

# 4-H members display talents

Norton County 4-H Club Day event held Tuesday, March 18th at the Norton Junior High School brought out different events that helped the members to Make the Best Better@ as the 4-H motto goes. 4-Hers and their parents also participated in the judging set up for Lifeskill problem situations and photography evaluations.

- Presentations given and placings were as follows:
- TELL ME'S
  - Kenya Goss - Red
  - Project Talks
  - Bryndon Wentz - Regional Blue
  - JR. Demonstration/ Illustrated Talks
  - Amy Wentz - Regional Blue
  - Katelyn Skrdlant - Regional Blue
  - Riley Goss - Red
  - Addison Brooks - Blue
  - Bryndon Wentz - Blue
  - Lily David - Red
  - Mia Brooks - Red
  - Katelyn Skrdlant - Blue
  - Senior Demonstrations/ Illustrated Talks
  - Rebecca Wentz - Regional Blue
  - Quentin Wentz - Regional Blue

- Public Speaking
- Rebecca Wentz - Regional Blue
- Molly Maddy - Regional Blue
- Vocal Solos
- Madison DuBois - Regional Blue
- Hayley Mordecai - Blue
- Isabelle Schemper - Blue
- Stacy Elliott - Blue
- Instrumental Ensemble
- Kailey Gill and Tegan Johnson, Flute - Regional Blue
- Instrumental Solo
- Senior
- Rebecca Wentz, Clarinet - Regional Blue
- Kailey Gill, Piano - Blue
- Kailey Gill, Flute - Blue
- Junior
- Amy Wentz, Trumpet - Regional Blue
- Hayley Mordecai, Piano - Blue
- Isabelle Schemper, Clarinet - Blue
- Jasmine Covington, Saxophone - Blue
- Katelyn Skrdlant, Piano - Blue
- Tegan Johnson, Flute - Blue
- Hayley Mordecai, Saxophone - Blue
- Wesley Brooks, Piano - Blue

- Serenity Ridley, Clarinet - Blue
  - Olivia Miller, Piano - Blue
  - Jasmine Covington, Piano - Blue
  - Tegan Johnson, Piano - Blue
  - Abby DuBois, French Horn - Blue
- Judges for the events were: Andrea Spanier of Oberlin, Cody Miller of Phillipsburg, Deb Marshall of Norcat, and Beth Austin of Stockton.
- These members that received a Regional Blue competed at the Regional 4-H Club Day event in WaKeeney, Friday evening March 28.
- Those interested in more information regarding the 4-H program may contact Community Club Leaders of the 4-H Clubs who are Joy Johnson and Mindy Harting of the Busy Beavers, Rhonda Browning and Kara Miller of the Busy Jayhawkers, LeeAnn Shearer and Emily Lowry of Cedar Ridge and Jamie Wentz, Ann DuBois and Mary Vanover of Prairie Dog. You may also contact the Twin Creeks Extension District Office in Norton County at 785-877-5755.

# Wig Out for Cancer



The Norton Junior High Third Annual Wig Out for Cancer had nine volunteers this year who got their heads shaved. Front row left to right are: Brady Summer, Robbie Wagoner, Cale Patterson and Alex Leroux. Back row is Nik Armbrister, Seth Otter, Cody Burns, Isaiah Hughes and Mr. Chance McKinney. This is a KAYS event that wraps up the week for cancer awareness. On Monday they had Pajama Day with Michael Hanlon and Anna Burge winning, then on Tuesday they held Pink Out Day and Ryan Lively and Cale Patterson were the winners. On Wednesday they held Super Hero/Villain Day and the winners were Dalton Vogelsang and Cale Patterson and then Mrs. Cox won for the faculty. Wig Out Day was Friday and Lane Gruwell and Nicole Thrailkill won. A total of \$2,000 was raised for the shaving of the heads to go toward Relay For Life.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## STUDENT NEWS

This year we had forty-six students sign up for wanting to participate in the after-school robotics program here at the Northern Valley Junior High. I started the program with two robots and eight students in the program. We have now grown to have six robots and 18 students. I use a combination of grades in my science class, number of late assignments, and a scoring rubric for working in groups, working alone and following instructions to select the final students for the program.

The after-school program started meeting weekly in January learning about computer programming. These units are not remotely controlled, they have to be programmed to do a task and then it must run on its own. Students learn about problem solving, trial and error, sequencing, and programming. It is always great to see their personal victories when they finally overcome a problem.

In April, there is an annual robotics competition sponsored by Lego at the Fort Hays Memorial Union in Hays, Kansas. Those students that stayed with the program and attended

the event were: Rachel Johns, Makenna Hammond, Isabelle Schemper, Tharen Cox, Gunner Yocum, Riley Sides, Brendon Sammons, Zoe Cox, Ross Cole, Jasmine Covington, Micah Kasson, Aidan Baird, and Kale Cox. There were five other students that made the original team but had to bow out due to conflicts.

This year's competition included 20 different schools and over 230 students across the state. The different events students can compete in consisted of the Line Follower, Maze Madness, Number Crunching, Color Counting, and Sumo Bots. Each event has a specific set of guidelines the students have to follow. On the day of the competition, the students are able to practice with their programs before the actual events start to make any final adjustments to their programs.

Northern Valley teams competed in the Line Follower, Maze Madness, and Sumo Bot events. The other two events require the use of an external controller that we do not have. Only one team's robot did not finish the line follower and only two completed the maze.

These are both timed events, but our finishing times were not fast enough to warrant an award. The Sumo Bot competition is kind of the highlight of the day. There were 72 robots signed up in a bracket system. The robots then battle it out in the arena until one pushes the other off the mat. If both robots are still going after each other at the end of the two minute round, they weigh the bots and the lighter one wins the round. We had some teams that went two and four rounds, but we did not make it into the "elite eight" round. It was a great day filled with lots of enthusiasm and excitement!!

I would like to extend a thank you to Mr. Gebhard and Jessie Thalheim for going along as sponsors. We are looking ahead to next year's events as we put the robots away for another season.

Call Shylo with all your social news.  
877-3361  
spaxton@nwkanas.com

# Norton County Farmer Wins \$2,500

A Norton County farmer won \$2,500 for Solomon Valley Rural Fire Department through America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund.

On March 18, the Solomon Valley Rural Fire Department was presented with a check for \$2,500 from America's Farmers Grow Communities, on behalf of local farmer Janet David. The donation will be used to purchase equipment for the firefighters.

Mrs. David, a Monsanto representative and the Solomon Valley Rural Fire Department participated in a ceremonial check presentation on March 18, in Lenora.

America's Farmers Grow Communities works directly with farmers to support non-profit organizations doing important work in rural communities. The program encourages farmers to enter to win \$2,500, which is then directed to the farmer's nonprofit of choice. Launched nationally in 2011, the program has grown to include 1,289 eligible counties in 39 states. America's Farm-

ers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, is part of the America's Farmers initiative, which highlights the important contributions farmers make every day to our society. For a complete list of Grow Communities winners and more program information, please visit [growcommunities.com](http://growcommunities.com).



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# Northern Valley Forensics at Smith Center

On March 27, the Northern Valley Forensics team traveled to Smith Center for a tournament. Forensics meets held during a school day consist of two preliminary rounds and a final round. This means they have to be on their A-game from the start.

Irma and Monica set the students up nicely with cookies and snack bars. Thank you ladies for your continued support.

Those attending the meet were: Kristen Leibhart, Makayla Smith, Kortney Cunningham, Cole Bingham, and Gabriel Anderson.

Those making it to the finals and their placing were: Makayla - Interpretation of Prose Reading (6th) and Gabriel and Kristen - Improvised Duet Acting (3rd).

We will have a busy next two weeks; so until next time...keep your act together.

# Husky Forensics Team competes at Ransom

Our youth are running from one obligation to another these days. I am continually amazed at their dedication and endurance. On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Northern Valley Forensics team got an extra early start. Some of the students returned from our away basketball game at Weskan, the night before at one in the morning. Then they turned around and left for Ransom, with me, at 5:45 a.m. Those making the trip

were: Macy Kasson, Makayla Smith, Kristen Leibhart, Cole Bingham, Camden Cox, and Damian Wellman. Emily Lowry went along as sponsor and judge. A special thank you to Irma Laurin, Monica Bach, and the Booster Club for the special cookies and snacks. The kids really enjoyed them.

After a two hour trip and three preliminary rounds, Macy made it into the final round with

his humorous solo act. Due to a miscalculation by his coach, Ken Tharman (aka - me), Macy's performance was over the allotted time. This resulted in his being placed last in the round. Macy finished in seventh place. He and his coach have since made the necessary adjustments to be under the time limit and maintain a top notch script. Until next time...keep your act together.

# Huskies Forensics compete at Hays

On March 8, 2014, I was unable to attend the Hays Forensic Tournament with my team due to a health issue. My wonderful, wonderful wife, Michelle, went in my place. Jessie Thalheim took time out of her busy schedule to judge for us. Irma and Monica once again set our kiddos up with some wonderful snacks and cookies from them and the Booster Club. Thank you for everyone's support. It

continues to amaze me how supportive the community is of our youth and their activities. It is great to be a Husky.

Those getting up and traveling at that early hour were: Dakota Hilburn, Gabriel Anderson, Cole Bingham, Macy Kasson, and Camden Cox. Macy made it to the final round and placed 3rd in Humorous Solo Acting. Congratulations!

Many of these students do two

events at each of these tournaments, three times each. Once they get into the final round, they have to do their performance again. Needless to say, these days start early, are taxing all day, and end late. I applaud all of the Forensic students for their dedication to improve their skills and share their talents. Until next time...Keep your act together.

## April is Occupational Therapy Month

Our Occupational Therapists can help you *master* the tasks of everyday life!



Hand therapy improves dexterity, and reduces arthritis and carpal tunnel pain.



Routine activities are practiced in our independent living skills unit.



Kids improve sensory and motor skills, and learn to cope with ADD.

Simple tasks like doing laundry, writing a note, or turning a key are major parts of our daily routine. When illness, injury or disability makes routine tasks difficult, Community Hospital's occupational therapy team can help.

We help patients of every age to improve muscle tone, coordination and motor skills, increase reflexes and response time, and so much more. Our facility even features an apartment-like area equipped with household appliances, where patients can practice the ordinary, extraordinary tasks of the daily routine.

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