

## Comets shine

Bishop Kelley's dominance in girls soccer is equaled only by other teams' desire to beat them.

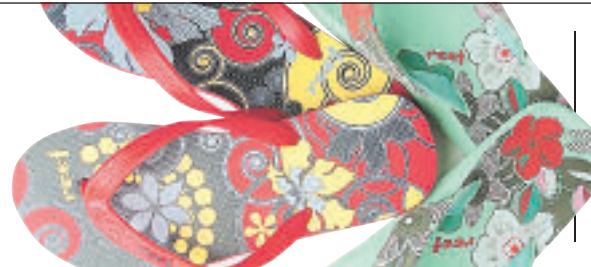
**Sports B-1**



## Pick the best

Flower-inspired gifts are perfect for Mother's Day.

**Scene D-1**



## Brick by brick

Another Brady district building is being renovated.

**Business E-1**

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**TUESDAY**

MAY 8, 2007

# TULSA WORLD

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# Motorists scramble amid flooded roads



STEPHEN PINGRY/Tulsa World

Water surges through a neighborhood near 90th East Avenue and 111th Street in Bixby on Monday following heavy rains. Below, vehicles are driven through high water between Tulsa and Broken Arrow on 193rd East Avenue between 31st and 41st streets. Many roads were flooded following Monday's rains.

## Power woes are blamed on lightning

By **JEFF BILLINGTON**  
World Staff Writer

Waves of heavy thunderstorms flooded highways with several inches of rain Monday in northeastern Oklahoma, while lightning cut power to thousands of residents and a Tulsa refinery.

"The fact that the thunderstorms seemed to have been persistent is a bit uncommon, but we've had an air mass in the area recently that's been warm and moist, and we've been looking for a trigger to produce something like this," said Joe Sellers, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Tulsa.

"Lightning accompanies storms like these, and sometimes heavy rain that can produce the flooding that some areas are receiving."

Several streets in the Tulsa metro area were closed because of high water, and several motorists in Broken Arrow had to be rescued by fire crews after driving into high water, a

SEE **STORM A-4**



STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World

### FLOODING TIPS

Know the elevation of your property in relation to nearby streams and dams. Find out the elevation above flood stage of your home, outbuildings and pastures.

Talk with members of households about the possibility of floods and flash floods and what to do to stay safe if one occurs.

Find out if you are located in a floodplain. If so, you are still eligible for flood insurance. Check with city or county government to review the flood insurance rate maps.

Use a weather radio or tune in to local broadcast stations for changing conditions.

Source: American Red Cross

Talk to your insurance agent. Homeowners' policies do not cover flooding. Ask about the National Flood Insurance Program <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/> to buy flood insurance. It takes 30 days for flood insurance to take effect.

If your vehicle becomes surrounded by water or the engine stalls, get out of the vehicle if you can safely do so. The lateral force of a foot of water moving at 10 mph is about 500 pounds on most vehicles. The greatest effect is buoyancy — for every foot that water rises up the side of a car, it displaces 1,500 pounds of the car's weight. Two feet of water moving at 10 mph will float virtually any car, SUV or pickup.

# Henry seeks pay increase for teachers

► Raises could be the last major hurdle to a final budget, lawmakers say.

By **MICK HINTON**  
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — A pay raise of at least \$1,000 for teachers is Gov. Brad Henry's top priority, his spokesman said Monday.

The governor and Legislature have committed to get Oklahoma's teacher pay to the regional average in three years, and 2008 will be the last year to accomplish that, said Paul Sund, the governor's communications director.

To reach the regional average, teachers would need a \$1,000 raise both this year and next. So far, there has been informal agreement on only \$600.

"We know the governor is pushing real hard to increase teacher pay," said Rep. Chris Bengel, R-Tulsa, chairman of the House Budget Committee. However, House Republicans do not appear to be as excited about the pay raise coming out of regular appropriations.

The teacher pay raise could end up being the last major hurdle to a final budget, lawmakers say. The Legislature faces mandatory adjournment on May 25, or lawmakers could end up in special session.

On Monday, legislative committees started meeting to decide how to spend \$55 million in increased allocations over the current budget, with

SEE **RAISE A-3**

### DIVISION OF ALLOCATIONS

Division of \$55 million in increased allocations by legislative committee:

**Education:** \$26 million

**Public Safety:** \$14 million

**Public Health:** \$4.5 million

**Human Services:** \$4.1 million

**General Government:** \$3.3 million

**Natural Resources:** \$1.5 million

**Other:** \$1.6 million



Bengel

# Governor signs retirement bill for teachers

► It will increase the rates colleges, universities and school districts pay into the system.

By **BARBARA HOBEROCK**  
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Brad Henry on Monday signed a bill to help shore up the ailing Teachers' Retirement System.

"Oklahoma's teachers are some of the finest public servants in Oklahoma," Henry said. "In serving our children, they have served all of us, and they deserve a pension system that is solvent, secure and able to fulfill the state's commitment."

Senate Bill 357 will increase the rates colleges, universities and school districts pay into the system with a pledge from lawmakers for reimburse-

SEE **BILL A-3**



Henry



Meacham

# School board deadlocks on Bunche; \$250 stipend approved

By **ANDREA EGER**  
World Staff Writer

The Tulsa school board deadlocked Monday over the proposed closure of Bunche Early Childhood Development Center in June 2008.

But in other business, the board approved \$250 stipends for teachers at 11 north Tulsa schools. Teachers union representatives have called the

stipends a "professional insult."

Monday marked the second time in two months that the board received a recommendation from Superintendent Michael Zolkoski to close Bunche ECDC, a 34-year-old prekindergarten program that serves about 250 students.

In April, Zolkoski recommended that the school be closed at the end of the current school year in favor of

having all 4-year-olds attend prekindergarten programs in neighborhood elementary schools. The board tabled discussion of that recommendation.

Zolkoski returned at Monday's meeting with a recommendation to close the school in June 2008.

He also recommended that the district study the feasibility of establishing an early childhood education "demonstration school" in the same

north Tulsa area where Bunche ECDC is located, without specifying that the Bunche building would be the site of such a school.

Board member Matt Livingood proposed an amendment removing the scheduled closing of the school in June 2008 from the recommendation, but the amendment failed in a 3-3 tie vote.

Livingood and members Lana Turn-

er-Addison and Oma Copeland voted for the amendment, while Vice President Ruth Ann Fate, member Cathy Newsome and President Gary Percefull voted against it.

Then the board considered Zolkoski's recommendation in whole, and that vote also failed to carry, with Fate, Newsome and Percefull voting

SEE **BUNCHE A-3**

### WEATHER

High 82 / Low 63  
Mostly cloudy with a chance of t-storms

B-8



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### TOMORROW

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