

Middle Fork, Canyon Creek experience flooding May 20

Highway 395 remains closed south of Pilot Rock Thursday morning

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Several areas in Grant County experienced flooding May 20.

Dave Dobler, the county's interim emergency management coordinator, said the National Weather Service forecast did not expect the amount of precipitation received Tuesday night or Canyon Creek rising 1 inch per hour for 13 hours.

"Galena experienced flooding in some areas (Wednesday) ...," he said May 20. "One home is surrounded by water, and we have had contact with them. They do not have any requests for assistance at this time."

The flooding caused the closure of Middle Fork Road, as well as Highway 395 south of Pilot Rock. The county road department worked to clean up Middle Fork Road, he said.

Dobler said there was



Flooding in Galena Wednesday.

Contributed photo/Dave Dobler

minor flooding in the usual areas on Highway 395 south of Canyon City and along Canyon Creek. He said there were no evacuations or sand-bagging.

Search and rescue person-

nel made contact with several residents in impacted areas May 20, he said, and helped two residents remove pumps and equipment near Canyon Creek along Southwest Brent Drive.

Water levels around Grant County receded Thursday after Wednesday's flooding.

Grant County Commissioner Jim Hamsher said Galena and the Middle Fork were the most impacted areas.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

A sign warns drivers entering Canyon City from John Day.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Sandbags placed in front of a home entryway as rain continues on May 20.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Sandbags around Canyon Creek at the Inland Bridge as rain falls on May 20.



Contributed photo/Dave Dobler

Flooding in Galena Wednesday.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

The bridge on Inland Street over Canyon Creek as water flows on May 20.

Baker County judge declines to vacate opinion that would end governor's coronavirus closures

Closure orders remain valid until Oregon Supreme Court can rule on the matter

By Jayson Jacoby
EO Media Group



Judge Matt Shirtcliff

nor's executive orders. The state continues to have that authority.

Shirtcliff's third option is the one he chose — to not vacate his decision but not issue a supplemental written opinion.

The issue now returns to the Oregon Supreme Court.

Attorneys representing the governor have until Thursday, May 28, to file briefs related to the preliminary injunction. The plaintiffs' attorney have until June 2 to file responding briefs.

The current legal issue is the preliminary injunction, not the lawsuit itself.

Whether or not the Supreme Court decides to reinstate the injunction Shirtcliff granted May 18, the lawsuit could proceed to trial in Baker County Circuit Court.

The plaintiffs, led by Elkhorn Baptist Church of Baker City and represented by Salem attorney Ray Hacke of the Pacific Justice Institute, which defends religious freedom, argue that Brown, by invoking in her executive orders a state law dealing with public

health emergencies, is subject to that law's 28-day limit on such emergencies. By that measure the executive orders ended in early April, and the plaintiffs contend the governor no longer has the legal authority to restrict a variety of activities, including the current 25-person limit on public gatherings, including church services.

Shirtcliff agreed with the plaintiffs and cited the 28-day limit in his May 18 deci-

sion granting the preliminary injunction.

Brown's attorneys, meanwhile, argue that the governor's executive orders are not subject to the 28-day limit in that law because her initial declaration of an emergency related to the coronavirus was under a different law — a general emergency statute that has no time limit. Brown has since extended the emergency declaration to July 6.

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Buehler rules out bid for governor

By Gary A. Warner
For the Oregon Capital Bureau

Knute Buehler says he will not run for governor in 2022 and endorses President Donald Trump's reelection this November.

Buehler, the former two-term state representative from Bend, lost the Republican primary for the 2nd Congressional District on Tuesday. It was his third loss at the polls for a major office, following unsuccessful bids for secretary of state in 2012 and governor in 2018.

In an exchange of emails, the 55-year-old Buehler said Thursday he wouldn't run again for the state's top job in two years.

"No, I am not considering a run for governor in 2022," Buehler said. "But I will support a candidate who can help restore fiscal responsibility and bring government accountability to the state I love so dearly."

Buehler didn't specifically rule out a run for some office someday but spoke of his personal political career in past tense.

"Politics and public service has been an exhilarating experience made possible by family, friends, and tremendous supporters," he said. "I'll never forget it but it is time to change my focus to other pursuits."

I think of you and miss you every day,
Clayton. You will never be forgotten.
Love, Mom

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