

Hung up on quality

Consumers knock cell phone service.

Business E-1



TEA TIME

Readers exchange recipes for that holiday favorite: spiced tea mix.

Scene D-1



Lessons learned

In announcing he was staying at LSU, Les Miles might have remembered how he left OSU.

Sports B-1

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Tax hike proposed

\$1 billion is needed for streets, panel says

By BRIAN BARBER
World Staff Writer

At least \$1 billion in tax increases are needed to stop the "death spiral" of Tulsa's streets, a city-sponsored citizens panel reported Tuesday.

"People need to realize that to improve our streets, we're going to have to pay for it — certainly a lot more than we have been," said Dewey Bartlett Jr., co-chairman of the 22-member "Complete Our Streets" panel.

Bartlett and co-chairwoman Sharon King Davis encouraged Mayor Kathy Taylor and the City Council to "summon the political will" to tell the public the hard truth about what's needed to get the job done.

An estimated \$1.6 billion in extra funding is necessary over the next 10 years to bring the streets to an average grade of a "C," to maintain that level and to do some priority widening projects.

Tulsa's arterial and residential streets now average "D" grades on the scientific Pavement Condition Index and are on their way to failing marks.

The needed increases should be to both city property taxes and sales taxes, the panel is recommending.

First, a general obligation bond issue of no less than \$650 million must be approved to tackle the backlog

SEE STREET A-9

Online

Read the full report from the "Complete Our Streets" citizens panel.
www.tulsaworld.com/streetreport

Recommendations from citizens street panel

A general obligation bond package of at least \$650 million is needed to tackle the backlog in street work.

A permanent or a minimum 10-year half-cent sales tax increase that would generate \$35 million annually is needed to pay for ongoing maintenance.

Both tax increases should go to public votes on the April 1 municipal general election ballot.

The city needs to secure a \$50 million annual portion of the state vehicle tag fees and the return of a half-penny of the state's sales tax, or \$34.5 million annually, collected within its borders to put toward infrastructure.

The report suggests several other revenue sources, including toll roads, in-city oil drilling and selling project naming rights, for further discussion.

ROBERT S. CROSS/Tulsa World
Tulsa could do a lot of street projects, like this one on 61st Street between Harvard and Yale avenues, if at least \$1 billion in tax increases proposed by a citizens panel are approved.



Health clinic coming to north Tulsa

By NORA FROESCHLE
World Staff Writer

Residents in north Tulsa have a life expectancy that is 14 years shorter than those who live in south Tulsa.

That finding, among other disparities revealed by a recent study of health care in Tulsa, has resulted in a plan to build a 50,000-square-foot clinic at 36th Street North and Hartford Avenue to address specialty health-care needs in north, east and west Tulsa.

University of Oklahoma President David Boren announced Tues-

Online

Read the complete report on Tulsa's health-care status.
www.tulsaworld.com/lewinreport

day that plans to break ground on the OU-Tulsa Specialty Clinic are under way after a \$20 million funding goal was met.

Speaking to a crowd of close to 150 people at Neighbor for Neighbor, 505 E. 36th St. North, Boren said equal access to health care and

education are birthrights of all Americans.

"We're not going to have that disparity in our community," Boren said. "OU is not here to lead; OU is here to serve side by side, shoulder to shoulder, with all of these organizations."

Morton Comprehensive Health Services, Neighbor for Neighbor and the Tulsa City-County Health Department are partners in the effort because the organizations try to meet primary care needs in Tul-

SEE CLINIC A-4



JACOB HAND for the Tulsa World

Burns Hargis speaks to faculty, staff and students at Oklahoma State University on Tuesday. Hargis, a former regent and an OSU graduate, has been named the school's next president and will take office in July.

Hargis is named OSU president

By APRIL MARCISZEWSKI
World Staff Writer

STILLWATER — Lawyer and prominent Republican Burns Hargis, vowing to improve graduation rates and raise money, was named the next president of Oklahoma State University on Tuesday.

OSU's regents voted unanimously to hire Hargis, a former regent and an OSU graduate, when he becomes eligible. State law prevents Hargis from taking the job until one year after he resigned from the board of regents, putting his start date at July 1.

Hargis' pay will be decided closer to his start date, according to the board. His predecessor, David Schmidly, who left OSU this year for the University of New Mexico presidency, had a salary of \$276,117 in the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Interim President Marlene Strathe will continue in her position until Hargis arrives, and then will resume her job as provost and chief academic officer, Hargis and others said.

Hargis addressed his lack of ac-

SEE OSU A-4

Burns Hargis

Age: 62

Born: Victoria, Texas

Family: Wife, Ann Hargis; son, Matt Hargis, who is married and has two children; daughter Kate Haas, who is married and has a son.

Education: Bachelor's degree in accounting from OSU, law degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Career: Practiced law in Oklahoma City for 28 years; served as chairman of the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services; is vice chairman for the Bank of Oklahoma; has served on a variety of boards.

Politics: Republican, unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1990, co-hosts TV show "Flashpoint" with Democrat Mike Turpen.

Favorite OSU professor: Wilton T. Anderson, who taught accounting and set high expectations that motivated Hargis to put in extra effort.

HB 1804: STATE IMMIGRATION REFORM

GOP senator wants parts of law repealed

By MICK HINTON
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Republican state senator called Tuesday for repeal of sections of House Bill 1804, a sweeping immigration reform effort.

Provisions of the new law "essentially throw farmers and business owners under the bus," Sen. Harry Coates said in a prepared statement.

He called for repealing provisions dealing with harboring and transporting illegal immigrants.

"I think people in the Legislature, the business community, private citizens and churches of many denominations are beginning to realize that this legislation is having an extremely negative impact on our state in many areas," said Coates, R-Seminole.

Since the bill became law last month, Coates said he has received numerous phone calls from farmers, business owners and contractors.

"They want to know where the replacement workers will come from to fill the jobs resulting from the recent exodus of the immigrant worker, and they are angry with the Legislature for putting good politics ahead of good policy," Coates said.

Rep. Randy Terrill, chief author of the bill, said that Coates' proposal is "absurd."

Terrill said his legislation "contin-

ues to enjoy the strong, overwhelming, bipartisan support of the people of Oklahoma."

"You can count on me to do everything to make sure that Coates' proposals are not successful," he said.

Terrill said the harboring provisions mirror what is already federal law. The state law extends to Oklahoma law officers the ability to enforce that law, at a time when federal immigration officers are scarce, he added.

Sen. James Williamson, R-Tulsa, who sponsored HB 1804 in the Senate, said Coates made the same floor arguments before the bill was passed by the Legislature.

Williamson said the law does not force employers to check the legal status of new workers through a national verification system. However, hiring an illegal immigrant could subject the employer to a lawsuit if the employer has fired an American citizen to open up the job. This provision is effective July 1.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Drew Edmondson told the governor's Hispanic advisory council on Monday that his office was compelled to represent the state in a case challenging the law's constitutionality.

"In some cases, we enter into those defenses because we are re-

SEE LAW A-4

High 58, Low 38

Partly sunny

Complete weather on E-6



Action Line..... A-15
Agribusiness..... E-4
Air Fares..... E-2
Ask Amy..... D-4
Comics..... D-4,5
Crosswords..... D-4
Editorial..... A-16
Horoscope..... C-10
Movies..... D-2
Obituaries..... A-14
Stocks..... E-5
Transitions..... A-14



Sooners vs. Hurricane

The University of Oklahoma hosts the University of Tulsa in a men's basketball game Wednesday. We'll have the score and more.

Tomorrow in Sports

Daily - 50 cents



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