

Flood *from A1*

last major flood in 1996. As rain-fall tapered through Monday, the release rate was slated to drop to 7,500 cfs, though concerns of snow melts had threatened to put that number at a record-breaking 10,000 cfs.

As of press time, river levels were expected to crest by Monday evening and gradually drop below flood stage over the next several days.

While Cottage Grove experienced some flooding in areas within city limits, heavier inundation occurred around the edges of the city and outlying areas.

Riverstone Mobile Home Park, a community of residents 55 or older, received an evacuation notice from South Lane County Fire and

Rescue Sunday night as flooding crept through the park's streets and up to homes. Community managers hurried to notify residents with the help of the fire department.

"We went door-to-door to every home," said manager Lee Wege of the 125-unit park. "We're extremely grateful to the fire department."

Though most chose not to leave, Wege said about 20 residents sought shelter in the city or with relatives.

Shoreview Meadows Cooperative, a resident-run community along the Row River, received the Level 3 evacuation notice Sunday night.

"On the spaces that are bordering the river, it's lapping at their doorstep," said resident Janice Scanlon, who moved to Cottage Grove only

a year ago.

In response to the notice, Scanlon helped organize an evacuation.

"If I'm going to live by a river, I need to be better prepared."

— Janice Scanlon, Shoreview Meadows Cooperative resident

She estimated about 65 or 70 residents were impacted or forced to evacuate their homes Sunday night, though they were given no instruction on where to go as shelters had not been fully established.

By 10 p.m. Sunday night, American Red Cross received notice and began setting up a shelter at the Cottage Grove Community Center, housing about 40 people through the night.

The shelter is slated to stay open as long as the need persists in the community.

"We're open 24/7, so people just need to come in and register with us," said Red Cross Shelter Supervisor Donda King. "When we open a shelter or an information center, we make sure people have a warm place to stay, a bed to lay on, food in their stomach, they're warm and dry, and we provide as much information as we can get our hands on."

Red Cross services include support staff for those requiring medical and mental health treatment.

The flooding makes for the second natural disaster to shake the Cottage Grove area in five weeks, prompting some renewed talk of emergency preparedness.

"After the snowstorm, we started talking about making a list of those who are medically vulnerable," said Joi Adair, another resident of Shoreview Meadows Cooperative. "And so kind of putting together a list of who can help and who needs help."

The cooperative had hoped to have evacuation routes and destinations plotted for the next disaster.

"But we didn't get it done before this one," Scanlon said.

For her part, Scanlon has found the past month eye-opening.

"Personally, I need a better go-kit," Scanlon said. "If I'm going to live by a river, I need to be better prepared."

Green *from A1*

get an honor like this, it really means a lot to show that we are something," said Nathan Anderson of AKHS.

Anderson has been an active part of Kennedy's Green Team.

The Green Team, comprised of students that choose to take this class as an elective, have spear-headed all things environmental across the school. A key project has been making sure each classroom is provided with a compost bin and adding additional recycling bins around the school.

The cafeteria at AKHS uses reusable plates, cups and utensils while the school printers are all set to print double-sided.

What is being done now at AKHS was all recorded in the group's application to be considered a green school. This honor, which also came with a \$500 check to help the school continue their efforts,

was at the forefront of The Green Team's mind this year.

"Our most exciting project is becoming a green school because last year we tried and we came so close but we didn't make the quotes," said Anderson. "So, this year being able to have the extra couple people that we do really helped getting it started and we actually reached our goal."

To be a green school, schools have to complete a waste audit that examines all the garbage from the school from one day. Schools also fill out an application that includes what the school is currently doing in terms of sustainability, future goals and a look at the makeup of the school. This includes an examination of gas, water and electrical use all the way to what cleaning supplies the school is currently using.

Once approved, the school is considered a green school for three years at a time at which point they have to renew their application. In 2009, when the school was



ZACH SILVA/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Waste Reduction Specialist Sarah Grimm (left) presents the AKHS Green Team with a certificate and \$500 to continue their work with sustainability.

located at what is current-day Harrison Elementary, AKHS was a green school. Since the school was moved to Delight Valley it has been a goal to get that honor back but has

been difficult as the school tried to get used to their new spot and sharing a space with Head Start.

"Sharing the building with Head Start ... it was really

difficult to get a good judge of how much waste do we produce. And we can't really affect that much change on Head Start because they are a separate thing," said AKHS

teacher Jessica Martinez who leads the Green Team.

But now after three years at the school's new home, they are settled in and back to being a green school.

"I'm really proud of the kids because it's neat and they work really hard. And getting acknowledged for their hard work on this level," said Martinez. "It's great that we're a green school but what's really great is having that be part of our community then when kids leave here then we created these green healthy habits that then they carry on and they spread out there."

Now at AKHS, they are looking towards the future that will include bees (the bees that were previously on the property were wiped out in the recent snow storm), a greenhouse that is set to be on the property this May and a full chicken coop.

"One of the kids said, 'We should just make it a farm,'" Martinez said with a laugh. "I said, 'Well, I don't know about that.'"

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?

Flooding fast facts

Floods can be highly destructive natural disasters. The U.S. Geological Survey's Water Science School says that around 71 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water. While oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all the planet's water, rivers, lakes, ice caps, and glaciers also are large water sources.

National Geographic points out that flooding has caused more death and destruction than any other kind of natural disaster in the United States. Flooding may result from overflowing streams or rivers; when coastal storms cause the sea to surge inland; if a dam or levee has ruptured; if ice melts rapidly in the mountains; or if excessive rain cannot be absorbed by the ground fast enough. Flooding can even occur without warning, and such instances are referred to as "flash flooding."

Staying safe during floods involves understanding floods. The following information, courtesy of the Emergency Management Institute, FEMA, Ready.gov, and National Geographic, can help men and women better understand floods and how to stay safe in flooding situations.

- No region is safe from flooding. Floods can occur anywhere, but are rare in areas where water is scarce.
- Floods may develop very slowly or in just a matter of seconds after an extensive rainfall.
- Areal floods can occur where saturated grounds are present.
- Although the term "hundred-year flood" describes an extremely large and very rare event, these types of floods have recently been occurring worldwide with increased regularity.
- In the United States, floods cause about \$6 billion worth of damage and kill, on average, 140 people every year.
- Coastal flooding alone attributes to \$3 trillion in damage worldwide.
- China's Yellow River valley has been home to some of the worst floods in history.
- Flood waters can quickly knock people off their feet and carry them away.
- It's important to sanitize oneself after coming in contact with flood water, which could be contaminated with various natural and manmade sub-



- stances.
 - It may be necessary to move to higher ground when flooding situations occur. It's important to heed safety precautions and evacuation messages.
 - Rapidly moving water has the potential to carry a house, car, trees, or other structures away.
 - Drivers should not try to navigate through flood waters. Many deaths that occur during floods happen when drivers try to move through flood waters.
 - It's imperative to keep an emergency kit, nonperishable food, flashlights, and batteries on hand to combat potential disasters like floods.
 - Flood damage is not necessarily covered by homeowners insurance. Those who live in high-risk flood zones would be wise to purchase flood insurance to protect themselves.
- Floods can be formidable foes. Armed with information, people can be safer when the waters rise.

PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.

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