

Sixteen people are accused of exchanging food stamps for cash at a Tulsa convenience store. **A15**



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Tickets to ride ran out of gas

For many years, my father was the sports editor of The Daily Oklahoman in Oklahoma City and, as such, sometimes knew where the good sports tickets were: who had tickets they weren't using, who had tickets for sale.

Most years, OU was very good at football. Most years, games were sold out.

One year almost like any other, a friend and I wound up with 10 tickets to the OU-Colorado game in Boulder. What was a bit out of the ordinary here was that Colorado was thought to have one of its best teams in some while.

Since the beginning of sports time, people have wondered why Colorado wasn't better at football. My guess is the great potential of the place is also its burden. It is crazy pretty. Got beat 28-7? Let's go ski away the blues and see a moose and an eagle or two.

Great natural beauty can attract its share of relaxed athletes.

Budding capitalists: We paid face value for the 10 tickets: \$20, \$30, tops, probably.

This being America, the birthplace of free enterprise and epicenter of capitalism, my friend and I put some numbers together and came to the conclusion that soon our assets would be sitting pretty. We could sell the 10 football tickets for the going market price, with some estimates ranging as high as \$500 per. That's heady potential for a couple of guys with \$1.98 in their pockets, total.

Buying a car for face value and selling it for much more is called genius.

Buying a ticket for face value and selling it for more is called scalping. That's something of an unfit term because the so-called victim initiates the action and is pleased to pay.

My friend drove a Ford that ran like a top. Seriously — it seemed to run in place a lot. I had a Chevrolet that needed work. So to maximize profit, we hitchhiked to Boulder.

To make an unfortunate story pass more quickly: Two hours before the game, we turned down offers of \$250 each for the tickets near midfield. One hour before the kickoff, the skies turned purple and heavy snow began. Fans fled. We sold the tickets for \$5 each and caught a ride home with a man who complained of dizziness and drove 45 mph.

Soar like an Eagle ticket: Ticket scalping has come into focus with the amazing prices being asked for performances at the BOK Center. For the opener, some scalpers are asking more than \$500 per Eagle.

Some scalpers don't have the tickets they're hustling. If they can get a \$1,000 offer, he or she could try to buy one for \$750.

Ordinances against scalping are about as effective as growling.

Limiting order sizes might help some. Those with the best dialing machines have an unfair advantage over regular people.

The desire to sell tickets online, fast and for an extra fee accentuates the scalping problem and is basically the same desire involved in asking more for tickets than what originally was paid.

Schools face decline in state funding

■ Aid to Tulsa Public Schools, however, will remain the same.

BY ANGEL RIGGS
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Nearly half of Oklahoma's schools will receive less state funding this year compared with last year, although Tulsa Public Schools' state aid is expected to remain flat, according to figures provided Thursday to the state Board of Education.

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ONLINE

See state aid figures for all the state's school districts:

tulsaworld.com/initialstateaid

The state will send Tulsa Public Schools \$112.4 million in the fiscal year that began July 1, according to the state Department of Education.

"While public school enrollment has increased and the higher costs for fuel, utilities and food are going to be a grave challenge for



CHALLENGES

Sandy Garrett: The state superintendent says schools face more costs, but without more state aid for operations.

the board's monthly meeting.

This year 224 school districts, or nearly 42 percent, including Sand Springs, Jenks, Skiatook, Sperry and Owasso, will receive less state money compared with last year.

A decrease in state aid is because of declining enrollment for 117 of the districts, said James White, assistant state superintendent.

Student enrollment is a major factor in whether schools will receive an increase or decrease in state funding. The amount of local

many school districts, the Legislature did not appropriate additional funding for school operations for the 2008-2009 school year," state Superintendent Sandy Garrett said in a written statement released at

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THE ART OF SCIENCE

POP! goes the easel



Emma Burrell, 4, and Tulsa Children's Museum board member Jamie Oliphant react to Emma's colored-bubble art creation during a science presentation at McClure Elementary School's Head Start. STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World

■ Children make artwork with bubbles, but they don't blow the chance to learn.

BY SHANNON MUCHMORE
World Staff Writer

The children seemed blissfully unaware that they were learning about art and science as they made bubbles in the form of cubes, triangles and dodecahedrons. They smiled at their creations for only a few seconds before they could no longer resist the urge to burst them.

They were experiencing POP! The Art and Science of Bubbles, a traveling exhibit

of the Tulsa Children's Museum.

"Instead of lecturing to the kids, we let the kids play," said Allyson Jannotta, a museum board member.

The children construct shapes with Zome tools, which are like high-tech Tinker Toys construction sets. They dip the tools in tubs of bubble solution and watch the shapes appear.

The technique is a learning aid in classrooms and can be used at the collegiate level to construct DNA shapes and

other natural shapes.

"We have parents and adults who want to play with them, too," Jannotta said. "Bubbles are kind of the great equalizer."

The art of the exhibit's title comes from cups of bubble solution mixed with food coloring. An air pump makes the bubbles, and children can press pieces of paper down over the cups to make funky, colorful artwork to take home.

The bubble presentation is one of two traveling exhibits shown by the nonprofit children's museum. The board members have taken it to festivals, schools and other

events since it started touring in November, Jannotta said.

"We're bringing the experience of the children's museum to the community," she said. "It's that hands-on, interactive learning."

The organization bills itself as a museum without walls. A group of parents who were frustrated with the lack of educational opportunities for children in Tulsa began the museum last June.

They found that there were efforts to create children's museums about 20 years ago, but they soon faltered. The board hired a firm to conduct

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Make your own bubbles

Solution:

1 cup water
1/2 cup dish-washing soap
1/4 cup corn syrup
(for flexible and durable bubbles)

Creative bubble blowers:

Milk cartons with the ends cut out

Cookie cutters

Macaroni noodles

Juice cans with the ends removed

Fly swatters

State worker recalls gun arrest at Capitol

BY BARBARA HOBEROCK
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Unlike state Rep. Sally Kern, a longtime state employee was arrested four years ago for carrying a concealed gun into the state Capitol.

Kern was stopped at the Capitol entrance Wednesday for carrying a gun in her purse. The Oklahoma City Republican was allowed to

take the gun to her vehicle and return to the Capitol.

Jeff D. Davis, 56, wasn't so lucky. In 2004, Davis, who had worked at the Capitol for about 19 years at the time, was running late.

The weapon in his briefcase showed up when it went through a security checkpoint.

"They saw it and got really upset and arrested me at that time," Davis said Thursday.

Davis, who works for the Office of State Finance, also worked evenings as a private financial consultant.

"There were some areas of town I didn't feel safe," said Davis, who had a permit to carry the gun.

Davis said he forgot to take the weapon out of his briefcase.

"They thought that I knowingly and willfully brought a firearm into the state Capitol," he said.

Davis was taken to the Oklahoma County Jail, where he sat for nine hours before posting \$2,500 bond.

He was found guilty of a misdemeanor and paid a \$50 fine plus court costs. It cost him about \$1,600 to get the issue resolved, he said.

Asked whether Kern should have been arrested, Davis said,

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