

# Northern Valley runner wins championship

By Kirk Kasson

Another State Championship for Gunnar Hays!

Northern Valley's senior Cross Country captain Gunnar Hays left Wamego with his second straight 1A cross country championship. Hays won the 2010 championship with a time of 17:34, but this year ran the same course 49 seconds faster, crossing the finish in 16:45. According to records, this is the fourth fastest 1A time run at the state meet in Wamego.

Hays led the Northern Valley team all year long and was instrumental in the team qualifying for this year's state meet. It is the first time the Northern Valley boys have qualified as a team for state since 1985. As a team, the Huskies placed ninth. Junior Jon Compton placed

32nd with a season best time of 19:09. Freshman Philip Rupp was 60th, and also had a season best time with a 20:34 finish. Classmate Macy Kasson was within 9 seconds of his best time of the season with a 21:10 and finished in 67th place. Senior Brandon "Skeeter" McDowell took 3 minutes off his best time of the season, running the 5 kilometers in 26:25, and placed 94th.

First year Cross Country coach Kirk Kasson had nothing but good things to say about the team's performance. "We had our best day of the year, by far. Four of the five boys had their fastest times of the year, and this may be the toughest course we have seen. Considering our previous PRs were all on flat courses, these times are terrific."

Hays's, championship run did not

come easily. His primary concern was Centralia's Lukas Koch, the defending 1A 1-mile and 2-mile champion in track and field. Also in the field was last year's runner up, Troy Wineinger of Tribune-Greeley County, and Scandia-Pike Valley's talented freshman, Caden Callaway.

With the blast of the starter's pistol, 96 runners dashed to the top of the first hill, 300 meters away. After the first 500 meters, the Koch cousins, Adam, of Frankfort, and Lukas, of Centralia had paced out to a five second lead over the field. Hays used the second inline to catch Adam at 800 meters, then passed Lukas at the bottom of the third hill at 1000 meters. Lukas stayed with Gunnar for 500 meters before giving way to Hays's, pace on the uphill climbs. Hays

maintained his pace throughout the rest of the course, to win by 21 seconds!

Lukas Koch finished second, followed by Callaway, Luke Friess of Hoxie, Wineinger, and Adam Koch. The top five finishers all beat Gunnar's 2010 winning time of 17:34.

Hays was met at the finish line by family, fans, college recruiters and reporters. "Winning the state championship caps off a fine season for Gunnar," added coach Kasson. "His only losses this year were to Cory Donley (3A state champion from Salina Sacred Heart) and Brady Johnson (2A state champion from Plainville). He has really matured as a runner and I can see him doing great things at the next level." Gunnar is the son of Gale and Ranelle Hays, of Alma.

# Norton basketball team takes two wins

The Norton Junior High girls basketball teams took on Smith Center this past Tuesday and came away with two wins and a loss.

In the seventh grade game Norton defeated Smith Center 21 to 12. Caitlyn Cox and Baylee Miller scored eight points each and Miah Melvin added five points. Caitlyn pulled down eight rebounds to be the leading rebounder. Baylee Miller was the leading stealer with nine.

In the JV game Smith Center defeated Norton 31 to seven. Kendra Cadawalader contributed four points. Macayla Kent added two points and Kira Robertson added one point.

In the eighth grade game Norton defeated Smith Center. Lexi Voss was our leading scorer with 13 points. Hanna Brooks, Molly Maddy, and Kirstin Georgeson each added four points each. Casey Ambrosier added three points. Lauren Mordecai connected on two of her freethrows for 100 percent accuracy and two points on the scoreboard. Lexi Voss, was our leading rebounder, but Kirstin Georgeson and Hanna Brooks were not far behind in the rebounding territory. Hanna Brooks, Lexi Voss, and Peyton Renner were able to get in the passing lane and lead the way in steals.

Their next game is today at Plainville at 5 p.m.

# College rider qualifies for regional horse show

Western riders on the Colby Community College Equestrian Team competed in a two-day show Nov. 5-6 in Laramie, Wyo.

"Mariah Woolsoncroft won her class which qualified her for the regional horse show," said Head Coach Shanda Mattix. "The team rode really well this weekend, although it wasn't reflected in their placings. They continue to improve each show and have really stepped up their level of competition."

The college Equestrian Team will conclude the fall season Nov. 12 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Individual results for the shows follow:

## Open Reining, Show 1

- William Wright (Louisburg), 4th
- Heather Darling (Abilene), 6th
- Open Horsemanship, Show 1**
- William Wright (Louisburg), 4th
- Heather Darling (Abilene), 6th
- Advanced Horsemanship, Show 1**
- Chelsea Brady (Parker, Colo.), 5th
- Jessica Fuson (King City, Mo.), 6th
- Savannah Isely (Bird City), Reserve
- Novice Horsemanship, Show 1**
- Morgan Harms (Franklin, Neb.), 3rd
- Mariah Woolsoncroft (Salina), Reserve

## Intermediate 2 Horsemanship, Show 1

- Amanda Barnum (Colby), 1st
- Brittany Normand (Fort Scott), 2nd
- Randi Cressler (Hoxie), Reserve

## Intermediate 1 Horsemanship, Show 1

- Kegan Vanover (Norton), 2nd
- Liz Leiker (WaKeeney), 6th
- Beginner Horsemanship, Show 1**
- Kara James (Balko, Okla.), 1st
- McKayla Albertson (Colby), 3rd
- Breanna Hooker (Galena), 5th
- Open Reining, Show 2**
- William Wright (Louisburg), 5th
- Heather Darling (Abilene), 2nd
- Open Horsemanship, Show 2**
- Heather Darling (Abilene), 6th
- Advanced Horsemanship, Show 2**
- Chelsea Brady (Parker, Colo.), 2nd
- Jessica Fuson (King City, Mo.), 5th
- Savannah Isely (Bird City), Reserve

## Novice Horsemanship, Show 2

- Morgan Harms (Franklin, Neb.), 5th
- Mariah Woolsoncroft (Salina), 1st

## Intermediate 2 Horsemanship, Show 2

- Amanda Barnum (Colby), Reserve
- Brittany Normand (Ft. Scott), Reserve
- Tayla Kimball (Medicine Lodge), 5th
- Intermediate 1 Horsemanship, Show 2**
- Kegan Vanover (Norton), 4th
- Liz Leiker (WaKeeney), Reserve
- Alexa Fitzsimmons (Sterling, Colo.), 2nd

## Beginner Horsemanship, Show 2

- Kara James (Balko, Okla.), 2nd
- McKayla Albertson (Colby), 6th

# Foreign landowners must report U.S. holdings

Carl R. Warner, County Executive Director of the Norton County Farm Service Agency, recently reminded foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to the Farm Service Agency.

According to Warner, foreigner investors buying or selling land must report such transaction within 90 days of the date of the sale.

Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the

agricultural land.

Warner said the act requires reports to be filed by:

- individuals who are not U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
- individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act;

-ny organization created under the laws of a foreign government or which has located its principal place of business outside the United States

-any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations, or governments

-any foreign governments. Farm Service Agency form

FSA-153 is used to report land holdings and transactions. The completed form must be returned to the FSA county office where the land is located.

# Keep your pet safe during this holiday season

As the pages of the calendar flip and we move closer to the holiday season, pet owners should be aware of common - but hidden - dangers to their pets as we transform our homes for the celebrations to come.

"The holidays are supposed to be a time of joy for our families, but in preparing for the season, many pet owners run the risk of exposing their pets to household dangers that could present potential life-threatening hazards to their pets," said veterinarian Lori Pasternak, of Helping Hands Affordable Veterinary Surgery and Dental Care (www.helpinghandsvetva.com). "These latent hazards could derail a family's holiday season if their pets become ill as a result of these hidden perils."

Pasternak's list of prospective risks include:

Decorations - While holiday decorations can make a home feel more festive, they can be tantalizing traps for pets. Pet owners should keep decorations and ornaments higher up on trees so they are not consumed

by pets. If a pet decides the colorful garland or tree trim might make a tasty snack, they can and will get stuck in your pet's intestines, necessitating immediate surgical removal. Moreover, exposed cords from electric lights can cause electrocution or oral burns if chewed.

Gift Wrap - When it's time to pull all the gifts out of hiding to be wrapped, take care that your pet isn't in the room as you spread out all the wrapping paper, bows and ribbons. If a cat should start gnawing on the ribbon, it will literally "stitch" the cat's intestines together as it is being passed through the gut. Surgery is one holiday gift you don't want to give your family pet.

Holiday Feast - While turkey and ham make up the majority of traditional holiday meals, turkey and ham bones can become lodged in the intestines if swallowed in large pieces. Be careful that your guests don't give in to the holiday spirit too much and choose this time to offer table scraps to your pets. Your pet could become seriously

ill or even choke to death.

Flowers - The poinsettias many choose to use as holiday centerpieces are also toxic to most household pets if they are chewed and swallowed in large enough quantities. The level of toxicity is completely proportionate to the size and weight of your pet, but instead of doing the math on that equation, it's better to choose other types of floral arrangements that don't endanger your pets.

"The holidays should be a time for fun, not an unscheduled trip to the animal hospital," Pasternak added. "If something does happen, don't hesitate to take your pet to the nearest animal hospital, and know that if you come to ours, we work with our pet owners on affordable payment structures in emergency cases. But we'd rather not see you this season. The best holiday gift you could give your pet is a hazard-free household so they can enjoy the warmth and joy of your celebrations safely and soundly."

# Insect and disease management seminar planned

Over the last several years, some insect and disease problems have never gone away including leaf rust in wheat. Several disease and insect problems have made a comeback, namely, Hessian Fly and Stripe Rust in wheat. Others occur sporadically, such as the Head moth in sunflowers and Chinch bugs in sorghum. There are also a couple of diseases and insect problems that are here or on the horizon such as the Soybean aphid and Soybean rust.

Thomas County Extension and the Sunflower Extension District are sponsoring an Insect and Disease Management School at the American Legion on Wednesday, Dec. 7 in Colby to aid producers in identifying and managing these disease problems. We will be offering

Continuing Education Units with seven hours for the 1A certification along with the one core hour needed for renewal. CCA credits will also be available for producers and others.

Addressing options available to manage these problems will be K-State Specialists Doug Jardine, Plant Pathologist, J.P. Michaud, Entomologist and Jerry Miller with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. There is a \$15 registration fee to cover lunch and materials. Reservations are requested by Dec. 1 online at www.sunflower.ksu.edu. Look for registration under the Agronomy Tab. If you have questions or need more information, feel free to call the Thomas County Extension office (785-460-4582), NW Area Extension Office (785-462-6281) or the

Sunflower Extension District Office in Goodland (785-890-4880). You can also email Clint Milliman, Thomas County Extension Agent at milliman@k-

state.edu or Jeanne Falk, Sunflower Extension District Agent at jfalk@k-state.edu for more information.

**1,280+/- ACRES GRAHAM CO, KS**  
**GRASS & EXPIRED CRP CROPLAND**  
**LAND AUCTION**

**TUE., NOV. 15, 2011 @10:30 AM, CST**

**AUCTION LOCATION: Cowboy Junction, Hill City, KS**

**SELLERS:**  
**Darlene Goddard Heirs**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS:**

**TRACT 1:** N/2 of 21-9-23  
**TRACT 2:** N/2 & SE/4 of 22-9-23  
**TRACT 3:** S/2NW/4 and SW/4 of 23-9-23  
**TRACT 4:** NW/4 of 26-9-23, less 2 tracts  
**TRACT 5:** E/2NW/4 of 27-9-23

This is a rare opportunity to invest in 1,280± acre scenic Kansas ranch that is all contiguous.

The land offers productive cropland(all in expired CRP grass) and rolling terrain of diverse grasses. There are spring fed creeks & ponds. Excellent hunting habitat for deer, pheasant, quail, & turkeys.

**INTERNET BIDDING AVAILABLE!**

**CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR VISIT**  
**www.farmandranchrealty.com**

**FARM & RANCH REALTY, INC.**  
**Scotty Legere, Listing Agent (785-650-9970)**  
 1420 W. 4<sup>TH</sup> • COLBY, KS 67701  
 1-800-247-7863

**DONALD L. HAZLETT, Broker/Auctioneer**  
*"When you list with Farm & Ranch, it's as good as SOLD!"*

**Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic**  
 The Inaugural Pheasant Hunt

**Friday November 18th, 2011**

**Community "Meet & Greet Dinner" with the Governor and Hunt Celebrities!**

**Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres at 5 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Logan County 4-H Building in Oakley, KS**

**Dinner Tickets \$50 (includes concert)**  
**Concert Tickets \$15**

**Drawing Tickets \$10**

**All tickets available at the following NW Kansas locations:**

**Oakley** • • • Mitten's Travel Plaza, Farmers State Bank, Oakley Farm & Home

**Norton** • • • Norton Business and Visitor Station 785-874-4816

**Colby** • • • • Western State Bank 785-462-2151

**Goodland** • Super 8 Motel 785-890-7566

**Hill City** • • Kellie's Inc. 785-421-6245

**Hoxie** • • • Taylor Implement 785-672-3272

**WaKeeney** • Keyser True Value 785-743-2309

**Scott City** • • Fifth Street BBQ 620-872-2345

**Friday Night Concert**  
**"Ricochet"**  
**Oakley HS Auditorium**  
**8:30 p.m.**

**Evening Activities:**  
**Meet & Greet Dinner**  
**Silent & Live Auction**  
**Community Drawing**

**Grand Prize Drawing**  
**"John Deere" Liberty Gun Safe!**

Other prizes: 48" Riding John Deere Lawn Tractor, Two sides of Beef with processing, Whole Hog with processing, \$500 Bass Pro Gift Certificate, 12 Gauge Shotgun, Handmade Quilt, Wildlife Artwork and more!

*Your ad should be here!*

**785-877-3361**