

Youthful enthusiasm

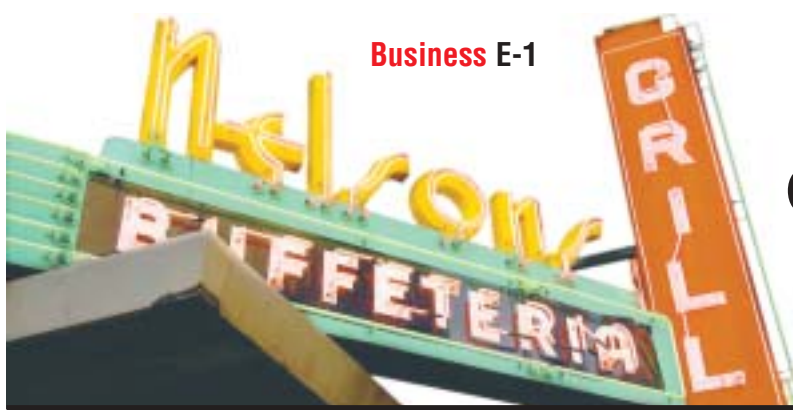
A young professionals group wants to revive Nelson's Buffeteria.

Pie in the sky

Call it custard pie, chess pie or the esteemed Jefferson Davis, this old treat does exist.

Focused for K-State

OU is trying to look past the "revenge" factor against the Wildcats. **Sports B-1**



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Paul Taggart

He has been working in Iraq since July for World Picture News, based in New York.

Former Tulsan released in Iraq

► Paul Taggart, a photographer, had been abducted Sunday morning.

By BRIAN BARBER
World Staff Writer

A former Tulsa man who was kidnapped Sunday while working as a photographer in Iraq was released Tuesday, his parents confirmed.

Paul Taggart, 24, was unharmed but could not go into many details about his ordeal, said his parents, Davis and Deborah Taggart of Tulsa, who spoke to him by telephone.

"All we wanted to hear was that he is alive and well," his mother said. "He sounded good. We're just so happy that it's over."

Taggart, a 1998 Booker T. Washington High School graduate, has been working in Iraq since July for World Picture News, based in New York.

SEE **FREED** A-4



Mayor Bill LaFortune

He says councilors have Tulsa's best interest in mind.

Mayor calls for halt to recall effort

By PAUL TYRRELL
World Assistant City Editor

Mayor Bill LaFortune on Tuesday called for an end to an effort to recall City Councilors Chris Medlock and Jim Mautino.

"It does not paint a true picture of the city of Tulsa," the mayor said at a news conference. "We, the citizens of Tulsa, have worked together to get where we are today. The recall hampers our efforts to find real solutions to the problems facing our city."

LaFortune said the city did not have time to spend on a protracted effort to recall the councilors.

"We do not need three, four or five months of argument," he said. "Instead, we should be using that time to work at City Hall to move Tulsa forward."

A group of about 25 people calling themselves the Coalition for Responsible Government 2004 registered last week with the city clerk as an issues political action committee and announced plans to initiate recall petitions targeting Medlock and Mautino.

The group's chairman, Jon Davidson, said he was "surprised to hear those comments from the mayor, based on the brief history since April with the

SEE **RECALL** A-6

Court to mull Commandments

► The Supreme Court will consider the legality of displaying the Ten Commandments on government property; case is likely to be heard in February.

By GINA HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will consider whether the Ten Commandments may be displayed on government property, ending a 25-year silence on a church-state issue that has prompted bitter legal fights around the country.

Ten Commandments displays are common in town squares and courthouses and on other government-owned land, including the Supreme

Court. A wall carving of Moses holding the tablets is in the courtroom where justices will hear arguments in the case.

Courts around the country have splintered over whether the exhibits violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

The disputes have led to emotional battles, such as one in Alabama by Chief Justice Roy Moore, who lost his job after defying a federal

SEE **DISPLAYS** A-3



HARRY CABLUCK / Associated Press

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott speaks near a granite slab bearing the Ten Commandments on the Capitol grounds on Tuesday. The U.S. Supreme Court said Tuesday it will address whether the display is an unconstitutional attempt to establish state-sponsored religion.

Other Supreme Court action on Tuesday

► Agreed to consider the constitutionality of a federal law that requires state prisons to accommodate inmate religions, from Christianity to Satanism.

► Heard arguments on whether the government can send immigrants back to countries that haven't agreed to accept them.

► Agreed to decide whether Hawaii went too far to keep gasoline affordable for residents when it imposed rent caps on dealer-run stations.

► Sidestepped a dispute over whether Internet providers can be forced to identify subscribers illegally swapping music and movies online.

Energy still packs punch



MICHAEL WYKE / Tulsa World

Roughnecks Danny Demmitt and Elijah Taylor move equipment into place as they prepare to add a new section of pipe to a well being drilled about three miles west of Stroud on Oct. 5.

But benefits of higher prices declining, study finds

By RUSSELL RAY
World Staff Writer

In Oklahoma, high energy prices have long been something to rejoice about.

Rich in oil and natural gas, the state has always thrived during times of high energy prices.

The effects include more drilling, more energy production and more jobs. Tax revenues from the

increased production boost state coffers, and local economies prosper from the increased investment.

When prices are high, real estate agents sell more houses, restaurants serve more customers and barbershops cut more hair.

The party hasn't ended. The Oklahoma economy still benefits more than it suffers from high energy prices.

But the economic stimulus has greatly diminished, a recent study by Oklahoma State University shows.

"We're an important energy state, but we're declining in importance," said OSU economist Mark Snead.

Since 2000, Oklahoma's oil and gas industry has added 6,000 jobs amid rising prices for both commodities, Snead's study indicates.

However, energy costs in Oklahoma have simultaneously risen by 38 percent, or \$3 billion.

The sharp increase in Oklahoma's energy costs is "literally the first increase in real energy costs since the early '80s," Snead said.

The higher costs have largely offset the benefits of high energy prices.

SEE **ENERGY** A-7

Don't expect to win big yet

► Even if voters approve a state lottery, it won't automatically join multistate games.

By RANDY KREHBIEL
World Staff Writer

The announcement last week-end that a single winning Powerball ticket, sold in Delaware, could have been worth as much

as \$214.7 million no doubt whetted the appetite of those Oklahomans eager for their own chance at chance fortune.

They ought not to forget the shortest route to Kansas or Missouri just yet, however. Even if voters approve a state lottery Nov. 2, there's no guarantee of when or whether it would join one of the multistate games that produce jackpots such as the one claimed Tuesday by 33 employees of a printing firm.

"The idea behind the legislation was to provide as much flexibility as possible," state Finance Director Scott Meacham said. "If you look at other states, their lotteries have evolved over time."

The lottery bill that would be enacted by State Question 705 is 36 pages long, but most of that deals with business details. The legislation would create a

SEE **GAME** A-3

Multistate lotteries

