



LN football makes strides

Check out the strategy that led the team to a big win over Benton Harbor

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High School Musical


Loy Norrix freshman snags lead role in the Civic's production of High School Musical

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New Location, Same Delicious Food

Looking for someplace affordable, yet good to eat? Food Dance offers a variety of foods from local farmers and businesses in a new location

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Knight Life

The Voice of Loy Norrix High School

Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo MI 49001

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NEWS BRIEFS

Destructive California Wildfires Destroy 516,000 Acres



Nearly 400 square miles were destroyed as nearly two dozen wildfires raged through southern California during late October. Over 300,000 residents displaced as the wildfires continued to burn out of control.

Strong northeast Santa Ana winds and temperatures approaching 100 degrees in Orange and San Diego counties did little to help in the wildfire relief effort.

President Bush declared seven counties in the state of California under a federal state of emergency, hoping to speed up the disaster-relief process. Bush sent federal firefighters from the Department of the Interior to help with the blaze which sparked on Sunday, October 21.

It was reported that two people were killed and nearly 90 injured during the course of the wildfires. Seven were arrested in suspicion of arson.

Recently Proposed House Bill Would Allow Teachers to Carry Guns in Schools



Andrew Chapman
Comics Editor

House Bill No. 5162 recently proposed by state representative David Agema is creating much controversy.

If passed, House Bill No. 5162 will make it legal for a person to carry a concealed weapon with authorization at a number of different public locations. The bill is designed to prevent a potential terrorist attack or shooting by giving people the option to arm themselves with a pistol for immediate self defense.

Supporters of the bill believe that concealed weapons can be beneficial in the immediate prevention of potential threats to safety, and that more lives can be saved if immediate action could be taken rather than waiting for the police to respond. Many cite the low crime statistics of communities with concealed weapon laws in place and how certain anti-gun laws have left schools and other public places vulnerable to attack.

Those that oppose the bill believe that concealed weapons in schools are too high of a safety risk. They believe that allowing weapons in schools would cause more incidents than weapons would prevent and that certain people (while fit to teach and parent) just aren't fit to carry a concealed weapon. People opposed to the bill point to other alternatives, such as increased aid towards counseling programs, as a better and safer way at preventing future incidents.

Currently the bill is still making its way through the house legislature and has not yet been voted on by the house.

Not a War Hero, Just a Soldier

LN Grad Shaun Larimer Offers Account of His Experiences in Iraq



Shaun directs other truck drivers after a truck caught on fire due to technical errors. It was the last mission he volunteered to go on while on duty at Camp Taji in Iraq.

Christina Pillsbury
Opinion Editor

"I'm no war hero. I didn't save any lives and I didn't take any. I merely occupied their [Iraq's] space for a year," said Loy Norrix class of 2005 graduate Shaun Larimer.

Although now he is back home and living a life that he considers to be a dream, less than two months ago Larimer was experiencing most people's nightmare. For one year, while most of America was safe at home, either despising the war or cheering on Bush and the troops, Larimer was living it. Larimer experienced what no one except a soldier can imagine; he lived in a foreign war zone as an American soldier.

For the first six months of his service, Larimer served as a Motor Transportation Operator stationed in Sadaam Hussein's hometown Speicher, Tikrit. He lived in the Contingency Operating Base with a 300 man company comprised of four platoons. It was here that Larimer saw Hussein's casket carried off the base a week after the dictator was executed. The casket was driven, along with four others through the base camp, without the soldiers' knowledge until after the fact.

Also on base with Larimer were United States contractors who perform varied tasks, doing everything from laundry to fixing machinery. Although some of these contractors do not put their lives on the line in the same way the soldiers do, they get paid a great deal more. These contractors take home a much larger check than most soldiers, for attending to jobs that do not invite as much danger as the soldiers.

"That money was nice at first

and then you realize it's not as much as contractors over there and you're putting your life on the line," Larimer said.

Not to say that the money was his only motivation for enlisting, but it had a great deal to do with his decision. Many war veterans give freedom and democracy as their reasons for joining the Army. Larimer cites a love of competition and a desire to try new things, along with the initial money as his motivators.

"The signing bonus helped [with his decision to enlist]," said Larimer. "I don't really like America that much, so I'm not going to get all patriotic," he added.

It may seem that Larimer's decision to join was an easy one, that he didn't have any reason not to go.

See **SOLDIER** page 2



Shaun continues to give directions to other truck drivers in his group.

Ramadan in America

LN Student and Family Participate in 30 Day Fast for Ramadan

Matthew Evans
Asst. Business Manager

Thursday, October 4th, it was 5:30 a.m. when I visited the Othman household to witness the preparation for the next sixteen-hour fast. I was met by a happy



smile from the other side of the door; it belonged to Saffa's brother, Nidal Othman. The six-foot stature stood humble before me; yet the sense of candor lingered in his presence, easing my adrenaline. Hesitantly sauntering inside, not knowing what to expect, I returned a smile and thanked him for his hospitality.

I turned the hallway corner and I was enveloped by a culture unknown to my eyes and the smell of wonderful cooking. Saffa proudly introduced me to her mother; excited to share her religion Saffa gestured to the seat nearest me, shyly I took her offer.

Fasting for Ramadan is the Third Pillar of the

Islam faith. Every year for a thirty-day period, Muslims take part in a very special Islamic event called Ramadan. It is a space of time where Muslims can become closer to Allah, the same god that Christians and Jews worship, just a different name. Muslims purify their souls once a year, as do the Jewish people during Yum Kippur.

Breakfast is one of two times Muslims eat during Ramadan so there is no room to refuse the "growl" of your stomach. Muslims eat in the morning before sunrise, and in the evening after the sun goes down.

"Fasting for this year was more difficult than it was last year. This year I am taking a lot of core classes and I have a lot of homework. All the work can make me stressed, and with no food in my stomach makes it even harder to concentrate, harder to stay motivated. Besides praying to God, I keep myself occupied, the more I do the less I think about food," Saffa said.

I was encouraged by Saffa's mother to help myself. No special

See **RAMADAN** page 4

5 PILLARS OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH

- Faith or belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad
- Establishment of the daily prayers
- Concern for and almsgiving to the needy
- Self-purification through fasting
- The pilgrimage to Mecca for those who are able

MARRIAGE

Customarily you only marry within the Islamic faith, but now you can marry anyone as long as you have your parent's blessings.

SYMBOL

The Cresent and Star is the symbol of Islam. It means peace and blessings.

PRAYER

Muslims pray at sunrise, at 11 a.m., before sunset, while the sun sets, and before sleep. The Koran is the holy book for Muslims.

CALENDAR

The Islamic faith runs on a lunar calendar with 12 months of about 354 days. The calendar usually shifts 11 days earlier each successive solar year.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ignite Mentoring Program
Starts at Norrix

The first meeting of freshmen and their mentors will be **Nov. 8 9:10-9:40 a.m.**

Drama Department Presents

"Greater Tuna," a comedy

Nov. 16-18
7:30 Kasdorf Auditorium

Check out
Knight Life Online

Connect through
kalamazoopublicschools.com

Winter Formal
"A Wintery Knight"
Hosted by the junior class

Dec. 1, 8:30-11:30

Tickets \$10
Sold from Nov. 19-Nov. 30
No ticket sales at the door