

A QUICK READ OF TODAY'S NEWSPAPER.

FORE: The Masters is set to tee it up today at Augusta. **B-1**



WEST BANK WOES: Israeli workers cut down a Palestinian farmer's olive grove to make way for a security barrier, setting off clashes. **C-6**



DEAL OFF: The wife of former Enron Corp. finance chief Andrew Fastow withdraws a guilty plea to a tax crime after a judge rejects her sentencing deal. **E-1**



NATURAL MYSTIC: A Tulsa artist incorporates earthly objects into her paintings. **D-3**



MILD

Partly cloudy, high of 72.
Weather D-12

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BRIDGE.....	D-10
BUSINESS.....	E-1
CLASSIFIEDS.....	C-1
COMICS.....	D-10,11
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LOTTERIES

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Missouri
Pick 3: 6-8-8
Pick 4: 8-3-8-5
ShowMe: 6-8-12-20-36
Lotto: 8-11-16-18-25-26

Kansas
Pick 3: 2-9-4
Cash: 7-11-20-25-31-
Super Cashball -13

Texas
Pick 3: 2-8-7
Cash 5: 4-5-7-28-37
Lotto: 3-26-31-35-41
Bonus Ball -28

Iowa
Powerball: 2-7-16-35-37-
Powerball 10-

NEWS

EXTENDED DUTY: Some U.S. troops may have to stay in Iraq longer than expected, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says. **A-4**

ECHOES OF THE PAST: Comparisons to Vietnam fill the debate as lawmakers discuss the violence in Iraq. **A-5**

NO PEACE IN PEACEKEEPING: Iraq's Shiite uprising is transforming the role of America's coalition partners. **A-6**

AWAITING RETRIAL: The only person convicted of aiding the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers is freed by a German court pending a retrial. **A-7**

ON THE SQUARE: At age 100, Times Square still defines New York. **A-8**

FISCAL FANFARE: John Kerry says he would put a lid on U.S. spending even if he had to reverse his campaign promises. **A-10**

JUDGMENT FOUGHT: The Bush administration seeks to overturn a judge's order awarding damages to 17 Americans taken prisoner during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. **A-12**

TAKEN FOR A RIDE: Mayor Bill LaFortune spends an hour riding a Tulsa Transit bus and talking to passengers about their frustrations with the system. **A-13**

SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE: Rwanda marks the 10-year anniversary of its tribal genocide. **C-6**

SPORTS

NEW HOME: San Jose State head football coach Fitz Hill is thrilled with the new addition to his staff — former TU coach Keith Burns. **B-1**

SCENE

WHATEVER AND EVER, AMEN: Ben Folds' solo concert tonight is at the TU Reynolds Center. **D-3**

SHAPE DEBATE: Americans are weighing in on changes to the food pyramid. **D-8**

BUSINESS

UNION CALLS SBC: SBC Communications Inc. receives a 30-day notice that as many as 100,000 of its workers represented by the Communications Workers of America may go on strike. **E-1**

GREAT PERSONNEL: The International Association of Administrative Professionals prepares for its annual week honoring office support personnel. **E-1**

ACQUISITION: Energy explorer Kerr-McGee Corp. is buying Denver-based Westport Resources Corp. for about \$2.5 billion in stock. **E-1**

OWASSO:

Hunt Properties also has plans for several other retail outlets and as many as six restaurants.

FROM A-1

The city was a big force in helping us convince these tenants and make them understand the dynamics of Owasso."

Shindler made the announcement via a teleconference in an Owasso City Hall filled with municipal leaders.

Workers are expected to start construction on the center in four to five months, with a completion date set around October 2005, he said.

A 174,000-square-foot Target and a nearly 74,000-square-foot Belk will be the centerpieces of the shopping complex, which also will include Hobby Lobby, Linens and Things, Pier 1 Imports, Ross Stores and Petsmart, Shindler said.

Hunt Properties also has plans for several other retail outlets and as many as six restaurants.

Bordered on the west by Garnett Road, the development will sit just south of the highly successful Owasso Market, which features Wal-Mart, Kohl's and Lowe's among its many retailers. A Home Depot is across U.S. 169 from the planned development.

When completed, the retail center will create between 800 and 1,000 new jobs, City Manager Rodney Ray said. Bishop, the finance director, said: "If you open another grocery store, people don't buy more groceries. They just buy them somewhere else."

"But these are a lot of businesses you have to go 20 miles south to have those shopping opportunities."

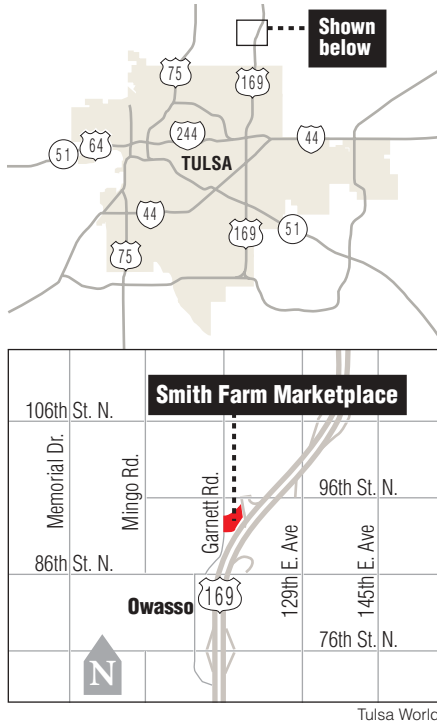
"For all of those people in that 'funnel area' who are much farther north, these are people who will be shopping in Owasso who may have been shopping in Joplin (Mo.) or Coffeyville (Kan.) These are new dollars in terms of sales tax revenue for us," she said.

Ray said the retail complex would be called the Smith Farm Marketplace, after the family from which the land was purchased.

A former civic leader for whom a local elementary school is also named, the late Hayward Smith operated a dairy farm in the area, Ray said.

The "Marketplace" will be fashioned after a similar center in McKinney, Texas, just north of Dallas.

Rickey Hayes, an Owasso municipal



leader, said the Texas development caught his eye last spring while he was visiting his daughter in McKinney.

Hayes called Hunt Properties and the sides began to talk business.

"When he initially called, I had to get out my maps and figure out where Owasso was," Shindler said.

Ultimately, however, he said, his company was attracted to Owasso because of its location and the city's "funnel theory."

The theory, according to officials, claims that because of Owasso's transportation system — principally U.S. 169 and 75 and Oklahoma 20 — it is the collection point for more than 312,000 potential shoppers in the region.

Demographic studies also have shown that between 60 percent to 67 percent of Owasso's retail sales come from residents outside the city, Hayes said.

That kind of homework sold Shindler, who concluded that Owasso was "very, very, very under-retailed."

"We think this location is kind of the center of Owasso," he said. "There is already a huge retail component there with the Lowe's and the Wal-Mart and the Kohl's."

"We just thought there was a tremendous amount of synergy that had been created already," Shindler said.

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Malpractice measure stays stuck

► Senate Republicans lose in their latest effort to put the bill to a vote.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans lost a third attempt to curb medical malpractice lawsuits Wednesday but said they would keep forcing votes on an issue that they blame for rising health care costs.

On a 49-48 vote, Republican leaders fell 11 votes short of the 60 needed to force the Senate to consider their bill to limit pain-and-suffering damages that juries can award in malpractice suits against obstetricians and emergency room doctors.

Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., says the GOP won't give up on getting

medical malpractice legislation wanted by physicians and insurance companies through the Senate this election year.

Republicans say their measure could help reduce unnecessary lawsuits and higher malpractice premiums that make it harder for doctors to practice. They tried last year and again earlier this year to force votes on similar measures but failed.

The White House said, "The crisis faced by obstetricians, gynecologists, and emergency and trauma care professionals illustrates the urgent need for national medical liability reforms."

Democrats accuse Republicans of playing up to their donors in the medical and insurance lobbies and say that limiting damages is unfair to injured patients and their families.

"I've never seen such special-interest

legislation," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "Instead of going about doing the people's business, we seem to be going about the political action committees' business, and that's why, of course, nothing is getting done."

The American Medical Association and the American Insurers Association, longtime Republican allies, say frivolous lawsuits drive up insurance premiums for doctors. In several states, obstetricians have blamed higher insurance bills for forcing them to stop delivering babies.

The Association of Trial Lawyers of America, allied to many Democrats, say insurers' poor returns on investments are more responsible for premium increases. The group also argues that state-imposed caps on damages do not lead to drops in premiums.

TURNER:

Turner's attorney wouldn't yet comment, but said Turner denies any criminal wrongdoing.

FROM A-1

Wednesday that she received a notification of possible voting crimes from the Tulsa County Election Board.

The information in the notification will be referred to the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office for investigation. Upon receipt of a report, the district attorney's criminal division will determine whether misdemeanor, felony or no charges should be filed, Greaves said.

Assistant Election Board Secretary Shelly Boggs said there were two incidents of possible voting crimes that involve two Republican voters as well as Turner and his wife, Nancy, leading up to the District 3 special election Tuesday.

One occurred when the Turners drove two people to the election board Friday for in-person absentee voting in the Democratic primary.

Boggs said Nancy Turner entered the election board office with the two voters, who asked for ballots. A check of their registrations indicated that they were Republican. They were denied ballots.

Boggs said the two voters also hap-

pened to be among the 23 Republicans who inadvertently received absentee ballots in the mail about two weeks ago.

The election board retrieved 20 of those ballots, which did not include the ballots sent to the two voters, she said. But the election board had telephoned the voters about the mix-up and told them that they were not eligible to vote because it was a Democratic primary.

Turner declined to comment on the incident, other than to say he drives a lot of people to the polls during elections.

He referred all comments to his attorney, Mark Darrah.

"This is a freaky deal," Darrah said. Darrah added that he needed to review the allegations before he can comment. He did say that Turner denies any criminal wrongdoing.

The other incident involved nine Democratic absentee ballots that were witnessed by either Turner or his wife. State law prohibits a candidate or a close relative from being a witness. Those ballots were voided, Boggs said.

Turner admitted that he signed as a witness but said he was unaware of the law.

"Oh my ... This is the damndest mess," Turner said.

Patrick called the whole situation ironic.

"What goes around comes around," he said. "I believe that if there is suspicion of wrongdoing, it needs to be investigated, and they need to either charge him or clear him."

City Attorney Martha Rupp Carter said the city charter has a provision suspending an elected official charged with a felony, pending a trial or disposition of the charge. If there is a conviction, the office is deemed vacated from the date the charge was filed, she said.

The city charter also has a provision allowing the council to remove a member, Carter said. Such an action can be appealed in district court.

The District 3 race has been plagued with problems.

A recount of the initial Feb. 3 vote left Patrick the winner by three votes over Turner. But Turner went to court because of alleged voting irregularities.

A Tulsa County district judge, ordered by the state Supreme Court to take up the case, voided the election results and ordered a special election after it was found that enough Republicans had cast ballots in the closed Democratic race to leave uncertainty about who actually won.

No Republicans filed for the seat, leaving the two Democrats to vie for the post in a primary election.

In preparation for the special election, 23 absentee ballots were accidentally sent to Republican voters and one to an independent. The election board was able to retrieve 20 of those ballots. Officials removed the identification numbers of those voters from the system to ensure that they would not be counted.

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