

Working for workers

Tiffany Sewell-Howard, who leads the family-owned Ditch Witch, focuses on the manufacturer's most important component — its employees.

Business E-1



Sooners drop one

OU's NCAA hopes take a hit as Iowa State snaps OU's four-game winning streak.

Sports B-1



Made with love

Some foods could spark romance this Valentine's Day.

Scene D-1

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WEDNESDAY

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Picher school annexation rejected

► The referendum to fold Picher-Cardin schools into the Quapaw and Commerce districts fails by 10 votes.

By OMER GILLHAM
World Staff Writer

PICHER — Voters narrowly defeated a plan to annex Picher-Cardin schools, a public school district with plummeting enrollment within the Tar Creek Superfund site.

The 85-year-old school district sur-

vived Tuesday's election by 10 votes, with 142 voters in Picher and Cardin — or 51.8 percent — voting against annexation and 132 — 48.2 percent — voting in favor, election officials said.

The vote means Picher-Cardin public schools will not be annexed into the Quapaw and Commerce school

districts.

Picher resident Mike Rooney said he voted against the annexation because Picher-Cardin schools still have life left in them.

"I believe the annexation vote was called too soon, because the school still has a solid budget and the students don't want to leave," Rooney said.

With a combined population of about 1,800 people, Picher and Cardin

are in the center of the Tar Creek Superfund site, an abandoned Ottawa County mining zone that is polluted by decades of lead and zinc mining.

The towns are part of a \$20 million federal buyout of homes and businesses in the Superfund site.

Voter turnout was steady throughout the day, said election worker Les Coppedge.

"It was not the heaviest traffic we

SEE PICHER A-6

ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Gary Percefull is returned to the Tulsa Public Schools board.

Union voters approve a \$17 million school bond issue for construction.

Coweta passes a \$25.3 million bond issue to build two new schools.

Wagoner County voters approve a sales tax to finance fire departments.

Verdegris OKs two tax measures.

For more results, see A-6.

HOUSE: IRAQ RESOLUTION

Some await 1st vote on war

By JIM MYERS
World Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The House opened debate Tuesday on a nonbinding resolution opposing President Bush's plans for the Iraq war, offering a vote to those Oklahomans who were not in Congress when the first war vote was taken.

Only three of the seven incumbents in Oklahoma's delegation were in Congress in 2002 when lawmakers granted Bush the authority to take the country to war.

Responding to what they see as voters' call for change in last year's elections, the newly empowered House Democrats are pushing the resolution, which specifically disapproves of Bush's plans to send more than 20,000 additional U.S. combat troops to Iraq.

Rep. Dan Boren, who entered Congress in 2005 and remains the lone Democrat in the state's delegation, is expected to be the only Oklahoman to vote for the resolution.

Boren has said he likely would have voted for the war resolution in 2002, and he joined others in the del-

SEE IRAQ A-4

SPLASH PAD: ILLNESSES

City pays settlement for deaths

By P.J. LASSEK
World Staff Writer

The city of Tulsa has agreed to pay a total of \$315,000 to the parents of two unrelated children who died from a rare, water-borne disease after playing at a Mohawk Park splash pad in the summer of 2005.

Natasha and Terrell Hampton and Diana Doxey and Martinez Owens filed a "friendly" lawsuit on Monday in Tulsa County District Court.

On Tuesday, Tulsa County Judge Jefferson Sellers approved a judgment in the case.

The parents alleged in their lawsuit that the city was negligent in the deaths of their sons.

Terrell Hampton II, 9, and Martinez Owens, 7, both died Aug. 5, 2005, af-

SEE SETTLE A-6

OKLAHOMA GOVERNORS: LIVING HISTORY



KELLY KERR/Tulsa World

All of the living Oklahoma governors, past and present, were honored during the unveiling of the First Families exhibit Tuesday at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. From left, they are George Nigh, David Hall, David Walters, Brad Henry, Frank Keating, David Boren and Henry Bellmon.

First families showcased

By ANGEL RIGGS
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Brad Henry and Oklahoma's six living former governors gathered Tuesday at the Oklahoma History Center for the unveiling of an exhibit featuring Oklahoma's first families.

The governors and descendants of governors donated items for the exhibit, which is scheduled for display throughout the year.

"It is a beautiful exhibit, and I would encourage all Oklahomans to come out and see it," Gov. Henry said after a ceremony for the state's

24 governors and their families.

Past governors attending were George Nigh, Henry Bellmon, David Hall, David Boren, David Walters and Frank Keating.

Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, said the exhibit aims to tell each governor's story, including about his childhood, decision to run for office, campaign and inauguration.

The exhibit also includes biographies and "video scrapbooks."

Many children of governors who once lived in the Governor's Mansion or worked on campaigns gave insight into the role of family in the governors' lives, Blackburn said.

Recognized at the ceremony was Margaret Haskell Potter, a great-granddaughter of Oklahoma's first governor from 1907 to 1911, Charles N. Haskell, a Democrat.

Potter, who now lives in Tulsa, said that although Haskell died before she was born, she remembers family stories about his experiences as governor. His first office as governor, she said, was in a hotel in Guthrie, the state's first capital.

"I think it is a wonderful exhibit," she said, adding that Oklahoma has a "fascinating history."

Potter said she toured the exhibit and was allowed to touch the Bible used at her great-grandfather's

swearing-in ceremony.

"I am so glad that the Bible is here," she said. "They turned it to the page where he had put his hand — it was the book of Job — and I put my hand on that page."

Also included in the First Families exhibit is a display featuring Oklahoma's first ladies.

That exhibit highlights the careers and campaign contributions of the governors' wives and includes several of their inaugural gowns.

For more information about the exhibit, call (405) 522-5248.

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Club shooting puts spotlight on controversial operator

► Steve Kitchell was criticized for bouncers' assaults and cited for alcohol violations at clubs he once owned.

By CLIFTON ADCOCK
World Staff Writer

As police investigate the shootings of two teenagers at a downtown nightclub early Sunday, the case puts the club's operator back in the center of controversy.

The two victims, ages 15 and 18,

were both shot in the head or neck shortly before 2 a.m. at the Ministry of Sound club at Second Street and Greenwood Avenue, said Officer Scott Walton.

One victim was outside the club's west door, and the other was inside the club when police arrived, he said.

Police think the shooter, whose identity is not known, fired one shot and that the bullet passed through the neck of one victim and struck the other in the head, said Cpl. Dan Miller. Both were taken to St. John Medical Center in serious condition.

The club is a popular spot for young people, and on the night of the shooting, between 1,000 and 1,500 people were there, Miller said.

The Ministry of Sound is owned by

the Shark Corp. Joe Kitchell III, president of the corporation, declined to comment Tuesday without first speaking to an attorney.

His brother, Steve Kitchell, who operates the Ministry of Sound and is a former nightclub owner, plans to offer a \$10,000 reward through Crime Stoppers for information leading to the shooter's arrest, Walton said.

Steve Kitchell has owned several

SEE CLUB A-4

WEATHER

High 28 / Low 14
Mostly cloudy,
breezy, very cold

B-8



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