

Takin' a break



Nancy Sebelius, center, sat with her high school Scholars' Bowl students while taking a break from the state competition on Saturday.

- Courtesy photo

Several Northern Valley forensics team members place at Norton Invitational

By KEN THARMAN
Special to The Telegram
The Northern Valley forensics team has been slowly getting ready for this year's competition since October. The team had three meetings before the end of the year and many of the students picked out their material before Christmas break. Speeches have been written, lines rehearsed, and voices challenged. The work involved in forensics is intensive in its own right; however, most of the kids have many other activities they are involved with,

and this just becomes one more (I sometimes wonder how they do it all).

By this time of the year, we are normally on our third meet, but due to different circumstances, the Norton meet ended up being our first. Our team this year consists of 23 students. Those attending the meet on Feb. 14 were: Gunnar Hays, Informative and Extemporaneous Speaking; Matt Dole, Poetry; Daniel Field, Poetry; Ashley Constable, Poetry; Christina Anderson, Improvised Duet Acting and Prose; Kayla

Field, Improvised Duet Acting & Serious Solo; Michael Callaway, Prose; Bryant Tharman, Prose; Melissa Hawks, Duet Acting; and Team Captain Hannah Hawks, Duet Acting.

I am going to call the snowstorm from the previous day a huge blessing. There was a high school basketball game scheduled, a lock-in for the cheerleaders, forensics practices, and I don't know how many other things. Most, if not all of those items, were canceled and the kids had an evening to unwind and

relax. I do not know if that made a difference or not — but I am inclined to say it did.

Early Saturday morning, the above listed students loaded into suburbans driven by Sandra Dole and myself and headed to Norton. The Long Island cooks were kind enough to prepare a selection of the students' favorite cookies to help their self esteem (sugar them up). After checking in and giving the students their protocols for the day, a whirlwind of over 100 students from 12 different schools exploded into characters

from other countries and across the time continuum. If you ever get the chance to attend one of these events, please do. They are awesome! And believe it or not, the kids love an audience. Heather Hansen joined up with us and judged in the final round.

At the end of the day, these were the students who made it into the finals and their placings: Kayla Field, second place in Serious Solo; Hannah Hawks and Melissa Hawks, fourth place in Duet; Matt Dole, third place in Poetry; and Gunnar Hays, first in Informative

Speaking and second in Extemporaneous Speaking. Needless to say, there were some pretty excited people in our group.

But that isn't even the exciting part! The rest of the students did an amazing job all day as well. Even though they did not break into the finals, they did assist the team in bringing home the third place plaque. They were outstanding! Oberlin and Colby placed first and second, respectively. I know we have a young team this year, but it looks to be an exciting one!

Sen. Lee, others on television tonight

Five members of the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate, representing central and western Kansas, will discuss the past week's activities at the statehouse when Smoky Hills Public Television's public affairs series "The Kansas Legislature 2009" airs live at 8 p.m. tonight.

Scheduled to be on the program are state representatives Josh Svaty (D-Ellsworth, District 108) and Dan Johnson (R-Hays, District 110), and state senators Pete Brungardt

(R-Salina, District 24), Janis Lee (D-Kensington, District 36) and Jay Emler (R-Lindsborg, District 35).

Dr. Richard Heil, senior policy fellow with Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute of Public Affairs and retired chair of Fort Hays State's political science department, will be moderator.

Viewers can speak directly with the legislators during the program's call-in segment. The telephone number is 1-800-337-

4788. Smoky Hills Public Television has produced the series annually for more than 20 years in conjunction with the Kansas legislative session.

Currently produced and directed by Les Kinderknecht, the discussion generally is moderated by staff and fellows from Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute.

The program can be viewed on channel 9 in Norton for Nextech subscribers.

Northern Valley secretary resigns

The resignation of the Northern Valley School District's middle school secretary, Emily Lowry, was accepted by the board of education on a 6-0 vote at the board's monthly meeting Feb. 9 at the Almena School.

The secretary will remain on the job until the end of the current school year.

The decision to accept the resignation came after an executive session under *Personnel Review* dealing with matters for non-elected personnel.

Later in the evening, the board

went into another executive session under *Board/Administration/Policy Evaluation* for the purpose of discussing personnel matters for non-elected personnel. No action was taken when the board returned to open session.

During the meeting, Superintendent George Griffith informed the board that he needed to republish the 2008-09 budget for the general fund. A motion and a second to this need was approved 6-0. The superintendent talked to the board about expected state

funding budget cuts.

Chris Robertson, preK-8 principal, shared information on a Kansas Masons Child ID program. She said the Masons would purchase the equipment to implement the program, but it would be at the discretion of parents to record their child's data.

The Northern Valley Education Association presented its proposals. but the board opted not to take action at this time until the state budget is finalized.

School menus

Monday, Feb. 23
Northern Valley — Breakfast — Pancakes, syrup, scrambled eggs, fruit punch, or cereal, and milk — *Lunch* — Frito pie, tossed salad with dressing, buttered corn, vanilla pudding and milk.

Norton Jr./Sr. High — Breakfast — Banana bread square, fruit or juice, or cereal and toast with margarine and jelly, and milk — *Lunch* — Turkey and swiss roll-up, lettuce and chopped tomato, cottage cheese, corn, rosy applesauce, or chef salad, and milk.

Eisenhower Elementary — Breakfast — Golden waffles, warm maple syrup, peaches, or cereal and toast with peanut butter, grape juice and milk — *Lunch* — Taco crunch, corn, tossed salad, chocolate cake and milk.

Tuesday, Feb. 24
Northern Valley — Breakfast — Granola bar, ham slice, hash browns, or cereal, and milk — *Lunch* — Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, whole wheat roll buttered carrots, frosted pear and milk.

Norton Jr./Sr. High — Breakfast — Monkey bread, fruit or juice, or cereal and toast with margarine and jelly, and milk — *Lunch* — Chicken nuggets, tater tots, coleslaw, bread, fruit, or chef salad, and milk.

Eisenhower Elementary — Breakfast — Breakfast burrito, fruit cocktail, or cereal and toast with peanut butter, apple juice and milk — *Lunch* — Chicken supreme, green beans, baby carrots, fruit basket upset and milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 25
Northern Valley — Breakfast — Banana muffin, ham slice, scrambled eggs, orange slice, or cereal, and milk — *Lunch* — Cheese pizza, tossed salad with dressing, buttered broccoli, chocolate cake and milk.

Norton Jr./Sr. High — NO

SCHOOL
Eisenhower Elementary — NO SCHOOL

Thursday, Feb. 26
Northern Valley — Breakfast — Breakfast pizza, hash browns, apple juice, or cereal, and milk — *Lunch* — Vegetable beef soup with crackers, relish plate, cheese stick, cinnamon bun and milk.

Norton Jr./Sr. High — Breakfast — Long john, fruit or juice, or cereal and toast with margarine and jelly, and milk — *Lunch* — Beef nachos, carrots, bread with margarine, fruit, cookie, or chef salad, and milk

Eisenhower Elementary —

NO SCHOOL
Breakfast — Warm pumpkin bread, rosy applesauce, or cereal and toast with peanut butter, orange juice and milk — *Lunch* — BBQ beef, homemade bun, potato salad, dill spear, banana pudding and milk.

Friday, Feb. 27
Northern Valley — Breakfast — Oatmeal with toppings, toast, scrambled eggs, peaches, or cereal, and milk — *Lunch* — macaroni and cheese, little smokies, french bread, California blend veggies, spice cake and milk

Norton Jr./Sr. High — NO SCHOOL

Eisenhower Elementary — NO SCHOOL

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