



# BUSINESS

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INSIDE

Oklahoma agriculture... E-2 Stocks of local interest... E-4 Energy futures... E-4 Mutual funds... E-5

## Southwest solution

Pilots take on more hours to save airline money. Please go to E-3



# Gulf Coast energy recovery slow

► Short supplies contribute to high heating bills, the energy secretary says.

By DEB RIECHMANN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Oil and natural gas production in the Gulf Coast area probably will not recover from this year's hurricanes until next summer, Energy Secretary Sam Bodman said Thursday, urging conservation as the cost to heat homes is expected to soar this winter.

"The infrastructure of our country took a real blow with Hurricanes Rita and Katrina," Bodman told reporters outside the White House.

"Even to this day, we have about a third of the natural gas and a third of the oil that is produced in the Gulf of Mexico still shut-in due to the damage that was done," he said. "That's not going to be back up and online, my guess is, until summertime."

The latest figures by the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service, however, indicate a somewhat brighter picture, saying about a quarter of the Gulf's daily natural gas pro-

duction remains shut in, not a third.

Short supplies will contribute to high energy prices this heating season, said Bodman, who urged Americans to step up conservation.

His department's Energy Information Administration recently predicted that households heating with natural gas can expect to spend from 50 percent to 70 percent more this winter, depending on location. The agency this week scaled back its heating cost predictions slightly because of mild weather in November.

But with the recent onslaught of frigid weather in the Midwest and

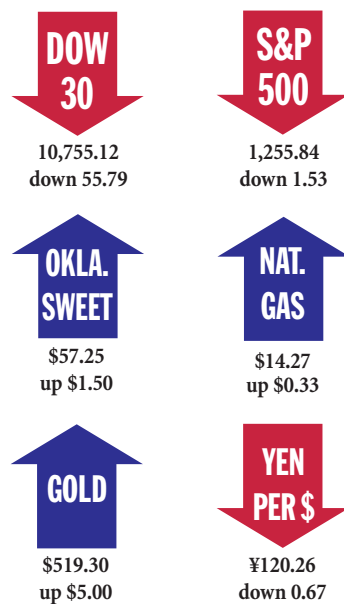
Northeast, natural gas prices surged by 9 percent Thursday to a new high of nearly \$15 per thousand cubic feet for gas to be delivered in January. A year ago the price was \$7 per thousand cubic feet.

"The president recognizes that energy costs, if you're running a home, energy costs that you have are really the one item in your budget that you don't have any control over," Bodman said.

He said the administration supports legislation in Congress that would provide \$3.2 billion to help low-income

SEE HEAT E-6

## MARKET WATCH



## BIZ QUICKS

### Record natural gas price chills stock market

Stocks extended their losses into a second day Thursday as a surge in energy prices rattled investors. Natural gas jumped 9 percent to a new high, while the price of crude oil went back above \$60.

Some brokers said they were stunned by the market's apparent knee-jerk reaction to cold weather gripping much of the nation. Mike Fitzpatrick at Fimat USA in New York said the surge in natural gas "bears no reflection whatsoever to the fundamentals" of supply and demand, since gas inventories continue to grow.

"Speculation is the only thing I can point to," he said, adding that the market is "building toward a big bust." On the New York Mercantile Exchange, January natural gas futures surged as high as \$15.10 per 1,000 cubic feet before settling at \$14.994, an increase of \$1.294. The previous closing high for the front-month contract was \$14.338 on Oct. 25 and the previous intraday high was \$14.75 on Oct. 5.

Light sweet crude for January delivery climbed \$1.45 to settle at \$60.66.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 55.79, or 0.52 percent, to 10,755.12; the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.53, or 0.12 percent, to 1,255.84; and the Nasdaq composite index fell 5.55, or 0.25 percent, to 2,246.46.

### Boeing shares top \$70 for first time since 2000

Shares of Boeing Co. topped \$70 a share for the first time in five years Thursday, propelled by momentum in the company's defense contracting and commercial aircraft manufacturing businesses.

The stock rose 42 cents to close at \$70.07 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Jim Albaugh, head of Boeing's St. Louis-based defense unit, cited the strong commercial airplane market as helping the company build on the strength it has derived largely from defense sales in recent years.



Albaugh

Speaking to analysts in New York, he noted that operating margins for both divisions this year have shown double-digit percentage increases.

He said Boeing's two new commercial planes in development — the fuel-efficient 787 and the bigger version of its 747 jumbo jet — will help the Chicago-based company withstand expected reductions in U.S. military budgets.

"It's been a great ride the last five years — the budgets have been going up about 9 percent compounded annually, and we've been able to grow dramatically in our (defense) business," he said. "But with the hurricane, with the deficit, with the election coming up, the fact that the war in Iraq and Afghanistan is costing \$100 billion a year... we're going to see a flattening of the defense budget."

### Samson buying into Noble deepwater leases

A subsidiary of Tulsa-based Samson Investment Co. and Houston-based Noble Energy Inc. have entered into an exploration agreement involving interests in 37 deepwater leases held by Noble Energy in the Gulf of Mexico.

Samson Offshore Co. will acquire a 25 percent working interest net to Noble Energy's existing working interest in the leases, most of which are 100 percent owned and operated by Noble.

In addition, Samson said it will participate in at least four exploratory wells through the end of 2008.

"Noble is a very successful and experienced deepwater explorer and operator," said David Adams, Samson's executive vice president of exploration. "They have assembled a high quality portfolio of deepwater prospects."

From Bloomberg, AP, staff reports

# Airport gets plans for parking

► Adding a third deck to the garage is recommended by a consultant.

By D.R. STEWART  
World Staff Writer

A consultant recommends construction of a \$13.6 million, 736-space expansion of the parking garage at Tulsa International Airport to increase covered parking revenue at less cost than alternatives.

Trustees of the Tulsa Airports Improvement Trust accepted the recommendations and the 18-page report of Carl Walker Inc., a Frisco, Texas, parking consultant, but took no action on it Thursday.

Commissioned by trustees last fall for \$12,000, Carl Walker's report considers a one-level expansion of the existing two-story parking garage; construction of a \$19.9 million, 942-space three-level garage west of the existing parking garage; and development of a more remote parking garage on the south shuttle parking lot.

Carl Walker recommends rejecting the third option because the south shuttle lot is the most distant from the passenger terminal, and the proposal would have to include plans for the displaced shuttle lot parking spaces.

Construction of a third deck on the existing garage would have the advantages of providing 722 nearby covered spaces on the second level of the parking garage and 736 canopied spaces on the third level, the Carl Walker study concludes.

Adding a third deck to the garage also would provide the most convenient covered parking, and would use existing entries, exits and ramping systems as well as the foundations, columns and other structural components of the garage, the study finds.

The disadvantages of expanding the garage include disruption of operations during construction and the necessity of phasing construction to minimize the shortage of long-term parking spaces.

Assuming construction of the garage expansion would begin in 2006, projected operating revenue in the first year after construction would be \$1.3 million, according to the study. Operating revenue in the 10th year after construc-

SEE PARK E-6

# Back to work



Photos by STEPHEN PINGRY / Tulsa World

Employees enter the BOK Tower after it reopened Thursday following a water-line break Monday that caused a power outage and closed the building.

## BOK Tower reopens after utility outage

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Thousands of workers returned to the BOK Tower and One Technology Center downtown Thursday following a 2½-day closing caused by a water-main break and subsequent power failure.

The 17-hour power outage began Monday afternoon when the water-line break pushed up Second Street and flooded a transformer vault in the BOK Tower basement.

The power failure affected about 130 downtown businesses and sent thousands of workers home.

Hardest hit were large employers Williams Cos. Inc. and Bank of

Oklahoma, both in the BOK Tower on Second Street, and WilTel Communications Group Inc., just east of the tower in One Technology Center.

The BOK Tower is the workplace for about 3,000 people, while WilTel has 1,200 employees in the adjacent tech center.

Nearly 1,000 Williams employees returned to work at the BOK Tower.

Although power, heat and water have been restored to the building, problems with Williams' communications network persisted Thursday.

"Our Internet connectivity has

been sporadic, as well as our e-mail," said Williams spokeswoman Julie Gentz. "This building is available for full occupancy now, although some employees are working off-site due to network connectivity issues."

The building's basement, which houses the energy giant's data center, was flooded, effecting communications. It may take a while to fully restore that equipment, Gentz said.

"We don't have a time frame yet," she said. "Our Information Technology Group is evaluating nu-

SEE OUTAGE E-2

*'Everything has been fine. I don't want to minimize this... but it's almost business as usual.'*

LARRY WAGNER

ON THE RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS AT THE BANK OF OKLAHOMA'S BOK TOWER FACILITY

# Construction under way on Utica Place

► The centerpiece is a 10-story office and residential building.

By ROBERT EVATT  
World Staff Writer

The area immediately south of Utica Square was once home to strings of unassuming, low-slung apartments.

But when Chris Bumgarner is finished with the 4.5-acre tract, an upscale, tiered building full of offices and penthouse apartments will tower over the area.

Bumgarner, project manager of Utica Place LLC, said he has wanted to bring such a development to Tulsa for quite some time, even before the recent flurry of interest in downtown loft apartments.

"There aren't a lot of mixed-use projects in Tulsa," he said.

The centerpiece of the Utica Place complex will be a 10-story, 150,000-square-foot building that will combine 100,000 square feet of office space on the lower five floors, with 12 penthouse apartments totaling 50,000 square feet above.

Utica Place, located in the 1700 block of East 22nd Place, also will include a two-story, 13,000-square-foot office building and nine free-standing, single-family homes ranging from 3,500 square feet to 4,500 square feet.

Construction recently began on the project, which Bumgarner said will cost more than \$30 million.

SEE UTICA E-3



An architectural rendering shows Utica Place, a \$30 million development in the 1700 block of East 22nd Place that will include a 10-story office/apartment building, a two-story office building and single-family homes.

Courtesy