

Local runners finish strong at Riverless Run

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Area residents enjoyed the popular Riverless Run/Walk again on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

There were 97 participants from a wide area.

Norton area placers in the 5K race were Donna Foley, Norton, first, 50-59, 28:16; Gunnar Hays, Prairie View, first, 20-29, 17:19; Eric Woodside, Prairie View, second, 20-29, 21:28; Mike Lacy, Hays, second, 60-69, 23:46.

Gunnar Hays had the overall fastest men's time in the 5K race.

Hannah Pinkerton, Logan, won the women's 20-29 age group in the 2-Mile Race with a new record time of 12:49. She was followed by Rae Ann Pinkerton of Dennison who was second in 18:19.

Sherry Woodside, Prairie

View, finished second in the 50-59 age group with a time of 25:42.

On the men's side in the 2-Mile Race, Sam Pinkerton of Logan placed second in the 11-14 age group with a time of 18:19. Kyle Pinkerton of Logan won the age 30-39 race with a clocking of 19:27.

Rob Pinkerton of Logan finished first in the 50-59 age group for the 2-Mile Race with a time of 23:03.

Logan White of Logan placed second in the Kids One-Half Mile Race but still broke the previous record for his 9-10 age group. He was timed in 3:14 and the winner, Drew Goracke, also broke the record with a 3:13 clocking.

Sponsor of the Riverless Run/Walk was the Phillips County Health Systems. Coordinator was Kelly Vanderplas.



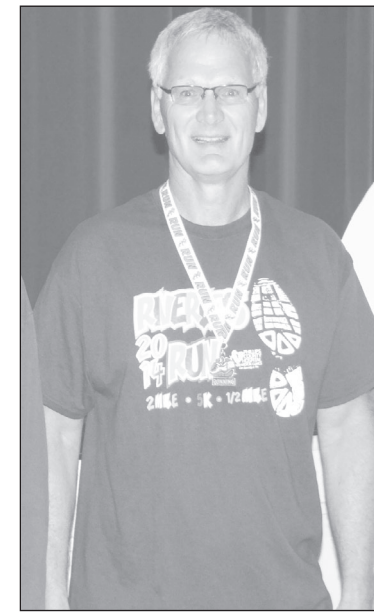
Gunnar Hays of Prairie View was the winner of the 5K Race in the Riverless Run in Phillipsburg in the 20-29 age group with a clocking of 17:19. He was also the overall fastest in all age groups.

- Courtesy photo



Donna Foley of Norton finishes the 5K Race in the Riverless Run in Phillipsburg on Saturday with the fastest time of the women in age 50-59 with a clocking of 28:16.

- Courtesy photo



Mike Lacy of Hays, a Norton native, placed second in the 5K Race in the Riverless Run in Phillipsburg with a time of 23:46 in the age 60-69 age group.

- Courtesy photo



Logan's Rob Pinkerton smiles as he finishes the 2-Mile Race in the Riverless Run on Saturday in Phillipsburg. Rob was fastest in the age 50-59 group with a time of 23:03.

- Courtesy photo

Kansas veterans are still waiting for answers to questions

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, recently called on acting Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Sloan Gibson to help improve the VA's tense relationship with Members of Congress by providing long-overdue answers to questions that were previously ignored by the VA. Sen. Moran asked Sec. Gibson to provide answers on eight issues of importance to Kansas veterans he raised over the past 18 months with former-VA Sec. Eric Shinseki and his staff.

"Many federal agencies consider healthy tension between the executive and legislative branches the norm, but this is also a relationship that must be nurtured and treated with mutual respect at all times," Sen. Moran wrote in a letter to acting-Sec. Gibson. "It has been my experience that Congress' relationship with the VA has deteriorated over time; I struggle to understand why this has happened and why it has become increasingly difficult to get answers on behalf of Kansans who seek my help to do so. There are numerous issues and inquiries listed here that I would like to draw your attention to as we begin to build a constructive relationship with the best interests of veterans in mind."

In his letter to acting-Sec. Gibson, Sen. Moran detailed his interaction with the VA on each outstanding question and asked for a timely response on the eight issues outlined below. Of particular concern are revelations that the VA has withheld information from Congress on the future of the successful Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH) program, which rural veterans rely on for access to quality health care. Sources tell the Senator that the national program director for ARCH directed the five pilot sites several months ago to begin contacting veterans who participate in ARCH to let them know the program would be ending. All the while, the VA told Congress that no decision on the future of ARCH had been made, analysis was pending, and the extension of the program would be made by either Undersecretary Petzel or Secretary Shinseki.

While this list does not encapsulate every request or inquiry

from Sen. Moran, these are inquiries with a history of ineptitude and unacceptable delays. This list is also meant to demonstrate the lack of urgency from the VA headquarters in addressing Congressional concerns.

Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH): Since 2011, the ARCH pilot program has been operating in five rural sites across the country including Pratt, Kan. ARCH serves rural veterans by giving them access to health care from a community provider close to home instead of traveling hundreds of miles to seek care at a VA facility. Independent analysis shows that more than 90 percent of veterans who received primary care services through ARCH are "completely satisfied," and cite significantly shortened travel times to receive care. Sen. Moran has repeatedly asked VA officials - including Sec. Shinseki directly at a March 2014 SVAC hearing - about the future of the successful ARCH program which is set to expire in September 2014. Instead of the straightforward analysis promised by Sec. Shinseki, Sen. Moran has only received empty promises and non-answers from the VA. Sources outside the VA now tell the Senator that the national program director for ARCH directed the five pilot sites several months ago to begin contacting veterans who participate in ARCH to let them know the program would be ending. The VHA has given Congress the impression they were waiting on analysis about the success of the program to inform their decision about extending the program and all along that has been a misleading storyline. At a time when the VA says it is looking for ways to "accelerate access to care" for veterans, the VHA made an intentional decision not to inform Congress about their plans to discontinue this successful program. Sen. Moran is enraged by this breach of trust because those who suffer from this irresponsibility are veterans.

Unauthorized Activities at VA Facilities in Kansas: Sen. Moran details unanswered questions raised regarding troubling incidents at the Leavenworth Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center and the Topeka Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, as well as the nature and

status of investigations at each facility. Sen. Moran's questions regarding Leavenworth focus on allegations of a VA employee threatening other employees on multiple occasions - including once with a firearm while on VA property. The Senator's questions regarding Topeka focus on the nature of the emergency room closure at the Topeka Medical Center and allegations that misconduct and malfeasance - not simply staff shortages - caused the closure.

Liberal, Kan., Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) and Provider Recruitment and Retention: For more than three years, the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Liberal has been without a primary care provider. For nearly three years, Sen. Moran has asked the VA about this vacancy, when a provider might be hired at the Liberal CBOC and, more broadly, how the VA intends to improve its methods for recruitment and retention of health care providers - especially in rural communities. To date, Sen. Moran has still not received an explanation of how the VA intends to look for new ways to recruit and retain health care providers in rural communities, or information on when the Liberal CBOC will have a permanent provider to serve veterans in the area.

Wichita, Kan., Dole VA and McConnell Air Force Base (AFB) Collaborative Project:

For the past 18 months, Sen. Moran has sought answers from the VA on when the Dole VA/McConnell AFB collaborative project - which has been in the works for seven years - would be funded and constructed in Wichita. Although the widely-supported project is highlighted in a separate chapter of the FY15 budget proposal as one of six "future VA/DoD collaborative projects," the FY15 budget proposal and Strategic Capital Investment Plan (SCIP) major construction list did not score or rank the Dole VA/McConnell AFB collaborative project, after ranking it #196 in the FY14 SCIP. VA officials have stated time and again that new construction for a collaborative facility on McConnell AFB is not a matter of "if" but "when." Sen. Moran has raised real concerns that internal VA processes, inattention and inconsistencies in

staff work are having a negative impact on future-year collaborative projects that would benefit service members.

Dodge City Community College (DCCC) Helicopter Program: The DCCC has received disparate responses from the Muskogee, Okla., VA Regional Office and the St. Louis, Mo., VA Regional Office on both the process and availability of GI Bill reimbursement for their flight instructor pilot program. The conflicting feedback between regional offices suggests a need for increased oversight from VA headquarters and better coordination not only between headquarters and regional offices themselves. Sen. Moran has yet to receive the response needed from the VA to resolve this situation for Dodge City Community College.

Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) and Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors (LPMHCs): In 2006, Congress authorized the employment of LPMHCs and MFTs by the VA. However, the two professions comprise less than 1 percent of the VA behavioral health workforce, despite representing almost 40 percent of the overall mental

health workforce in the United States. On March 19, Sen. Moran submitted six questions regarding mental health services for veterans and the hiring of mental health professionals in Kansas - specifically the hiring of MFTs and LPMHCs. For example, how many of the 1,723 mental health professionals who have been hired are located in Kansas? Sen. Moran has yet to receive answers to any of his questions, a classic example of Congress' experience when interacting with the VA.

Disclosure of Medical Conditions - Disability Compensation Review: Last month, Sen. Moran requested information on the VA's policy regarding the disclosure of ailments or medical conditions discovered during a veteran's disability compensation review process that are unrelated to the condition(s) listed for review. He is concerned that as a matter of VA policy veterans are not notified or disclosed of any condition identified by a health care professional during the disability compensation review process if a veteran does not list this condition on the disability compensation claim. Sen. Moran believes that when seeking health care, veterans should be made aware of condi-

tions that affect them. Although he received answers from the VA on this policy question on June 6, the response leads to more concerns about how veterans are being treated. Sen. Moran's staff followed up with more questions to fully understand the nature of this policy and its impacts on veterans. He asks that acting-Sec. Gibson look for ways to eliminate this policy to safeguard the health and well-being of veterans.

Health Care Scheduling Prevented Beyond Six Months: Sen. Moran requested information on an apparent VA policy that prevents a veteran from scheduling appointments beyond a six-month window. The by-product of this policy is further delaying the actual appointment date for a veteran and contributes to wait time inaccuracies. Given that a wait time is typically months from the date a veteran calls to schedule an appointment, this unnecessary postponement extends the timeframe for a veteran to receive care and is yet another reason for unreliable data on actual wait times. Sen. Moran asks acting-Sec. Gibson for a timely answer regarding this nonsensical policy.

BLUE JAY SPORTS CAMP

JULY 15 THROUGH JULY 17 - GRADES 1-8

- Grades 1-4 Volleyball, 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (Stull Gymnasium)
- Grades 5-8 Volleyball, 10:15 a.m.-noon (Stull Gymnasium)
- Grades 3-5 Football, 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (Practice Football Field)
- Grades 6-8 Football, 10:15 a.m.-noon (Practice Football Field)
- Grades 1-4 Girls Basketball, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (East Campus)
- Grades 5-8 Girls Basketball, 2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. (East Campus)
- Grades 1-4 Boys Basketball, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (Stull Gymnasium)
- Grades 5-8 Boys Basketball, 2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. (Stull Gymnasium)

Volleyball: Christine Thompson; Football: Lucas Melvin; Girls' Basketball: George Rossi; Boys' Basketball: Joe Cox

Cost: (Volleyball and Girls Basketball)
Grades 1 through 4 One Sport - \$20.00; Two Sports - \$30.00
Grades 5 through 8 One Sport - \$30.00; Two Sports - 45.00

Cost: (Football and Boys Basketball)
First Session Football or Basketball \$20.00
First Session Football and Basketball \$30.00
First Session Football and Second Session Basketball \$30.00
Second Session Football or Basketball \$30.00
Second Session Football and Basketball \$45.00

Each camper will receive a Blue Jay Sports Camp T-shirt for attending!
Return the bottom portion of the registration form along with payment to
Lucas Melvin, 711 West Crane, Norton, Kansas 67654

REGISTRATION IS DUE BY JULY 7 TO INSURE T-SHIRT THE FIRST DAY OF CAMP!

Name: _____ Grade Entering Fall '14 _____

Name or Nickname on T-Shirt _____

Shirt Size: Youth Small (6-8); Youth Medium (10-12); Youth Large (14-16)
 Men's Small (34-36); Men's Medium (38-40); Men's Large (42-44)
Sports: Football (3-5); Football (6-8) Volleyball (1-4); Volleyball (5-8)
 Girls Bball (1-4); Girls Bball (5-8); Boys Bball (1-4); Boys Bball (5-8)

PARENTAL OR GUARDIAN RELEASE: We (I) give permission for the enrollment of _____ in the 2014 Blue Jay Sports Camp.

We (I) hereby release the camp staff from any claim on account of any accidental injury during the time of the camp. _____

(Signature) Please note any physical problems your child has that the staff needs to be aware of _____

The Blue Jay Sports Camp is an individual undertaking and is not sponsored by or affiliated with USD #211

Commodity credit lending rates

The United States Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation recently announced interest rates for June 2014. The Commodity Credit Corporation borrowing rate-based charge for June is 0.125 percent, unchanged from 0.125 percent in May.

The interest rate for crop year commodity loans less than one year disbursed during June is 1.125 percent, unchanged from 1.125 percent in May.

Interest rates for Farm Storage Facility Loans approved for June are as follows, 2.250 percent with seven-year loan

terms, unchanged from 2.125 percent in May; 2.625 percent with 10-year loan terms, down from 2.750 percent in May and; 2.750 percent with 12-year loan terms, down from 2.875 percent in May. The interest rate for 15-year Sugar Storage Facility Loans for May is 3.000 percent, down from 3.125 percent in May.

Further program information is available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency's Financial Management Division at 202-772-6041.

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