

*Senate, continued from page 4*

He said once families sign up for maternity coverage in a health care plan, it is impossible to remove the coverage, even if the family decides not to have any further children.

"If you are going to provide a second day, everybody's going to have to pay for it — your premiums are going to go up."

In defense of the measure, Sen. Bernice Shedrick, D-Stillwater, said the measure allows doctors to make the determination if mother and child need the additional coverage. She called the first 48 hours after birth a "critical" time.

"I don't think there is one of us on this floor who would trade a \$400 premium for the life of a little baby child," she said.

Calling Oklahoma the number one state per capita in the nation in terms of uninsured citizens, Williams said even if the measure resulted in higher premiums, the preventative aspect of it would save a baby being placed in a neo-natal unit at a cost of roughly \$1,000 per day.

After adopting the conference committee report, members passed the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 42 to 3.

**SB703**, by Sen. Howard Hendrick, R-Bethany, modifies procedures for interpreting statutes and agency rules under the Administrative Procedures Act.

After adopting the conference committee report, members passed the measure with a vote of 39 to 1.

**SB976**, by Sen. Jack Bell, D-Idabel, promotes the goals of the Oklahoma Recycling Initiatives. It prohibits government units from restricting donations or sales of recoverable materials.

After adopting the conference committee report, members passed the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 38 to 4.

Members also adopted **SCR63**, by Sen. Trish Weedn, D-Purcell, after removing its emergency clause and advancing it direct to the calendar. Also **HCR1102**, by Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, was adopted.

Members voted to reject the conference committee report to **HB2361**, requesting further conference.

The Senate is scheduled to reconvene at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 13, 1996.

*"All cases are unique and  
very similar to others."  
T.S. Eliot*

## MORE FROM THE HOUSE FLOOR, THURSDAY, MAY 9

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The floor of the House was not the only place proposals were being made on Thursday.

As the day's short session drew to a close, Rep. Jim Glover, D-Elgin, recognized Ryan Hawkins, a runner from the Chief Clerk's office, and his girlfriend in the House's north gallery.

"I think he has something he wants to ask her," Glover said as the pair stood side-by-side.

Without hesitation, Hawkins dropped to one knee, pulled a ring from his pocket and asked the young woman to marry him.

Her answer was obvious.

So, too, were the answers of representatives to the following proposals put before them on the House floor:

**HB2100**, by Rep. Larry Rice, D-Pryor,

authorizing the retention of certain weapons by law enforcement officers upon retirement, received a passing vote of 94-0 after the adoption of the bill's conference committee report. Rice told the House that the bill had returned in the same form in which it had left.

House members also adopted by unanimous consent **SCR 61**, by Rep. Bill Mitchell, D-Lindsay, praising the life and achievements of the late Matthew Brent Hatcher, a rural firefighter who lost his life in the line of duty.

By unanimous consent, also, the conference committee reports on the following **House measures** were rejected and further conference requested and granted: **2172**, **2501** and **2796**.

**HR1068** was assigned to the House Transportation Committee.

## TOURISM WEEK BRINGS RECOGNITION TO TULSA RESIDENT

By Marta McCloskey  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating, along with Cabinet Secretary of Tourism and Recreation, Ed Cook recognized Tulsa resident Marty Benson for 11 years of volunteer service to Sequoyah State Park. Last week, Keating had declared May 5 through 11, "Tourism Week."

In addition, Cook cited many statistics showing the benefits of tourism to the state of Oklahoma. Those included an increase in travel expenditures of 17 percent. "Travelers in Oklahoma spent \$3 billion in 1995," he added.

Cook said that the tourism industry provides for 65,000 jobs in the state. The tourism industry contributed \$148 million in state tax receipts. "That's enough to fund one year of education for approximately 55,000 Oklahoma children."

In 1995, Cook said that 15.7 million people traveled through Oklahoma's 53 state parks. On the national front in 1995, he explained that travelers to the U.S. spent \$380 billion.

"Travel and tourism dollars mean jobs for our friends and neighbors, additional sales for local businesses and greater tax revenues to support our state," Keating added.

## TRADITIONS REFLECTED IN WORK OF SONJA AYRES FOR MAY 18 ART SHOW AT SEQUOYAH HOME

From Okla. Historical Society

■(SALLISAW, OK) The life-long research of Native American customs and traditions by Sonja K. Ayres will be evident May 18, when her works will be featured in a one-woman art show at the historic home of Sequoyah.

The show will be open to the public without charge from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., said Stephen Foster, who manages the historic home for the Oklahoma Historical Society. Signed and number prints will be offered,

he said.

"Sonja is a self-taught artist," said Foster, "and she has been pursuing her art since childhood. In her extensive research, she has specialized in designs of the mound builders, including those of eastern Oklahoma."

Her knowledge of customs and traditions is reflected in works such as the "Four Seasons" about the four major seasons of a woman's life, the "Trail of Tears" in water colors, and "Keeper of Traditions."

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