

Jackson Co EMT pleads guilty to federal charges

(KNZA)--A Jackson County EMT pleads guilty to the theft of morphine.

According to a news release issued by the office of U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister, 33-year-old Colby VanWagoner entered the plea Wednesday.

VanWagoner, of Mayetta, pleaded guilty to one count of obtaining a controlled substance by deception and one count of making a false statement during an investigation.

According to the release, the crimes took place while VanWagoner worked for the Holton-based Jackson County EMS.

In his plea, VanWagoner admitted to tampering with vials of morphine sulfate, replacing the morphine with saline solution, and putting the vials back into narcotic boxes in ambulances and in office stocks.

According to tests, the concentration of the morphine in the vials tampered with was as low as 1 percent or less. The release notes that the concentration should have been 100 percent.

Sentencing for VanWagoner is set for March 12.

The release says an agreement has been reached to recommend a sentence of five years on federal probation.

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