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Making meals is a fun way for Becky Delimont to spend her day, but the students of Northern Valley that she cooks for make her day even better.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Cooking is a way of life

By VERONICA MONIER

Becky Delimont does what she does because she likes the students at Northern Valley.

As a supervisor/cook, Mrs. Delimont said she makes out menus, writes government reports, deals with disciplinary action, and, of course, cooks for the staff and students at the Northern Valley grade school and high school in Almena.

She said she's been at Northern Valley for 21 years and started in a temporary position.

"It started out as a part time job when my children were little," she said. "When it came open as a permanent position, I applied and got it."

When she started, her cooking experience was limited to what she cooked for her family. She worked part time for two or three years before taking the permanent position, basically just working when someone was gone.

Mrs. Delimont said she likes her job, which gives her a summer vacation.

"I like my summers off," she said. "And I enjoy the kids and enjoy cooking."

The best part of the job, she said, is the kids. "It's so fun," she said. "All of the things the grade school kids do and say, the kids just make the job."

Besides the students, one of the best things is working with her counterpart, Mary Ellen Roeder. The two women split the duties, making menus together and cooking together. Mrs. Delimont said she has learned a lot from Mrs. Roeder.

The only thing she doesn't like about her job is getting up at 5 a.m. She used to be a night person, she said.

In addition to cooking, Mrs. Delimont is the Northern Valley cheer sponsor, dance sponsor and the Norton County Fair Board president. She also makes crafts and goes to craft shows, enjoys reading, and, most of all, loves to swim.

She and her husband, Lyman, have been married for 30 years. They have two boys, Brian and Michael, who are both married. They also have six grandchildren.