



At last week's Skills USA competition, LHS senior AL Lynn took first place in the Food and Beverage Service category. Lynn will represent Illinois as he competes against 46 other states and providences in the Food and Beverage category at the national competition being held in Overland Park, Kansas on June 20- 24.

Senior Shawn Nienhouse also stood as a close contender in the Food and Beverage Service category as he took second in this particular category. In the Culinary Arts category, Nienhouse took eighth.



Senior Shawn Nienhouse



Senior AL Lynn

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## Mathletes Formulate Plans for State

by Elizabeth Bernabe

News writer

Students stand at the white board in room S411, speaking the language of numbers and patterns. All of a sudden, someone laughs, causing others at the board to follow. Mistakes are made and practice packets made up of past tests are passed. Just another regular Mathletes practice on a Tuesday morning.

On Saturday, April 30, LHS Mathletes will compete in the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics State Math Contest Finals at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Months of preparation have led up to the moment, with a number of practices scheduled for Tuesday mornings and Thursdays after school.

Currently the Mathletes rank 17<sup>th</sup> in state, a goal Mathletes head coach Erin Hitchcock hopes to improve while Mathletes coach Ken Suslek declares his goal without hesitation is "to win state."

Despite multiple sets of practices, the Mathletes still have various hurdles to overcome. Hitchcock revealed, "The spring is such a busy time and so many of our kids are involved in musical and in lots of spring sports." Suslek, however, remains hopeful in believing that "They're all great, smart kids." Hitchcock readily notes the same and said "Overall, I think that we still have some really strong students in Mathletes."

Hitchcock and Suslek both reveal that the journey will hardly be easy. Hichcock revealed, "We're facing a lot of tough schools." Suslek doesn't dispute her. He grimly replied, "[The] competition is going to be fierce."

Senior Arthur Laciak said," I think we're going to do pretty well in state, hopefully placing in the top ten." Even if the team does not win state, Mathletes members like Freshman Robert Rigler have an advantage. The team helps Rigler become a better student and apply his math skills in class. He said, "In class, I'm always thinking of past problems and whatnot."

The strategy is simple. As Hitchcock said, "We're just going to go in and do the best that we can." Suslek whole-heartedly agrees and added, "And have fun."

Finally, the students at the board work together to solve the equation. Two students proudly pat themselves on the shoulder as the answer, circled by a green marker looms over their heads.





by Morgan McPartland News writer

In recent years, the music scene has really expanded in the Chicago area. In fact, bands such as Rise Against, Plain White T's, Fall Out Boy and even Kanye West all started their careers in the busy city of Chicago. While it's common for many teenagers to listen to pop or mainstream music on the radio, alternative/indie bands are truly on the

## **Local Success**

Originating from the suburbs of Chicago, The Captain Hates the Sea is a band of six friends who are simply passionate about music. They combine hardcore breakdowns with interesting dance beats to form a unique genre of music that doesn't always get the recognition it deserves.

The band consists of six young musicians: singer Alex Rodriguez, LHS senior Danny Kulasik on guitar and vocals, Joe Crutchfield on guitar, Mark Moravek on synths, JP Zigmant on drums and Mike Thomas on bass. "[Before TCHTS], we were just sort of waiting for an outlet like this," explained Kulasik. "Many of us have been playing in bands for a long time, myself included, but not quite like this before."

TCHTS formed a little over a year ago, but Kulasik believes they should have started it long ago. "We've all known of each other, we've all been playing music so long and we all have such similar interests that it just made sense to," he said. Besides Thomas, all of the members of TCHTS attended LHS and knew of each other before actually forming the band.

## Why The Captain Hates the Sea?

Moravek, Kulasik and Rodriguez were browsing the internet one day when they stumbled upon a



movie the Three Stooges were in, titled *The Captain Hates the Sea*. Although they were debating another name, the band decided the movie title would be better as the title of the opening song on their

"Half the battle of starting a band is getting people who are going to be committed, but with this group of guys that is not a problem at all," said Kulasik.

Of course, it's also hard for bands to gain fans when they first form, but TCHTS started out with a supportive group of friends to attend every show. Kulasik believes that in terms of their fan base, things really started to pick up in during fall of last year and they've been enjoying more and more crowd energy at shows.

## What They're Doing Now

TCHTS is currently unsigned, but the guys would love to change continued on page 5 that in the near future. However, they do have an EP out called Existence and it can be purchased at one of the band's shows or on iTunes. The band's original songs are usually "a collaboration of all the members" according to Kulasik, and they do throw in the occasional

"We don't have a set way to write a song," explained Crutchfield. "It's different every time, which I think is really beneficial to our sound because it's well rounded and there is a lot from each of us in every song."

Right now, they're in the recording studio with their producer/manager and good friend Travis Brown working on a new song and a cover of Britney Spears' "Hold It Against Me." "It's going to be pretty ridiculous," said Crutchfield.

Also, they try to keep shows/ concerts on a consistent monthly basis when they're not recording. Over the summer, Crutchfield revealed that TCHTS plans to have a show every few weeks.

You can find TCHTS at most local rock venues, such as Live 59. The Lighthouse, The Korova and many others. They've even been offered a spot at this year's Festivus at Congress Theater with Emmure, Iwrestledabearonce, Born of Osiris and Chelsea Grin.

"After [Mark and I] came up with the idea and formed the band, everything fell into place and we haven't stopped since," said



"We all get along and work hard. Even though 1% of our industry makes it, I think we have a great shot"



Crutchfield.

## **Not-so-local Success**

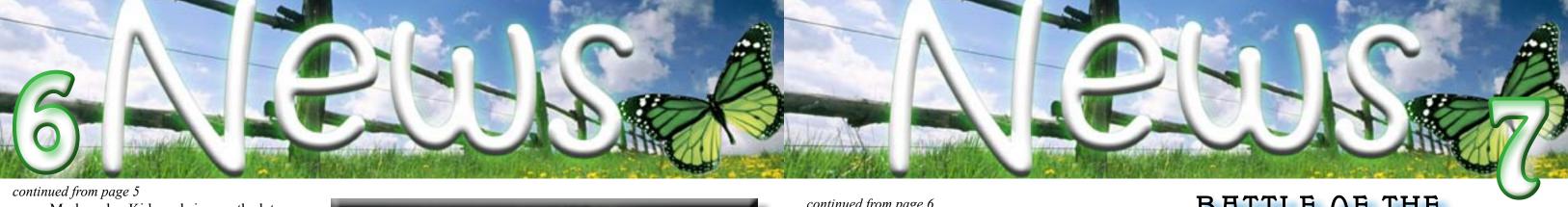
While TCHTS is a band comprised of six guys in their early 20s, with the exception of Kulasik, believe it or not there are even younger bands succeeding in the music industry today. Modern day Kids, commonly called MdK by California teenagers, is a group of four high school students just trying to live out their dreams.

Singer Tyler Stimpson, guitarist Nick Hays, bassist Mathew Salavitch and drummer Keller O'Rourke formed MdK a little over a year ago in hopes of creating some fun, light-hearted music. Little did they know, MdK would soon become a serious chance at a music career.

All four members of MdK live in San Ramon, CA where they create music and promote MdK, all while attending high school and living the life of a normal teenage boy. Stimpson and Salavitch are only sophomores at California High School, Hays is a junior and O'Rourke is a senior. "At school, we're not treated a whole lot differently," said Salavitch.

Hays, Salavitch and O'Rourke met in their Jazz band class at school and formed the band in September 2009. One day at school, Hays glanced at his history book, titled Modern Day History, and replaced the word "history" with "kids."

The other members agreed on the continued on page 6



name Modern day Kids and six months later, Salavitch asked his long-time friend Stimpson to join MdK. With that, the band was on its way to becoming a huge success.

## The Beginning of MdK

In June 2010, R-tist Records, an indie label out of San Jose, CA, signed MdK because of their catchy, pop-punk sound. They released their first album titled It's Never Over in December 2010 and received a generally positive response. "A lot of people didn't know what to expect from us, so they were pretty surprised," revealed Stimpson.

The album features 12 tracks, including their hits "Keep It Going" and "Make It Out." From acoustic, insightful songs such as "What I've Said" to upbeat tunes like "Little Black Dress", MdK's first album was a great way to showcase what they're all about. All the songs are original, and according to Salavitch, every song they write comes from personal experience.

"It's pretty cool to see people in the crowd singing along to our songs as we perform them," said Hays. "We still expect more from the album but it just needs to get out there." It's Never Over can be downloaded on iTunes for only \$9.99.

The four members did not start the band with intentions of making a career out of it, but their hard work and time put into creating music brought them more recognition and attention than they ever imagined. "Over time, we started to take it more and more seriously and now we are all in it to make it a career," explained Salavitch.

## Where They Are Now

Since a lot of new bands were emerging from the San Ramon area when MdK first started, it wasn't necessarily easy to gain fans and promote their music. "It's always hard and it's



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continued from page 6

all about our social media right now," said Stimpson. At local shows, an impressive amount of fans come out to the concerts, but Salavitch said "Sometimes when we play far away where people don't know [MdK], the crowd can be tough."

The up-and-coming band plays roughly three shows a month, but their manager, Hays' mother, has been known to book way more shows than that. In terms of location, MdK has played at local parks, schools, studios and even festivals. In fact, they're currently involved in a competition to play at this summer's Vans Warped Tour (see sidebar).

Even though the band has a lot going on right now, from competing to play at one of the biggest summer tours in the country to trying to expand their fan base outside of San Ramon, they still manage to find time to work on new songs. "That's what we're spending all of our band practice time on right now," revealed Stimpson.

According to Salavitch, MdK hopes to "take huge leaps in our creativity and song writing" with their new songs. Also, they're looking to move to a larger label and release the next album with them by next year. "It's amazing how far we've come and the tunes are getting better and better," said Hays.

## **How They Manage**

While the four boys are extremely mature and experienced for their age, like all other bands, they can't do everything alone. Hays' mother is the band's manager while O'Rourke's father does sound with them, and the rest of the parents contribute to the band in some way too. "We would not be anywhere we are today without all our parents," said Salavitch.

For any more information on MdK such as tour updates, new music, merchandise and ways to contact the members, visit www.mdkrocks.com.

As for the future of these bands, who knows where MdK and TCHTS will end up in a couple of years? They're great, talented groups of friends with a positive outlook on what the future has to offer. "I have the best feeling about the future of [MdK]," said Stimpson.

all band photos by MDK and TCHTS

## DATTLE OF THE BANDS

A few months ago, MdK decided to enter a nationwide competition for a spot on their local Vans Warped Tour date. For those that don't know, Vans Warped Tour started out as a showcase for punk-rock music but over the years has featured bands from a variety of genres. For more information, visit www. vanswarpedtour.com.

For the Ernie Ball Battle of the Bands, the competition MdK has entered, fans vote for their favorite bands and the top bands move on to an audition round. They're currently in 5th place for their venue Mountain View in California, 15th in the poppunk genre, 119<sup>th</sup> for alternative and 19<sup>th</sup> in overall played songs.

Fans can vote once every day at www. battleofthebands.com and each fan counts. Considering that this is MdK's first time competing for a spot on Warped Tour, the band is doing really well. "We have hopes of making it but need all the support we can get," said Hays.

Voting ends on July 2, so visit www. battleofthebands.com/u/MdKRocks to support the hard-working musicians and give them the chance to play at Warped Tour.





# Start saving for college y Lyons als Editor ASAP

As somewhat of a self-proclaimed shopaholic, I'm probably not the best person to give anyone financial advice. However, I think that many of my peers can learn from my experiences.

by Kelly Lyons

Editorials Editor

Let's face it; once you get to college there's a good chance you will pretty much be paying for everything other than your actual education. But let's back up a little. What about pre-college necessities?

You're going to need a laptop to do you homework, a camera to document the memories, clothing to accommodate whatever weather conditions you may have to deal with... and those are just the start.

Even before you get to school, you need to have money saved up. How do you expect to have any fun without dropping a little cash? That might be a pessimistic way of looking at it, but in today's economy things rarely come free anymore. Unless you're the friend who sits around and studies all the time, chances are you're going to want to go out with your friends on the weekends.

And life at college doesn't always come cheap. However you decide to spend your free time, you'll probably end up needing some cash. And although you might be lucky enough to get a job while you're away at school, learning to support yourself can be tough. Having money already stored away is probably a safer alternative.

Students these days don't always seem to realize the importance of money. Because it's the norm for parents to pay for most of the college necessities these days, teenagers sometimes don't even bother to save up. However, that is probably a decision they will later regret.

I didn't even have a job until about halfway through my senior year. As an actively involved high school student, I completely understand how hard it can be to commit to a part time job. However, the benefits are worth

If I hadn't made enough money in the past few months, I would be going to school without a laptop or spending money. Saving money may not seem terribly important to high school students who still have a while to go before they get to college, but trust me; it will be so much less stressful if you have money already put away so you don't have to worry about it the last minute like I did.

As I said above, I've had my ups and downs in process of saving money. However, I highly recommend people my age to get smart about their savings. That may seem slightly hypocritical coming from someone who was once perfectly happy going to the mall multiple times a week, but hey; at least I learned my lesson.

Features writer



Photos courtesy of Google

Let's be honest, most new bands are overlooked, over-compared, and underplayed. Most sound like the hundreds of other bands trying to make it big. So what's a new band's defining factor?

Shirock, like any other band, has been compared to larger, more famous bands. Their sound has been compared to legends such as U2 and Muse; wouldn't that seem like an honor? Of course it would. But it's one thing to be compared to a legend and another to become a legend yourself.

The main songwriters, Chuck and Pap Shirock, focus on the message they're putting out into the music world. For them, it seems it's about using their power in the industry to make a difference.

Their lyrics are uplifting and powerful, their music an engaging soft rock with Chuck and Pap's voices mixing to form beautiful melodies that somehow make you believe what they're preaching.

Songs about struggles with hope, drugs, faith and relationships good and bad, heartbreaking and heartwarming happening impossibly at the same time. Their songs beckon you to listen to the lyrics all while delivering a soft, amazing instrumental in the background.

All five band members (Chuck and Pap Shirock, Adam Gatchel, Kevin Whitsett and Evan Weatherford) have worked hard to produce their new album *Everything Burns*, which features 20 new songs (deluxe).

While the band took a while to fully form, dropping members and adding them throughout the years, they've finally come together to produce Everything Burns which they say is Shirock's real debut as a fully formed band.

It's obvious by listening to the CD that Shirock is intent on sending a positive message to everyone, but especially teens. Shirock has teamed up with Hollister Co., selling over 10,000 albums to young fans.

But their musical message, it seems, is not enough. Chuck and Pap founded 3 non-profit organizations with the help of the rest of the band. Their organizations live by the message, "Live for things that matter."

So it seems Shirock isn't just a run of the mill band that's a copycat of every other famous band. Shirock is committed to making a difference in people's lives through music.

Whether their music is good enough or not, that's up to you to judge. But I'll leave you with some of their lyrics:

"It's been said that there's only two ways to live: You can either love things and use people, or you can love people and use things. I've made my choice. I'm going to love people and use things. People, they last forever. Everything else just burns."



## Out With the Old— In With the New

by Lindsay Simonetta *Features writer* 

There are many different forms of technology that get in the way of daily living. Sure, technology can make things easier, but how much of it is actually beneficial?

A family is sitting down in their living room together. The father is managing his typewriter, the mother is braiding the little girl's hair, and the boy is on the couch reading a book. Just kidding. This is the 21 century. Families seclude themselves behind closed doors and technology.

Today, a family occupies their living room; the father is looking for his keys, the mother is asleep on the couch, the little girl is watching an R rated movie, and the little boy is texting his fingers away. Oh, by the way, the most amount of time the family was together in the room is approximately one minute.

This generation is used to having things provided for them.

There are computers instead of typewriters, and laptops for when one is too lazy to get out of bed. There are CDs instead of listening to the radio. There there are iPeds that can provide some



Photos courtesy of Google

listening to the radio. Then there are iPods that can provide songs, applications, and even the internet. The list goes on and on.

But, one transformation that many overlook is the ever-changing movies. What happened to good old fashioned reading? When people watch movies, there is no room for their creative interpretation.

It can be hard to ignore the technological advances when the media is screaming it at us. The problem with this progress (particularly in movies) is that new features are always coming out, and they are shoved in the population's face. All in all, it can be hard to ignore.

Blu-Ray and HD give a higher quality to the viewer so that he or she can have a more realistic experience. Sure, movies look more real than ever now (especially 3D), but what is more real than a human brain? What is real is that people like fast and easy.

Taking a ride to the nearest Redbox station has become easier than going to a library to rent out a book. Of course in this day in age, people pick the effortless choice; movies are easier to get, and it doesn't take days to find out the end.

On the other hand, movies can be very useful when they are used as a tool for understanding. Movies shown in school can help students compare what they learn in textbooks to actual events relating to the topic.

For example, some students find History class difficult because the material is hard to relate to. Junior Chad Howard expresses his thoughts on the topic: "Watching movies in class makes it more exciting and easier to understand." But,

"Out With" continued from page 10

when visual examples of the topic are provided, the material can be easier to grasp.

Unlike what some students think, watching movies will not do the textbooks justice. Watching movies do not teach material; they just supply a way to connect the subject matter to personal events.

English teachers are also known to use movies to explain their studies. However, they risk the chance of students just watching the movie instead.

On the topic of *The Scarlet Letter*, actress Demi Moore explains, "In truth, not very many people have read the book...the ultimate message of 'Hester Prynne' would have been lost if we'd stayed with the original ending." Moore had the perfect opportunity to get her fans to read the book, but no, instead she made it seem like reading is no big deal. On the contrary, reading is one of the most important factors learned in school.

Reading comes up in daily activities more than people think, and the only way mental breakdowns won't occur is if people train their brain. Yes, train their brain. People run so that they can build up endurance. Reading and running are not so different from each other—people read to build up endurance too.

People who are active readers understand directions better, including understanding anything that their job may inquire. First of all, directions can be difficult if one is unfamiliar with diverse types of reading material. Second of all, reading is common for all types of occupations, such as cooking, designing, and yes— even plumbing. Reading isn't going anywhere, so blowing it off earlier in life isn't such a good idea.

Movies and other different types of technology aren't going anywhere either. So the only thing this generation can do is deal with it. Although technology is advancing, people don't have to advance with it.

For example, instead of waiting for the new Harry Potter or Twilight movie to come out, go rent the book! Create your own mystical world where you are in charge of what everything looks like.

Books > Movies

by Maddy George

by Maddy George *Features writer* 

If you ask today's youth what their favorite bookturned-movie is, they'll usually answer one of two ways: Harry Potter or Twilight.

Two of the top earning book series that were recreated for the big screen, a good amount of "Twi-Hards" and "Potterholics" are solely fans of the movies and have never even touched one of the books.

And boy, are they missing out. Both the Harry Potter and Twilight series leave out tons of background the authors generously supply readers.

For instance, someone who's only seen the movies wouldn't know the full reasoning behind Voldemort's murder plot against Harry, while an avid reader would have all the details.

And perhaps it's the bad acting, but in the first Twilight Saga movie, when exactly do they fall in love? Without reading the books you don't know the real connection between Edward and Bella.

It's this information which doesn't seem vital (or else the movie productions would be forced to put it in) that adds and shapes the whole story. Just watching the movie is like looking at a puzzle with missing pieces. You can see what the picture is, but you're missing most of the details.

SPOILER ALERT: Twilight and Harry Potter fans like to pride themselves by saying they know absolutely everything about the series. But would a devoted fan of the Twilight movie know the story of how Rosalie and Emmet met? Or would a dedicated fanatic of the Harry Potter movie franchise know that Dobby is in every book, but only brought back in the seventh movie to be killed off? They wouldn't.

Twilight and Harry Potter are good examples of books being made into movies, but they're not the only ones. Most viewers are unaware that most movies they watch are developed from a book. Reading books are the only way to get all of the pieces to the puzzle.

"Out With" Continued on page 11

Photos courtesy of Google



## You Are What You Eat

by Katelyn Bittke Features writer

With autumn just around the corner, that means one large step for current seniors: college. The socalled best 4 years of our lives; complete freedom, no curfews and no more 8-3 school days. Maybe this sounds like heaven, but a significant percentage of us college freshmen share one main concern: the dreaded "freshman fifteen."

Unknown to few, this phenomenon of weight gain is actually pretty simple to overcome. With these few straightforward steps and recommendations, your waistline will *not* run into any trouble! (See sidebar)

## Eat! Eat! Eat!

After first dipping my toes into this growing national issue, I found that students should first check out some basic diet recommendations from the American Dietetic Association.

- -Eat a salad first, easy on the dressing and then go back for the main meal.
- -Try one new food each day; don't always stick with your favorites. College life is full of firsts, why not start with your taste buds?
- -Eat a piece of fruit before going to dinner or while trekking to the cafeteria—that way you won't be famished and binge.

I found some other helpful advice to be to try and stick to a schedule. Have your meals around the same time every day—that way mindless munching is avoided and a habit is developed. Never ever skip breakfast; not only is it the most essential meal of the day, but it also is the jump-start of your

## Side bar

Don't forget the Zzzzz's...

According to a University of Chicago study, college kids who have less than eight hours of sleep a night produce 50% less hunger-inducing hormones.

metabolic rate or the rate in which you burn your calories. In a hurry? Try not to let the temptations of quick and easy junk foods cloud your vision. Instead, plan ahead by creating mini snack trail mix bags in which you know exactly what ingredients were used. When you're first setting up your new pad it helps to watch what you plan on keeping in your personal mini fridge! If it's within reach you're going to eat it, which means storing chips, cookies and soda in your dorm is not the best alternative. Instead, immediately load it up with water bottles, fruit, yogurt and other low-calorie foods containing useful complex carbohydrates. (See sidebar)

## **Nightlife**

The most vital rule for watching your weight gain is the danger in...late night snacks! This stage comes into effect once the realization of no curfew hits. Late night parties and study sessions are usually the settings for diet disasters.

Photod courtesy of Google Continued on page 13

Side bar

Actually, accord-

ing to experts from

the Obesity Soci-

ety, the freshman

fifteen is more like

the freshman eight.

Through surveys

of college fresh-

men throughout the

Midwest, both male

and females gained

the most amount of

weight in their first

semester. But the av-

erage weight gained

throughout the first

two years of college

is only nine pounds.

Continued from page 12

While studying, try to have regular study breaks where you can nibble on healthy snacks rather than eating while studying. That way your intake is modified, and you can center your focus on the books. When it comes down to those wild parties everyone runs into major trouble. Not only is alcohol illegal for us college freshmen, but alcohol is also filled with empty calories leading drinkers to have an urge for late night snacks such as greasy, cheap pizza.

## University Help

To help out their students, Cornell University sends out pamphlets with tips on how to avoid this cliché weight gain. They recommend taking full advantage of the walking opportunities available on campus, as well as the fitness center and Olympic sized pools. Have free time? Look into on-campus fitness classes. Not only will you have a blast and burn calories, but the opportunity to meet new people is presented!

## **Paper Facts**

Finally, just take a look at all those food labels.

When you actually start to pay attention, you may be surprised at the serving sizes you're consuming. Look for the number of calories in one serving, and multiply the number of calories by the number of servings you're going to eat.

If you think foods that claim to be "low-fat" are safe to eat, think again. If food companies eliminate the fat, then extra amounts of sugar will be included to make the foods taste remain delicious. Finding and reading these diet tips is a walk in the park, but actually putting them to use is where the real freshman challenge begins. Let's go class of 2011! Carrots, not cookies.

## What If You Were...



by Lindsay Simonetta Features writer

In one minute your life can change forever. With just one pill you can inhabit the ability to do anything you have ever dreamed of doing.

This March 18, movie audiences viewed the events of a man whose life changed dramatically. *Limitless* is about a pill that makes the user rich and powerful...who wouldn't want that?

Eddie Morra (Bradley Cooper) is a struggling man whose life has been going downhill for years. But like the saying "there's always a light at the end of the tunnel", Eddie's life soon has an unexpected turn.

Limitless revolves around one pill that gives the advantage of using 100% of your brain, rather than 20%. After Eddie gets his hands on the pill (NZT), his foggy world turns a bright color. Everything he sees or thinks is now sharp and clear.

Director Neil Burger uses interesting tactics to give the audience the belief that they too are experiencing NZT. As soon as the pill reaches Eddie's system, we experience the brightness of his world, literally. The screen automatically becomes dramatically brighter as we dive into the world of NZT.

Everything about *Limitless* makes the audience feel like they are a part of it. Every actor, especially Cooper, created an exciting character. Along with acting, the overall picture was amazing. Although this movie may not be appropriate for younger children, I think many will enjoy it. I give *Limitless* five stars for its capturing hook.



Photod courtesy of Google



## THIS WEEK IN

by Ryan Peraino Sports writer

Tennis
The Boys' Tennis team came in second in their tournament this weekend losing

Softball

The Girls' Softball team won both games of their double-header on Saturday vs. Plainfield South to improve their record to 11-5. They won the first game by slaughter-rule 13-3 and the second game 8-5.

## **Baseball**

The Boys' Baseball team swept their double-header on Saturday vs. Hillcrest. This improves the team's record to 8-6. The team's next game is this Saturday, April 30, at Lincoln Way West.

## Soccer

The Girls' Soccer team defeated Reavis last Thursday 5-0. Their record is now an impressive 8-2 and they'll play Richards at home this Thursday at 6:15.

## Volleyball

The Boys' Volleyball team lost to Richards 25-15, 25-11 last Thursday. Their next game is Thursday, April 28, vs. Reavis.

by only one point to Naperville Central. There were many individual and double teams to medal for Lemont. Their next match is at home against Oak Forest on

Thursday, April 28.