

# FLOOD: Damage, but not enough for disaster declaration

Continued from Page A1

around the structure, as well as a special water channel alongside the store.

Mitigation measures, property acquisition and flood control systems "have really helped," he said.

A system of floodgates at the end of the South Fork of the Wilson, where it meets the Tillamook and Trask rivers, also "worked very effectively," Manning said. "We were able to keep a lot of that flood water down."

Businesses along North Main in Tillamook were in a lake of flood water by Tuesday morning. Sandbagging worked well for Safeway, Manning said, adding that other structures along that area of the highway sustained some water damage, although damage was less than the last significant flooding, in 1999.

Fields were flooded all over the county. In North County, McDonald Road, outside Nehalem, was closed by flooding. Most residents "are used to this kind of flooding event," Manning said, adding that most took precautions.

In South County, Resort Drive was flooded, Manning said. "We did drop additional sandbags, and they handled it pretty well."

He said the Emergency Operations Center was staffed all Tuesday night, and a few evacuations were coordinated with Red Cross. "We prepared an emergency declaration, and it's ready to go," he said, "but it never materialized. We didn't meet the per-capita of damages."

This minimum requirement of per-capita damages would have to be \$3 for each county resident, whereas, it turned out to be about \$1.80 in Tillamook County, he said.

Relatively speaking, Tillamook County did "very well," in handling floodwaters, he said. "Our neighbors to the north and south

(Lincoln, Coos and Clatsop counties) had serious losses," and filed declarations of emergency.

By week's end, Manning said, the Trask and Nestucca rivers were not dropping to levels that might have been expected, given the break in the weather. That was because the reservoirs up the rivers were releasing water — McGuire Reservoir on the Upper Nestucca and Barney Reservoir 27 miles up the Trask.

As for county roads, he said, a lot of potholes resulted from the flooding. "They're (county Road Department crews) trying to patch as soon as possible," he said. "They're definitely doing the best they can with the resources they have."

The Road Department "has been extremely busy moving debris and small trees," Manning said. "They really did a great job of pulling 24-hour shifts."

In fact, the Road Department has been working "considerable overtime" since Christmas week-end, said Aaron Suko, county Public Works director, noting the crews' removal of mud and debris and downed trees from roads. The flooding has also left abrupt edges on the edge of pavement. With that, along with "a lot of new potholes, it's kept us very busy," Suko said.

His department will also be working at repairing a sinkhole in Netarts caused by a culvert failure. It resulted in the collapse of a section of pavement on Bilyeu Avenue near its intersection with SR 131.

The department will also assist in repairing storm water damage to the road on Bay Ocean Spit.

Meanwhile, the rain continues.

Rainfall measured at KTIL radio station from Dec. 18 to Jan. 16 amounted to 25.31 inches, including 2.49 inches Jan. 10, a record amount for that date. The normal amount of rainfall for January is 13.84 inches. However, rainfall, as of Jan. 16 was 12.24 inches.



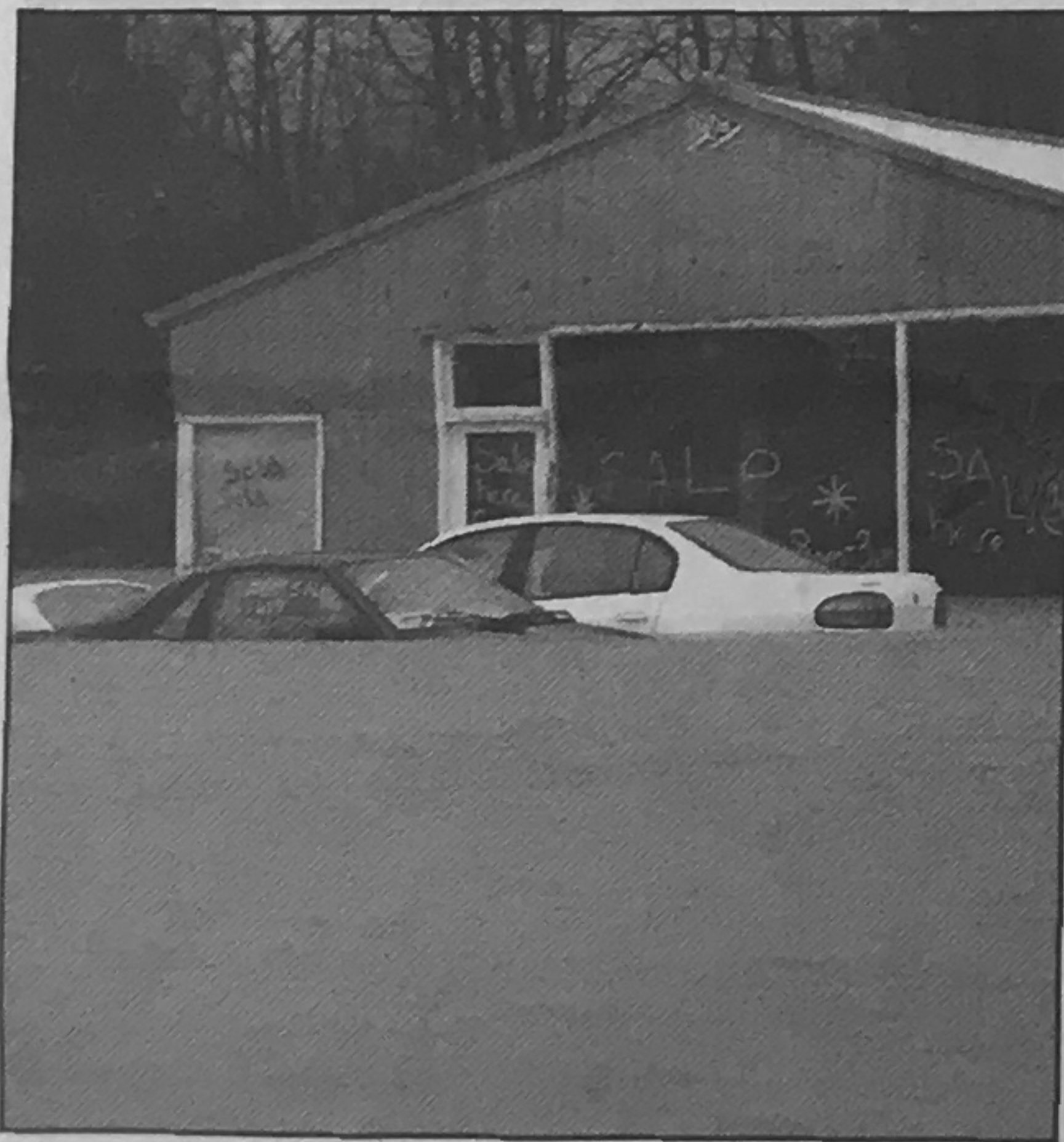
ABOVE: A sink hole caused by a culvert failure developed on Bilyeu Avenue near SR 131 in Netarts following last week's rainfall.



LEFT: Giving a signal of success after negotiating U.S. 101 Jan. 10, this driver was elated over his accomplishment.

BOB REED  
Photos for the Headlight-Herald

RIGHT: A group of Safeway employees is on hand to stack sandbags if flood waters continue to rise. From left are Laura Morgan, Al Croston, Leslie Holman, Marie Selig, Steve Berger, Jay Fetzer, Gordon Plotts, Carol Griggs, Randy White Matthew Hamilton.



ABOVE: These cars were sitting high and dry on asphalt before Main Street in Tillamook flooded Tuesday morning of last week.

RIGHT: Attempting to navigate North Main Street, a driver was forced to leave this vehicle when it stalled out in the deep water during the flooding.

NAN NELSON/Headlight-Herald Photos