

Flag Across America is off and running

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A flag flown over Iraq in an F-16 earlier this month is being carried across the USA on foot to support American resolve and to support families of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. American United Flag Across America was started by six American and United airlines pilots; volunteers nationwide are running with the flag as a show of strength. "It's a long road, but we can take it one step at a time," says communications coordinator Todd Wissing. The round-the-clock run started at Boston's Logan Airport Oct. 11 and is expected to cross Birmingham, Ala., this morning en route to Los Angeles International Nov. 11, in honor of the two Boston-L.A. flights that didn't complete the trip. After expenses, donations will go to six survivor relief funds. For information and a route map, visit www.flagrun.org.

FDA intercepts Cipro shipments at borders

The Food and Drug Administration has ordered all private shipments of the antibiotic Cipro arriving from overseas to be stopped at the border to crack down on illegal Internet antibiotic sales spurred by the anthrax scare. Dozens of Web sites have sprung up in the past two weeks, promising to sell Cipro for \$7 a pill without having to visit a doctor. Selling Cipro without a prescription is illegal. The drug causes side effects, and health authorities worry that some Internet-sold products may be fake. The agency is poised to begin sending letters to foreign Web sites, warning them to cease Cipro shipments here immediately, an agency official said Friday.

Birds on course, despite crane mutiny

Led by ultralight aircraft, an experimental flock of endangered whooping cranes has overcome bad weather and an errant bird to start its migration to Florida. Eight young birds left Wisconsin's Necedah National Wildlife Refuge on Oct. 17 for the trip. So far, they have logged about 51 miles, says Joan Guilfoyle of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On Sunday, a powerful tail wind gave the birds a 56-mph