

Weather Corner



Tonight...Partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the mid 60s. South winds 20 to 25 mph decreasing to 10 to 20 mph after midnight.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph in the evening.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Friday...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Saturday...Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s.

Saturday night and Sunday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s. Highs in the mid 90s.

Norton BB gun team places seventh at nationals

By Dick Boyd
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The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team proved once again that the local shooting education and gun safety program is one of the best by placing seventh in the 43rd annual U.S. Jaycees/Daisy International BB Gun Match Championships held over the weekend on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky. Thirty-three teams were involved.

The young Norton County girl and boy marksmen have qualified at the state level and competed 40 years in the international shoot, the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world. Norton has won the international championship eight times, more than any other team in the world. Despite the fact that every year's team consists of different shooters due to the rule that no shooter can compete in consecutive years, Norton is almost always in the hunt for the international title and a top ten finisher.

This year's squad was equally proficient in recording a total score in the shooting positions of prone, standing, sitting and kneeling and written test of 2,336. Last year's Norton team finished fifth overall with a score of 2,319, which was 17 points less and is indicative of the toughness of this year's competition.

Pierre, South Dakota, won the championship with 1,886 shooting, 496 written test, total of 2,382, followed by Washington, Missouri, 1,885 shooting, 486 written test, total of 2,371; Spink County, South Dakota, 1,868 shooting, 490 written test, total of 2,358; Back Woods Bunch from Georgia, 1,861 shooting, 492 written test, total of 2,353; Gallatin, Montana, 1,869 shooting, 482 written test, total of 2,351; Palmyra, Pennsylvania, 1,856 shooting, 486 written test, total of 2,342; Norton County, 1,852 shooting, 484 written test, total of 2,336; Timber Beasts, Forest Grove, Oregon, 1,843 shooting, 492 written test, total of 2,335; Wyandotte County Kansas, 1,844 shooting, 490 written test, total of 2,334 and Ft. Bend, Texas, 1,851 shooting, 474 written test, total of 2,325 to round out the top ten.

The quality of the marksmanship in Kansas and South Dakota is evidenced by the fact both states

had two teams in the top ten.

Four other Kansas teams competed. Derby was 16th with a total score of 2,303; Lyon County placed 26th with a score of 2,197; Jefferson County was 29th with a score of 2,175 and Phillips/Rooks County was 31st with a 2,147.

The young marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years of age. Each of the four shooting positions counts as 20 percent of a shooter's score and the written test on marksmanship and gun safety counts for the other 20 percent. The written test contained questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum Guide and the NRA 5 Meter BB Gun Rule book.

Following the opening ceremonies on Friday evening, shooting began Saturday morning in Middle Arena at Western Kentucky University with firing from the prone position. The young Blue Jays shot a 476 to tie for sixth in prone. Next, they shot from the tough standing position and scored a 435 to tie for 15th.

In the afternoon, the shooters took the written test and results were not released until after the sitting and kneeling competition on Sunday afternoon.

The Norton shooters got a good night's rest on Saturday after the annual Barter Bar and were bright eyed and relaxed on Sunday morning when they fired from the sitting position. Norton was as good as anyone in that position and better than all but the Spink County, S.D. team, who edged them by just one point. Norton shot an astounding 482 and Spink County a 483. To put this in perspective, only one other team shot a better score in the much easier prone position. Washington, Mo. had a 485 in prone and Pierre, S.D., the eventual champion, shot a 482 in prone.

After Norton's tremendous performance from the sitting position, the young Blue Jays were tied for sixth, just two points out of fifth.

Norton dropped to a 459 in the tougher kneeling position which tied them for 11th in that position and placed them seventh overall in shooting.

The young Blue Jays' excellent 484 in the written test tied with three other teams for ninth best but they still placed seventh overall.

Norton team members
Norton County Rotary's inter-



Norton's Brady Tien fired from the sitting position in the International BB Gun Championships with head coach Cameron Archer at his side. Brady, Norton's top shooter and one of the best of all the shooters competing, was nearly perfect from the sitting position, recording a 99 x 100 with 7 bull's eyes. □ Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

national team members this year and their ages were: Brady Tien, 14; Alexis Lively, 13; Dylan Sprigg, 13; Lane Archer, 12; Erin Archer, 10.

Alternates were Gabe Bird, 12 and Michael Smith, 12.

Assisting head coach Cameron Archer with coaching duties have been Mike Campbell and Cole Archer but Campbell was unable to make the trip to the international. Classroom instructor was Lynette Archer.

Three members of this year's international team had experience at the international level. Lane Archer and Dylan Sprigg were members of the Norton 2006 international team and Erin Archer was an alternate on the 2007 team.

Brady Tien was the top shooter for Norton and also had the top score on the written test. He shot a 376 with seven bull's eyes. His score of 99 x 100 in sitting was

second best individually and earned him a medal. He also received a certificate of excellence for making a perfect 100 on the written test!

Brady tied for sixth in kneeling with a 97 and was 13th best among aggregate scores, which included the written test.

Alexis Lively was second high scorer for Norton with a 473, which included a 98 on the written test. Alexis tied for sixth with a 97 in sitting.

Third high for the young Blue Jays was Dylan Sprigg with a 465, which also included a 98 test score. Fourth high was Erin Archer, with a 462 and Lane Archer

recorded a 460.

Michael Smith tied for seventh place in aggregate scores by alternates with his 467, which included a 98 on the written test.

He also tied for seventh in kneeling with a 94 and tied for eighth in prone with a 96.

Gabe Bird recorded a 453 aggregate score. His best position was standing, where he tied for ninth with an 89.

Norton shooters and their individual scores included:

Brady Tien, 94, prone; 86, standing; 99.07, sitting; 97, kneeling, 376 shooting; 100 written test; 476 total; Alexis Lively, 95, prone; 90, standing; 97, sitting; 93.

Conservatives push for senate seats

TOPEKA (AP)- Talk about the dreaming impossible dreams can elicit images of a cow jumping over the moon, gasoline at a buck a gallon and conservative Republicans in charge of the Kansas Senate.

While cows don't fly and gas won't be that cheap, the idea of conservatives in charge of the 40-member chamber isn't entirely impossible and is giving moderates cause for pause.

Going into the Aug. 5 primary, six moderate incumbents face opposition from candidates endorsed by the conservative Kansas Republican Assembly.

Add to that eight incumbents endorsed by the assembly and the possibility of them picking up

seats in either August or the November general election.

"This is pretty significant. We're concerned and working hard to make sure our moderates are running good campaigns," said Senate President Steve Morris of Hugoton, who has a primary opponent after running unopposed in 2004.

Morris believes moderates will prevail, but quickly adds, "We can't take anything for granted. Things can change. Voters can be pretty fickle."

Conservative Sen. Phil Journey of Haysville sees an opportunity.

"There is a significant potential for changing the makeup of the Senate and a possibility of changing the political tilt of it," he said.

"Whether it is a probability remains to be seen."


There were 14 new senators after the 2004 elections and Journey said, "It wouldn't surprise me to see eight new ones next year."

Joe Aistrup, head of the Kansas State University Department of Political Science, said it's all part of the political process — conservatives going after moderate incumbents and moderates going after conservative incumbents.

Aistrup said challenges against incumbents on average are successful about 20 percent of the time.

"They may pick up a couple of seats, on the optimistic side maybe two, and that could be enough to change the dynamics," he said.

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