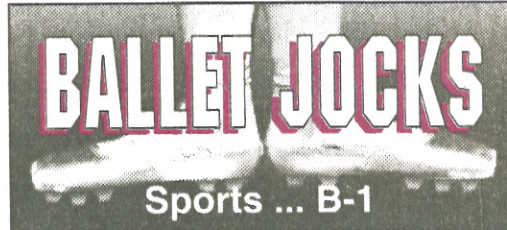


JUST
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g ... C-1

Dennis Byrd
FOUNDATION
Sports ... B-1



BALLET JOCKS
Sports ... B-1



WEATHER
Chance of Showers
High: 70s
Low: Mid-50s



TULSA WORLD

10th Year - No. 238 • Tulsa, Oklahoma, Wednesday, May 12, 1993 • Entire Contents © 1993 World Publishing Company 35 Cents

1,976 Homes Damaged in Flooding

From staff, wire reports

Floods, tornadoes, wind and hail damaged 1,976 homes in Oklahoma last weekend, with Oklahoma County the hardest hit at 966 homes, according to preliminary damage estimates.

The National Weather Service prepared the totals from preliminary counts by state emergency management crews and the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, firefighters and police stopped their search Tuesday for three people believed drowned in Oklahoma City creeks, deciding to resume when the weather improves.

One body, that of a woman, was found within hours of Saturday's flash flooding.

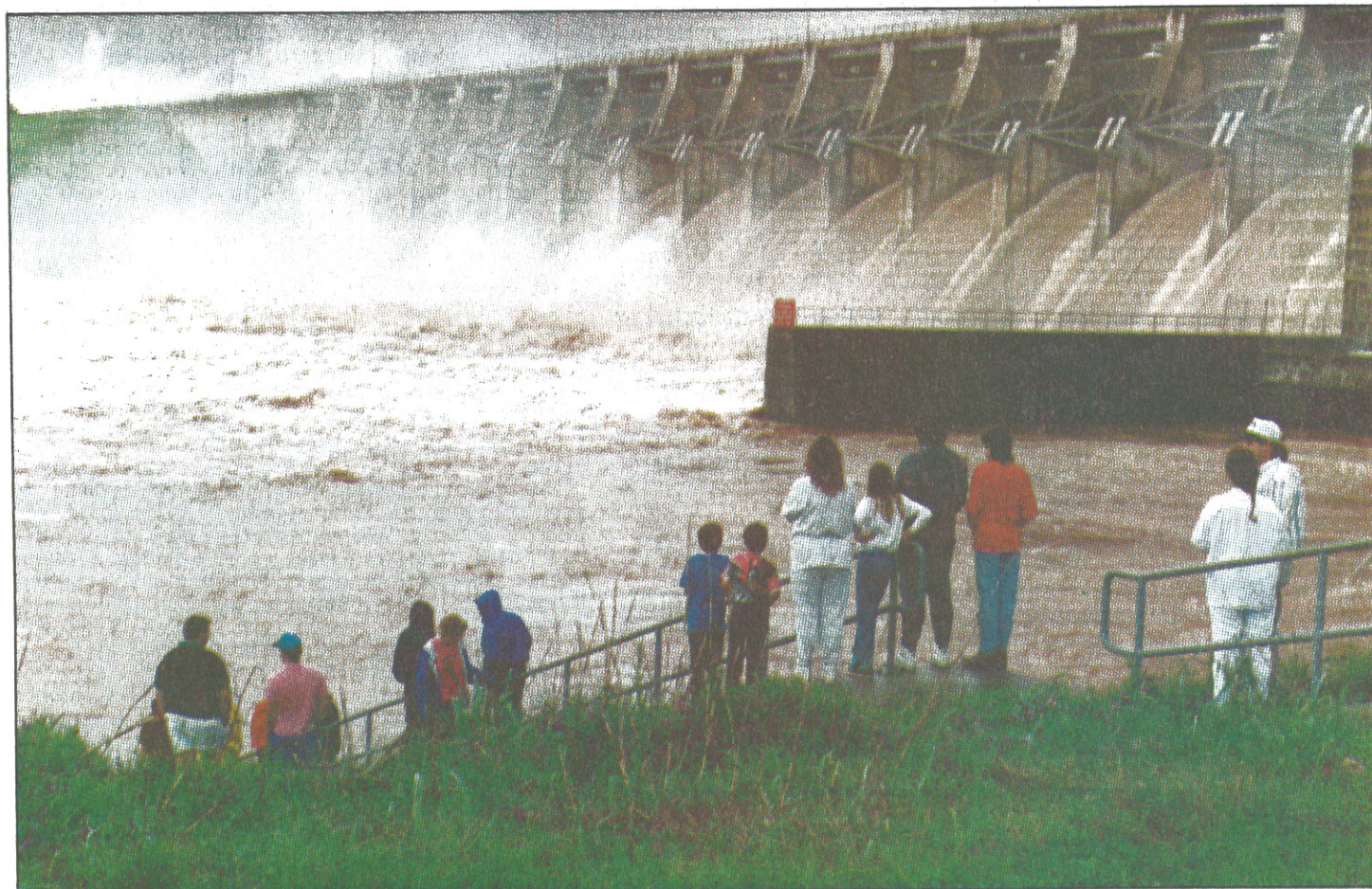
Police on foot, firefighters with hooks and divers have been searching the banks and beds of Brock and Lightning creeks since the flooding. A man and a 5- or 6-year-old child was swept into Brock Creek, and a 3-week-old girl was swept into Lightning Creek.

"We decided to not go back in because basically we've looked at everything, and the water started rising again," said Maj. John Soos, spokesman for the Fire Department. "At this point we're not going to do anything more until it's a little more safe."

All the victims were in cars washed off south Oklahoma City streets and into the flooded creeks.

Meanwhile in Tulsa, a 13-year-old boy was briefly swept into swollen Joe Creek in south Tulsa as he played with a friend, fire Capt. Jim White said. Firefighters

See Flooding on A-3



World staff photo by Steve Crane

Sightseers watch as water thunders through Keystone Dam on Tuesday. Corps of Engineers officials increased the flow through the dam to 120,000 cubic feet of water per second.

More Lake Water Released Area Residents Uneasy

By Mike Kimbrell and Linda Martin
World Staff Writers

Anxiety increased in Bixby and Sand Springs on Tuesday as the flow of water through Keystone Dam was increased yet again.

The flow through the dam west of Sand Springs was increased to 120,000 cubic feet per second from 110,000 cfs at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, said Ross Adkins, spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

That was believed to be the most water allowed through the dam at one time since 300,000 cfs was released in 1986.

"We've been in touch with both Bixby and Sand Springs," Adkins said Tuesday. "This increased flow is expected to cause some (additional) street closings, but no structures should be flooded."

He said the increased flow through the dam was necessary to make room in Lake Keystone, which is expected to crest on Friday with flood waters flowing down both the Cimarron and Arkansas rivers.

Floodgates on the Kaw Reservoir were opened on Tuesday, allowing an additional 45,000 cfs of water to flow down the Arkansas River toward Lake Keystone.

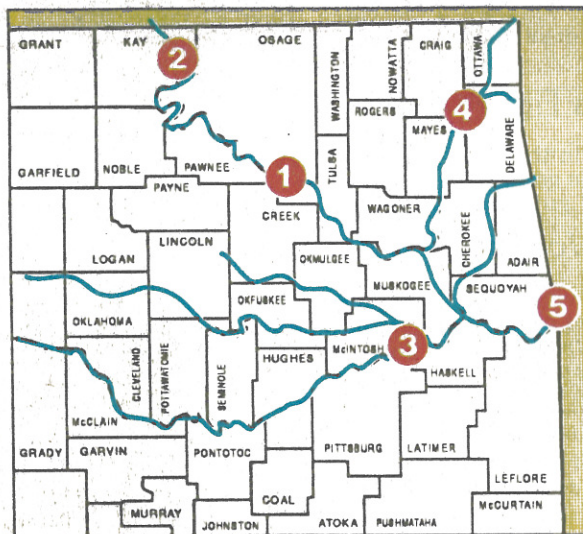
Adkins said the flow from Kaw is not expected to reach Keystone until after Keystone crests on Friday.

"But we'll have to look at it again," he said. Corps officials hoped to be able to hold the releases through Keystone at 120,000 cfs for the rest of the week, said Adkins.

"But with this additional rain coming in, I'm not making any promises," he said.

Bixby Mayor Jim Bennett said he doesn't think the increased flow will affect the town but it's a wait-and-see situation. More sand has been brought in; the town is as prepared as it can be, he said.

The situation will be monitored closely, particularly be-



- 1. Keystone:** expected to crest Friday as floodwaters move down both the Cimarron and Arkansas rivers. Corps officials increased flow on Tuesday to 120K cfs to make room for the expected crest. Said if we get even more rain in the next 48 hours, they may have to increase flow again.
- 2. Kaw:** upstream from Keystone. Floodgates opened Tuesday to allow 45K cfs downstream toward Keystone. Corps officials hope that flow won't reach Keystone before the expected crest on Friday.
- 3. Eufaula:** expected to reach 100 percent of flood-storage capacity late Friday or on Saturday. Corps withholding major releases from there until that time.
- 4. Grand:** releasing water downstream, but lakes Hudson and Fort Gibson expected to hold that flow.
- 5. Van Buren, Ark.:** waters there have already crested from runoff not controlled by Corps of Engineers lakes. Flow from Keystone and Eufaula expected later this week is expected to come on the heels of the Van Buren crest, and cause no additional flooding there.

Education Cuts Would Reduce Jobs, Classes

By Brian Ford
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Higher education budget cuts being considered by the Legislature would eliminate more than 1,800 jobs, reduce student financial aid and cancel thousands of classes, the state Regents for Higher Education said Tuesday.

But a key state representative asked whether the higher education system could make other cuts such as reducing administrative costs, the number of endowed chairs and sabbatical leaves among university faculty.

A 9 to 10 percent budget reduction for higher education would total about \$52 million, said Glenn A. Cox, vice chairman for the regents.

"Colleges and universities are attempting to lessen as much as possible the direct impact the proposed cuts will have on students," Cox said. "But higher education budgets are already lean and institutions will have no choice but to delete academic programs, increase class sizes, cut back on financial aid and eliminate student support services, such as counseling."

"Is it prudent to ask higher education to bear such an inequitable burden?"

Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell, the chair of the House budget subcommittee that oversees higher education, said plenty of state agencies are being

See Cuts on A-3

Floods Unlikely To Affect Least Terns' Nesting

By Mike Kimbrell
World Staff Writer

The higher-than-usual release of water through Keystone Dam and flooding downstream is not expected to have much effect on the nesting habits of least terns, officials said.

"This is a natural event, for flooding to occur at this time of the year," said Laura Hill of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Tulsa. "It seems unnatural for us humans, but historically, that's what occurred on these rivers in the spring."

Least terns are an endangered species of birds that nest each summer on sandy riverbottoms in Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and some other states. They require open areas in which to scoop out nests, so that they can watch for predators, naturalists have said.

A least tern preserve exists on the Arkansas River in Tulsa between 11th and 81st streets. All of that preserve was under water Tuesday.

The terns usually start arriving in Oklahoma in May, and nest through late July and early August.

But the fact most of their nesting areas are under water right now probably won't change the bird's nesting habits much.

"Typically, in the early part of May we only have a few birds that arrive," she said. "The rest of them trickle in over the rest of the month. They'll just kind of bum around and wait for the water to go down."

She said some of the birds might continue to fly northward, looking for a nesting sight. But she said most birds return to the same general area each year to nest.

It likely will take two or more weeks for the birds arriving in Tulsa to choose mates and go through courtship, she said. They won't be ready to nest and lay eggs until after that, she added.

She said there apparently has been no study to determine if



Skiatook crews clean debris trapped by the fence on the north side of Zink Park.

World staff photo by P.J. Lassek

...Flooding

Continued from A-1

began to search for him, but he escaped unhurt on his own.

In Tulsa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Ross Atkins said the flow through Keystone Dam was increased Tuesday afternoon to 120,000 cubic feet per second.

The extra water will cause street flooding in Bixby and Sand Springs, but aerial surveys show no homes will be in danger, Atkins said.

He said the flow was increased from 110,000 cfs because rain still was falling Tuesday afternoon and because the flow through the levee at Kaw Lake in Ponca City was increased to 40,000 cfs, which puts pressure downstream on Keystone.

The Arkansas River at Ponca City was forecast to crest near its 14 feet flood stage Wednesday afternoon and remain at that level into Thursday.

Federal Emergency Management Agency crews still were assessing damage in Oklahoma and had not prepared recommendations on Gov. David Walters' request for a federal disaster declaration.

falls while the Deep Fork already is rising, forecasters warned.

Other rivers were dropping slowly, forecasters said. The Chickaskia River in Blackwell should go below flood stage Wednesday, as will the Cimarron River at Perkins. The Salt Fork of the Arkansas River was at 25 feet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Tonkawa, eight feet above flood stage, and was expected to go below flood stage Saturday.

Highways were reopened as river levels dropped, including Oklahoma 33 east of Coyle over the Cimarron River, and Oklahoma 99 between Stroud and Prague.

Damage reports indicated 1,976 homes statewide received damage from the weekend's ferocious weather. As many as 175 homes suffered major damage.

McClain and Cleveland counties aren't included in the statewide count, although authorities estimated the number of damaged homes there at 25 to 30.

Hardest hit was Oklahoma County which reported 966 damaged homes. In Kingfisher, 223 homes were damaged. Washington County reported

Creek flood waters left on the east side of town Sunday when it flooded 40 homes and 18 businesses.

Floodwaters returned within Bird Creek by 10 p.m. Monday, said Scott Hilton, Civil Defense director. Oklahoma 20 was reopened Monday night and Oklahoma 11 opened Tuesday morning.

Officials say the weekend flood is the worst since 1959. The water was 8-inches lower in 1986 and about a foot higher in 1959.

The Red Cross shelter will remain open at 1500 S. Osage in Skiatook. The shelter housed 29 residents Monday.

Gov. David Walters on Tuesday formally requested a U.S. Department of Agriculture natural disaster damage assessment report for 32 Oklahoma counties hit by weekend floods.

Garl Mardis, a USDA official based in Stillwater, said the information could be used for Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to declare the area an agricultural disaster.

A disaster designation would make farmers eligible for low interest loans from USDA's lending

...Keystone

Continued from A-1

tween 151st and 161st streets east of Memorial Drive, and in the Saker and Town & Country additions from 161st to 171st streets.

Sand Springs City Manager Loy Calhoun said he didn't think the increased flow would affect the town. There's a few more inches of water in Fisher Creek but it's still a good 1½ feet from posing a threat to the Meadow Valley addition, he said.

Adkins said water is being released from some other eastern-Oklahoma lakes in what amounts to a juggling act on a gigantic scale. Nearly all the water that flows out of Oklahoma north of an irregular line from Heavener to Ada to Weatherford flows through Van Buren, Ark.

Adkins said the water at Van Buren had already crested by Tuesday and was beginning to ebb. That water was uncontrolled runoff: water that was not impounded in any Oklahoma lake, he said.

But Lake Eufaula is expected to reach 100 percent of its flood-storage capacity by Friday or early Saturday, he said. The corps will begin releasing water from Eufaula at that time, said Adkins.

"What we're going to release

will come in behind" the water that's already crested in Van Buren, said Adkins. It should cause no additional flooding.

The corps was already releasing Grand Lake water downstream on Tuesday. But lakes Hudson and Fort Gibson were expected to hold that water until after the Arkansas River has a chance to discharge the flows from Keystone and Eufaula, he said.

Meanwhile, an Oklahoma Lake Patrol diver dislodged debris that was keeping a flood gate from shutting on a drainage pipe in the levee behind the Sandy Park Apartments in west Tulsa, said Frank Keith, levee commissioner for District 12.

The open gate was allowing water to flow into the area, he said. Water was over the street and nearing a number of residences on 10th Street. Sand bags were being set up around some houses, he said.

Keith said the drainage pipe is an independent system owned by the apartment complex. Its normal function is to carry water from the streets and low areas, he said.

City crews hooked up two pumps to get water away from houses and off the streets.

...Turnpike

Continued from A-1

Cherokee, Kilpatrick and Chickasaw — would be financially feasible unless Turner Turnpike revenue was pledged to retire bonds.

But the feasibility studies substantially overestimated the revenue that the new toll roads would produce.

"I have a real problem with those guys," Scott said about the Smith estimates.

He expressed concern that if the consultants miss as badly on their estimates of Walters' proposed turnpikes, it could devastate the entire turnpike system.

"You don't really know for sure what the traffic is going to be on a

probably would be that the toll increases on existing turnpikes, including the Turner and Will Rogers, would have to be much greater than even Walters is estimating now.

Bellmon sold his program partly on a promise that it would not require a toll increase.

But in 1991, tolls were raised an average of 30 percent systemwide for everyone except PikePass customers. About 65 percent of current turnpike users pay the higher rate.

And a large percentage of those who get the lower, discounted PikePass rate are out-of-state, long-haul truckers.

gust. But the fact most of their nesting areas are under water right now probably won't change the bird's nesting habits much.

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She said some of the birds might continue to fly northward, looking for a nesting sight. But she said most birds return to the same general area each year to nest.

It likely will take two or more weeks for the birds arriving in Tulsa to choose mates and go through courtship, she said. They won't be ready to nest and lay eggs until after that, she added.

She said there apparently has been no study to determine if terns' mating and nesting habits are changed or delayed by flooding events.

Hill also said another endangered bird that regularly visits the Tulsa area, the bald eagle, should also be unaffected by spring flooding. Most bald eagles should be out of the state at this time of the year, to return during the winter months.

Big trees and other popular roost and perching sites favored by the big birds are not likely to be affected by the amounts of water that were flowing down the Arkansas River this week, she said.

...Crump

Continued from A-1
investigation or action," Walters wrote.

The board has been split since Crump's letter became public.

Board member Ray Page has been extremely distant with her. Board member Carl Hamm has refused to speak to Crump. Hamm has called her allegations libelous and insulting all present and past board members, and repeatedly called for Crump's resignation.

Although state law allows the

day afternoon to 120,000 cubic feet per second. The extra water will cause street flooding in Bixby and Sand Springs, but aerial surveys show no homes will be in danger, Atkins said.

He said the flow was increased from 110,000 cfs because rain still was falling Tuesday afternoon and because the flow through the levee at Kaw Lake in Ponca City was increased to 40,000 cfs, which puts pressure downstream on Keystone.

The Arkansas River at Ponca City was forecast to crest near its 14 feet flood stage Wednesday afternoon and remain at that level into Thursday.

Federal Emergency Management Agency crews still were assessing damage in Oklahoma and had not prepared recommendations on Gov. David Walters' request for a federal disaster declaration, the FEMA office in Denton, Texas, said.

Streets in Kingfisher and Guthrie were passable Tuesday after record flooding on creeks there Saturday and Sunday.

The weather service warned of flooding to come in Okmulgee County, where the Deep Fork River was more than 7 feet above its 18-foot flood stage. High water may surround some buildings in Okmulgee by the time the river crests around 28.2 feet on Saturday, the weather service said.

Authorities closed Oklahoma 56 west of Okmulgee on Tuesday morning. Okmulgee could be in for severe flooding if heavy rain

governor to remove anyone from office he appointed, the state constitution only allows parole board members to be removed "for cause."

In addition to writing the letter, Walters has met with Crump to tell her of his disappointment with her actions.

Crump has refused to comment on the controversy since the OSBI investigation started. She did not return a phone request for comment Tuesday.

the Arkansas River was at 25 feet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Tonkawa, eight feet above flood stage, and was expected to go below flood stage Saturday.

Highways were reopened as river levels dropped, including Oklahoma 33 east of Coyle over the Cimarron River, and Oklahoma 99 between Stroud and Prague.

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McClain and Cleveland counties aren't included in the statewide count, although authorities estimated the number of damaged homes there at 25 to 30.

Hardest hit was Oklahoma County which reported 966 damaged homes. In Kingfisher, 223 homes were damaged.

Washington County reported 113 homes were damaged. Officials said 60 of those homes were damaged by winds up to 90 mph.

Ninety-eight home were damaged in Payne County and another 87 homes reported damage in Logan County.

A spokesman at the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department at Tahlequah said one road — Oklahoma 80 — was closed because of high water.

He said the Illinois River is out of its banks in areas, but no one has been forced out of homes.

At Bartlesville, the Washington County sheriff's office said the level of Caney River was dropping and emergency officials were not expecting any water-related problems.

Terry Durborow, Ottawa County undersheriff, said the Neosho River was at 20 feet on Tuesday. "It usually has to get to 21 feet or better to give us any problems," Durborow said.

Durborow said the Neosho River is out of its banks at the city's park in the southwest part of town and a section of Oklahoma 125 in that area is closed.

The Miami Downtown Redevelopment Authority said floodwaters forced cancellation of this weekend's Antique and Flea Market and the Crafts Trade Days.

In Skiatook, residents began cleaning up the muddy mess Bird

director. Oklahoma 20 was reopened Monday night and Oklahoma 11 opened Tuesday morning.

Officials say the weekend flood is the worst since 1959. The water was 8-inches lower in 1986 and about a foot higher in 1959.

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Garl Mardis, a USDA official based in Stillwater, said the information could be used for Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to declare the area an agricultural disaster.

A disaster designation would make farmers eligible for low interest loans from USDA's lending agency, the Farmers Home Administration, Mardis said.

FmHA officials said farmers hurt by the tornadoes and severe storms of April 24 are already eligible for emergency disaster loans under President Clinton's disaster declaration, said Vesta Axtll, FmHA loan technician.

The tornado and thunderstorm loans are available to farmers in Rogers, Craig, Mayes, Nowata, Tulsa, Wagoner and Washington counties, Axtll said.

Mardis said Walters asked for damage reports from farms hit by the floods of May 7-9. Those affected counties are:

Alfalfa, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cleveland, Comanche, Cotton, Garfield, Garvin, Grady, Grant, Greer, Jackson, Jefferson, Kay, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Lincoln, Logan, Love, McClain, Major, Murray, Noble, Oklahoma, Pawnee, Payne, Pottawatomie, Stephens, Tillman, and Washita.

The deadline for farmers to apply for tornado loans is Dec. 27, 1993, and that would probably be the same deadline if a flood disaster is declared. The deadline occurs in December because losses sometimes can't be fully determined until the end of the harvest season, Axtll said.

Farmers interested in emergency disaster loans should visit local county FmHA offices, she said.

...Turnpike

Continued from A-1

Cherokee, Kilpatrick and Chickasaw — would be financially feasible unless Turner Turnpike revenue was pledged to retire bonds.

But the feasibility studies substantially overestimated the revenue that the new toll roads would produce.

"I have a real problem with those guys," Scott said about the Smith estimates.

He expressed concern that if the consultants miss as badly on their estimates of Walters' proposed turnpikes, it could devastate the entire turnpike system.

"You don't really know for sure what the traffic is going to be on a new turnpike until it's been open for a year," Scott said.

One effect of a bad estimate

probably would be that the toll increases on existing turnpikes, including the Turner and Will Rogers, would have to be much greater than even Walters is estimating now.

Bellmon sold his program partly on a promise that it would not require a toll increase.

But in 1991, tolls were raised an average of 30 percent systemwide for everyone except PikePass customers. About 65 percent of current turnpike users pay the higher rate.

And a large percentage of those who get the lower, discounted PikePass rate are out-of-state, long-haul truckers.

It is likely that none of the new toll roads being considered would pay for themselves. Feasibility studies are under way.

...Cuts

Continued from A-1

recommended for cuts greater than 10 percent.

Also, there is a good possibility that higher education will receive less than a 9 to 10 percent cut, Begley said. Agency heads should wait before using a "panic button," he said. "Everything is still on the table here."

Chancellor for Higher Education Hans Brisch said a 10 percent cut would eliminate 1,800 faculty, staff and student employee posts. In addition, the cut would have a \$130 million ripple effect across the state due to lost wages, reduction in purchases by colleges and universities and other factors, Cox said.

A survey of state colleges and universities indicated that a 10 percent cut would cancel 2,000 summer and fall classes, affecting about 54,000 students, Cox said.

The reduction would include a \$1 million cutback in fee-waiver scholarships, amounting to a loss

of 2,000 student awards, and a possible \$1.2 million cut in Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grants, affecting about 1,500 students.

"I don't think the people would stand for that," Begley said. He questioned whether other cuts could be made that would have a lesser impact on students.

Begley said higher education received about \$25 million in "one-time" money that shouldn't be used when calculating the potential budget cuts for the upcoming fiscal year. One-time money was meant to be used for equipment and other non-recurring items, he said. "I would think college people would understand the term one-time," he said.

Begley did not discount dipping into the Constitutional "Rainy Day" Reserve Fund for more "one time" money to help higher education. "We are working hard to make ends meet."

The Legislature is considering tuition increases that could generate an additional \$11 million for higher education.



World staff photo by P.J. Lassek

Robbie Buss helps his friend, Mark Leighty, clear flood-damaged property from his house one block west of Oklahoma 11 in Skiatook. The water was 4 feet deep in Leighty's house.

Skiatook Victims Face Mud, Mess

By P.J. Lassek
World Staff Writer

SKIATOOK — Under gray skies and light rainfall, residents began Tuesday cleaning up the muddy mess Bird Creek flood waters left on the east side of town.

Tuesday night, many residents met to see what can be done to lessen future flooding, such as by removing a 2-mile levee on the east bank of Bird Creek north of Oklahoma 20.

Some residents believe the levee forces flood waters into neighborhoods instead of across farm lands.

Heavy rainfall Saturday forced water out of Bird Creek early Sunday, flooding 40 homes and 18 businesses.

Trash, debris and thick black mud covered the streets, yards and fences throughout the flooded area.

It was easy to determine the amount of water that had entered homes and businesses by the

water line marks outside.

The water receded into Bird Creek by about 10 p.m. Monday, said Scott Hilton, civil defense director. Oklahoma 20 was reopened Monday evening and Oklahoma 11 opened Tuesday morning.

Tommy Lentz, owner of 11-20 Market, a fruit stand and plant nursery on the intersection of Oklahoma 11 and 20, had 4 feet of water in his business.

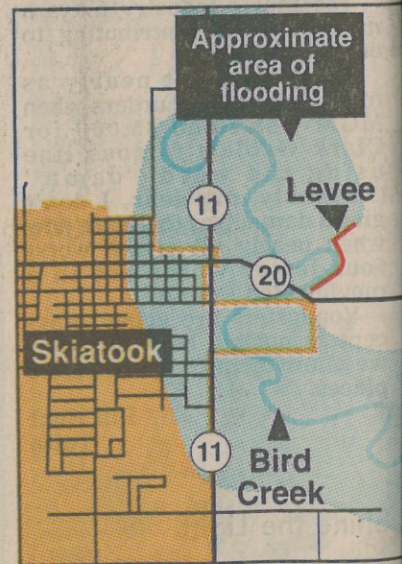
That intersection is where floodwater first appears and is the last to recede, he said.

Lentz said the current of this flood was greater than any other flood to hit Skiatook.

"It looks like Bird Creek wants to cut right through here," he said as he pointed to large portions of his dirt floor that were washed away.

"I'm lucky I didn't lose the whole building," he said. "I'm a lot better off than most of the people. The only damage was to the dirt floor and some second-hand tables."

See Mud on A-12



Tulsa World Map / D. House

Suspect Gets Counseling

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more money.
"But then you say, 'I just got to have this,' and your dad reaches into another pocket and comes up with the money."

...Mud

Continued from A-9
Mark Leighty, however, lost everything.

Leighty lived in his home, one block off Oklahoma 11, for about a year. He, too, received 4 feet of water inside his house.

"Everything is ruined," he said. "I just can't believe this. I'm not sure what my next move will be."

Only a few residents, who experienced the flood of 1986 and received grant money, elevated their homes out of the flood plain.

B.J. Kirby was one of the property owners who reinvested his grant money in his home.

"I didn't want to put up with any more flooding," he said. "I did what most of the locals didn't do. I used the grant money on what it was intended for."

Kirby's home stayed dry. He had 20 inches to spare before water would have entered his home.

Ted Westmoland also rebuilt his business on higher ground, but apparently not high enough.

Ted's Body Shop at the corner of Oklahoma 11 and 20 had about 3 feet of water.

Westmoland's business was bought out by the state in a project to widen Oklahoma 20.

He said the only condition to rebuilding his business was raising it out of the flood plain.

"I was guaranteed by my engineer that I was above the flood level," he said. "But I still got flooded."

Bobby and Susan Delk and their five children just moved into their rent home Thursday.

The only thing they were able to remove before evacuating the area was a television and some clean clothes.

The Red Cross shelter will remain open at 1500 S. Osage. The shelter housed 29 residents Monday.

John Erling to Review Rush Limbaugh Book

John Erling, KRMG radio morning host, will review Rush Limbaugh's book "The Way Things Ought To Be" at 12:10 p.m. Thursday at Helmerich Library.

Limbaugh's talk show is broadcast afternoons on KRMG.

The free book review program, open to the public, is the last in a series of "Brown Bag Book Reviews" sponsored by the Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st.

For more information call the Helmerich Library, 596-2466.

Tulsa Area Trivia

The temperature at Nowata on Aug. 9, 1936, was 118 degrees.

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and

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(405) 722-5455

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8201 S. WESTERN
(405) 632-3862

LAWTON
1511 W. GORE
(405) 355-3346

MIDWEST CITY
7901 N.E. 10th
(405) 733-8286

OTHER LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT OKLAHOMA

Southern Hills Retirement Community Provides 'Continuum' of Senior Care

Southern Hills Retirement Community is the oldest senior living facility in the Tulsa area providing a continuum of quality care for seniors. Our three separate, but adjacent, senior facilities include:

Southern Hills

Southern Hills

Southern Hills