

Chapel Hill Debate team emerges as UIL Regional 2A Academic Champions

By AMBER CULLEN
Tribune Features Editor

Following a clean district sweep hosted at NTCC in March, the Chapel Hill High School (CHHS) Lincoln-Douglas Debate Team went on to place first, second, and fourth last Saturday night, April 24, in the UIL Regional Academic Meet held at Tyler Junior College.

"Four school debate records were set," at the meet according to Debate Coach Donald Prantl. "2010 will always be the first year two Chapel Hill debaters advanced to state. The first year we won the gold and silver at the Regional tournament, and the year we lost only one of 18 rounds to a debater from another school."

The one round lost to Teague High School dropped Jacob Morris from third to fourth place.

First and second place was decided by a round between Bethny Barrett and Kara Hendricks in which Bethny claimed the gold medal, Prantl added. "By finishing 6-0, Bethny became the first

Chapel Hill debater to have a no-loss record at the Regional Championship Meet," he said.

Prantl said the debate team wants to thank everyone for the great send-off last Thursday, and for their support throughout the year. "We're always mindful of the years of preparation from elementary on up that enables our high school students to excel," Prantl said. "Last week's UIL Academic Meet gave us all another occasion to appreciate our colleagues, parents, students, and the importance of all the roles we play. Saturday night Chapel Hill emerged as UIL Regional 2A Academic Champions!"

Thirteen schools representing eight districts had 21 Lincoln-Douglas Debate entries competing at the Conference 2A, Region 3 UIL Academics Spring Meet held at Tyler Junior College, April 24, according to Prantl.

"The Lincoln-Douglas team looks forward to representing 'The Hill' in Austin, May 7," Prantl said.



Chapel Hill Regional Lincoln-Douglas debaters (left to right) Jacob Morris (4th place), Beth Barrett (First Place), Kara Hendricks (2nd place).

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comes the land of the midnight sun, with daylight all the time, and then the night darkness begins to gradually sneak back in to claim its time.

"In Valdez, we're six hours from anyplace," Laverne said. "The roads in Alaska aren't like here. They offer one route and one road-way. There's a saying, 'there's only eight highways in Alaska, and the eighth one's not paved.'"

While in East Texas, the couple depends on family members and friends to run the park onsite, and the Eickman's spend their time on email and telephone scheduling fishing adventure and cabin and RV park bookings months or even a year in advance.

The more-than-5,500-mile trip from the Eickman's lake home in East Texas to their park land in Alaska makes a seven-day drive, driving straight through, 10 to 12 hours each

day. The Eickman's like to make the drive in a caravan with friends and family, take their time and sightsee along the way, extending the trek to a two-week journey.

Along the drive, they might encounter wild bears and their cubs, elk, moose, stone sheep, and a montage of unexpected wonders that prelude the wonder of their destination.

Tim's daughter, son-in-law and grandson live at the Bear Creek Cabin Park and keep things going year-round.

In the summers, Tim's 16-year-old nephew Cody, who lives in Washington State, travels up to serve as the captain's deck hand and first mate.

Tim's eyes glow as he talks about the challenges of landing a 175-pound halibut.

"The bigger fish - they come up and go back to the bottom. So you have to fight them for thirty minutes or so. They come up shaking their heads, and then dive back down taking your line to the bottom."

"Most of the time I stand right there by the fishermen, and keep telling them not to put their thumb on the drag, hold your tip up....My favorite part is watching everyone's reaction when they hook a big one. Everyone reacts differently, but even the seasoned fishermen give reaction when a big fish takes their line."

"The big catches don't always fit in the fish boxes on the boat, and we'll bring them back with those big tail fins sticking up and out of the boxes."

A fish weighing much more than 100-125 pounds usually means a throw-back, Tim says. The meat's just not that good on the bigger ones.

Next to the halibut, he says, the salmon are most fun to catch because they jump out of the water, then run and dive.

"I've been fishing since I was a boy. Some of my fondest memories are fishing with my Dad," Tim says, and so the couple's six grandsons all enjoy their share of fishing instruction, experiences and memories.

Laverne pipes in to the conversation: "One of my dreams, when I was a girl, was to drive the Alcan (Alaskan-Canadian Highway). My mother took Life and Look magazines, and I remember a spread published in one of them in the '60s about the highway. I kept



Courtesy photo

Tim Eickman stands on the Valdez harbor dock with his catch, last June. The 121 pound, 62-inch long halibut catch gave the fisherman the adventure of a lifetime, as it pulled the boat through the seas in an hour-long fight for freedom.



TRIBUNE photo by Marcia Davis-Seale

Laverne and Tim Eickman live the best of both worlds, in season, dividing their time between the wilds of Alaska and the piney woods of East Texas.

it and always thought about it."

Now each year, the Eickmans drive it.

And how do you pack for a summer in Alaska? "Light!" Laverne says, nodding at Tim. (There's a well-traveled history on this conversation, for sure.)

"I used to think everything had to match - shirt, slacks, shoes. But, up there, you stand out if you match. So I take lots of layers, and nothing matches."

The blue eyes on both Eickmans reflect the contrasting shades of the changing depths of the northern seas they love to fish. It's clear

they are in love with each other, East Texas and Alaska.

Laverne characteristically offers just the right words, hidden in a favorite poem of hers, titled "Call of the Wild."

"...Have you known the Great White Silence, not a snow-gemmed twig aqiver?... Have you heard God in His splendors, heard the text that nature renders?... Let us probe the silent places... journey to a lonely land I know. There's a whisper on the night-wind, there's a star a gleam to guide us, and the Wild is calling, calling... let us go."

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fuls. Re-cycle advocates have nothing on my mom and her generation.

Mama doesn't really believe in garage sales, so she has lots of fashions waiting to come around again and a wonderful collection of ear screws, aka earrings. She still goes to the beauty shop, aka salon, to get her hair fixed, aka styled by the beauty operator, aka hair stylist.

I looked around my kitchen today. I do have a few butter cups, rubber bands and twist ties. I also have a few plastic containers with no matching lids.

Let's face it, you never know when you're going to need just the container. I have been known to cut the end off tubes of toothpaste to get the last little bit out. And when the stick deodorant won't roll up anymore, taking a knife and scraping out the last bit of it. When the bath soap gets too small to use, I put it in a knee high stocking and when I get enough soap pieces, I dip them in hot water and mold them into a bar. On occasion, I've washed out a plastic

bag to re-use. And lately, I've not, want not. I really am my mother after the used aluminum foil. Waste all.

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within 96 hours after the assault.

They also offer Trauma Focus Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBG) to children for eight weeks to help them work through traumatic events.

The CAC served 600 children last year. Ms. Dickeson reminded the group that statistics state that 1:4 girls and 1:6 boys will be sexually assaulted before they turn 18.

Any individual interested in becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer could contact their center for more information.

Delilah Adams had handout information for the group on Women's Infants and Children (WIC) services in Daingerfield.

Peggy Connor, Morris County Sheriff's Office and SRO for Pewitt CISD, gave information about an upcoming National Conference on Girl Bullying & Other Forms of Relational Aggression to be held in the Crown Plaza Hotel in San Antonio from June 25-27th. For more information, go to <http://oijdp.nejrs.gov/events/EventList.asp>.

A motion was made not to meet in May due to the schedules being heavy for all. The group plans to reconvene in the fall. Richard Cattleman offered to get a speaker on Diabetes in May. More information on the date and time will be sent when available.

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