

Repair

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through the rip-rap and ate away the road base beneath the pavement, leaving void spaces, Berry said. ODOT crews needed to wait until the river receded before it would know for sure about road conditions, Berry said.

Grant County was prepared to assist ODOT crews with the road department's belly dumper for repair work in Picture Gorge, Commissioner Jim Hamsher said.

Highways 402 and 19 definitely experienced shoulder damage where river water ran over the roadway and erosion created abrupt edges, Berry said. Scouring of the abutments at the Highway 26 bridge over Beech Creek in Mt. Vernon did not pose an emergency situation, but it is a problem ODOT crews will need to address this year, he said.

Extensive channel work last year in Canyon Creek along Highway 395 south of Canyon City held up well, Berry said, as did new culverts installed at Vance Creek and Sheep Gulch in 2015. The creek, however, ate away the road embankment near milepost 3.7, which will need repair work this year, he said.

City reports

Most cities in Grant County reported no flood damage to city property. In Dayville, the South Fork of the John Day River inundated the playground area at the city park but not the tennis courts, City Recorder Ruthie Moore said.

Dayville high school students were allowed to leave the morn-



Contributed photo/Dennis Reasoner

Flood waters from the South Fork of the John Day River inundated the South Fork RV Park in Dayville on April 8-9.

ing of April 9 to help sandbagging efforts at ranches that saw extensive flooding where the John Day River overran its banks upstream from Picture Gorge.

City Recorder Tami Kowing said extensive sandbagging took place in Mt. Vernon, thanks to fire department personnel and volunteers, but other than some water reported in basements and crawlspaces at private residences, no significant damage was reported.

Although Highway 402 was closed west of Monument, no significant damage was reported in town, City Recorder Dorothy Jordan said. Officials had warned that the North Fork of the John Day River might crest at 17 feet, about 3 feet over flood stage, but the river only reached 15.1 feet, she said.

Jordan applauded the efforts of the volunteer fire department, sheriff's office and county search and rescue personnel who delivered sandbags to Monument. The

sandbags weren't needed, but they're in place now, she said. Monument School closed April 9-10 as some students couldn't get through the highway closures, she said.

Hamsher, speaking as the Prairie City mayor, said logs that hung up on the downstream side of the Bridge Street bridge over the John Day River were the only concern for the city following the flood. Municipal water and sewer pipes attached to the bridge could be damaged by the logs, he said.

In Seneca, City Manager Raamin Burrell said county personnel delivered sandbags, but they weren't needed and no damage to city or private property had been reported.

Long Creek was safe from flood damage, but private roads in the Pass Creek area north of town reportedly were eroded by enlarged streams.

The Bureau of Land Manage-

ment reported flooding at campgrounds and access sites in the John Day River basin. The Monument site was completely flooded, and the toilet could be compromised. The Big Bend site east of Kimberly could not be accessed for an inspection but was expected to have flooded.

According to a press release from the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, flooding is the most common natural disaster, and more than 20 percent of flood claims come from homes outside high-risk flood zones.

Typical homeowners insurance policies do not cover flood damage, the press release said, but it could cover damage to a car, and some policies for manufactured homes cover flood damage. Flood insurance can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program and a few private insurers, but there is a 30-day wait.

Impacts

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the flow at 1,150 cubic feet per second, Williams said.

Bridges and schools

The creek came within 6 inches of the top of the dike at Inland Street, just upstream from the high school track and football field, County Commissioner Jim Hamsher said. Steps taken in advance at the Inland Street bridge worked out very well, he said. Following flooding in 2011 at that same location, a dike was constructed and concrete barriers were set in place near the bridge.

It was unfortunate that the pedestrian bridge had to be removed after it collapsed and blocked stream flow, Hamsher said. The Inland Street bridge has been an ongoing issue, and the entire bridge needs to be replaced with more clearance for flood-stage stream flow, he said.

Humbolt Elementary School remained closed after Grant Union and Seneca schools reopened because of bridge closures in Canyon City affecting school bus travel.

The safety of the Portal, Nugget and Inland street bridges was in question until an engineering assessment can be conducted once creek levels fall, Hamsher said.

Humbolt reopened April 15, with buses traveling to the school over the Main Street bridge and leaving on the Adam Road bridge. Main Street is considered too narrow for buses to pass each other.

Grant School District 3 Super-



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Canyon Creek was flowing over the Inland Street bridge in Canyon City by April 9. School teachers, staff and students joined other volunteers in sandbagging along the creek to protect school property.

intendent Bret Uptmor said high groundwater filled utility tunnels beneath the high school and saturated insulation covering heating pipes.

"The insulation will need to be replaced when our flooding stops," he told the Eagle on April 11. "The tunnels still have water running through them, and we are pumping out as much as possible."

Uptmor said the old boiler room had 2-3 feet of water in it April 10, and three pumps were working hard to remove the water. Boiler equipment was being inspected, and the boiler had been test-fired, he said.

"It is operational and we will be continuing a process of inspection prior to full operation," Uptmor said.

Emergency declarations

A Grant County emergency

declaration was made April 8 with the support of the mayors or administrators of the county's seven cities. Hamsher said the county received calls from state Rep. Lynn Findley and the offices of Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Greg Walden offering support.

Hamsher praised the work of the Grant County Search and Rescue team, which put in long hours sandbagging and helping with evacuations. He also cited the special expertise of SAR Coordinator Dave Dobler and Grant County Emergency Management Coordinator Ted Williams.

Hamsher said about 75 volunteers including Forest Service personnel showed up to assist with sandbagging. Jail inmates and offenders on probation or parole worked at the Grant County Road Department filling bags with sand. He noted that it

was too bad that it took a natural disaster to bring people together and put their differences aside.

Commissioner Sam Palmer said he spent much of April 8-9 patrolling the county with Under-sheriff Zach Mobley or attending meetings. He said he believed the contingency structure for emergencies worked well.

The John Day City Council declared an emergency during its April 9 meeting. Mayor Ron Lundbom was not authorized to issue the declaration on his own, and the council agreed to bring back a code amendment to change that process. The emergency declarations will allow the county and the city to collect federal or state funding that could help pay costs related to flooding.

Flooding in Canyon City made its way into the John Day sewer collection system. As a result, about 1.5 million gallons reached the treatment plant, setting a record for a 24-hour period, public works director Monte Legg said. The average is about 230,000 gallons per day.

A sewer pipe suspended over Canyon Creek that served three residences was taken out by debris caught in the fast-flowing creek. The residents were gone at the time, and there was no danger from contamination, City Manager Nick Green said.

The city council applauded the great community effort in response, from citizen volunteers to John Day and Canyon City staff and fire department personnel. Five private pickup trucks showed up at the right time to deliver sandbags, the council noted.

Abuse

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restraint, financial exploitation and abandonment.

A new Department of Human Services hotline for reporting child abuse began operating April 8, which centralized 15 hotlines around Oregon. The new service will address inconsistent screening practices in the past and will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The number is 1-855-503-SAFE (7233).

State law defines mandatory reporters for child abuse cases to include teachers, government workers, religious leaders, medical personnel and CASA volunteers among others.

"We want people to report," Blood said.

Blood also wanted to debunk the popular "stranger danger" theory about child sexual abuse. About 90 percent of abusers are known by the child victim, she said. They could include family members, a neighbor, a teacher or a coach, she said.

Blood will offer free training about child abuse this month, with funding support from the Ford Family Foundation and Grant-Harney County CASA. The "Darkness to Light, End Child Sexual Abuse" event will teach adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

The Stewards of Children prevention training program is designed for organizations that serve youths and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence-based program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes and change child protective behaviors.

The first training will take place at the Harney County Chamber of Commerce from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. The second will take place from 2-4 p.m. Friday, April 26, at the Canyon City Community Hall.

To register or for more information, call 833-827-2267 or email tblood@grantharneycasa.org.

Vogt

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pleaded guilty to, lewd conduct with a child younger than 16 years old, is a serious one, even though police found no further evidence he kidnapped the girl at gunpoint.

He cited Vogt's lack of criminal history, and a psychologist's finding he was not likely to commit another sex crime, in handing down a 15-year suspended prison sentence in the case. He also sentenced Vogt to another four months in jail, noting it mirrors the amount of time Vogt would have spent on a rider term. If he fails probation or does not complete sex offender treatment, he faces the prison term.

Vogt apologized to the girl in his address to the court, and thanked his girlfriend and his family, who sat in the courtroom pews behind him, for their support during the 155 days he spent in the Ada County Jail.

As Peterson said not long before Vogt's words, the case "should cause anybody who hears about it to think twice about the things they see on the internet."

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Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 20 at 10 A.M.
Clyde Holliday State Park

Fire Truck rides from 9:00 - 9:45 A.M. at the Mt. Vernon City Park with the Easter Egg Hunt to follow at the Clyde Holliday State Park.

Lots of prizes for all ages!

If you have any questions please call
City of Mt. Vernon at 541-932-4688

