

Norton man graduates from Marines

Private First Class Ryan T. Blecha, 19, of Norton graduated, took his oath and received his badge after United States Marine Corps Military Police Training on May 8.

PFC Blecha successfully completed four months of intensive military police training at Marine Corps Detachment, Ft. Leonard Wood as one of 65 Marines in the 5-12 unit. While in training, he completed 340 hours of Military Law Enforcement requirements such as Defensive Tactics, Weapon Qualifications, Convoy Security, Building Clearing and Armored Reconnaissance.

He will be stationed at Camp Pendleton California with the 1st Law Enforcement Battalion. He is following in the footsteps of his maternal great-grandfather Leo Uhrich who served as an MP during WWII as well as his great-grandfather and grandfather who also were in law enforcement.

PFC. Blecha is the son of Robert and Charlotte Stephenson of Norton. He is the grandson of Phillip and Valerie Babcock of Norton, Robert E. Blecha, Hays, and the late Marilyn Blecha of Kansas City, Mo. Blecha is also a great-grandson of the late Dale



and Evelyn Babcock of Beaver City, Neb., Leo and Rose Uhrich of Norton, Charlie and Leona Blecha of Narka and Floyd and Edna Johnson of Scandia.

Business in the spotlight

Each month this column features one Norton County business selected at random in honor of all our local businesses large and small, well-established and newly-established for their valuable contribution to our economy. Economic development board member Jerry Jones submitted this month's article. Business: F&F Iron & Metal Company

Owner: Von Fahrenbruch
Address: 514 W Washington Street
Phone: 785-877-3830

In 1965, the Norton Dam was completed and Von's father, Don Fahrenbruch, moved his family here after taking a job as Reservoir Superintendent at the Norton Dam.

After graduating from Norton Community High School, Von also worked for the Bureau of Reclamation after his father retired, and along with Don started this sideline business in 1982 as a way to make extra money. F&F Iron & Metal Company began in the same location it is today, but in those early years there were no buildings, no office and no telephone. There was a tree on the property they would sit under to write checks to customers.

Small scales weighed the non-ferrous metals, aluminum, copper and brass, but they had no scales to weigh iron, so those loads were weighed at the elevator. This 'sideline business' has come a long way since those early days. Thirty years later it is a successful metal recycling facility with a host of machinery to handle the large quantities of metal brought in, and 12 full time employees.

"We think we do it right," Von said. "We use technology to stay current with laws and combat theft." Some of the new technology available includes security cameras, driver's license scanners, and a signature pad. For example, if law enforcement contacts them for possible information about recent theft of copper they can search their records for copper brought in by date or grade and provide all the details of the transaction.

Other technology they have incorporated includes a computerized machine that has a photo of the customer with their name and address so when recyclables are brought in everything for that customer is on file. And if their customer

chooses to receive cash for the scrap metal, they have an ATM that disperses that cash.

The types of metal they receive has also changed over the years. The 'old iron' is hardly seen anymore and they are getting more appliance tin and light gauge metals. This means they must change the way they process their metals. They have acquired a variety of machines to handle the steel scrap.

How and where do they dispose of all the metals? Light gauge metals, aluminum, copper and brass, are baled and sent out by semi-trailer. Heavy melt steel and cast iron are sent out by rail.

The facility recycles all the metals they receive. That means it is all reused and becomes new products. Steel is sold to both domestic and export markets and re-melted to make new steel products.

F&F Iron & Metals is truly a family operation. When the kids, Kiel and Kayla, were young Von would often take them along when delivering scrap by truck to other locations. Kiel is now the General Manager here. After 25 years in nursing at the Andbe Home, wife Kris sought a degree in Human Resources and joined the business in 2004 as the HR Manager.

Von says the major asset in his business are the employees. Chuck and Wes Eagleburger have been with him for 21 and 20 years respectively. In October 2004 F&F Iron and Metals bought a similar facility in Garden City. Former Nortonite Dakota Eberle is now that facility's Yard Manager. "All of our employees are dedicated to our way of doing business and work hard every day," says Von.

Von says the business has done very well for being in a small market with a rural population. Speaking about the future of the business, "We'll continue to change our process based on what materials are available," he explained.

About Norton, Von said, "It's home and it has a lot going for it compared to other communities. The work ethic in Norton is strong and we have many fine businesses. It's a good place to raise a family and I think it will continue to grow."

In August 2001, they bought Roger's Disposal as a way to diversify their business.

STUDENT NEWS

Norton Community High School



Students of the Month April/ May

Student : Danielle Wagoner
Parents : Vince and Lisa Wagoner
Grade : Sophomore
Nominating Staff Members: Mr. Don Burge and Miss Melodie Bock

Comments from nominating staff members:

"She has matured a great deal over the past semester and has done well academically," Mr. Don Burge.

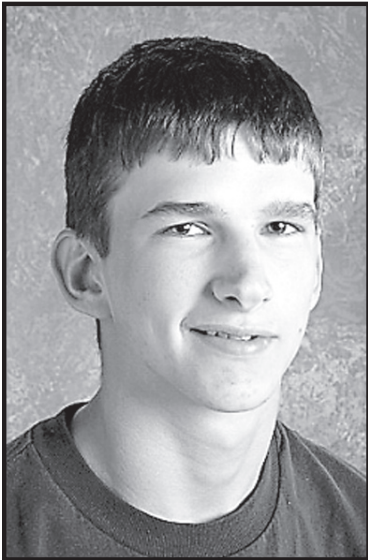
"She is an extremely polite and hard working student. She works quietly and efficiently each day. Danielle is kind and

considerate of others," Miss Melodie Bock.

Factoids about Danielle
Favorite Class : Biology
Favorite Drink : Dr. Pepper
Favorite Color : Hot Pink
Favorite Food : Pizza
Favorite Movie : Breaking Dawn

Favorite Saying : "For your 411!"
Favorite Song : "Sexy and I Know It"

Favorite Hangout: My best friends' houses
Personal Hero : My mom
Future Plans : Go to college, get a good job and get married.



Student: Andy Nickell

Parents: Jim and Cindy Voss
Grade: Senior
Nominating Staff Members: Mrs. Marlene Sumner and Mr. Garrett Beydler

Comments from nominating staff members:
"Andy always has a smile and is very respectful and polite, with great attendance," Mrs. Marlene Sumner.

"Very good worker in my class. Does exceptional work in the shop. Good kid," Mr. Garrett Beydler.

Factoids about Andy
Favorite Class : Ag
Favorite Drink : Mountain Dew

Favorite Color : Blue
Favorite Food : Pizza
Favorite Movie : Open Range

Favorite Saying : "The longer you wait to plan your future, the shorter it is"

Favorite Song : Small Town Southern Man
Favorite Hang out : The lake
Personal Hero : My Grandpa
Future Plans : Farm

POLICE LOG

May 28
Report of bells ringing

Nebraska State Trooper with questions concerning Norton School Bus seen at 2 a.m. in Nebraska

Welfare check
Report of dog bite
Report of juveniles damaging property at museum

Noise complaint
May 29
Vehicle stop

Report of verbal dispute
Request by parents to speak to children

Keys locked in vehicle
Complaint on vehicles driving by

May 30
(5) Vehicle stops

Report of domestic situation,

occurred in Norcatour

Keys locked in vehicle
911 hang-up
May 31
(7) Vehicle stops

Report of dog running loose
Report of individual being ha-

rassed at Norton Manor

Report of individual at City office acting strangely
Civil standby, Norton Manor

Report of dog running loose
Request to speak to officer at Norton Manor

Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To Norton

Norton Outreach Clinic Schedule

Norton County Hospital
102 E. Holme - Norton

Mobile Echocardiography
Weekly
(785) 877-3351

Ophthalmology - Dr. John Pokorny
Surgery & Clinic
Monthly
(785) 628-8218

Cardiology - Dr. Christine Fisher
Monthly

Oncology/Hematology
Dr. Anne O'Dea
Twice Monthly

Orthopedic - Dr. Alex DeCarvalho
Monthly

Urology - Dr. Darrell Werth
Monthly

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PUBLIC RECORD

District Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse.

Traffic and Wildlife and Parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid.

May 24

May 5-Brian Edward Desaire, Logan; Charge: Expired registration; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$183.

May 5-Brian Edward Desaire, Logan; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$0.

April 28-Frank Douglas Gillett, Oberlin; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$167.

May 14-Bradley K. Shultz, Wilson, Wyo.; Charge: Speeding 78 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$161.

April 28-Tony B. Manivong, Northglenn, Colo.; Charge: Take/possess illegal length sawgeye; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$145.

May 31

May 23-Jade A. Braun, Norton; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$167.

May 7-Tammy S. England, Hastings, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 82 in 65; Found: Guilty;

Fine: \$185.

May 23-Scott A. Evans, Norton; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

May 25-John R. Milner, Norton; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

May 3-Kelly J. Milton, Norton; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

May 16-Axel M. Peterson, Bellevue, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 76 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$149.

May 3-Kimberly A. Wolf, Cozad, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 82 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$185.

May 19-Edward L. Wright, Westminster, Colo.; Charge: Speeding 76 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$149.

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ENROLLMENT FORM
YOUTH DAY CAMP
4-H Building and Elmwood Park "The WOW Factor"
Tuesday, June 12 - 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Enrollment Due in Extension Office or Farm Bureau
Friday, June 8 - Registration \$5.00, For Ages K-6 Grade

Youth's Name _____
Mailing Address _____
Age _____ Boy _____ Girl _____
Phone _____

SPONSORED BY:
K-State Research Extension/Twin Creeks District
Norton County 4-H Council/Norton County Farm Bureau