carrie in the show. What happens in the show is what really happens to teens in real life." The new show is one of the top watched shows on the CW.

Bushnell certainly took the social scene of New York and brought it to the living rooms of families everywhere with her new hit series.

"What happens in the show is what really happens to teens in real life."

-Senior Gabby Senese

Soon to be Published Author: I Plead Guilty

by Shannon Burke
Features writer



Author Marisa Mars senior Marisa Mars doesn't fit the typical image of an author, her book is as brilliant a book written by any one of the accomplished authors today.

The book is centered on the very twisted Ryan Easton. He leads a life of distorted

Murder, kidnap, torture, crime, deceit, betrayal and an invigorating plotline are all elements that can be found in Marisa Mars's book *I Plead Insanity*.

Although high school

intentions that have led him through murder, deceit and extortion. Marisa Mars said, "Ryan is a bad guy; he's not supposed to be good."

Easton suddenly begins to receive strange emails warning him about the computer program that enabled him to achieve his life of crime. In order to get more information Easton decides to contact his father.

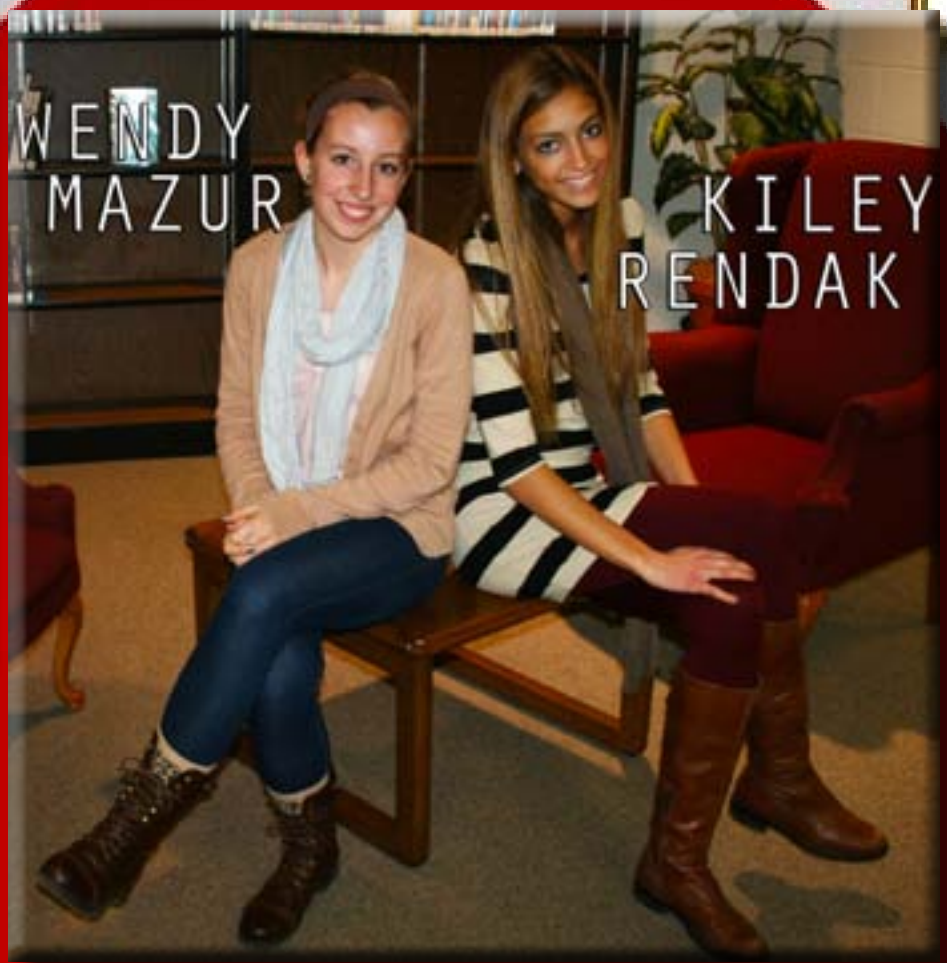
To contact his father Easton must go undercover as a patient in the asylum his father is housed in. He must gather information about the warnings he received and a possible plot to destroy the crime empire he created.

Readers will be hanging on every word, waiting to see what direction

the book will take them next. Senior Conor Matthews said, "[The book] is a beautiful display of cunning plot twists and invigorating mystery."

The book is very different than anything that is already out there. Mars said, "The point is that it's told from the perspective of who would normally be the bad guy."

For such a young author this piece of literature is quite impressive. "Never have I ever seen such a well written piece of literature from someone so young," said Matthews. "I am thoroughly impressed and equally excited for the release of this thrilling novel."



frontline
fashion

College Recruiting 101

by Erika Truschke
Sports writer

Pressure, expectation and decisions are a few of many words to describe the vigorous and time consuming process athletes take in order to continue their athletic journey into the collegiate level. Student-athletes who strive to compete at the collegiate level have a more intense college search process. In the end, a lot of factors contribute to a school being the 'right fit for you.'

According to NCAA.org, "The NCAA distributes more than \$1.5 billion in scholarships annually and oversees 89 championships in 23 different sports."

Division I represents the highest collegiate level competition, allowing the opportunity for 70,000 athletes to receive full ride and partial scholarships.

Division II represents an intermediate level competition, allowing 107,000 athletes to receive mostly partial scholarships.

Division III is left with no opportunities for athletic scholarships to roughly 175,000 athletes; although

this division holds 40% of the NCAA's student-athlete population.

As a teenager, almost everyone has a dream school he or she wants to attend either because of athletics or family history. The urge to attend the school of your dreams may interfere with the academic and athletic benefits it provides.

LHS softball player Carly Jaworski recently completed the college recruiting process on Nov. 14, when she signed a National Letter of Intent to play collegiate softball for Lewis University in the neighboring town of Romeoville.

"University of Minnesota was my dream school because I have family that live in Minnesota and three of my cousins graduated from there. After I realized what college path I wanted to take, I knew I would fit in better athletically with Lewis University," said Jaworski.

Recruiting Profile

The NCAA defines recruiting as, "any solicita-

tion of prospective student-athletes or their parents by an institutional staff member for the purpose of securing ultimate participation in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program." In other words, recruiting is direct contact between an athlete and coach for the chance to play for his or her team in college.

Often times, it is confusing to know where to begin the process; making a recruiting profile will simplify the process and give you guidance on what road to follow. The opportunity to complete a free College Recruiting Profile on NCSAsports.org, or any NCAA approved site, is recommended.

Making a profile easily organizes personal and athletic achievements into one place. Once a profile is completed, it allows athletes to share the profile with the colleges of your choice.

Building a personal profile helps gets your name out into the recruiting world as much as possible. College recruiting is about separating yourself from the other athletes. It is about selling yourself in the best way possible in order to play where you want.

The profile is mostly for the coaches to help under-

stand you as a person on and off the field and in the classroom. Head Coach Diane Dillon of SUNY Oswego Lakers Women's Hockey team said, "I will take players with a better personality over talent any day. A player's personality comes into accountability because it helps avoid any problems that may result during their years at Oswego."

Making the Grades

Grades are the most important aspect for getting into college, regardless of becoming a student-athlete or not. Colleges have academic requirements you have to meet in order to be accepted. Without meeting admission requirements to your school of choice, it will be difficult to achieve acceptance.

For instance, senior Megan Litoborski signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball for California University of Pennsylvania. Since it is a Division II school, high academic standards are needed in order to get accepted; Megan achieved both the academic and athletic standards needed to attend the school.

Understanding what you want to study speeds up the recruiting process. It

helps narrow down a list of schools based upon academic majors. "I knew that I wanted to major in accounting, and if a school didn't have that major, I kept looking for other schools that offered both aspects," said Litoborski.

Above all, education comes first. Even though a player may be the most talented athlete in the country, if he or she doesn't have the grades to get into the school, it will be nearly impossible to play there.

Contacting & Visiting Schools

After making a list of possible schools you would like to attend, the next step is getting in contact with the coaches. A popular recruiting statement says, "Recruiting started yesterday," meaning you are always going to be one step behind everyone else; whether you are behind because of age or talent, it doesn't matter. It never hurts to start as early as you can.

The communication process is significant because it is a time for coaches to understand you personally. Athletes are advised to send coaches emails introducing themselves as a player, and attaching a player profile, if one is completed. Being professional and proper is a big;

double checking spelling and grammar is a must.

The chance to get recognized by college coaches boosts the success rate of the recruiting process. Litoborski comments, "Not everyone will receive letters or emails from college coaches, so it is important to get your name out there and contact coaches."

There are important dates when coaches and players are able to contact each other; these are strict NCAA rules.

July 1 is the most important date for college recruiting. It is the first date college coaches, specifically Division I, are able to have off-campus face-to-face contact with athletes who are entering their senior year.

This date also allows coaches to contact athletes via phone call once per week. There are no restrictions on athletes calling coaches as soon as freshman year; it is until you enter your junior year that the coaches can in fact call you back. Division I also allow a maximum of five official college visits in your senior year.

Division II and Division III are not as strict under NCAA rules. Coaches may send material, contact athletes off-campus, and call at anytime.

College visits are a key component in the decision making process. Official

and unofficial visits are allowed in your senior year of high school. Making these visits help give an understanding on how college life will be at that particular school.

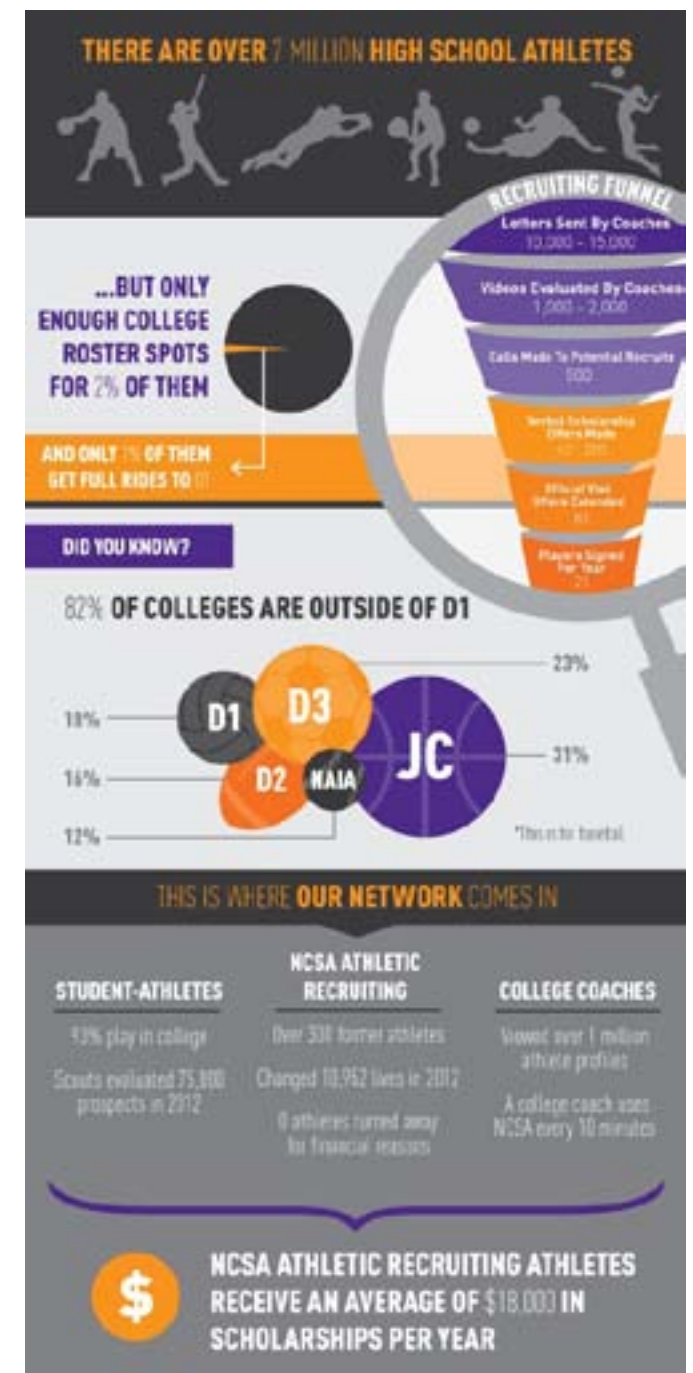
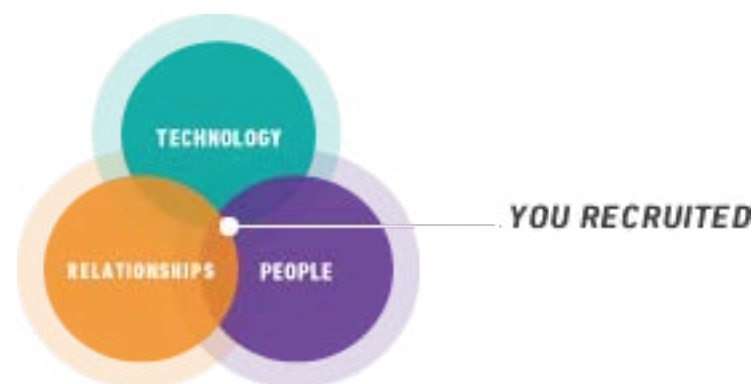
Jaworski said, "I decided to play at Lewis because it felt like home. I was able to get along with my coaches and players right away, making me

feel a part of the team." Potentially, a college visit can make or break a decision to go to that school.

Making the Decision

Countless hours of researching, contact-

>Continued on next page



ing coaches, and visiting schools finally pays off. As the recruiting process nears closure, it is time to make a decision that will affect the next four years of your life and beyond.

Narrowing down schools involves many considerable components. Location and size are few of many reasonable ideas to consider where you want to attend college. Picking what college you attend will be a part of who you are as a person for the rest of your life, and carry over into your career path as well.

When visiting a school, you may get that gut feeling that says, "This is the right fit for me." Others take extra time and effort in what benefits them as a person in the long run.

Once a college is picked, there is no better feeling than knowing you have completed the stressful recruiting process. Litoborski said, "After signing the letter of intent, I felt a sense of relief."

In order to have a successful college recruiting process, it is not mandatory to follow all these steps. Everyone will have a recruiting process that fits that individual's certain requests.

These tips can help improve and increase the chance to be looked at by college coaches, but nothing will guarantee you a spot to play a collegiate

sport. Personally, you are held accountable to make your college career possible.

Deciding on a college impacts the rest of your life and is a big responsibility. Senior year is almost over, and many of LHS's students have committed to play either Division I, II, or III sports.

Athletes who have already committed to play a collegiate sport include: Nicole McKevitt (Millikin University), Ethan Pocic (LSU), Jake Lemming (Saint Xavier University), Tim McAuliffe (Bowling Green State University), Connor O'Brien (University of North Dakota), Megan Litoborski (California University of Pennsylvania), Carly Jawkorski (Lewis University), Erika Truschke (SUNY Oswego), Kyle Hamann (UIC), Andrew Putna (UIC), and Pitor Okon (Saint Francis).

"Pressure, expectation and decisions are a few of many words to describe the vigorous and time consuming process athletes take in order to continue their athletic journey into the collegiate level."

Lemont Basketball Preview

by Kevin Dowiarz
Sports writer

The Lemont Basketball team has been seeded ninth in the Oswego High School Regional Tournament. They are slated to play Bolingbrook High School (18-6) in the first round. With a 20-2 record, Lemont is winning consistently, and will be a competitor in the playoffs.

With the regular season still going on, the playoffs are on the backburner for the team. Senior guard Joey Hehir said, "We are trying to win out until the playoffs and trying to take the conference championship first". With a second consecutive conference championship in sight, the team wants to get over that hurdle before worrying about the playoffs.

Fans at Lemont have a bittersweet feeling, since the regional is full of powerhouse schools. Senior Ryan Gaffney, considered a "superfan", said, "It's going to be really tough to get through the regional with Bolingbrook and potentially Oswego as opponents". However, Lemont has been a powerhouse this season as well. Gaffney went on to say, "if the team plays up to their ability, they have a shot to pull off the upsets". It will be a tough road through the regional, but not an impassable one.

The team is in the final stretch of the regular season, easily one of the best in Lemont history. One thing is for certain: the team will go to Oswego with the entire school behind its back.

Photo courtesy of lhs210.net



Photo courtesy of bhsd228.net