

# FEMA aid good news for county

BY JOE HAPP

Headlight-Herald Staff

TILLAMOOK — County officials are awaiting the arrival of Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to begin reviewing disaster survey reports from November's floods.

That was the word from County Emergency Management Director Tom Manning over the weekend in the wake of last Friday's announcement by FEMA Director David Paulison that Tillamook and three other Oregon counties — Lincoln,

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**LENDING ASSISTANCE:** SBA flood loan help still available for residents, businesses.

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Clatsop and Hood River — will be eligible to receive federal aid to repair and replace flood-damaged public facilities and infrastructure, such as roads and buildings.

“The next step is for us to have a kickoff meeting with

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## FEMA: eligibility to recover many costs

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FEMA officials and actually go out and work with cities, the county and nonprofits,” Manning said.

The announcement, Manning said, means the county will be eligible to recover 75 percent of the cost of work already done to repair a 500-foot section of levee along the Wilson River on the Josi farm. Manning said the county spent about \$100,000 on that project because it was deemed necessary to keep water in future floods from flowing into the Hoquarton and Dougherty sloughs and inundating the business district along North U.S. Highway 101 in Tillamook.

Manning said the federal declaration also means the county can recover 75 percent of its overtime costs incurred

because of the flood, for example, in its road department.

“Regular work hours won't be covered, but overtime hours will be. Also, if a private contractor had to be hired to do repair work, some of those costs can be recovered.”

Federal officials said Friday's FEMA declaration means federal funding will also be available for hazard mitigation measures statewide on the same cost-sharing basis.

“That's good news,” said County Commission Chairmain Tim Josi upon learning of the federal decision.

The declaration does not include federal grants for business and homeowners who suffered flood damage but, Dec. 19, the federal Small Business Administration approved a state request to provide lending

assistance to homeowners, renters and small businesses in Tillamook County damaged by the storm.

Paulison named Glen R. Sachtleben as the federal coordinating officer for recovery operations in the area. Sachtleben said that additional assistance eligibility designations may be made later requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski said, “With this declaration, state and local government can recoup many of the expenses from the damage and cleanup of last November's storms. I appreciate the prompt response to our requests, which should help these communities start off the new year on the right foot.”