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Dan Adams (front) and Jeff Anderson, both of Springfield, Mo., take in the sights, sounds — and tastes — of the Rocklahoma festival near Pryor on Thursday.

## Rocklahoma's attendees in a partying mood

By **MATT ELLIOTT**  
World Scene Writer

**P**RYOR — There was no doubt about why Jessy Floyd and his friends were at Thursday's kickoff to the 1980s-rock festival known as Rocklahoma.

They were there for the party, said Floyd, clad in a gray T-shirt emblazoned with "The South Is Gonna Rise Again."

Little "Stars and Bars" flags fluttered in the breeze while Floyd, of Adair, and his friends drank beer in the shade at the outdoor venue.

A couple of shirtless teenagers walked by as Guns N' Roses cover band Hollywood Roses played onstage. Floyd's friend Adam McDaniel, a large, bearded man who greeted everyone who walked by, told one of them to show him his tattoo, a black face on the boy's chest.

"Hey, let me see that Jim Morrison tattoo. Man, I like that," McDaniel said.

Rain had pelted the field in the morning, but the sun had peeked out by the time the first band, Oklahoma City's Uro Steppe, took the stage about 3 p.m. for a smattering of early attendees.

Organizers were predicting that at least 30,000 people a day would attend the four-day festival, which features a lineup of 1980s-era hair bands from Poison to Twisted Sister, groups that sold millions of records in their prime.

Shirtless dudes with tattoos on pinkening skin clutched beers as they wandered around the grassy field while Uro Steppe battled sound problems onstage. Others sat in lawn chairs, some of which were sitting in two inches of water.

Security officers at the event didn't have any crowd problems Thursday, said Mayes County Sheriff Frank Cantey, who is overseeing the host of off-duty law enforcement officers working at the event.

### For more

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"The biggest problem right now is just getting these campers parked, with the rain we've had," Cantey said.

Rainy weather was expected throughout much of Thursday night and Friday. But by Saturday, the sun and summer temperatures should heat things up enough to dry out the thousands of mosquito-bitten and beer-soaked fans.

Although Thursday was the first day of the festival, it featured mostly cover bands, including the KISS Army, a KISS tribute band.

Poison, Ratt, Quiet Riot and Slaughter are some of the biggest names on Friday's bill, but attendees such as the Cory family said they were there to see everybody.

Even though their seats were mired in a large puddle, the rain didn't deter them. They were up at 4 a.m. to get their start on the festival.

Tanner, 12, Tyler, 14, and Travis, 16, flew to Oklahoma with their father, Scott Cory, from their home in Chico, Calif., where Scott Cory owns a recording studio.

The four were worried only about the music, whether their favorite bands — Queensryche and others — have withstood the test of time.

"It's unreal because there's usually not as many famous and good bands all in one place," Tanner said.

Tyler, his blond hair spiked, called Rocklahoma "the king of all concerts."

The festival continues through Sunday, with Vince Neil closing Saturday's performances and Twisted Sister performing last on Sunday.

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## Rapist collapses in court

### Fall comes as jury convicts him in robbery, assault

By **BILL BRAUN**  
World Staff Writer

A defendant in a rape and robbery case collapsed to the floor Thursday evening in a Tulsa County courtroom as verdicts were announced calling for sentences totaling life plus 47 years.

After the trial's conclusion, emergency medical personnel treated Kendell D. Wiley in District Judge Tom Gillert's courtroom and took him by stretcher to an ambulance.

Wiley, 19, began breathing

heavily as the jury foreman read the verdicts.

He was found guilty of four felonies stemming from an after-hours break-in and assault on an employee at Marie Callender's Restaurant & Bakery, 3837 E. 51st St.

The jury meted out prison sentences of life for first-degree rape, 25 years for armed robbery, 15 years for rape by instrumentation and seven years for second-degree burglary.

Wiley denied all of the charges, and family members

testified that he was at home when the crimes happened.

A 25-year-old employee who was working after hours about 3 a.m. July 31, 2005, said she was "absolutely terrified" when confronted by a man carrying a gun. She said he wore a hooded sweatshirt, a point defense attorney Caesar Latimer used to stress that the woman could not identify Wiley as her attacker.

Assistant District Attorney Mickey Hawkins asserted that DNA recovered from the restaurant floor and from the

woman's rape examination linked Wiley to the crimes.

"Science doesn't lie. Science points to him," Hawkins said.

A co-defendant on the burglary and robbery counts, Jermaine D. Barnes, testified as a prosecution witness. Charges against Barnes, who is in the Tulsa Jail, are unresolved.

Wiley, who was free on bond during the trial, was destined to be jailed after he received medical treatment.

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## LOCAL, STATE

### Two port workers exposed to carbon monoxide

Two workers were exposed to carbon monoxide Thursday evening at a manufacturing plant at the Port of Catoosa.

The employees were working about 6:30 p.m. on a machine at the Wellman Products plant, which manufactures friction parts, such as brake pads and clutch disks, Tulsa Fire Department District Chief Scott Clark said.

The workers were exposed to a small amount of carbon monoxide when it began leaking from a pipe flange, but when they removed a cover from the machine, they were exposed to a large amount of the gas, Clark said.

They became nauseated and disoriented and were on the verge of passing out, he said. They were taken by ambulance to St. John Medical Center, but the level of the poison in their blood was not immediately known.

Clark said that if the level was determined to be low, doctors would let the gas pass out of their systems naturally. A high level would require hyperbaric oxygen therapy, he said.

The Tulsa Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit found elevated levels of carbon monoxide — a colorless, odorless gas — only in the immediate area of the leak.

Because of the building's large size, other workers were not in danger of being exposed. Other areas of the plant weren't evacuated, and work continued, Clark said.

### Discarded acid forms chemical cloud in trash truck

Discarded muriatic acid reacted with another substance in the back of a garbage truck Thursday morning and created a chemical cloud.

It was the second time within a week that workers on the same truck had found muriatic acid in the garbage they were hauling. No one was injured either time.

The trash haulers noticed a heavy vapor cloud coming from the back of the truck about 7:15 a.m. Thursday in the 10600 block of East 110th Place.

Someone apparently had discarded a 1-gallon container of the acid, and it reacted with something else in the back of the truck, Fire Capt. Larry Bowles said.

The Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team was called, and firefighters cleaned the street in the area and then followed the truck to a dump. Once there, they neutralized the rest of the affected material.

Muriatic acid is often used for cleaning pools and spas. Bowles said people should never throw out such chemicals with their regular trash. "In its full strength, it is very corrosive and highly toxic," he said.

To dispose of chemicals safely, call the Metropolitan Environmental Trust at 584-0584.

### Murder charge filed in death near Lake Tenkiller

**TAHLEQUAH** — A Tahlequah man has been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of an acquaintance.

Cherokee County deputies discovered the body of Ronnie Hall of Muskogee early Wednesday in the Horseshoe Bend area near Lake Tenkiller. Hall, 47, was found floating in the water and appeared to have been shot several times, said Jessica Brown, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

Robert Lee Smallen, 55, was charged Wednesday in the slaying. He was arrested shortly after Hall's body was found and is being held without bail.

Brown said the men knew each other and had driven together to the lake. Officials are investigating a possible motive, she said. Cherokee County Undersheriff Jason Chennault said: "So far, we know they were all pretty much intoxicated. We don't know the reason other than they were just drunk."

Authorities learned about the shooting from another Muskogee man who had been partying with Smallen and Hall. Chennault said officers knew Smallen from previous contacts but had not known him to be violent. Hall also has had previous police contact.

From staff reports

## Murder suspect gets life term in holdup of store

▶ A clerk was hit with a hammer.

By **BILL BRAUN**  
World Staff Writer

A Tulsan with a record of robbery — and with a murder trial in his future — received a life prison sentence Thursday after being convicted of robbing a store clerk who was hit with a hammer.

Tulsa County jurors found Billy Gene Marshall guilty of robbery with a dangerous weapon and imposed the life term.

The life sentence equates to 45 years. Marshall, whom records list as either 53 or 54 years old, must serve at least 85 percent of that sentence — more than 38 years — before being eligible for parole.

LaDonna Washington, a clerk at J&J Bargain Depot, 1235 E. Admiral Blvd., identified Marshall as the man who hit her in the head with a hammer on May 30, 2006.

Washington indicated that the robber took money, lottery tickets and two comforters from the store.

Assistant District Attorney Mike Abel asserted that Marshall menaced and threatened Washington and left her tied to a faucet in a restroom with an extension cord around her neck.

Marshall has denied com-

mitting the robbery, but he did not testify.

Washington said the robber's head was bald. People who know Marshall say they have never seen him bald, defense attorney Marny Hill told jurors.

Marshall "didn't match the description then. He doesn't match the description now," she said.

Abel said Washington "never wavered" in her identification, which he said was corroborated by other evidence.

Hill maintained that no DNA, no fingerprints and no scientific evidence implicated Washington.

During a sentencing stage in District Judge William Kellogg's court, Abel introduced evidence that Marshall has previous felony convictions dating to 1971 for burglary, perjury, escape and four robberies.

In another case, Marshall still faces a first-degree murder trial linked to allegations that he fatally beat Alonzo Tibbs Jr., 68, with a hammer at Tibbs' Tulsa home in June 2006.

Marshall also faces trial in another case, linked to an allegation that he robbed a 96-year-old woman at her home in June 2006.

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