

Area Suffers Damage From Storm *continued from front page*

the Vernonia Fire Station to manage the event. An emergency shelter was established at the Vernonia Schools, and the Red Cross arrived to provide support. Residents in identified vulnerable areas in the Flood Way were contacted and encouraged to voluntarily evacuate and, according to authorities, no rescues were required during the event. As many as 16 people were housed at the emergency shelter at one time.

High water and mud slides impacted area roadways and closed off Vernonia from outside travel until about mid-day on Wednesday. Rain continued to fall throughout the week causing continuing issues with travel on area roads.

In the aftermath of the storm the City is assessing and tracking damage. According to Mitchell, over 70 properties in the city limits were impacted, with approximately 15

homes affected.

Mitchell said the City is gathering information and estimates about damage with the possibility of seeking public assistance funding for mitigation projects to raise homes or move home owners out of the flood zone.

Mitchell said the City had arranged for limited debris removal, noting that the Waste Management Transfer Station will not be open again until January because of the holidays.

Mitchell said the City is investigating why there was so much overflow from Bear Creek. She said the City was looking particularly at the culvert that runs under Highway 47 at the south end of town, and looking into who is responsible for maintaining and clearing that culvert.

Mitchell noted that this storm and the large amount of runoff showed a vulnerability in the City storm drain system. Mitchell said that additional drainage is needed in parts of the City and may be a future project for the City to undertake.

Mitchell said damage to City infrastructure was mostly minor but did point out an issue on State Street at G Street, where severe erosion is threatening the road and a city water main. Mitchell said the City will need to engineer and fix the hillside and asked drivers to use the short



detour established to avoid using that section of road.

Mitchell asked anyone who received storm damage to contact the City of Vernonia, so the damage can be assessed, documented and included in any potential assistance applications.



2016 First Day Hike



The Hike

A moderate 3-mile, Ranger-led trek for hikers. Great for all ages with opportunities to loop back early if participants are interested in a shorter hike. This hike will connect multiple trails, including part of the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, and the newest bridge in the park.

Be prepared with hiking boots, weather appropriate clothing, and a water bottle. Rain, snow, or shine.

When & Where

January 1st, 2016, 9am-11am at Hilltop Day-use Area

Day-Use fee waived for all

FREE refreshments at 8:30 AM

Join us for a free hike!



Refreshments provided by:



L.L. Stub Stewart State Park

30380 NW Hwy 47 Buxton, OR 97109

Information: 503-324-0606x223, terra.kemper@oregon.gov