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Advancing Water Closes Central Oklahoma Roads

By Anthony Thornton and Kathi Thatcher

Flooding Wednesday forced road closings throughout Oklahoma, including a downtown Oklahoma City junction of the state's two heaviest-traveled interstates.

The flash flooding was the latest round in an 11-day batch of heavy thunderstorms and showers that has produced more than 7 inches of rain in some parts of Oklahoma.

In Oklahoma City, 5.35 inches of rain fell Wednesday.

Weather officials said runoff

from rainfall continued to surge into streams and across roads late Wednesday. A flash flood watch for much of western, central and northern Oklahoma was extended to today.

In Guthrie, the civil defense unit late Wednesday evacuated 38 homes along the Cottonwood Creek flood plain.

"The water isn't up to the homes yet. We're just trying to give them enough time to move their belongings and get out," civil defense director Jim Dixon said.

He said authorities expect the

creek to crest tonight at five feet above flood stage.

In addition to various thunderstorm and flood warnings, tornado watches were issued for 28 Oklahoma counties Wednesday.

Weather officials said runoff from rainfall continued to surge into streams and across roads by late Wednesday.

Conditions are not likely to change soon, forecasters said. Locally heavy rainfall is likely for most of the state through Friday, and scattered thunderstorms are forecast for Saturday through Mon-

day, the weather service said.

The downpour in Oklahoma City Wednesday caused the crumbling of a foundation at the junction of Interstate 35 and Interstate 40.

The westbound junction most likely will remain closed this morning, meaning an even larger headache for morning rush-hour motorists, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Sgt. Mark Nelson said.

"It's a booger. It's washed out," patrol Sgt. Mark Nelson said.

"The rain has caused parts of the junction to crumble, fall apart and become unsafe to drive," he

said.

Authorities late Wednesday were exploring the possibility of opening one lane of traffic at the I-35 and I-40 junction.

"But even if there's one lane open, the drivers better leave early, because it's going to be bad," Nelson said.

The patrol suggests the following alternate route for drivers commuting from Norman or Moore:

Exit at Interstate 240, drive east to Sunnyslane, then north to I-40,

See RAIN, Page 2

President Signs Flood Relief Bill

WASHINGTON — President Reagan Wednesday signed into law a measure that gives government relief to farmers in Oklahoma and elsewhere who were wiped out by heavy rain and floods last year.

About one-third of the \$200 million authorized by the legislation is targeted for Oklahoma farmers. Story on Page 3.

FAA Moves Physician To Capital

By James Johnson

The Federal Aviation Administration has quietly moved the head of the troubled Civil Aeromedical Institute (CAMI) from Oklahoma City to Washington, D.C., for four months' special duty amid criticism of the institute's administration.

Dr. J. Robert Dille, CAMI manager, was detailed to the office of the Federal Air Surgeon last week as reports circulated of an impending administrative reorganization of the research institution.

The reports were buttressed by the arrival at CAMI of an appraisal team from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Dille's lengthy temporary assignment and the appointment of Dr. Audie W. Davis as acting manager at CAMI were ordered as an



High Court Plugs City Water Supply

By Mary Jo Nelson

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has effectively taken away Oklahoma City's rights to water in Lake Atoka and McGee Creek, two reservoirs city residents are funding at a cost of nearly \$175 million.

The court opinion means at least 59 Oklahoma cities and towns and many major industries could lose long-vested "appropriative" rights to water supplies that originate outside their own local stream systems.

This interpretation of the ruling came from city and state water authorities and water law consultants, some of whom met in an emergency session Wednesday to discuss the opinion.

They said the ruling overturns the rights of cities and other users to appropriate water that originates outside their own stream systems.

"This is devastating," said Glenn H. Sullivan, state natural

resources director, who has been upheld over and over by the Supreme Court."

"This really shakes us," said Robert H. Anderson, a water law attorney and consultant to several government entities. "Oklahoma City could lose its entire southeastern Oklahoma water supply."

The court ruling, handed down May 19, was written by Associate Justice Yvonne Kauger and was approved in a 6-3 vote of the court. Three justices dissented. The ruling grew out of an application of the city of Ada for additional water rights in the Clear Boggy, an outside stream system.

"This opinion is confusing and alarming. It will create chaos," said H. Duane Stratton, a member of the legal advisory committee for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

Stratton said the ruling overturns the right of stream appropriation in effect for 24 years

The opinion means that riparian owners who can prove a need for water can take it, even in cases such as Oklahoma City's, whose water customers are paying about \$175 million for Lake Atoka and McGee Creek and an extensive pipeline system, Anderson said.

Stratton said the opinion is alarming because many Oklahoma cities and towns have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in appropriative stream projects for water that originates outside local stream basins.

The opinion calls into question whether cities can pay for water projects with bond funds, Oklahoma City assistant municipal counselor Tom Jones said. Lake Atoka and McGee Creek were both built by the federal Bureau of Reclamation and are being paid off through revenue bonds issued by the Oklahoma City water trust.

Water customers have been paying for Lake Atoka for sever-

From Page 1
lowtown;

-35 north to SE 15, drive
ern, then north to I-40 and
town.

om south Oklahoma City
ields Boulevard, Nelson

in County, two men were
a remote creekbed tree
four hours before being
refighters who rescued
aluminum boat, Mustang
chief Tom Strother said.
ump Jr. of El Reno be-
d in the creek shortly af-
ble trying to lead his 1-
lt to shelter. He was car-
eam about 300 yards be-
onto a tree, his father,
p Sr., said.

bor, Mickey Smith, be-
ed while attempting to
xunger Crump on horse-
r said.

ers from four commu-
nable to reach the men
ucks, and two law en-

forcement agencies, citing difficult
weather conditions, refused an at-
tempt to rescue them with helicop-
ters.

Finally, about 8:30 p.m., Mustang
firefighters reached the men in a 14-
foot aluminum boat that had only one
oar, Strother said.

Neither man was injured, although
Crump inhaled a large amount of wa-
ter, Strother said.

Authorities were unsure whether ei-
ther man's horse survived.

In Oklahoma City, more than two
dozen streets flooded, and a westside
mobile home park was in danger of
being evacuated Wednesday night as
a creek which winds around it began
leaving its banks.

No house flooding was reported in
the metropolitan area. But some
streets were at their highest water
levels since 1974, said Chuck Turn-
bull, a communications supervisor for
the Oklahoma City Civil Defense.

He said the civil defense was updat-
ing its road closing list "almost by
the minute. Every low spot in town

has been called in to us at one time or
another today," Turnbull said.

The interstate junction problem
was the most serious of several dozen
road closings Wednesday in the met-
ropolitan area.

Near Clinton, the Washita River
had overflowed its banks by Wednes-
day morning, civil defense director
Judy Stewart said.

By Wednesday evening, rainfall
measuring nearly 8 inches had fallen
in central and southwestern Oklaho-
ma. Reports of heavy rainfall
Wednesday night included: New-
castle, 7.87 inches; Blanchard, 7.0;
Wheatland, 5.8; Union City, 5.67;
Grandfield, 5.55; Marlow, 5.17; Betha-
ny, 4.65; and Chattanooga, 4.05;
Okeene, 3.96; Hardy, 3.90; Enid, 3.82;
Billings, 3.65 and Hammon, 3.53.
There also were reports of almost 5
inches of rain in the Ponca City area
in Kay County.

Residents in the north-central
towns of Kingfisher and Dover who
suffered through three floods in a
span of less than a month last fall
apparently will be spared flooding

from the latest onslaught of storms.

Both Kingfisher and Uncle John
Creeks, which spill over their banks
in the northern part of Kingfisher
when the Cimarron swells over flood
stage, were still about 10 feet below
flood stage Wednesday evening.

Motorists in Garfield County were
still being advised by county officials
to stay off county roads because of
overflowing creeks and washed out
roads and water-covered bridges.

In addition to rising floodwaters,
fire officials in Tonkawa had to con-
tend with a fire that broke out about
1:30 p.m. Wednesday in a wheat eleva-
tor east of downtown.

Wheat stored in a 30,000-bushel bin
in the Farmers Cooperative elevator
got hot and began smoking, Charles
Conaghan, Tonkawa's fire chief and
civil defense director, said.

Firefighters, getting assistance
from units in Blackwell and Ponca
City along with chemical experts
from the Conoco refinery in Ponca
City, were able to cool down the
wheat about three hours later, Cona-
ghan said.

Officials were monitoring the ris-
ing waters of the Salt Fork of the
Arkansas River which was expected
to crest as much as 10 feet above
flood stage today.

City road closings included: Hefner
Road east of Rockwell, NE 63 and
Kelley, Western Avenue between NW
57 and NW 59, NW 122 and Council
Road, Council Road between SW 8 and
Reno, Waterloo Road between West-
ern and Reno, NW 164 near Western,
400 block of SE 21, the 700 block of
SE 15, SE 20 and Terrace Lawn, and
bridges near Piedmont Road on State
Highway 4 and at NW 192 and West-
ern.

Also, Reno and Rockwell, NE 36
and Sooner Road, Midwest Boulevard
between NE 36 and NE 63, SW 15 from
Czech Hall Road to Mustang Road,
NW 16 and Virginia: 2700 block of S
Miller, NE 13 and Kelley, SW 23 and
May Avenue, NW 1 Terrace from

General Pershing Boulevard to Villa,
NW 12 and Rockwell, NE 8 from Bath
to Jordan, SE 44 and Luther Road,
and Hefner Road and Bryant.

Roads closed in the state Wednes-
day night included: State Highway 36
north of Grandfield; U.S. 77 south of
Tonkawa; U.S. 81 south of Medford
and in south Enid; State Highway 51
in Kingfisher County; and U.S. 177
north of Blackwell.

Also, SH 74 from Deer Creek to five
miles north of Garber; the junction of
SH 58 and SH 152 in Caddo County;
the northbound lane of U.S. 82 north
of Okarche; the I-40 and Morgan Road
eastbound exit ramp in Oklahoma
City; I-35 at SE 29 in Oklahoma City;
and the Dallas junction of I-35 north-
bound to westbound traffic in Oklaho-
ma City.

I-35 at SE 29 was reopened later in
the night.

Reporters Michael McNutt, Ellen Knickmeyer,
Chris Kinyon, Jim Ether, Robby Trammell and The
Associated Press contributed to this report.

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rking for
Security
retired Air
en. Rich-
acted as
ers" of the
liver sup-
sons to the

the Contra airlift with
Bush or any member of
the vice president's
staff.

But at a later meet-
ing, Rodriguez said, he
expressed concerns to
North about inflated
prices being charged
for hand grenades and
other munitions.

"I said, 'Colonel, I
have learned there are
people stealing here,'" Rodriguez recalled say-
ing. "... This could be
worse than Watergate
and this could destroy
the president."

- Former White
House aide Johnathan
Miller appeared for less
than five minutes be-
fore the special federal
grand jury investigat-
ing the Iran-Contra af-
fair. Such a brief ap-
pearance suggested he
declined to testify.

Miller resigned May
14 as director of the
White House Office of
Administration after his
role in helping to cash
traveler's checks for a
Contra leader was dis-
closed in testimony at
the hearings. A Miller
attorney declined to

of Rodriguez.

- Dutton testified
there were lengthy dis-
cussions among manag-
ers of the resupply net-
work about turning the
operation over to the
CIA after the expiration
of the congressional ban
on U.S. military aid to
the rebels.

Last December, Dut-
ton declined to answer
questions from the Sen-
ate Intelligence Com-
mittee, citing his Fifth
Amendment right
against self-incrimina-
tion. But the grant of

day.

Dutton, a Vietnam
war combat pilot and
veteran of secret opera-
tions during nearly 27
years in the Air Force,
drew parallels between
his management of the
Contra airlift and his
unsuccessful efforts un-
der President Carter to
rescue American host-
ages held in Iran.

Dutton said he had
worked with Secord dur-
ing the attempt to re-
scue the hostages in
1980. During the Contra
airlift, Dutton received

trolled.

Dutton said North
and Secord emphasized
that "we were working
with donated funds" for
the Contra operation.
For two years, from Oc-
tober 1984 to October
1986, direct and indi-
rect U.S. military aid to
the Contras was forbid-
den by Congress.

Drawing on his past
experiences, Dutton
told the committees it
would not be unusual
for such secret opera-
tions to have a limited
chain of command that

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