

Northern Valley forensics team finishes season

By KEN THARMAN
Special to The Telegram

On April 30, the Northern Valley Forensics team set out for Salina; however, we had to split into three different cargoes to get everyone to the right place. Michelle Tharman drove down separately due to work, five students and the Hays's went via the track meet in Quinter and the other five students, Heather Hansen and I went direct.

After some mild wardrobe mishaps Heather Hansen, Samuel Field, Alex Tharman, Kenzi Husted and Christina Anderson left around 2:30 p.m.

The drive was filled with laughter and singing; I even hummed along at times. After checking into the hotel, we hit the mall to stretch our legs. Michelle met up

with us at that time.

Our next stop was the Coyote Canyon for supper. Talk about a buffet... We left extremely satisfied and ready for some relaxation at the hotel.

To our surprise, the electricity was out and we were unable to get in our rooms.

The students entertained themselves with some of the purchases they had made earlier for roughly an hour before power was restored.

The track kids (Matt Dole, Ashley Constable, Kayla Lowry, Zach Vincent and Gunnar, Gale and Ranelle Hays arrived safely, yet tired, around 10:30 p.m. The kids had time to tell about the meet and the others shared their experiences. Lights out was at midnight with the hopes of an

excellent day ahead.

Saturday morning came way too early. After a quick breakfast and check out, the students attending Champs left at 6:40 a.m. and drove to Salina Central High School. The first round began at 8 a.m. The Festival participants arrived later and stayed around to support and watch the State Champs contestants.

The Festival students left at 11:30 a.m. and headed to Kansas Wesleyan University for their performances. Alex and Ashley performed a great Improvised Duet Act and received a II rating. Samuel interpreted a dramatic Poetry reading and received a II rating.

Back at the Champs competition, Matt was humorously reading a Prose selection, Kenzi was

rapping along with a Poetry selection, Christina and Kayla acted out a hilarious Duet, Zach passionately entertained in Oration, and Gunnar tirelessly performed a heart-wrenching Poetry piece and addressed the Extemporaneous speaking arena in a stately manner.

After three grueling rounds, of the best of the best, the top 12 entries in each category were selected for the semi-finals. Another round of competition and the students were narrowed down to the top six finalists.

At 6 p.m. Saturday evening, Gunnar Hays was awarded the fourth place medal for his accomplishments in Extemporaneous.

All of the kids had a successful day and were exhausted. What an outstanding year we had!

I would like to personally thank Gale Hays and Heather Hansen for judging at the state competition for us.

If we are unable to have judges attend, we are unable to attend. I would also like to thank Michelle Tharman for sponsoring the State Festival students.

Last, but certainly not last, I would like to thank all of the parents and family friends that journeyed to Salina and many of the other tournaments to cheer on the kids this year.

You would not believe the boost in morale it makes to those young men and women.

Well, slightly after 11 p.m. all students were safely back at their homes with memories and pictures to carry them through to next season.

Believe it or not... that is only seven months away.

If you happen to find something you think would make great material to be used in competition, please let me know. I am always open to new material.

As always... If you think your life has drama... then you know what we are talking about.



Chris Schemper

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Hays airline changes flights

Recent flight changes to the Great Lakes Airlines schedule at Hays Regional Airport are proving popular with business travelers, says Retha Wittlake, Great Lakes station manager.

Effective April 19, the departure time for the 11:05 a.m. flight Sunday-Friday to Denver was changed to 8:25 a.m.. The flight, which originates in Great Bend, allows business travelers to make earlier connecting flights in Denver.

"They tell me they like not having to get up as early to take our other early morning flight at 6:15 a.m.," she said. "Now, they have an option. They can depart Hays at a reasonable hour in the morning and still make it to Denver for convenient morning connecting flights."

The 8:25 a.m. flight arrives at DIA at 8:50 a.m. local time, well within the 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. bank

of departures considered the ideal travel time by most business travelers. The new schedule also allows more time between flights, allowing for a more relaxed traveling experience.

Response has been positive, Wittlake said. "When compared to boardings for the previous 11:05 a.m. flight, our numbers for the 8:25 a.m. flight are up more than 25 percent in just a few short weeks," she said.

Return flights to Hays from Denver have been enhanced, too. Great Lakes has added an 8:55 p.m. (mountain time) flight from Denver Sunday - Friday that arrives in Hays at 11:11 p.m. local time, allowing travelers to depart Denver later in the evening. This flight overnights in Hays. Great Lakes also continues to offer its 6:55 p.m. (mountain time) return flight option from Denver to Hays arriving at 9:11 p.m. local

time and going on to overnight in Great Bend.

"Travelers seem to appreciate the benefits of convenient local flights," Wittlake said.

"These new schedule changes mean they can avoid gas expenses for long road trips to and from large, big city airports, expensive overnight parking and the added cost of an overnight hotel room."

Those benefits are not going unnoticed by regional business travelers, she said. Wittlake noted an increase in the number of Salina passengers who are driving to Hays to catch a Denver flight since the Salina to Denver flights were eliminated in April.

Great Lakes Airlines currently offers four round-trip flights weekdays from Hays to Denver, three on Saturday, and three on Sunday for a total of 26 weekly flights from Hays.



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2010 Ag Valley Coop Annual Meeting

Monday, June 7th - 6:30 p.m.
@ Maywood Community Hall

Tuesday, June 8th—12:00 noon
@ American Legion Building, Norton

Tuesday, June 8th—6:30 p.m.
@ Ella Missing Center, Arapahoe

The entertainment this year will be:
Streetside—a vocal group that performs doo-wop music from the 50's & 60's.
(performing at Maywood and Arapahoe)

Please RSVP to Joy by June 4th at 1-800-228-1352.

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