



Who will be 'The Apprentice'?

No matter who is picked, Donald Trump will still be the boss.

Scene D-1

Beaming in jobs

DirecTV Inc. is bringing a call center to Tulsa.
Business E-1

Outsource option

Williams Cos. Inc. considers hiring IBM Global Services.
Business E-1



Reaching out

Doug Morganroth is about to get a state-of-the-art arm.

Scene D-1

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THURSDAY

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Bush: Sharon plan OK

▶ His endorsement of the Israeli leader's outline to keep West Bank settlements is denounced by Palestinians.

By **BARRY SCHWEID**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a historic policy break, President Bush on Wednesday endorsed Israel's plans to retain West Bank settlements in any peace accord with the Palestinians. Bush also ruled out the return of Palestinian refugees to Israel.

An elated Israeli Prime Minister Ari-

el Sharon said his plan to pull back from parts of the West Bank and Gaza, hailed by Bush, would create "a new and better reality for the state of Israel."

But Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia — with whom the Bush administration deals while boycotting leader Yasser Arafat — strongly criticized Bush's move.

"He is the first president who has legitimized the settlements in Palestinian territories," Qureia said of Bush. "We as Palestinians reject that. We cannot accept that. We reject it and we refuse it." Arafat had earlier called the idea "the complete end of the peace process."

Palestinian leaders had previously said they had been assured by the Bush administration they would be consulted before any endorsement of Sharon's plan. No Palestinians were

SEE ISRAEL A-7



President Bush welcomes Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to make a joint statement to reporters at the White House in Washington.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS / Associated Press

Price of gas on the rise

By **RUSSELL RAY**
World Staff Writer

Gasoline prices at the pump in Oklahoma continue to rise amid tight fuel supplies and higher worldwide demand.

Most Tulsa gas stations were charging \$1.69 for a gallon of gasoline Wednesday, up from \$1.59 a few days ago. The national average is \$1.78, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report.

"This is absolutely outrageous," Pete Delesdernier said as he filled his car with fuel. "We have five kids. There are places we have to go."

Others expressed helplessness or indifference over the rising cost of fuel.

"You have got to have gas," one motorist said. "What can you do?"

U.S. gasoline supplies are slightly lower than last year, according to the Department of Energy.

A number of factors are restricting U.S. fuel supplies, including seasonal maintenance at refineries, supply dis-

SEE GAS A-3



KELLY KERR/Tulsa World

A sign at a Git-n-Go store at 51st Street and Mingo Road reflects the recent local gasoline price increase.

Test errors aggravate educators

By **JAY COOPER**
World Staff Writer

Many Oklahoma teachers opened standardized test administration manuals Monday and Tuesday morning and found that sample questions for students had the incorrect answers.

It was not a good sign for many teachers and administrators who know that standardized test scores determine whether schools are penalized under the No Child Left Behind Act.

"It is a frightening experience because the grade of the school depends on the test results," said Chelsea Cook, a principal for Braggs School in Muskogee County. "If the samples are wrong, how can you trust the tests?"

SEE TESTS A-3

Fallujah truce shaky



JOHN MOORE/Associated Press

U.S. Marine Lt. John Hood of Athens, Ga., looks through the sights of a homemade Iraqi multiple rocket launcher Wednesday after Marines from the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment found large caches of weapons in Fallujah.

Italian hostage executed; U.N. develops handover plan

By **JASON KEYSER**
AND **LOURDES NAVARRO**
Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. warplanes strafed gunmen in Fallujah on Wednesday, and more than 100 guerrillas with rocket-propelled grenades pounded a lone Marine armored vehicle lost in the streets — a sign of heavy battles ahead if Marines resume a full assault on this besieged city.

With a truce crumbling and President Bush calling for a key U.N. role to keep the country's political transition moving amid the violence, a top U.N. envoy proposed an Iraqi caretaker government in a formula that abandons a U.S.-favored plan.

Meanwhile, Iraqi militants executed one of four Italian hostages, Italy confirmed. It was the first known execution of a foreign hostage in Iraq.



With 22 foreigners currently held captive and at least 87 U.S. troops killed halfway into April, the unprecedented violence has largely eclipsed the political process. Negotiations were being held

on both fronts — at Fallujah in central Iraq and at Najaf in the south — but the U.S. military has warned it will launch new assaults if talks do not bear fruit.

In the south, the country's top cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, persuaded radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to drop defiant negotiating demands — including that U.S. troops withdraw

SEE IRAQ A-4

Inhofe critiques Bush's demeanor

By **JIM MYERS**
World Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Jim Inhofe said Wednesday that President Bush sounded a "little insecure" and "beaten up" during his televised remarks and press conference the previous evening.

Although Bush could not single out a major mistake he has made since the Sept. 11, 2001,

terrorist attacks against the United States, Inhofe did so.

"The biggest mistake the administration made is (the president) let Ted Kennedy and others sucker him into dropping the ball on the connection between Saddam Hussein and 9/11," the Oklahoma Republican said.

Inhofe said he planned a Sen-

SEE INHOFE A-7



Carroll Fisher

The state insurance commissioner makes a brief appearance before a multicounty grand jury.

Fisher invokes Fifth before grand jury

By **MARIE PRICE**
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — State Insurance Commissioner Carroll Fisher said Wednesday that he asserted his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination during a brief appearance before a multicounty grand jury.

Fisher, who has complained previously about the grand jury process and not being allowed to give "complete answers" to pros-

ecutors' questions, said that was still the case Wednesday.

"I now recognize that that forum is to indict, not to exonerate, so therefore I invoked my Fifth Amendment rights under the Constitution and did not answer any questions," he said. "They asked me two questions and got the same answer, so they just let me go. So I will not be going back anymore."

SEE FISHER A-3