



## School for fathers

Teen dads learn about parenting.

Scene D-1

## Great Goosen

Retief Goosen takes a two-stroke lead into the final round of the U.S. Open.

Sports B-1



## Love and death

Philbrook is setting for Shakespeare tragedy.

Scene H-1



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# SUNDAY

JUNE 20, 2004

# TULSA WORLD

SINCE 1905

★★ FINAL HOME EDITION



\$1.50

## Mayor, 13 others to tour arenas

► The purpose of the five-day, seven-city tour is to gather ideas for building Tulsa's 18,000-seat arena.

By **BRIAN BARBER**  
World Staff Writer

Pop stars, rock bands and country singers aren't the only ones doing arena tours this summer.

Mayor Bill LaFortune and 13 others will leave Monday on a five-day, seven-city tour of arenas and convention centers to gather ideas for Tulsa.

Voters last year approved the Vision 2025 package that included \$183 million to build an 18,000-seat arena and to renovate the existing conven-

tion center.

"I'm excited to see what's out there," LaFortune said. "This is one of the biggest projects that the city has ever undertaken, so we have a duty to explore all of the possibilities."

There have been whispers that the city did not ask for enough money for the project and that it might have to be scaled back.

But LaFortune said the voters will get what was promised.

"We stated the number 18,000 during the Vision 2025 campaign, and that's what we're going to have," he said.

The mayor said he met last week with a Big 12 Conference representative who told him that the arena would have to seat at least 17,500 to be considered for the conference's basketball tournament.

"Some people are stressing quality over quantity, but we really have to do everything we can to be competitive in size," he said.

The arena will be built by Tulsa Vision Builders, a joint venture between Manhattan Construction Co. and

Flintco Inc.

Tulsa Vision Builders Project Director Bart Boatright said funding has been a concern.

While \$183 million sounds like a lot of money, he said, it translates to about \$135 million for the arena and the convention center renovation once the soft costs, including the land purchase and labor, are subtracted.

"We know facilities of this size are built with this budget," he said. "But what level of finish do we want it to have? If we had more money, we could certainly spend it."

SEE TOUR A-3

## Tar Creek lawsuit alleges fraud

By **OMER GILLHAM**  
World Staff Writer

Allegations of fraud, doctored time slips and the mishandling of contaminated soil are detailed in a whistleblower lawsuit involving the cleanup of lead-poisoned yards at the Tar Creek Superfund site.

Former employees and contractors of Morrison Knudsen Corp. allege that the construction group operated a comprehensive scheme to maximize profits from a federal contract, which was awarded for the cleanup of polluted yards, schoolyards and other public areas in Picher, Cardin and other Superfund sites in Ottawa County, the civil suit states.

The allegations are contained in a recently unsealed lawsuit filed under the False Claims Act in U.S. Northern District Court in Tulsa. Morrison Knudsen, the defendant, now is known as Washington Group International Inc., based in Idaho.

The lawsuit was filed in January 2000, but portions remained sealed until this year, documents show.

The civil suit was filed on behalf of the U.S. government by seven individuals seeking to recover government funds and perhaps be rewarded for the effort, said attorneys with McKinney & Stringer, a law firm representing the plaintiffs.

The partial unsealing of the lawsuit comes four years after federal agents carrying search warrants swept into Morrison Knudsen offices in Picher and bundled up several hundred boxes of records on work within the Tar Creek Superfund site.

No criminal charges have been filed against the company. But a federal order dated March 2 mentions "criminal proceedings" which may or may not produce charges. Other allegations remain sealed under a court order.

Washington Group spokesman Jack Herrmann said such claims against his company are baseless.

"Upon learning of the claims four years ago, Washington Group promptly investigated them and found them to be without merit," Herrmann said. "They are baseless and without merit today as well."

Plaintiffs include David A. Lovelace and Billy D. Freeman Jr., former Morrison Knudsen employees who investigated their own company and then talked to federal officials before being terminated in 1999, the suit states.

The former employees have extensive documents and videotape to sup-

SEE CLEANUP A-8

### For more

Tar Creek revisited. G-1

## U.S. airstrike kills 16 in Iraq



ABDUL-KADR SAADI / Associated Press

Residents of a Fallujah, Iraq, neighborhood walk through the wreckage of their homes, which were destroyed in a U.S. airstrike Saturday.

► A militant leader with suspected links to al-Qaida is the target of the attack in Fallujah.

By **JIM KRANE**  
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The U.S. military stepped up its campaign against militant leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, launching an airstrike Saturday that pulverized a suspected hideout in Fallujah. At least 16 people were killed and several houses in the residential neighborhood were wrecked.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the

military's deputy operations chief, said multiple intelligence sources suggested that "a significant number of people in the Zarqawi network" were in the house at the time of the attack.

U.S. officials said they did not know if al-Zarqawi was there.

Outraged residents gathered around the site after the explosions damaged eight homes in a poor neighborhood of the city. The

Health Ministry said at least 16 people were killed, but witnesses said at least 20 people, including women and children, were killed.

Kimmitt said the attack set off ammunition and weapons stored in the safehouse, triggering "multiple secondary explosions" that could have caused some of the casualties and damage.

Residents, however, accused the United States of striking twice — the second time after rescuers moved into the site trying to pull out victims.

The surprise breakfast-hour strike was the first significant U.S.

military move in Fallujah since April, when Marines backed away from a bloody three-week siege against insurgents holed up there. Since the U.S. forces left, residents have said extremist influence in the Sunni Muslim city, west of Baghdad, has grown.

Al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian-born militant believed to have ties to al-Qaida, has been blamed for a string of car bombs across Iraq, including the Thursday blast that killed 35 people and wounded 145 at an Iraqi military recruiting center in

SEE IRAQ A-8

## Many seniors cool to drug cards

By **ROBERT EVATT**  
World Staff Writer

Jim Brown was ready for the new Medicare-approved discount drug cards.

The veteran pharmacist and president of Freeland-Brown Pharmacy at 4112 S. Peoria Ave. studied up on the complex program and started telling his clients about the cards well before they went into effect.

"We've had advertising up to tell people about it," he said.

So the fact that only three of Brown's customers have used a card since their introduction June 1 isn't from lack of trying. Instead, a large number of Tulsa seniors are either confused, wary or apathetic toward the program.

"Most of the reaction is general confusion," said Carol Carter, marketing and public relations coordinator

for LIFE Senior Services. "Some are irritated they aren't saving more money."

Seniors gathering at the Henthorne Community Center for a game of bridge agreed.

"I don't really understand the instructions and who's eligible," said Kitty Sweeney.

Many of the bridge players said

SEE CARDS A-8



Samantha Grant, a pharmacy tech at Freeland-Brown Pharmacy in Tulsa, enters customer information into a computer. Since June 1, only three customers have used the new Medicare-approved discount drug cards at the pharmacy.

A. CUERVO / Tulsa World