



Congratulations, Wrestlers

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

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Tuesday

February 28, 2006

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jule Shearer

Briefly

'Relay for Life' meeting noted

The Norton "Relay for Life" organizers are inviting everyone in the community to attend a meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Town & Country Kitchen to finalize the date and discuss other aspects of the Relay to be held here in August. The event is a unique fund-raising event created by the American Cancer Society.

Meeting to deal with the theater

Alberta Slaby, president of the Norton Theatre Association, Inc., today urged all parties interested in the future of the local theater to attend the town hall meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the theater, 215 E. Main.

No specific agenda for the evening's meeting has been released, but the gathering will provide the attendees with an opportunity to ask questions, after a presentation is given.

Blue Jay faithful to hear coaches

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Wrestling coach Bill Johnson will give highlights of the Blue Jays' third straight state championship. Girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will report on their teams' most recent competition and preview upcoming sub-state tournament games.

Refreshments will be served. All fans are invited to attend.

Kindergarten

Roundup slated

Eisenhower Elementary School will hold its annual Kindergarten Roundup from 4 to 6 p.m. on March 6. The roundup is for children who are 5 years old by Aug. 31. They are eligible to enter kindergarten next year. Parents and their children can pick up the needed information anytime during the roundup.

Weather

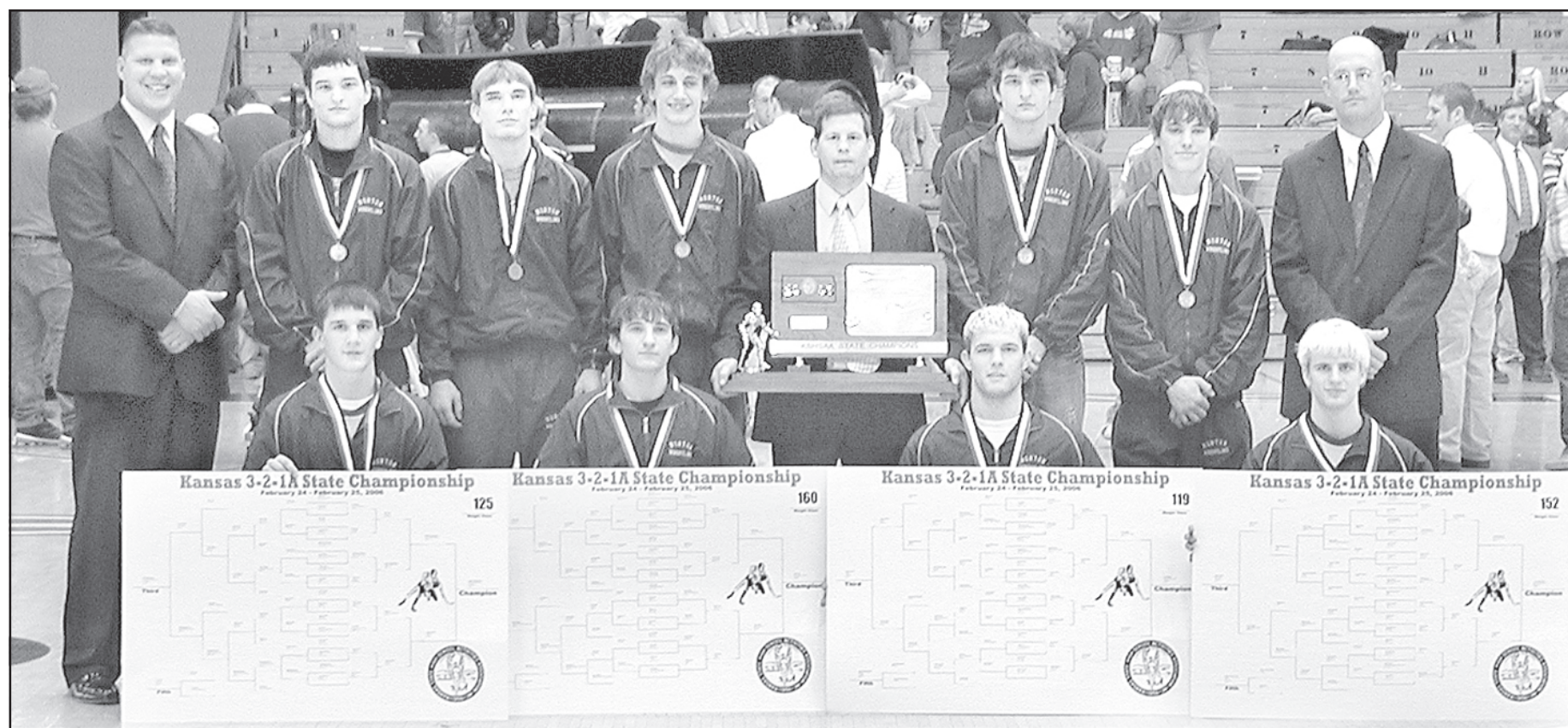
Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 40s. Wednesday — Partly cloudy and cooler. Breezy with highs in the mid 60s. Wednesday Night — Partly cloudy and cooler.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to look for your reflection in every face we encounter. Show us how to extend to others your genuine love and compassion. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Solid performance earns state wrestling title for Norton again



The Class 3-2-1A State Champion Norton Wrestling Team and their coaches are shown in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays on Saturday evening following their third straight state championship. They are, from left, front row: Luke Pfannenstiel, Clay Madden, Lance Roe,

Nathan Broeckelman; back row: Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Jeremy Harding, Blake VanEaton, Kent Mann, Head Coach Bill Johnson, Jon Harding, Zach Bainter, Assistant Coach Deyton Hager.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays capture third straight championship

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School Blue Jay wrestlers literally flew through the competition to successfully defend, not only last year's Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament Championship, but the last two titles on Friday and Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Norton.

Norton's "three peat" is a first in the long tradition of wrestling excellence for the Blue Jay wrestling program.

Norton's domination of a field of 224 of the best wrestlers from all over the state was so overwhelming that the Blue Jays had enough points at the end of one day of competition to earn the championship.

Norton rolled up 186.5 points to easily outdistance second place Smith Center, who scored 110.

Norton qualified nine wrestlers in win-

ning the regional tournament in Oberlin in similar fashion the week before.

All nine medaled, four winning championships, two earning runnerup finishes, two earning bronze third place medals and one placing fifth.

Winning state championships were seniors Clay Madden, 119; Luke Pfannenstiel, 152 and Lance Roe, 160 and junior Nathan Broeckelman, 125. Freshman Zach Bainter, 112, and senior Jeremy Harding, 145, earned silver medals.

Third place went to juniors Kent Mann, 130 and Blake VanEaton, 140. Senior Jon Harding won fifth place at 135.

Madden is the first wrestler in Norton history to win four state tournament championships. He finished the season with a 39-1 record.

His only loss was to the eventual Class 6A state champion at the Newton Tour-

namment of Champions, which the Blue Jays won this year for the second straight year.

Roe won his second state tournament championship and finished the season with a 37-1 record. His only loss was in the Clay Center Invitational to the eventual Class 4A third place finisher and he avenged that loss in the Newton tournament.

Broeckelman compiled an impressive 40-2 record this season. His only two losses were to the eventual Class 4A state champion in the Clay Center tournament and to the eventual Class 5A state champion in the Newton tournament.

Bainter completed a 25-3 season record with his second place finish. His first loss was in the Newton tournament by a 6-4 score to Micah Ankenman, Hutchinson, who finished third in the Class 6A state

tournament. Ankenman is the son of Tom Ankenman, former three-time state champion from Norton.

Bainter's only other loss was 3-2 in the regional championship match to Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, who placed fourth in the state tournament.

Other Norton season records are: Pfannenstiel, 33-6; Jeremy Harding, 27-5; Mann, 29-8; VanEaton, 35-9 and Jon Harding, 32-14.

The Norton wrestlers compiled an impressive 35-6 won-loss record and a perfect 9-0 pin ratio in powering to the state championship.

Coach Johnson named all nine young men "Wrestlers of the Week".

Turn to the back page of today's Norton Telegram for more photos and the complete story on Norton's state wrestling championship.

Norton business expands, puts several more people to work

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A Norton manufacturer has expanded operations and increased the local workforce.

Gail Boller, president of Natoma Corporation, manufacturer of contract precision parts for the avionics, aerospace, medical and laboratory instrument industry, recently completed an expansion project at the plant on East Highway 36 in Norton.

Mr. Boller said a portion of the original building was remodeled to accommodate a separate room for new deburring equipment and another room for a plating system. The plating system room features two large, metal containers with chemical "baths" in three separate compartments. One process makes the aluminum parts corrosion resistant while another process cleans stainless steel. Plastic trays hold the parts while they are being cleaned to protect them from being damaged. Mr. Boller said the completion of the addition should add five to six more employees.

Water used in the cleaning process has

to be in a specific pH range. To meet that standard, Culligan Water of Oberlin installed a reverse osmosis and dionization system for the plant.

Mr. Boller said Natoma used to spend thousands of dollars every month sending plating work out for processing. "Now, it's mostly done in-house. And, that money will be going back into the local economy," he said.

Another addition to the line-up of machines at Natoma is a \$300,000 piece of equipment that combines three separate manufacturing operations into one process. The company is sending four employees for a week-long training on the new machine to the manufacturer's facilities in Elmira, N.Y.

Mr. Boller is optimistic about Norton's future and the future of Natoma Corp. He said the company has a low turnover rate and people in the area have a good work ethic. He added that all manufacturers in Norton are clean. That is, they don't use a huge amount of water and they don't put

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Gary Kline, plant manager, prepared to operate a new piece of machinery recently installed at the Natoma Corporation plant.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Northern Valley Wall of Fame to induct two

Northern Valley Schools host their second annual Wall of Fame ceremony on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. in the Almena cafeteria. This year, two women will be inducted into the Wall of Fame, Mrs. Sharen Hempler and Mrs. Adelia Wilnerd.

Mrs. Hempler began her teaching career at Northern Valley in 1967 as the K-12 vocal instructor. After a short leave

from education she returned to Northern Valley as the 9-12 English instructor which she taught until her retirement in 2005. Altogether, she dedicated 34 years to students at Northern Valley.

Mrs. Wilnerd began her career in 1955 as the Almena Rural Schools secretary. She worked in both the grade school and high school offices. When the Almena and Long Island schools consolidated in

1967 she was hired as the superintendent's secretary, board clerk, district bookkeeper and high school secretary.

Altogether, Mrs. Wilnerd served as secretary in the Northern Valley schools for 35 years.

Following the ceremony, there will be a reception honoring the two women in the cafeteria.