



Leaves can clog drains, which can lead to water buildup and localized flooding.

Storm: Preparedness prevents flooding issues

Continued from 1A
“We called out two of our staff (members) to make sure these drains were cleared of leaves and flowing during the heaviest rain fall Saturday night,” said Russ Cooper, Monmouth’s public works director.

The city of Dallas public works employees did a pre-emptive strike on possible flooding, going out Friday to clear storm drains.

“The most common cause of water buildup and localized flooding is clogged storm drain grates,” said Jason Locke, community development operations director for Dallas. “So we ask that if people have them in front of their house to rake the leaves off of them to prevent clogging.”

Some Facebook posts from the U.S. National Weather Service in Portland and from Polk County CERT (County Emergency Response Team) encouraged residents to check and clear storm drains around their home.

“We tend to worry in those events about localized

urban flooding,” Pyle said of the first heavy rainfall of the season. “There’s still a lot of leaves out on the trees and in the streets. We try and get the word out to try and keep those storm drains cleared.”

Cooper said this is a good idea, but to use caution.

“They should avoid standing in the street and be extra careful when clearing the leaves from the tops of storm drains,” he said.

While the rain still fell short of bringing the Willamette Valley’s rainfall numbers up to average — we’re at 26.47 inches since Jan. 1, 5.37 inches shy of average numbers — the numbers are up since Oct. 1, 0.79 inches above average.

The Willamette Valley will see a few more drenching storms, but overall, the winter is likely to be warmer and drier than average, Pyle said.

“We’re going into a strong El Nino winter right now,” he said. El Nino does not relate to Saturday’s storm, but rather shows what kind of winter to expect.

“This will be one of our strongest El Nino events on

record, by most accounts, either strongest or second strongest,” Pyle noted. “We’ll have some significant rain events, but in general, El Nino brings warmer and drier conditions to the Willamette Valley. Confidence is high that it will be warmer than average; precipitation will be near or below normal.”

This week is Winter Weather Awareness week. For information on road conditions call 511 within Oregon, or 1-800-977-6368.

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Community events Noon on Thursday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.	Classified display ads Noon on Friday.
Letters to the editor 10 a.m. on Friday.	Classified line ads Noon on Friday.
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