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### Flag Run remains on schedule for area visit

By Dana Hill  
Staff Writer



People across America are running on foot, carrying a United States flag, from Boston to Los Angeles to demonstrate support for the families and victims of the attack on Sept. 11. On Sunday, the flag will come through Ardmore.

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American and United Airline pilots and personnel have joined forces to "complete" the flights from Boston-LAX to Los Angeles that AA Flight 11 and UA Flight 175 were unable to finish.

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"The flag the runners are carrying was flown in the cockpit of an F-16 by an American Airline pilot activated by his fighter unit in the no-fly zone in southern Iraq," Ardmore Chamber of Commerce spokeswoman Angel Johnson said. "It will be an inspiring opportunity and honor to participate in this flag's trip across the United States."



Johnson said the flag will be in Oklahoma from Sunday through Wednesday.



"The flag will be crossing the Oklahoma/Texas state line about 1 p.m. Sunday," she said. "It is scheduled to arrive in Marietta on U.S. Highway 77 just after 4 p.m. and in Ardmore just before 7:30 p.m."



She said the Marietta High School Band will be playing at the staging area at Exit 1.

Johnson said the runners will be escorted by Love County and Carter County sheriffs, Marietta and Ardmore police departments, fire departments from Love County and Ardmore, Ardmore Mounted Patrol and area EMS units.

"We really would like to have a big turnout from the community as the runners head north on Commerce," Johnson said. "We're encouraging everyone to come out and line the streets to welcome the flag into the Ardmore area."

She said she is trying to schedule the Ardmore, Plainview and Dickson High School bands to line Commerce and play as the flag is carried north.

Johnson said the Chamber of Commerce has scheduled festivities at Noble Stadium to welcome the flag. Gates open at 6 p.m. and there is no admission charge.

"We welcome everyone to come out and cheer on the flag as it makes it way around the track," Johnson said.

She said anyone who is interested is invited to join in the running of the flag. She said anyone who has not already signed up should check in at the staging area at Noble Stadium.

"Oklahoma already has over 459 runners scheduled to participate," Johnson said. "We have more runners than California, who had 448, and are second only to Texas."

Patriotic T-shirts have been made especially for this event and are on sale for \$7 each. They are available at the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce and will be available Sunday at Noble Stadium.

"On Saturday, the chamber will set up in front of Wal-Mart from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., selling the shirts for the Flag Across America run," Johnson said.

Johnson said the chamber is in need of volunteer to help with Sunday's event. Anyone interested should call the chamber at (580) 223-7765.

Those with questions may call the chamber or visit www.flagrun.org.

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