

Bell ringers check the bucket!



The Salvation Army bell ringers, Olivia and Madeline Miller, check to see how much has been donated. Olivia and Madeline are Norton County 4-H Cloverbud members donating their time to a worthy cause. Their mother Kara and brother Jacob look on.

Norton County Comment

The Norton County Sheriff's Department has a number of duties in the county that the public may not be aware of. The sheriff's office consists of 5 full time deputies, 5 full time dispatchers, 2 part-time deputies and 1 part-time dispatcher. Their responsibility is the entire county of Norton County, which comprises approximately 881 square miles.

One of their duties is the jail which houses inmates that have been arrested, charged and/or convicted of misdemeanor and/or felony offenses. The jail can house 8 inmates and has been at near full capacity, or above, off and on for the last two years. The inmates are released into the jail area by deputies in the morning and required to clean the jail. They are then locked into their cell or dayroom area. The dispatchers do hourly checks on the inmates and the deputies do all inmate laundry and provide security for inmates going to court.

Being officers of the court, the deputies serve warrants, summons, subpoenas and other processes filed through the courts. The deputies serve an average of 140 civil process papers per month. The sheriff's office also receives an average of 20 to 30 warrants per month, and conducts an average of 40 vehicle inspections per month. The deputies conduct criminal investigations and work vehicle accidents that occur in the county.

Deputies also are required to receive 40 hours of continuing education per year. One of the subjects they receive training on is Storm Spotting. If there is hazardous weather in the area, deputies and other volunteer spotters are called out to provide weather information to the dispatch and to the National Weather Service. This information is used to determine whether dispatchers should activate warning devices to warn the public of possible threatening weather or other information. When dispatchers are advised by the sheriff or the deputy to put out a warning for a possible tornado, the dispatcher must activate three separate devices: one is the Emergency Alert System that comes across your television, the second is the storm sirens located throughout a few of Norton County communities and the third is the Codered reverse 911 system. Sheriff Thomson feels that the Codered system is one of the best things that he has been directly involved with getting started to help protect Norton county citizens. The system is activated by Norton County Dispatchers and it can call all numbers that are entered into the system. It gives a verbal alert on what the situation is and what precautions, if any, are needed to take place. When there is any type of emergency or an alert that needs to be transmitted

to the citizens in a timely manner, it is activated and the message is sent out at approximately 200 calls at a time. The money used to provide this service came from the money saved by combining the Emergency Preparedness Department and the Norton County Sheriff's Department. You can enter any numbers that you want called by clicking on the link in the notice on the main page of the discovernorton.com website.

Deputies and one dispatcher enter all registered offenders in the county and keep information on subjects so that they continue to remain in compliance with Kansas law.

Deputies have received more specialized training in other areas such as: cyber crimes, scams, controlled substances, crimes against children and jail management, to name a few.

The dispatch center receives approximately 1,818 administrative calls, 73-911 landline calls and 100-911 wireless calls per month. They answer phones for Emergency 911, Norton County Emergency Preparedness, Norton County Sheriff's Department, Norton Police Department, and Norton and Almena City Animal Control. They take calls for burn

permits for each fire district and after hours calls for the Norton City Power Plant. Dispatch also logs all incoming and outgoing civil process. The dispatch has received grants which enabled them to upgrade their 911 system to an E-911 Phase III. This enhanced system provides the location on a map where the 911 call is coming from, regardless of the type of call - cell or landline phone. On a call from a landline number, the system will show where the call is coming from, the phone number and the name of the residence or business. Wireless calls will list the number and the location at the time of the call. This service has already located multiple call subjects that were not aware of their location at the time of the call.

Responsibilities continue to grow for the Norton Sheriff's Department due to changes in sentencing guidelines, mandates by the state and federal government and what is expected by the public. The Norton County Sheriff's Department will continue to work hard for the citizens of Norton County, and do so within budget.

Sheriff Thomson invites anyone to stop by the sheriff's office to see how the 911 system works.

Students of the Month

"Live Authentically" October

Maia Carlson

Student : Maia Carlson
Parents : Dale and Glenda Carlson

Grade : Senior
Nominating Staff Member : Mrs. Nancy Sebelius
Comments from nominating Staff Member :



Maia Carlson

"I would like to nominate Maia Carlson for student of the month.

I have worked with Maia for eight or nine years now, and I must say that in all that time, she has worked diligently on ALL of her school work, and done her best on everything! She has an exemplary work ethic. Her work goes above and beyond the minimum, and shines with creativity and humor!

Maia is incredibly organized as well, and has single-handedly organized workers for the Norton's scholars' bowl the past two or three years, and has volunteered to help again this year. Knowing I can depend on her takes a big load off my mind!!

She is also willing to work with and help students with other subjects. Some of her friends do not share her intelligence nor her work

ethic, yet she never says anything derogatory about any of them.

Maia is a joy to work with and is always sunny and optimistic!"

Factoids about Maia:

Favorite Class : Creative Writing

Favorite Drink : Cranberry Juice

Favorite Color : I'm an Art student - I don't have one. I like all colors under various circumstances.

Favorite Food : Perogies

Favorite Movie : Push

Favorite Saying : "Hooray for random knowledge."

Favorite Song : Anything by Phil Collins

Favorite Hangout: Prairie Dog Creek

Personal Hero : My Gandhi

Future Plans : Go to K-State then to Medical School. Become a famous author and go back to Canada.

Tanner Morel

Student: Tanner Morel

Parents: Pat and Janelle Morel

Grade: Senior

Nominating Staff Member:

Mrs. Nancy Sebelius

Comments from nominating staff member:

"I would like to nominate Tanner Morel as student of the month. Tanner is hard-working and focused, and is always willing to help someone out. He volunteered to help with one of my rocking chairs in his woods class, and he

volunteers every year to help with scholars' bowl, for which he is not compensated, but he does an excellent job!"

Tanner is dependable, and can be counted on.

He always does a bang-up good job with the play, and I know from working with him on a play outside of school that he can be counted on to be at practice, learn his lines, and help others. As SAC vice-president, Tanner put together and organized a film night.

I think Tanner is one of those students who is always there to help, but he often does not receive the recognition he richly deserves."

Factoids about Tanner:

Favorite Class : Band

Favorite Drink : Dr. Pepper

Favorite Color : Blue

Favorite Food : Pancakes

Favorite Movie : Casablanca

Favorite Saying : "Do what you can afford"

Favorite Song : Achilles Last Stand - Led Zepplin

Favorite Hang out : Wherever

Personal Hero : Stephen Colbert

Future Plans : College



Tanner Morel

Read-a-thon held at Northern Valley elementary

On Nov. 23, Northern Valley Elementary School held its annual fall Read-a-thon. Students anxiously awaited the day's activities as they arrived at school wearing pajamas, slippers and carrying their pillows.

The tradition of holding a Read-a-thon prior to Thanksgiving break began nearly fifteen years ago. The teachers' and administrators' purpose was to plan a fun-filled day that would emphasize the importance of reading in the learning process and our daily lives.

Each classroom teacher prepared reading activities for the entire day. The students spent time silent reading, playing reading bingo, making special snacks, hearing storytellers, and watching book related videos.

Jordan Herman was guest reader in each of the classrooms. Jordan, a 2010 Northern Valley graduate, is now a student at Colby Community College majoring in broadcasting. Jordan demonstrated reading children's books using Braille.

The Northern Valley students use the Accelerated Reader program as a component of the reading curriculum. Students may earn extra recess, special dinners,

medals, and other rewards for meeting reading goals. Teachers and students alike strive to live up to the school's motto of "The Best Getting Better."



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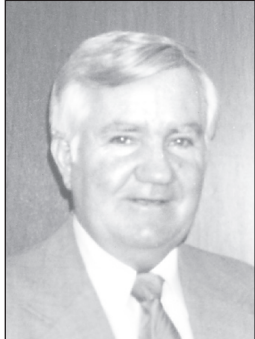
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CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST



The Norton Telegram is Sponsoring a Christmas Coloring Contest

Stop by the Norton Telegram or the Almena Market in Almena and pick up one of the nine designs. Return the colored picture to The Norton Telegram or the Almena Market no later than Wednesday, December 15. The pictures will be displayed in the lobby of The Norton Telegram for judging.

Prizes are being donated by: Almena State Bank-Savings Bond; First Security Bank-Gold; Endzone-Ribbons; Pizza Hut-Personal Pan Pizzas; Homestore-Cash; Rainbow Lanes-6 Games for a Family; The Bank-Savings Bonds; Norton Sports Center-Cash; Garden Gate Floral Etc.-Cash; Dairy Queen-Tokens; The Norton Theatre-One Ticket; The Norton Telegram-Cash