

# THE KINGFISHER TIMES



BUCKLE OF THE WHEAT BELT

USPS NO. 295-440

KINGFISHER, KINGFISHER COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Dover's tragedy over; cleanup starts

Christine Schwartz  
Free Press Staff Writer

The atmosphere in Dover Monday was one of resigned desolation. The town's worst flood in nearly a decade had finally receded, leaving in its wake collapsed roads, felled trees and acres of mud and debris.

Although the number of people directly affected by the flood — 18 homes and four businesses in all — appear small in comparison with damage in larger cities, Supt. Steven Benson of Dover schools believes a tragedy of such magnitude in a town of this size is "devastating to anyone, in one way or another." Unlike Kingfisher residents who had survived a worse flood in 1982 before being struck again last week, people in Dover had no recent comparison to the amount of water that came rushing through town Friday.

Some Dover residents aren't even close enough to remember the flood of 1982, the worst flood in the town's history. The most recent flood in 1981 had no comparison to last week's disaster, townspeople say.

The 1981 flood was nothing like this. The last bad one we had was in 1973, this one was much worse," said Supt. Benson, Dover Civil Defense Director. "In real damages to personal and commercial property it's as bad as it was in '57, and in some places the depth and speed of the water was worse this time."

homes were housed temporarily in the lobby of the high school gym, where Red Cross volunteers brought in 50 cots. From 80-100 victims and volunteers were fed three meals each day in the school cafeteria.

The town itself was faced with more than \$100,000 worth of street and water line repair. A water main burst under the pressure of tons of mud, leaving the town without water until about 10 p.m. Sunday. The line broke again Monday morning but was repaired by late afternoon.

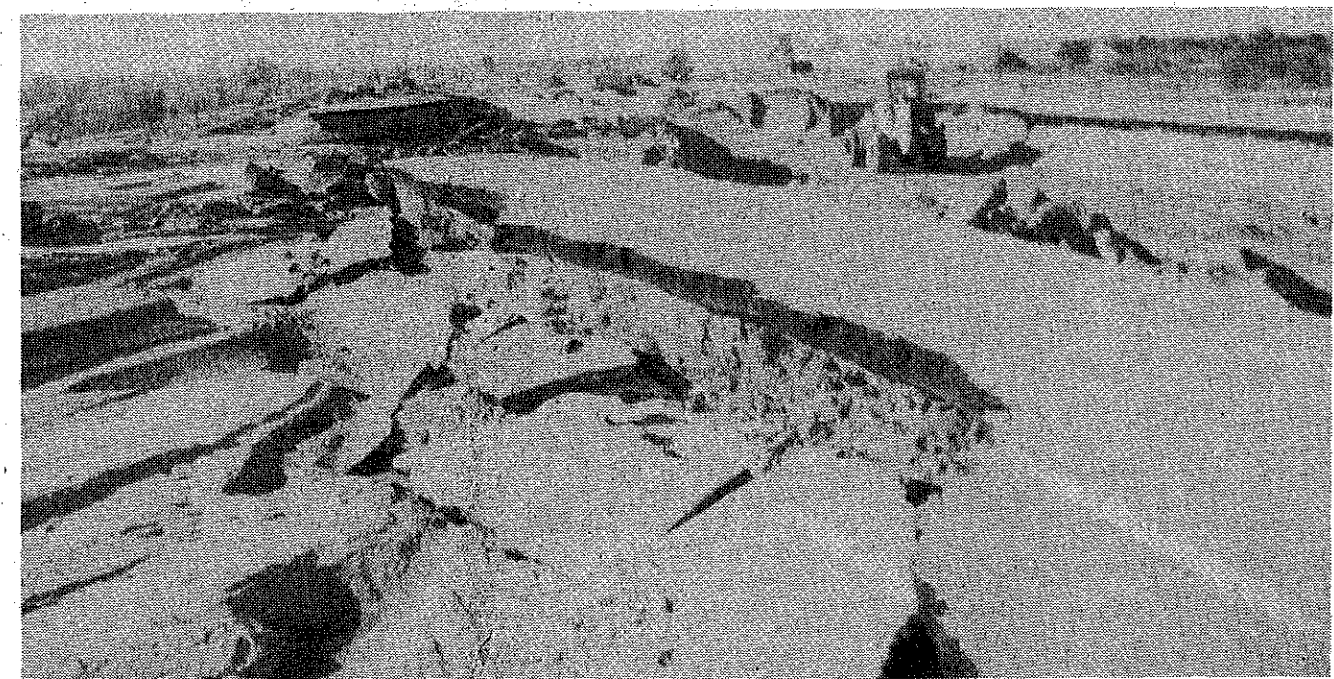
All told, damage to public, private and commercial property within Dover city limits will exceed \$500,000, Benson estimates.

But the damage does not stop at the city limits. The county road leading into Dover from the west has collapsed in at least two places where traffic is narrowed to one lane.

Otherwise traffic into the town is restricted to U.S. 81 from the north. Passage from the south is blocked by a quarter-mile stretch of roadway that was washed away.

By Sunday afternoon, flood victims began the massive chore of cleaning up. In residential areas that are finally free of the onslaught of water, homeowners find themselves struggling with a new battle — 4-18 inches of river mud and silt.

But for every flood victim, there are at least two volunteers pitching in to help with the muddy aftermath: Farrar Construction donated the use of men and equipment to repair water



**ROAD OUT**—A one-quarter mile section of U.S. 81 south of Dover washed out in last week's flooding. It was termed Dover's worst flood since 1957. This shot was taken looking toward the south. Highway officials hope to have a

temporary bypass of the area completed by late this week. Repair of the damage is expected to require about three months. [TIMES-FREE PRESS Staff Photo]

## Tight school budget ok'd; cuts due

Kingfisher's Board of Education unanimously approved a budget for the 1986-87 academic year totaling

carryover of \$100,000 or less," he said. "It'll be extremely tight, but we should make it."

government funding in special education, library resources and other programs that arrive later in the year.

## Wednesday

October 8, 1986  
No. 17 of the 98th Year  
USPS No. 295-440

### WEATHER NEWS

(As recorded at the official U. S. Weather Bureau Station at Kingfisher)

October 1	79	63	.67
October 2	77	68	
October 3	81	68	4.42
October 4	74	56	.74
October 5	63	55	T
October 6	72	56	
October 7	74	54	

Rainfall totals		
January rainfall	0.00	
February rainfall	0.51	
March rainfall	0.24	
April rainfall	2.99	
May rainfall	7.55	
June rainfall	2.84	
July rainfall	1.26	
August rainfall	4.31	
September rainfall	8.68	
October rainfall to date	5.83	
1986 rainfall to date	34.21	
1985 rainfall	35.90	
Avg. annual prec.	28.17	

### MARKETS

<b>Wheat</b>	<b>\$2.15</b>
Barley	\$2.00
Oats	\$1.40
Milo (100 Lbs.)	\$3.60

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### City sets Halloween date

Halloween will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30, in Kingfisher, according to Acting Police Chief Ronald Cooper.

# Dover flood is over; cleanup work begins

[Continued from page 1]

could and shovel out the rest. "The whole town has really pulled together to survive this," said Benson, who has had very little time for sleep himself. "Everyone has pitched in and done all they can to help recover."

And bit-by-bit the recovery process has begun.

Aileen Tipken and Christene Cass, owners of Christene's Cafe, celebrated their first anniversary in business this month under 11 inches of water.

Owners and employees alike worked night and day washing out three inches of silt, ripping up the carpet and disinfecting everything three times to bring the cafe, the town's only restaurant, back up to health department standards.

"We started cleaning Saturday. We just took off our shoes, rolled up our britches and waded in. The mud was too slippery to walk in with shoes on," Tipken said, adding that it took a bath in bleach water to get the red clay stain off her feet.

The cafe opened again Tuesday, a welcome sight for victims and

volunteers ready for a hot meal.

Other businesses closed by the flood were also coming slowly back to life. A convenience store opened Sunday after employees worked nine hours to clean up debris and restore order.

For Snow Lumber Co., with a lumber yard that was a fallen area, fences, sodden building materials and debris, the process is going more slowly.

Stories of catastrophe and devastation circulate everywhere in town, but even the hardest-hit residents, with trailer homes, trucks and cars totally lost, console themselves with one thought the entire town echoes: it could have been worse.

Though eight to 10 residents were evacuated by helicopter as the waters rose rapidly around them Friday, no lives were lost and no one was injured, Benson said. He added that losses to livestock were also minimal.

"The organization worked really well," Benson said. "We had most of

the town evacuated four hours before the flood ever hit."

Last week's tragedy was Benson's first flood as civil defense director. He succeeds his late father, Wilbur Benson, the town's first civil defense director who was involved in the last three floods.

Noting that each of the town's serious floods have been at least 13 years apart, Benson's sentiment now that the worst is behind him is understandable.

"Maybe this is the last major flood Dover will see — at least until 1999."

No job is  
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or too small  
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## Enter Kingfisher Tire Center's "FIRST FREEZE" Contest

It's easy. Just predict the hour and date of Kingfisher's first freeze in 1986 and either bring your entry by our shop or mail it to 1001 S. Main, Kingfisher, OK 73750.

**GRAND PRIZE:** A pair of Steel Radial Lee Mud and Snow Tires (Up to 235R15 size—Includes installation, taxes and warranty). No cost to enter; in case of tie, first entry will be used. Be sure to list date and time of entry on your entry blank.

### ENTRY COUPON

My guess on time and date of Kingfisher's First Freeze (First 32 degree reading):

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

Time and date entry made: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Kingfisher



Your Business

## of city manager

been rebuilt and ready for emergency use.

The foregoing information has been compiled from the records of our department heads and is believed to be accurate according to the available information.

Appropriate credit should be given to the city manager for heading an excellent team of city employees.

Note: The City Manager, Nolan Combs, has not asked for this credit or for any favors resulting from this report.

According to the original employment agreement made with the City Manager, (Item No. 6) "Annually the City Council shall evaluate the salary of the city manager on the basis of both merit and cost of living. Merit increases shall be based on merit, innovation and improvement of the management system."

## Band Boosters to meet

Kingfisher Band Boosters will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, in the band room.

The group will discuss an auction planned for December and the spook house.

All members are urged to attend.

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# City's flood damage bad, but not like it could have been

Last week's floodwaters did not cause as much damage as it could have, according to City Manager Nolan Combs, who reported at the city commission meeting Monday night.

Seven city wells were inundated, a railroad segment washed out, a bearing gave out on a sewer pump and city drainage stopped up in several places, Combs said.

He also cited developing an alternate route to the city landfill as among problems the city faced as a result of the flood.

After nine inches of rain in the Drummond Flats caused heavy flooding on the Cimarron River, seven city wells on Borelli, Smith and Hughes property were inundated, Combs said.

However, neither main line from the well field-water treatment system near Dover was broken by the floodwaters. An eight-inch line runs above the river, supported by the U.S. 81 bridge, and another eight-inch pipe runs under the river bed, giving the city of Kingfisher a dual feed.

Floodwaters threatened the city lines, and the river washed out both lanes of U.S. 81 plus a section of the railroad track south of Dover, but neither water line washed out, said Combs.

"It (flood) lacked a few hundred feet getting to the water line," he said. "The water system stayed up real well."

Powerline poles near the lift station were washed out and will need to be replaced, he said.

A bearing gave out on one of the city sewer pumps, causing the lift station to fill with water, but the city is in the process of correcting that, Combs said.

Cleanup in the city will be tremendous with the drainage system clogged with debris, he said.

The electrical system held up real well, also, he added. Kingfisher was without electricity for about one hour and five minutes during the floods, because the supplier (OG&E) had a problem elsewhere in the state due to floodwaters.

He said a water line to College Hill

was knocked out last week, but that was the only water line damaged.

Combs said drainage was impaired by city residents who had filled in or had not maintained waterways.

Combs also said the landfill cannot be reached on a direct route from Kingfisher because of road problems.

The commission gave Combs the go-ahead to have the landfill workers, who make seven trips a week to the landfill near Hennessey, to use an alternate route, using a road located four miles west of Loyal to go north. The trip to the landfill by that route is 40 miles.

Combs said he would obtain permission from County Commissioner Claude Whittenburg to use the alternate route, a road that is under construction. Transportation of trash, using the alternate route, will cost the city \$120 per load.

Civil Defense Director Howard Watson reported that the city of Kingfisher was on its way to recovery following two floods in one week.

He commended Police Chief Ronald Cooper, City Street Supt. Floyd Mastalka and Kingfisher County Sheriff Danny Graham for all the work they did during the floods.

"I wasn't going to mention names, but these three people probably lost as much sleep as I did last week," said Watson. "Everything went smoothly and all the department heads should be commended for a job well done."


He recognized the city and county workers as well city and county commissioners for their efforts.

"It made the people feel that the city and county officials are interested in their welfare by helping so much," he said.

Watson asked that the commission look into possibly establishing a Red Cross chapter in Kingfisher. Watson said the Red Cross has been called into Kingfisher County several times in recent years to assist with flood disaster efforts.

The commission also approved a motion to clean ditches in the city and install tin horns, through permit only in the northeast section of Kingfisher, to help with the city drainage problem.

## English, Edwards lead state delegation on defense voting



The all new front conditioning engine and

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