BB Gun

(Continued from Page 1) young Blue Jays shot a 481 x 500 to tie for third in that initial position. Next, they shot from the tough standing position and scored a 445 to tie for fourth after two positions.

In the afternoon, the shooters took the written test and results were not released until Sunday. Norton tied for ninth in the test but was just eight points out of third.

The ever-popular Barter Bar, where everyone exchanges souvenirs and promotes their state, was held on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday morning at 8 a.m., marksmanship began from the sitting position. The Blue Jays' scores were down some from Saturday and they tied for 15th in that position. The final shooting position was kneeling and Norton placed 12th there to finish 11th in total shooting. The written test scores elevated Norton's final finish to ninth overall.

Norton team members

Norton County Rotary's team members and their ages were: Lane Archer, 14; Gabriel Bird, 14; Zachary Bird, 14; Erin Archer, 12 and James Berry, 11. Alternates were Trenton Sprague, 11 and Justis Posson, 10.

Assisting fifth year head coach Cameron Archer was Cole Archer and classroom instructor was Chandra McKenna. Other adult helpers have been Angie Bird, Joni Berry, Jodi Sprague, Ted Hull, Christine Knapp and Steve

Three members of this year's Norton team had previous experience at the national level. Lane, Gabriel and Erin were alternates in 2008. Lane has been a team member two other times and alternate once and Erin has been a team member one other time and alternate once.

Four of this year's marksmen are second generation BB gun shooters for Norton. Lane and Erin's father Cameron was a shooter along with Gabriel and Zachary's mother Angie Bird.

Top Norton marksman

Lane Archer was the top shooter for Norton with a 382 x 500. He tied for sixth among all shooters and placed sixth based on bull's

Lane also caused quite a stir as word went around after the competition from the standing position that he had shot a perfect target from that toughest of all positions and set a national record in the process!

Gabriel Bird tied for second in the prone position with an outstanding score of 99 x 100! He also had a perfect 100 on the written test.

Norton alternate Trenton Sprague also had an outstanding trip to Rogers. He placed 13th highest aggregate with a 370, tied for sixth in kneeling with a 94, tied for ninth in standing with a 91, tied for 15th in prone with a 96 and scored a 98 on the written test.

Blue Jay alternate Justis Posson also scored a perfect 100 on the

Individual Norton scores

Norton shooters and their individual scores were: Lane Archer, 96, prone; 100, standing; 94, sitting; 92, kneeling, 98, written test; 480 total; Gabriel Bird, 99, prone; 88, standing; 90, sitting; 89, kneeling; 100, written test, 466 total; Erin Archer, 96, prone; 84, standing; 93, sitting; 93, kneeling; 98, written test, 464 total; James Berry, 97, prone; 86, standing; 92, sitting; 94, kneeling; 94, written test, 463 total; Zachary Bird, 93, prone; 87, standing; 94, sitting; 86, kneeling; 94, written test; 454 total.

Individual scores of Norton's alternates were: Trenton Sprague, 96, prone; 91, standing; 89, sitting; 94, kneeling; 98, written test, 468 total; Justis Posson, 94, prone; 86, standing; 90, sitting; 90, kneeling; 100, written test;

Coach's comments

"I am very proud of our shooters," said head coach Cameron Archer. "We had an exceptional day on Saturday. After that first day, we were in fourth and that kept us in the hunt for the top

"I expected us to shoot better than we did on Sunday, especially when Lane shot 100 in standing, but we still made the top ten and I am very proud of all of them."

"We were very prepared for the written test," said classroom instructor Chandra McKenna. "It was a good test for us; we had covered the questions they asked. We did about how I thought we would on the test."

Special ceremonies

The opening ceremonies were held Friday evening when all teams and coaches marched into the field house and were introduced prior to the program.

Among the speakers was Ray Hobbs, president and CEO of Daisy Products, who are celebrating their 124th anniversary.

He welcomed everyone to Rogers and praised the coaches who devote so much time to the shooting education program. "We're proud of you and all you do to instill the right values in our young people," he said. "We want the shooting education program to get even bigger and will do all we can to help make that happen."

Hobbs also announced that the national shoot would be in Rogers at least the next two years.

Keynote speaker was Nancy Johnson, an Olympic gold medal winner in air rifle in 2000. She said she was cut from the volleyball team and tried running but finally settled on marksmanship with her father's encouragement. "In time, I became comfortable with it and it carried over to college and eventually the Olympics," she said.

"You don't have to win gold medals. It's enough to enjoy the sport and the value in hard work.

"Coach Vince Lombardi said if you are willing to sacrifice, anything is possible if you have the strength to follow through.

"My coach said I had to work harder than anybody else so I practiced and made up my mind I wanted to win.

"I placed 36th in my first Olympics in 1996. I had failed to reach my goals but it was the best thing that every happened to me. I knew I had a lot of things I needed to fix before the next Olympics.

"You have to be willing to accept failure. In its own strange

The crowded firing line for the sitting position with supporters behind is shown during the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match in Rogers, Ark. If you look closely, you can see Norton's Zachary Bird firing his BB gun as head coach Cameron Archer watches.

way, failure is part of success. If you do your best and fail, dust yourself off and move forward. That's what I did.

"Use failure as a motivator. I've had my failures but through shooting I have built confidence and learned the value of work

"My unofficial start was through the Daisy BB Gun program and I thank them for all they do."

During the evening, it was announced that John H. Wright had become the first inductee to the Daisy Hall of Fame.

Wright began his association with Daisy in 1970, started coaching in 1971 and attended his first international match in 1972 through the Jaycees program. Throughout his life, Wright has had many honors from coaching young shooters to their potential but he indicated this tops them

"I"m totally honored beyond words,"Wright said. "Many years ago I learned that the shooting sport was a success in developing youngsters. It was something they could get involved in and Daisy has really been the main teacher in how to shoot safely.

"Beyond that, it teaches them self-control and how to concentrate. It's a self-development

The Barter Bar was held on Saturday afternoon and allowed shooters, coaches, parents and other fans to get better acquainted as they trade souvenirs from their respective states.

The Awards Ceremony was held Sunday evening. The top ten teams were honored and marched

into the arena in the Parade of Champions. The top three teams received special recognition. The champion team received the traveling trophy. Members of the top three teams and the top three individual shooters received individual medals.

Norton's Lane Archer received a standing ovation as he was called forward to receive his gold medal for his record setting performance from the standing position!

Norton's Gabriel Bird and Justis Posson were also called forward to receive their certificates in recognition of their 100s on the written test.

Many thanks

"We thank everyone in the Norton community for the tremendous support of the shooting education program and our marksmanship team," said head coach Archer. "A special thanks to all the

parents, grandparents and other volunteers who have helped with the program and encouraged the youngsters to take it seriously.

"Thank you for all your help and support in another successful

Coach Archer also thanked the following businesses, clubs, organizations and individuals for their support: Pizza Hut, Kansasland Tire, Ebke's, Engel's Sales and Service, Ag Valley Co-op, End Zone, Jerry's Body Shop, Carquest, Bill Heilman, Ed Braun, Brooks Manufacturing, Here's Your Sign, Norton City Council, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Kansas State Rifle Association, Downtown Carwash, Pheasants For-

SFC James Rolshouse (Ret)

James Rolshouse & Associates

ever, A & N Farms, Blackpowder Club, McKenna Manure Hauling, Countryside Sales and Service, Love's Country Stores, Cardinal Bar & Grill, Bill LaSalle, Teresa and Dan Lauer, Mainstreet IGA, Pamida, Otter Inc., Kansas Lottery, Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Pepsi Co.

Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Among the parents and fans present in Rogers to boost the Norton team were: Christine and Craig Knapp, Jodi and Steve Sprague, Shannon and David Deines, Shari and Wayne Archer, Joni and Steve Berry, Angie Bird, Diane and Ted Hull, Lynette and Brien Stockman, Riley Stockman, Mary Beth and Dick Boyd.

Began in October

Norton's preparation for the state and national shoots began in October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association. After passing the course, the young girls and boys began practicing marksmanship in each of the four positions and studying for the written test of gun safety knowledge. Practices were held every Wednesday evening and twice a week as the national shoot approached. Shooters are encouraged to also practice at home.

About 250,000 young people take part in the program nationwide each year.

The original program was adopted by the U.S. Jaycees and Daisy based on a format suggested by the late Duane Winder, who was a member of the Norton Jaycees at the time.

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Council

tion.

(Continued from Page 1)

"I would rather have the full councilhere to make that decision."said Toby Kuhn.

In other council business:

• Rob Lawson reported on the meetings with Midwest Energy and Sunflower Electric; neither company is interested in purchasing the Norton power plant. Both are willing to help anyway that they can. Lawson said, "It is very important that the city pass the annual capacity test. If we fail this test a new power contract will

have to be renegotiated." • Diane Stiles, Economic Development director, gave her semiannual report. She reported on the status of Northwest Technical College outreach in Norton. The teachers have been approved and classes will be held at the Norton Community High School. She reported Warden Shelton is in the process of hiring the inmate crew supervisor; Ag Valley Co-op

Courses

days from 6-9 p.m.

Natoma, Corp.

this fall.

tistics and precision measuring.

Statistics will be taught at Norton

Junior High School, and preci-

sion measuring will be taught at

Stiles expects classes to be

held at the old Sewing Box, lo-

cated at 113 S. State Street, after

renovations are completed later

"The Norton County Com-

munity Foundation is renovating

the former Sewing Box building

the old Dollar General building and wants a tax incentive. Diane stated many business have been making improvements using the Storefront Renewal funds.

• Curtis Eveleigh requested approval from the council to build a concrete pad and carport in Elmwood Park by the ferris wheel to accommodate the Sinko game at the Norton County Fair. The Amusement Association would fully fund the project and there would be no cost to the city. He was advised to buy a building permit and was given the okay to

• Mayor Corns stated that the Norton Library Board would like to install smoke sensors. NexTech had given them an estimate of \$510.85 to have the sensors put on the current system. Motion was made and passed to allow the purchase.

• Pat Morel, police chief, re-

is expanding and plans to have quested authorization to adver- at 5:30 p.m. on July 13, Public cost of living raise. The item was the full facility up and running tise for the vacant position in Safety Committee at 5 p.m. on tabled pending further informa- within two years; Family Dol- his department caused by the July 19, Public Works Commitlar is considering moving into resignation of Adam Wahlmeier. Authorization was given.

> Up coming meetings are: Personnel Committee at 4:30 p.m. on July 13, Finance Committee

tee at 5:30 p.m. on July 19, Parks Committee at 6 p.m. on July 19, City Council at 5:30 p.m. on July 21. All meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise indicated.



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downtown for the college with the goal of completion by the spring semester," she said. 01-05 7-9-10 Front.indd 2

Events are already being (Continued from Page 1) fer, Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. planned to launch the outreach Precision Measurement, Steve campus. On Aug. 21, the people Seaton, Wednesdays from 6-9

•Statistics, Lida Sharp, Wednesstart Aug. 23. Stiles said they are starting with All classes for the first semester courses, but a Northwest Tech at will be taught at Norton Com-Norton campus is a possibility in munity High School, except stathe coming years.

who made the project possible will come together. Classes will

"Our goal is to provide complete degree programs at Northwest Tech at Norton. The potential for growth is unlimited," she said.

Spring courses, Stiles said, will include secondary courses to those offered during the fall, such as accounting II. To enroll in one of the fall class-

es, call 1-800-316-4127 or go to www.nwktc.edu. The Norton City/County Eco-

nomic Development Office will serve as the local contact for the college. Stiles can be reached at 874-4816.

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