By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

There are still a few spots open in the Imperial and Enders areas for those wanting to run a leg of the Cornhusker State Games Torch Run.

Patterned after the Olympic Torch Run, the relay focuses the attention of the public on the July 20-29 Cornhusker State Games as it crosses the state.

The Torch will be coming into Imperial Monday, June 11, and after an overnight stay, will leave Imperial the morning of June 12 on its way through Wauneta and into McCook for the night.

Randy Hayes of Imperial coordinates a 20-mile stretch of runners in this area, starting north of Imperial at the Chase/Perkins County line to 10 miles east of Imperial.

Hayes said he still has a few miles to fill north of Imperial on Highway 61 Monday and another couple of miles east of Enders on Highway 6 Tuesday.

Interested runners who would like to fill a mile or two can contact Hayes at 308-882-4923 for specific mile markers and times.

Each runner is expected to take at least a mile. All runners who participate will receive a 2012 Torch Run T-shirt. Pat Hagedorn, statewide coordinator for the Torch Run, said last Friday he

also has about nine miles to fill in a stretch between Hamlet and Palisade.

Anyone interested in helping fill those miles can contact Hagedorn directly at 402-471-2544.

The Torch Run started at the Wyoming border on Wednesday this week when the 2012 state championship Scottsbluff boys' basketball team ran the first miles.

The Torch Run will conclude June 29 in Lincoln.