

1948 Former Premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese shouted "Banzai! Banzai! Banzai!" before climbing the 13 steps of a gallows in Tokyo where they were hanged for war crimes. Banzai, which means "may the emperor live 1,000 years," was the yell of fanatical Japanese during World War II. 1995 A fire in Dabwali, India, killed 540 people, including 170 children, and injured 250 during a party near the children's school. Doctors at the Dabwali hospital sent all but a handful of burn cases to neighboring towns. A few days later, 5,000 mourners, calling emergency facilities inadequate, blocked police from removing bodies for cremation. 2003 The first case of mad cow disease in the United States was reported in a Holstein on a farm near Mabton, Wash., near Yakima, that was traced to Canada. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said any diseased parts were removed from the cow before they could enter the food supply and infect humans. Mexico, Japan and South Korea closed their borders temporarily to U.S. beef. 2004 Ex-Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland, who resigned July 1 amid a campaign to impeach him, pleaded guilty to a corruption charge that accused him of accepting more than \$100,000 in flights to Las Vegas, Vermont vacations and repairs to his vacation cottage. Rowland, 47, had claimed donors had received nothing in exchange. He was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison. To purchase "Only in Oklahoma," a book of collected columns by Gene Curtis, visit: tulsaworld.com/OnlyinOklahoma Gene Curtis 581-830