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IN SPORTS
PHELPS ADDS 18TH GOLD TO COLLECTION

THEIR CIVIC DUTY

Those who plan to vote take it seriously



Fernando Salazar/The Wichita Eagle
Laurie Pivonka comes from a long line of voters.



Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle
Ciara Hernandez said she sees how votes have consequences.



Bo Rader/The Wichita Eagle
52-year-old Patrick Sanchez is an Iraq veteran and a voter.



Mike Hutmacher/File photo



Fernando Salazar/The Wichita Eagle
Stockbroker Tim Penner says you can't gripe if you don't vote.



Brian Corn/The Wichita Eagle
Jennifer Baysinger thinks change starts at the local level.



Travis Heying/The Wichita Eagle
Phil Dagnault said he feels it's a patriotic obligation to vote.

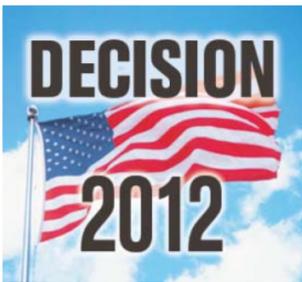
BY FRED MANN
The Wichita Eagle

Back in her school days, she looked forward to the time she could vote because it meant she would get one of those "I voted" stickers.

Ciara Hernandez, 24, takes voting more seriously now. She is reading and talking about issues, learning how to become a well-educated voter.

Like others her age, she said, she's starting to realize that decisions made at the polls have consequences.

"It's not a fun thing to do to get a sticker anymore, it's something that's going to affect the next



four years of our life," she said. Hernandez, an independent, said she hasn't decided whether she will vote in Tuesday's

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LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FACILITY

County rethinks funding for center

BY DEB GRUVER
The Wichita Eagle

Some Sedgwick County commissioners say they are hesitant to go forward with their piece of the Heartland Preparedness Center, going up at I-135 and K-96, because of the county's financial crunch.

The city and county agreed to build a law enforcement training facility at the center, joining the Kansas National Guard at what would be the nation's first homeland defense center merging city and county public safety and the military. The National Guard's part of the center is under construction.

The city approved a long-term capital improvement plan in March that includes money for the training center. Commissioners will vote Aug. 15 on the county's budget

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HANDGUN CLASSES CATER TO WOMEN



Fernando Salazar/The Wichita Eagle
Kristie Wichert attends a women-only class at Bullseye Shooting Range.

More women learning to shoot guns

BY SARAH TUCKER
The Wichita Eagle

Becky Blackburn and Kristie Wichert have never shot a gun before. But on a Thursday evening, they were sitting in a classroom at Bullseye Shooting Range in Wichita with four other women to learn how to shoot handguns.

"The reason why I'm here tonight is so I don't feel foolish if I went to a firing range on my own and looked like a newbie," Blackburn said. "I want a good education tonight so I feel comfortable if I go someplace else and do it and not have a man looking at me like, 'What are you doing?'"

The two friends had driven from Hutchinson to learn how to shoot a gun. They chose Bullseye because of the women-only handgun class.

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AT LEAST 10 WILDFIRES BURNING IN OKLAHOMA

Residents find little left in burned Oklahoma town

BY TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

LUTHER, Okla. — While residents of one Oklahoma town sifted through their charred belongings Saturday to salvage what they could after a roaring wildfire that may have been deliberately set, residents in several other towns were being ordered to evac-

uate.

The fire near Luther, about 25 miles northeast of Oklahoma City, destroyed nearly five dozen homes and other buildings before firefighters were able to gain some measure of control Saturday.

The Luther fire was one of at

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Rebecca Kolar stands at the entrance to the house where she and her husband, Douglas, lived with their two children for 13 years before fire destroyed it Saturday in Luther, Okla.

Jim Beckel/Associated Press

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