



Speed racer

A 21-year-old woman makes a career out of drag boat racing. C1



Red-dirt roots

The Mercury interviews the Josh Abbott Band ahead of its performance at Country Stampede. D1

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Ali to be honored at funeral

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Muhammad Ali crafted the plan for his final tribute years ago, long before he died. On Friday, his family will honor him just like he planned, with a global celebration in his hometown.

Ali's obituary, Page A4
More on Ali's legacy, Page B1

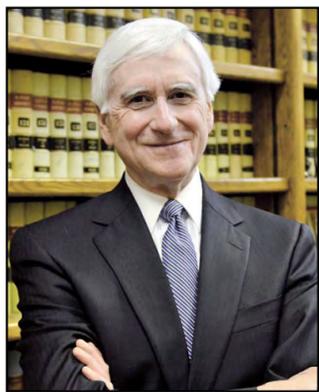
A procession will carry his body down an avenue in Louisville that bears his name, through his boyhood neighborhood and down Broadway, the scene of the parade that honored the brash young man — then known as Cassius Clay — for his gold medal at the 1960 Olympics.

A day after Ali died at age 74 from complications of Parkinson's disease, a family spokesman outlined plans for Ali's funeral as people from Manila to Louisville to his adopted home of Arizona mourned the boxing great's passing.

Family members will accompany Ali's remains to Louisville within the next two days. A private funeral will be held Thursday.

After the Friday procession, a

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Staff photo by Sarah Midgorden
Judge David Stutzman, pictured in his chambers, retired Saturday after nearly 20 years on the bench.

Stutzman retiring from bench

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Today is Sunday, which means that for the first time in nearly 20 years, David Stutzman is not a judge in Riley County District Court.

He officially retired Saturday, after joining the bench in January 1997.

And while Stutzman leaves behind the trials, chambers and a cornucopia of people who entered his courtroom on a daily basis, he isn't leaving Manhattan; nor is he leaving the law.

Stutzman, 64, has taken a part-time position as a Senior Judge with the Kansas Court of

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SUNDAY FORECAST

Sunny | HIGH 83 | LOW 59



Staff photos by Sarah Midgorden
Volunteers try to wrangle uncooperative participants during a heat of the weenie dog races Saturday morning at the 15th annual Paws on Poyntz. About 20 Dachshunds competed.

HOT DOGS

Some Dachshunds feel the need for speed... and some don't

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Sometimes it's not easy being a weenie. On Saturday morning, about 20 weenie dogs were faced with a big decision: to give it their all in a mad dash for the finish line, or to stop and smell the roses, make new friends and visit with fans.

Many chose Option 2 because after all, there's more to life than a few seconds in the winner's circle. And given the laid-back atmosphere of the 15th annual Downtown Manhattan Weenie Dog Races, they were likely to get a treat either way.

The first race only had two participants, Daphne and Jordy.

Once they were loaded into the starting gate — a temporary installation in the middle of Poyntz Avenue — the gate attendants gave a thumbs-up letting the announcer know they were ready to go. "On your marks, get set, run little weenies, run!" she yelled into the microphone.

But Daphne and Jordy had other ideas. They went a few steps out of the gate and then decided that sniffing around the track and socializing with spectators would be more fun than racing.

"C'mon babies! Keep running! C'mon Daphne, c'mon Jordy!" the announcer yelled unsuccessfully from behind the finish line.

"Well this has been confusing," she said as Daphne and Jordy's owners stepped in to collect their dogs. "Let's put our hands together for their partici-



A weenie dog named Glzmo dashes for the finish line during the first round of the annual weenie dog races at Paws on Poyntz Saturday morning.



A distracted racer stops for some attention from a spectator during his race Saturday morning.

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Moran: Fort Riley hospital now set to open in October

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Officials announced this week that Fort Riley's long-delayed new hospital is on track to open in October.

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran said Thursday that management of the facility would change hands Friday from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the entity in charge of overseeing construction, to Fort Riley's Department of Public Works, the department that will oversee facility operations.

That transfer — delayed over the past six months or so because of the facility's initial failure to meet final inspections — marks the official end of construction and begins a 120-day transition process, which if all goes according to plan, will culminate in an Oct. 5 opening.

Neither Corps officials nor Fort Riley officials immediately responded to requests for comment.

Moran said in April that Corps officials had assured him of a transfer date no later than May 30. According to that estimate, they're now only a few days behind schedule.

Corps officials announced in March, however, that they expected the facility to open in mid to late July.

As of last fall, it was set to open in January.

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ON THE BLOCK



Staff photo by Sarah Midgorden
Residents fill their plates at the Virginia Drive block party Saturday afternoon as part of the Manhattan Day celebrations. Dozens of neighborhood gatherings took place around town for the event.