

# A challenge



Jay Mulder, left, and Taren Stramel, right, worked on some of the "Brain Teasers" puzzles at the Hansen Museum. The two are part of Sue Jackson's third grade class that went to the museum.

— Courtesy Photo

## Norton Community High School Students of the Month



EMILY SCOTT

Student: Emily Scott  
Parents: Brad and Kelli Scott

Grade: Senior  
Nominating Staff Member: Mr. Eric Richards and Mrs. Nancy Sebelius  
Comment from nominating person:

"She is very hard worker in class and always gets assignments finished on time. She is outgoing and willing to help out in any way that she can." Mr. Eric Richards

"Emily is a delight to have in class, and is friendly and kind towards everyone. She works hard on the scholars' bowl team, the play, forensics, and so many of her extra-curricular activities. I think this would be a good time in her life to receive some recognition." Mrs. Nancy Sebelius

Factoids about Emily  
Favorite Class: Advanced Math

Favorite Drink: Mountain Dew

Favorite Color: Green  
Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo Spaghetti

Favorite Movie: "Twilight"  
Favorite Saying: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade"

Favorite Song: "Wake me up when September ends" - Green Day

Favorite Hang out: The coffee shop on Friday Nights

Personal Hero: My Dad  
Future Plans: I am going to Kansas State University next Fall to study Pre-Med.



JACOB VANSKIKE

Student: Jacob VanSkiike  
Parents: Keith and Karen VanSkiike

Grade: Senior  
Nominating Staff Member: Mr. David Will and Mr. Garrett Beydler  
Comment from nominating person:

"My nomination for the male student of the month is Jacob VanSkiike. He is friendly to everyone and enjoys being with lots of other students. He also did a good job in the play while maintaining his other work and auditioning for two honor bands as well. He helps lead the percussion section of our band — mostly by example — but gets the job done. I think he is growing into this senior ideal." Mr. David Will  
"Jacob VanSkiike is a good

student, hard worker in my class and a good kid." Mr. Garrett Beydler

Factoids about Jacob  
Favorite Class: BAND!

Favorite Drink: Mountain Dew

Favorite Color: Purple  
Favorite Food: Mini Tacos  
Favorite Movie: "Tommy Boy"

Favorite Saying: "Richard, what's happening?" from the movie Tommy Boy

Favorite Song: "Chicken Fry" by Zac Brown Band

Favorite Hang out: The Rock

Personal Hero: Jesus  
Future Plans: Music Ministry/Youth Ministry

## School menus

### Wednesday, Dec. 17

Northern Valley — Breakfast — French toast sticks with syrup, scrambled eggs, oranges, cereal and milk. — Lunch — Ham, mashed potatoes, yams, hot roll, relishes, salads, corn, cherry dessert and milk.

Norton Jr./Sr. High — Breakfast — French toast sticks, fruit or juice, or cereal and toast with margarine and jelly, and milk — Lunch — Mr. Rib sandwich with BBQ sauce, lettuce and tomato, corn, rosy applesauce, or chef salad, and milk.

Eisenhower Elementary — Breakfast — Golden waffles, warm maple syrup, fruit cocktail, or cereal and toast with peanut butter, grape juice and milk — Lunch — Roast beef, whipped potatoes, gravy, corn, pepper strips, banana bread and milk.

### Thursday, Dec. 18

Northern Valley — Breakfast — Breakfast taco, hash browns, applesauce, cereal and milk — Lunch — Sierra chicken, tossed salad with dressing, buttered peas, peach slices and milk.

Norton Jr./Sr. High — Breakfast — Ham slice, hash brown patty, fruit or juice, or cereal and toast with margarine and jelly, and milk — Lunch — Chicken fried chicken breast, whipped potatoes with gravy, broccoli and cauliflower, hot roll with margarine, pumpkin bars and milk. No chef salad.

Eisenhower Elementary — Breakfast — Canadian bacon with cheese, biscuit, or cereal and toast with peanut butter, apple juice and milk — Lunch — Ike burger, home made bun, french fries, dill spear, pears, no-bake cookies and milk.

### Friday, Dec. 19

Northern Valley — Breakfast — Scrambled eggs with ham, toast, hash browns, cereal and milk — Lunch — Wiener wagons, french fries, buttered mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges and milk.

Norton Jr./Sr. High — Breakfast — Coffee cake, fruit or juice, or cereal and toast with margarine and jelly, and milk — Lunch — Pizza, garden salad, applesauce, cookie, or chef

salad, and milk.

Eisenhower Elementary — Breakfast — Warm pumpkin bread, rosy applesauce, or cereal and toast with peanut butter, orange juice and milk — Lunch — baked chicken, whipped potatoes, gravy, green beans, strawberry fruit cup, french bread, winter treat and milk.

## High bids explained by consultant

Steve Arpin, B&G Consultant, met with the Norton County Commissioners on Monday morning to report on his findings as to why all of the bids for the new emergency medical services building were so high.

The bids were presented to the commission last month, and all were rejected. Mr. Arpin said the wage rates and shipping costs is what drove up the prices on the bids. Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, was also present at the meeting. Mrs. Griffey said the time line for the construction of a new building is based on the contract date, and that the county is not eligible to ask for additional grant money for this project. A new application would have to be made with the current funding returned.

The commission said they will go with option 3, and make a few changes to it to lower the price of the new building, such as removing the storm shelter/basement from the building, removing the masonry veneer from the front of the building, modifying the overhead door to reduce glass panels, and use the road and bridge department for site improvements. The next bidding will be scheduled for January with bid opening in February, which will allow the commission to look into optional financing.

Tom Brannan, Norton County Road and Bridge supervisor, gave

his weekly report to the commission. Mr. Brannan presented a quote for an updated computer. He said he felt that he will soon need to replace the computer his office currently uses, and when that happens, he'd like for the new computer to be a laptop. The commissioners asked Mr. Brannan to get an additional bid.

Mr. Brannan said sand trucks are running to apply gravel where needed, and when there is more snow on the ground to help with fire control, he will burn the dead trees that have been piled up around the county near where roads and bridges have been repaired.

Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste, gave his weekly report. He said the material from the old Brady grain elevator was being delivered to the landfill. The commissioners discussed making a policy for the concrete that is delivered to the landfill. Pat Cox, B&G Consultants, talked with the commission and Mr. Archibald by telephone conference call about the protective cover and the construction phase of the new cells. The commissioners agreed to let B&G Consultants proceed with discussions on the phase construction with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Cell number 3 was recently finished, with cell numbers 4, 5 and 6 in the process of being made. A total of 9 new cells were planned for.

Several tax abatement/added

statements were presented to the commissioners for signatures. The total amount for the abated was \$2,647.40.

A resolution endorsing transportation improvements for Norton County, Resolution 2008-10, was signed by the commission.

Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims, delivered a quote to the commission for the employee health insurance. She presented a quote that would be fully insured and provided four options in which the county may choose. Each plan was outlined and explained. The county would need to select the option that best fit the county's needs. The commissioners thanked Ms. Yarmer and said they would make a final decision within a few days.

Ray and Chad Meyer, Midwest Insurance Associates, delivered an insurance quote to the commission for the county medical insurance. Mr. Meyers presented a bid for Meritain Insurance which would be a full/self-funded plan. Mr. Chad Meyers said they will bring health professionals into the county that will offer services to the employees. The commission said they will take the proposal into consideration and make a final decision at a later time.

The 2009 holiday schedule was approved by the commission, bills were paid and the meeting adjourned.

**"Don't forget to ask how you can get some Christmas Cash!"\***

## Naughty or Nice

*Not sure? Stop by Our Holiday Open House!*  
**December 15-19**

*Please join Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech in celebrating the holiday season. Stop by your local office and enjoy refreshments and register for a gift pack just in time for the holidays!*

Open until 7 p.m. on December 18th!

**RURAL TELEPHONE**

**NEXTECH**  
A Rural Telephone Company

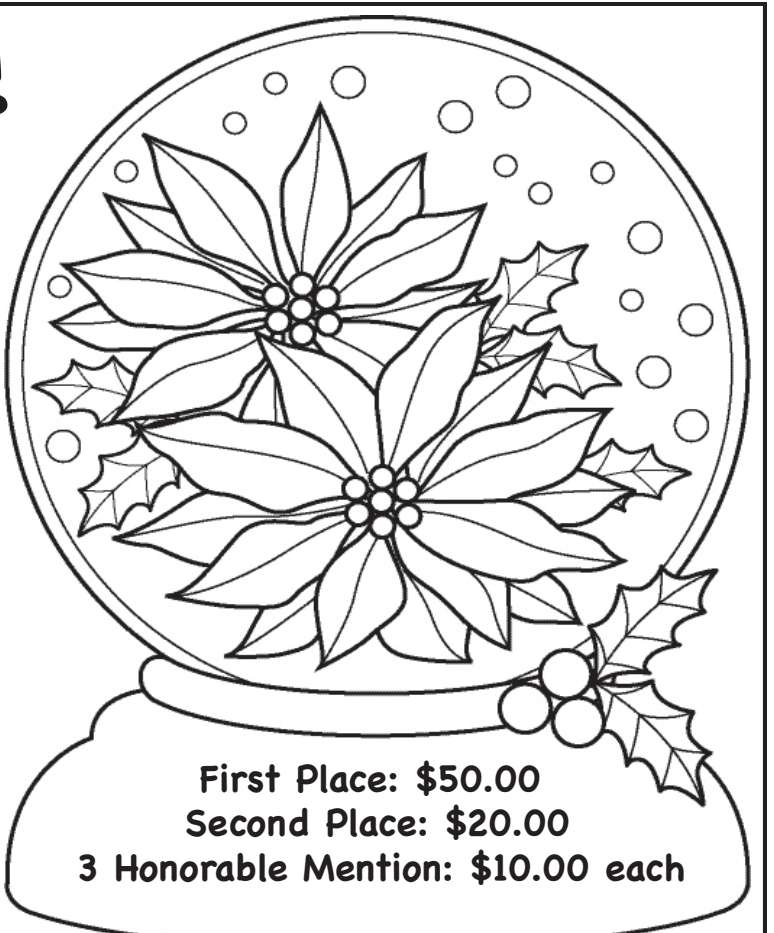
**Norton** 785-877-4135  
117 North Norton Toll Free: 877-550-7872

## Hey Kids!

The Norton Telegram is Sponsoring a Christmas Coloring Contest for kids 12 and under

Stop by the Norton Telegram or the Almena Market in Almena and pick up one of the 10 designs. Return the colored picture to the Norton Telegram or the Almena Market no later than Monday December 15th. Winners will be announced on December 16th. The pictures will be displayed at the Norton Telegram.

Prizes Are Being Donated by the Almena State Bank, The Mystic Moonstone, Twice Sold Treasures, Bella Solé, Dairy Queen, and The Norton Telegram



**First Place: \$50.00**  
**Second Place: \$20.00**  
**3 Honorable Mention: \$10.00 each**

## FYI

There will be an open house honoring Ann Lacy on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Francis Parish Center in Norton.

Please stop by and wish her a happy birthday! The family requests no gifts, please.