



THE DAILY OKL

The State Newspaper Since 190

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1993

Clinton said at the White House. "All the basic features of the bill remained intact and many of the changes that were made, I think, made it a better bill."

The bill includes a broad new energy tax, a boost in the portion of Social Security benefits subject to tax and a major increase in income taxes paid by couples and individuals earning more than about \$115,000 a year.

The largest corporations would pay more than now, but small businesses would get new tax incentives for job-creating investments under the bill passed by the Ways and Means Committee.

At a five-year cost of about \$246 billion, the tax increase would be one of the biggest ever, although it would take a smaller share of national income than one signed by President Reagan in 1982.

Clinton, asked why Americans should be happy about higher taxes, said, "I think the Ameri-

See TAXES, Page 2

Flood Damage Estimates Rise; 10 More Counties Urged for Aid

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

As floodwaters recede, damage estimates to county roads and bridges in north-central Oklahoma are rising.

Meanwhile, Gov. David Walters on Thursday requested that 10 counties be added to the disaster declaration signed Wednesday by President Clinton.

The 10 counties are Bryan, Canadian, Carter, Cleveland, Creek, Grady, Kay, Pottawatomie, Tulsa and Washington.

The original declaration covered only Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma and Payne counties.

Walters said the request to expand the declaration was due to recent damage assessment reports from the affected counties.

The governor said that storm and flood victims who are confused about filing an application for assistance should call the toll-free number, 1-800-462-9029.

Damage estimates to county

On Page 6:

- Lake Businesses Make Plans
- Floods Leave Road Damage
- Churches Provide Relief
- Extra School Days Urged
- Victims Can Still Get Aid

roads and bridges in Payne, Kingfisher, Grant, Kay and Garfield counties already surpass \$4 million and likely will increase as officials see the extent of destruction to roads and bridges that now is hidden by high water.

More than 60 bridges — 50 in Payne County alone — have been twisted and destroyed by the raging floodwaters, officials said.

The floodwaters swept away the topsoil and at least another layer of subsoil from two farms in Kingfisher County, said Danny Mastalka, civil defense director for the city of Kingfisher and Kingfisher County.

"There are farms, I mean complete farms, that are completely gone," Mastalka said Thursday.

Structures and houses are left standing, but the fields are ruined, he said.

Henry Senn, a Kingfisher County commissioner, said damage to his district south and southwest of Kingfisher so far has been estimated at about \$1.2 million.

He said roads and bridges damaged in the flood will not be fixed in time for the upcoming wheat harvest.

"No way," Senn said. "It's going to be a hardship on the farmers. Some of them are going to have to drive four and five miles around just to get to their fields."

Officials in Grant County say flood damage to roads and bridges is so extensive it is unlikely that repairs can be made in time for some farmers to get to their fields to harvest wheat this summer.

"Normally our harvest starts around the 15th of June and there's no way we'll ever be able to make a lot of these roads passable to get

See FLOODS, Page 2



Star Wars Ends, But Anti-Missile Weapons Pushed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten years and nearly \$30 billion after President Reagan declared his vision of a leak-proof shield against Soviet nuclear attack, the Strategic Defense Initiative, or Star Wars program, is officially dead.

Defense Secretary Les Aspin said Thursday the Clinton administration would press ahead with work on anti-missile weapons, but the centerpiece of the Reagan vision — weapons in space — is being relegated to small-scale research.

to get the Vietnamese to show up. Allies will not allow us to go into Bosnia. President Clinton has promised to do something for the Bosnians. Maybe he can give them a wing at the Holocaust Museum. Sam Nunn inspected the USS John F. Kennedy to see if gay sailors would be welcome. Not on this ship. He caught the officers using Tailhook Incident trading cards.

A group of people from Oregon want the Senate to overturn Bob Packwood's election for a year by harassing 23 women. They insist he is gay. The voters. What, did he say he was gay? The markets are asking the government to let them open new stores in the inner city. They need their own suppliers, too. Procter & Gamble refuses to manufacture crack.

Recent news showed Oklahoma cows swimming to safety during the floods. Oklahoma looks the same as California cows except for one thing, California cows have all had their heads clipped.

One of the funniest leaders ever was Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. He said, "Politics are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even when there is no river."

Khrushchev was the colorful Soviet Premier who stood before the 1956 Party Congress and criticized Josef Stalin. It was five years after Stalin's death but it still took a ton of courage.

On a famous day, Khrushchev stood on the podium before thousands of delegates and listed some of the hideous mass crimes of the Stalin era. The crowd was stunned by his honesty. A voice from the audience suddenly interrupted Khrushchev's speech. "You were one of Stalin's colleagues," a man screamed, "Why didn't you chop him?"

Khrushchev looked in the direction of the speaker. "Who said that?" he demanded. There was absolute silence. Everyone stared straight at him. Raising his voice, the Soviet premier said, "You know why."

Argus Hamilton, comedy star of network television, has humorous views on world events Monday through Friday in "The Argus Report."

State Auditor and Inspector Clifton Scott told the state Board of Education on Thursday that Langston is in pending with elementary grades. Albert Johnson, a member of the board of education,

situation in the all-black Langston school. Garrett said that "utmost school practice school l

Floods

From Page 1

their grain out," said Ted Moore, a Grant County commissioner.

Flooding either damaged or left water standing on so many roads that county officials had to get more "Road Closed" signs, Moore said.

At least 150 roads in the county are closed because of high water or damage, he said.

Moore and other commissioners have flown twice to look at the damage caused by flooding that still has many fields and roads under water.

At least seven bridges have been destroyed, he said.

Some roads have holes six to eight feet deep from washouts caused by the current of the floodwaters, Moore said.

Moore said officials videotaped damage and flooding while flying over the county and will submit that tape and other docu-

ments when they apply for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mastalka said the floods caused an estimated \$2 million in damage to bridges so far in Kingfisher County.

Many roads and bridges remain under water, he said.

Officials plan to fly over the county today to get a better look at damage to Kingfisher County's road and bridge system.

Damage to roads and bridges in Payne County is expected to exceed \$1 million, Bernice Mitchell, a Payne

County commissioner, said.

High water destroyed about 50 bridges ranging in size from 20 to 110 feet long and about 100 miles of roads have been washed out, she said.

The damage total is expected to go higher as citizens report damage and as officials are able to get to areas now under water, Mitchell said.

"We have over 1,200 miles of roads in Payne County, so it takes a little while," she said. "It's been horrendous."

Federal assistance will be necessary for the county to rebuild

the county's damaged road system, she said.

Scheduled road projects will have to be delayed as the county will have to put most of its attention on repairs, Mitchell said.

Vern Willbanks, a Kay County commissioner, said damage estimates so far total about \$750,000.

Four bridges in length from 25 to 80 feet have been destroyed, he said.

"We've got some holes washed out on roads by the Salt Fork River that are 150 feet long and 10 to 20 feet deep," Willbanks said.

Paul English in the Capitol Bureau contributed to this report.

Defense

From Page 1

the Defense Initiative, explored a dazzling array of exotic capabilities for developing long-range missiles in flight, including zapping mis- siles with X-ray lasers. The program included Star Wars

after the popular movie of that name.

All of the most-exotic approaches have been abandoned in recent years, either because it became clear they would not work or were not needed, or both. As of early 1992, more than \$8 billion

had been spent on dead-end projects, and that figure is certain to rise in light of Aspin's revamping efforts.

Star Wars spending peaked in 1992 at \$4.15 billion. It is \$3.8 billion this year.

The Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, created by Congress in 1984 to run the Star Wars program, is being re-named the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. It will report to an undersecretary of defense instead of the defense secretary.

"This signals the end of the Star Wars era and it signals the end of a battle that has raged in Washington for years over the



Setting It Straight

An article in Thursday's *Oklahoman* stated the 800 number for flood victims to call for assistance for state and federal assistance will be answered from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency said the number, 1-800-462-9029, will be answered from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN
(USPS 144-700)

Published each morning, Monday through Friday
By The Oklahoma Publishing Co.

Floodwaters Leave Heavy Road Damage

By Michael McNutt
Enid Bureau

Residents and officials weary of flooding in north-central Oklahoma were relieved to see high water continue to drop Wednesday, but disheartened about the damage left behind.

Officials in Grant County say flood damage to roads and bridges is so extensive, it's unlikely that repairs can be made in time for farmers to get to their fields to harvest wheat this summer.

"Normally our harvest starts around the 15th of June and there's no way we'll ever be able to make a lot of these roads passable to get their grain out," said Ted Moore, a Grant County commissioner.

Flooding either damaged or left standing water on so many roads that county officials had to get more "Road Closed" signs, Moore said.

At least 150 roads in the county are closed

because of high water or damage, and at least seven bridges were destroyed, he said.

Damage to roads and bridges in Payne County is expected to exceed \$1 million, said County Commissioner Bernice Mitchell.

High water destroyed about 50 bridges, and about 100 miles of roads have been washed out, she said.

Residents in northwest and northeast Kingfisher continued to clean up their homes, while residents on the east side of Blackwell were able to return home as the Chikaskia River continued to drop.

Blackwell City Manager Bob Annis said the floodwaters went down quickly Tuesday night and Wednesday.

In Tonkawa, water dropped a foot since Tuesday when the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River crested at 25.63 feet. Flood stage is 17 feet.

Road Closings

Here, by county, is a list of highway closings released Thursday by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol:

- Bryan County**
- ✓ SH 70E, 12 miles south of Bennington.
- ✓ SH 199 at Bryan/Marshall County line.
- Carter County**
- ✓ SH 76 north of Healdton washed out.
- Cherokee County**
- ✓ SH 80 between Hulbert and Norwood.
- Greer County**
- ✓ SH 5 east of U.S. 283 and west of Frederick.
- Kay County**
- ✓ SH 77, south of Tonkawa.
- ✓ SH 156, between U.S. 60 and Marland.
- Lincoln County**
- ✓ SH 18 south of Chandler washed out.
- Logan County**
- ✓ Interstate 35 over the Cimarron River at the Logan and Payne County line reduced to one lane on southbound side.
- Love County**
- ✓ Scenic U.S. 77 south of Lake Murray.
- Noble County**
- ✓ SH 15 between Red Rock and U.S.177.
- Nowata County**
- ✓ SH 10, 3 miles east of SH 169.
- Okfuskee County**
- ✓ SH 48, 1.5 miles south of Interstate 40.
- Okmulgee County**
- ✓ SH 56 west of Okmulgee.
- Ottawa County**
- ✓ SH 125, south edge of Miami, OK.
- Pottawatomie County**
- ✓ U.S. 177 between Tecumseh and Shawnee. One lane southbound and two lanes northbound open.

In Oklahoma City, the following roads were listed Thursday as barricaded; officials said the list could change at any time:

- ✓ SW 19 and Westwood.
- ✓ SW 33 and Broadway.
- ✓ 5401 S Bodine.
- ✓ Henney Road, from Memorial to NE 150.
- ✓ SW 27 and May.
- ✓ NE 122, from Post Road to Anderson Road.
- ✓ Post Road, from Wilshire to Britton.
- ✓ Memorial Road, from Hiwassee to Westminster.
- ✓ Hefner, from Douglas to Post Road.
- ✓ Bartel, north of 23.
- ✓ SW 104, between Council and Morgan.

Lake Businesses Plan For Memorial Day Most Recreation Areas Open

By David Zizzo
Staff Writer

Despite warnings of dangerously high water at several Oklahoma lakes, business operators said Thursday marinas and other facilities, including most recreation areas, are open and will remain so for the busy Memorial Day weekend.

Business operators and an Army Corps of Engineers official said comments by a Corps spokesman Wednesday about high water had caused many potential lake visitors to assume lakes and facilities had closed or would shut down.

Tammy Ketchum, executive director of the Lake Eufaula Association, said marinas were all "open for business as usual." She said some areas of the lake have been damaged and are closed by high water, but most were open and all businesses "still will be open."

John Brigham, resident manager of Eufaula and Wister lakes, said Corps recreational areas would be 90 percent to 95 percent open Memorial Day.

"We will be in pretty good shape Memorial Day," he said. That will be the case "if we don't have any more heavy rains and we're able to continue to lower the pool after it crests," he added.

Ketchum said her office was swamped by calls Thursday from people who read comments from

Ross Adkins, spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters in Tulsa. She said the potential visitors were worried the lakes would be closed.

"We haven't said we're closing," Adkins said.

Adkins on Wednesday described high water levels at several lakes, especially Eufaula and Keystone.

On Thursday, Adkins continued to caution travelers "there is a dangerous situation out there" because of the submerged obstacles.

He said he hopes predictions of 90 percent accessibility to recreation areas on Memorial Day prove correct. But he said forecasts have called for more rain this weekend and next week.

"We want people to understand there's probably not going to be all recreation areas open," he said.

Adkins said Lake Texoma was not in as bad shape as some other lakes and might be in "a lot better shape" by Memorial Day.

A state tourism spokeswoman said Wednesday the Catfish Bay Area at Texoma would be closed through Memorial Day, but a business operator and a park ranger said only the old part of Catfish Bay Campground is closed. About 560 of the 680 camping spots are open, marina operator Jerry McCarver said.

Staff writer Penny Owen contributed to this report.

Flood Victims Can Still Get Aid

Red Cross Phones

Those needing information on where to go for Red Cross assistance can call a toll-free telephone number that is manned during work hours and uses a taped message after hours. The number is 1-800-984-3334.

Below are Red Cross phone numbers in specific counties:

- ✓ Oklahoma: 232-7121.
- ✓ Cleveland: 321-0591.
- ✓ Kingfisher: 375-3883.
- ✓ Logan: 282-1194.
- ✓ Pottawatomie: 273-8800.

Flood victims needing applications for federal and state assistance may call 1-800-462-9029, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oklahoma County Red Cross officials said Thursday there is still time for flood victims to receive assistance from the relief organization.

Bruce Brown, manager of a Red Cross disaster assistance service center, said some confusion has resulted from the organization's plans to close an emergency shelter that has been in operation since last Saturday.

Although the shelter is closing, other services remain available, Brown said. "We want to be sure that all disaster victims' needs are met," Brown said. "We encourage all people who have been affected by the floods and have not applied for assistance to come into the center."

The shelter, which housed those left homeless by the weekend flooding, was no longer needed as of late Wednesday, Brown said. At that point, he said, those using the shelter had moved back into their homes or made other ar-

rangements for housing.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross Service Center which Brown manages will remain open indefinitely, he said.

"It is still too early to know when the service center will close," he said.

Even when the service center, 4617 S May, is closed, the Red Cross will continue relief efforts.

The service center, located at Mayridge Baptist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tornadoes, windstorms and torrential rains in recent weeks have left the Red Cross busy at nine service centers across the state. Some 1,600 families are being assisted by the organization.

All Red Cross disaster assistance is free. Those wishing to donate money to defray these costs may send checks to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, 601 NE 6, Oklahoma City, 73104, or to their local Red Cross chapter.

Gwartney told the state school board meeting in Oklahoma City that the Catoosa tornado was different from the one that damaged schools in Oologah two years ago because many homes were destroyed in Catoosa and community life was significantly disrupted.

Most of Catoosa's school structures sustained some structural and roof damage, along with the buses, he said.

Gwartney said that sprinkler systems inside some school buildings were on for at least five hours after the tornado hit, and that caused substantial water damage.

"It's doubtful that much learning would have gone on" had Catoosa tried to have classes in May, state schools superintendent Sandy Garrett said.

Added Garrett, "Nothing can replace a sequence of learning. It's a difficult situation and so much emotional trauma" in Catoosa.

Gwartney said that Catoosa schools were fully covered by insurance. He said some summer school classes and tutoring will be held, and the district should fully reopen by Aug. 12 for the start of next school year.