



The Flood of 2006



MEGHAN MCGLURE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Water, significantly more of it than accumulated in the disastrous 1996 flood, pushes its way south on U.S. Highway 101 in Tillamook Monday afternoon, Nov. 6.

Water, water everywhere in and around Tillamook

Tillamook County residents thought it could never get any worse than the disastrous floods of 1996. Until, that is, Nov. 6, 2006.

Four days of inch-plus rain were followed by a deluge that dumped nearly 20 inches of rain on Lee's Camp in the mountains east of Tillamook and sent the Wilson River to record high flood levels.

The Wilson crested at 22.8 feet Monday, Nov. 6, 10 feet above flood stage and nearly 4 feet higher than the 1996 flood.

The Wilson River RV Park was inundated as were farms along the upper Wilson. Busi-

nesses along North Main Avenue in Tillamook took on huge amounts of water and several residents of low-lying areas needed to be rescued Monday night. The Trask River crested at about a foot above flood stage, submerging several more farms and causing catastrophic losses on some individual farms.

In North County, the Nehalem River crested at 19.73 feet, nearly 6 feet above flood stage closing roads and businesses.

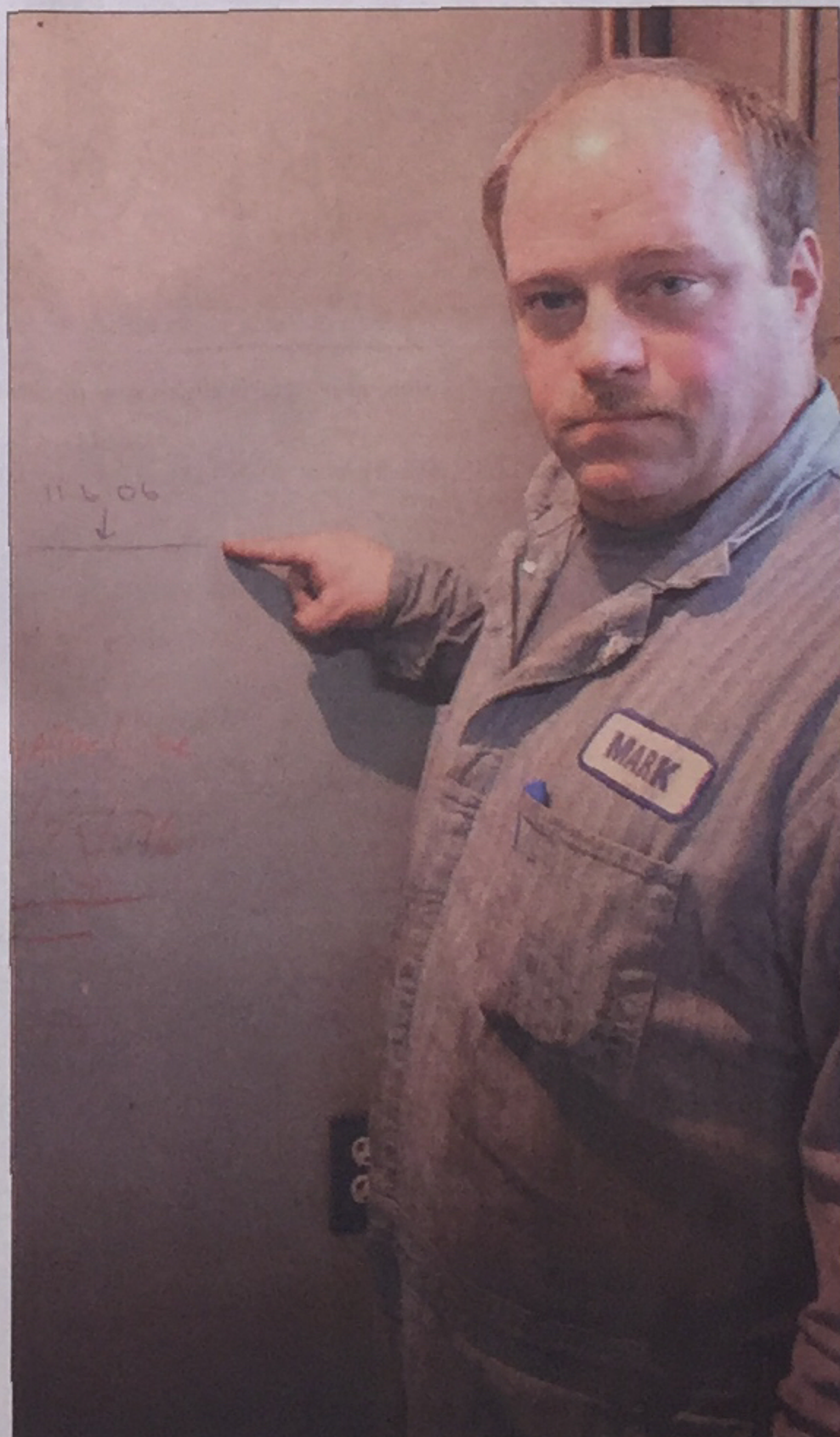
Some flooding was also reported in the Pacific City and Blaine areas in South County.



JOE HARRY/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

ABOVE: Traffic on U.S. Highway 101 at the south end of town near the Les Schwab Tire Center is reduced to two lanes Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 7.

RIGHT: Mark Wallace, owner of Grunder's Equipment Repair on North U.S. Highway 101, points to a purple line showing how high the water was in his shop last week. Below it is a red line showing the water level in the 1996 flood.



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DENISE PORTER/HEADLIGHT-HERALD
Cows rescued from flooded pastures on the Snell family's farm, get their first meal and a dry place to stay at the neighboring Matajeck Farm.



On the farms: stranded cows, rescues, debris



JOE HAPPI/HEADLIGHT-HERALD
ABOVE: A solitary cow stands in a pasture near Netarts Highway as the flood waters begin to recede.

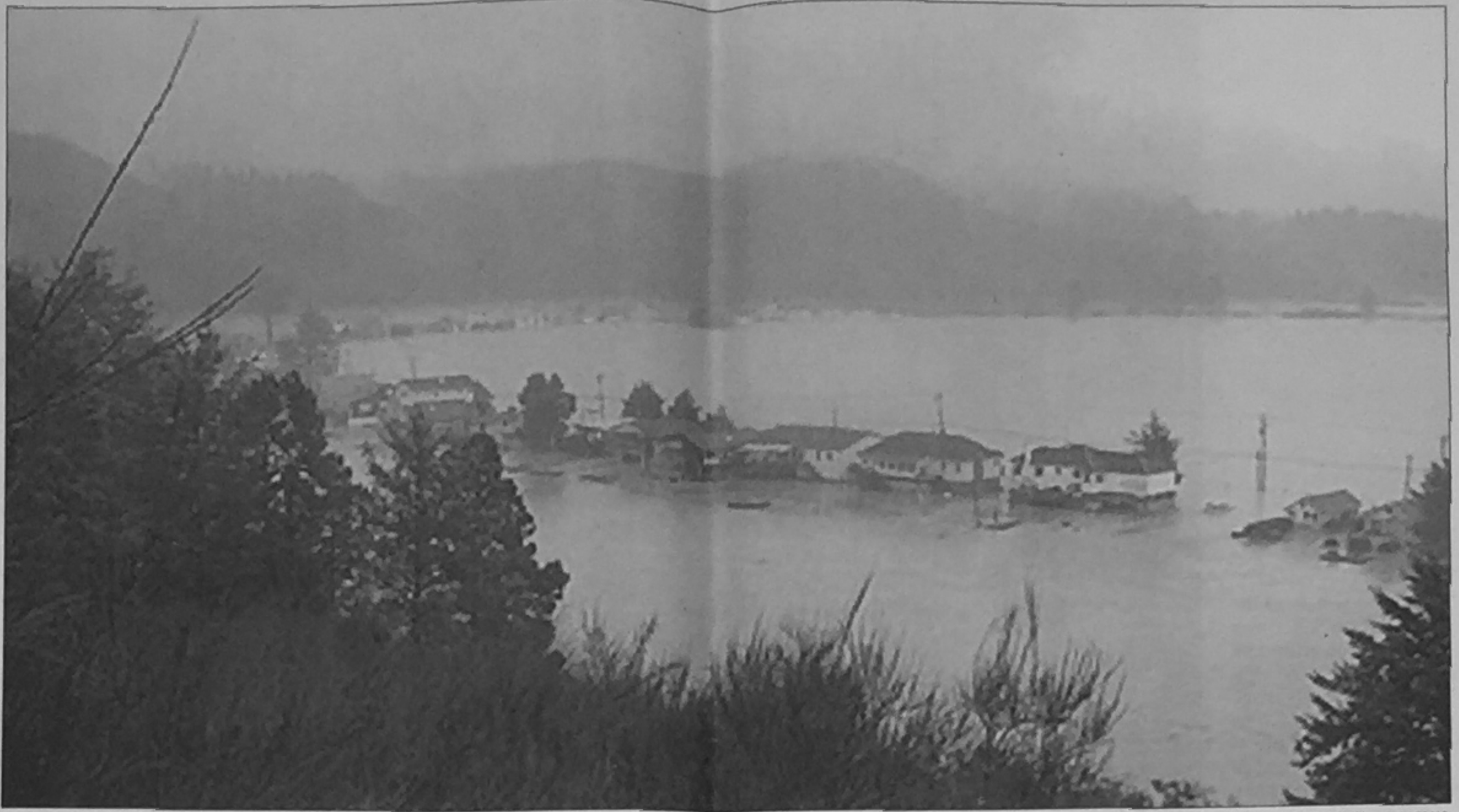
DENISE PORTER/HEADLIGHT-HERALD
RIGHT: Vance Rodrigues, left, and Kevin Thomas offload one of the Snell family's cows from a trailer at the Matajeck Farm.



JOE HAPPI/HEADLIGHT-HERALD
A large tree stump sits in a pasture on a farm owned by Mike and Sharon Shreve in the aftermath of last week's flood. Three RVs from the Wilson River RV Park also ended up in nearby pastures.



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SHASTA KEARNS MOORE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Homes along Brooten Road in Pacific City look as though they are standing in the ocean during the height of last week's flooding.

S. County gets wet, but escapes serious harm



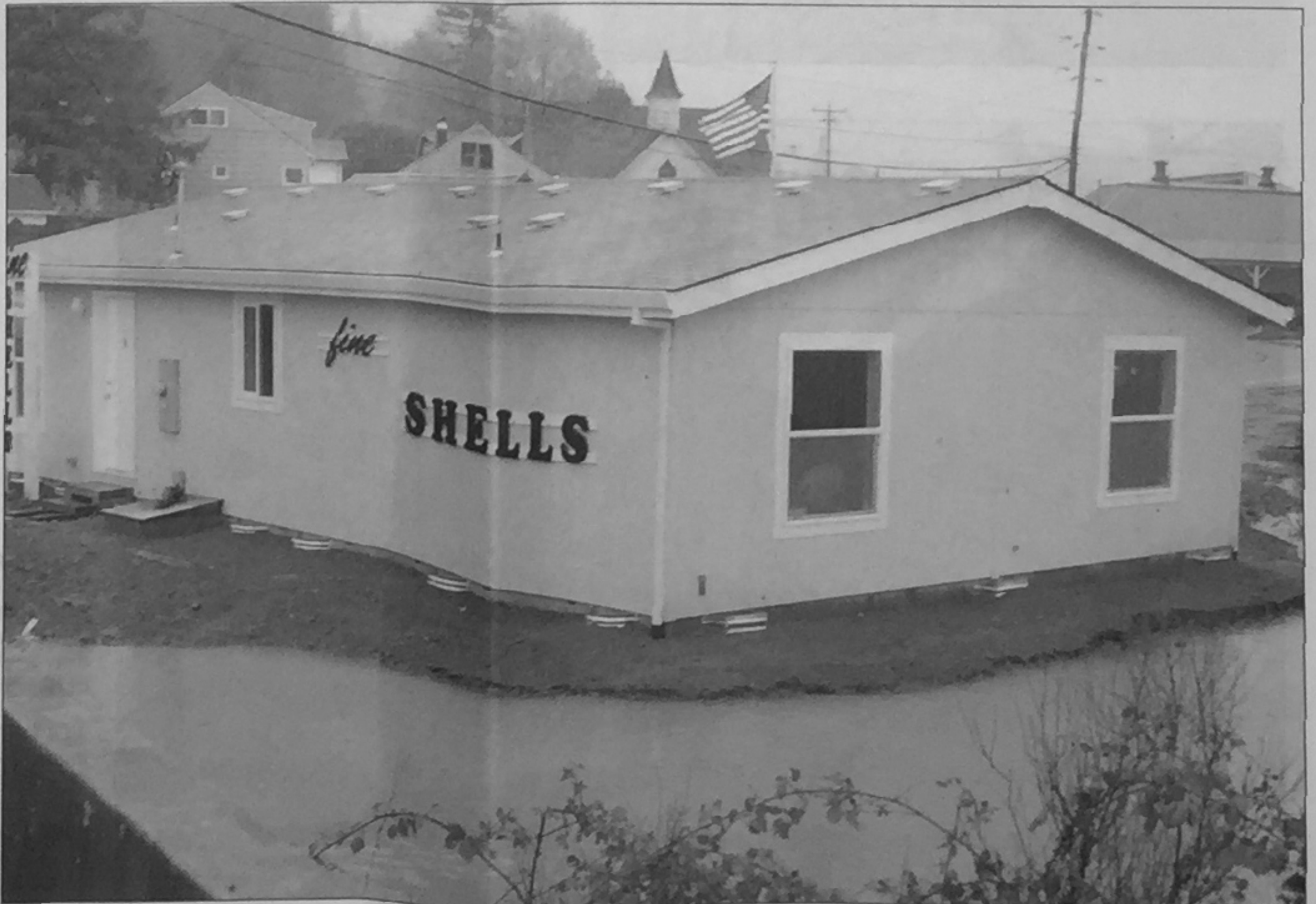
SHASTA KEARNS MOORE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Joe Hay and his family survey the floodwaters outside their house on Brooten Road in Pacific City.



SHASTA KEARNS MOORE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Washed out section of Bixby Road in Blaine gets repaired with a quick assist from Randy Haltiner, who builds logging roads for a living.



CATHY ROGERS/FOR THE HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Flood waters lap at the base of the new prefab building recently installed on U.S. Highway 101 by the Shell Game owners in Cloverdale. The original Shell Game building was destroyed several months ago in a fatal truck accident.

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Raging waters of the Wilson River tear through the office and parking area at the Wilson River RV Park Monday, Nov. 6. The office was ripped off its foundation and washed several feet downstream.



At the RV park: High water and heroism



The worst moment in last Monday's flooding for Wilson River RV Park owner Wally Voigt came when the raging river tore the park's cinderblock office from its foundation, turned it around 90 degrees and washed it several feet downstream.

"I was sitting in my jeep and I watched it go," said Voigt, a Lincoln City resident who has owned the 26-year-old park for the last four years. "It's a total loss. But I'm just happy that no one was injured or killed."

At least a dozen people were rescued at the park by Tillamook Fire District volunteers and Tillamook County Sheriff's deputies.

Voigt said he and park assistant manager Tony Lauricella started putting office items up on table tops as soon as they heard the river would crest at about 17 feet, which is 2 feet below the spot where the office had been.

"We'd have been OK," he said. But, the river crested at 22.8 feet. "It came up 8 feet in four

hours."

At least four of the 60 units that were in the park at the time washed away downstream. The park has a capacity of 70 units, Lauricella said.

The park sustained considerable damage to its water, septic and, electrical systems and its roads, he said.

Voigt said he will rebuild and estimated the effort will take him about three months and \$300,000.

Voigt said people in the community have been "totally wonderful" to him in the aftermath of the disaster.

"People I don't even know stopped by and offered to help."

He said he is particularly grateful to Donny Burden of Burden's Muffler & Towing, who pulled several rigs out of the park before and after it was inundated, and the owners of the Blue Moon Café in Tillamook, who provided food and comfort.

HEADLIGHT-HERALD PHOTOS BY JOE HAPP



ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: RV units that couldn't be pulled out in time stand in about 2 feet of water Monday, Nov. 6, at the Wilson River RV Park.

AT LEFT: Adding insult to injury, a mud slide blocks SR 6 Tuesday, Nov. 7, preventing park residents who spent the night in a Red Cross shelter in Tillamook from getting back to check on their units.

The Flood of 2006



Even though the sun is out Thursday, Nov. 9, floodwaters still cover McDonald Road and adjacent fields in North Tillamook County.

MEGHAN MCQUIRE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Nehalem River flooding soaks North County



ABOVE: Damaged carpeting is piled up outside the Nehalem Antique Mall, which suffered nearly \$20,000 worth of damage to its structure and contents.

MEGHAN MCQUIRE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

LEFT: A view of downtown Nehalem from 9th and A streets at the height of the flood.

CAROL DEMETER/HEADLIGHT-HERALD



MEGHAN MCQUIRE/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

Jordan Neahring, left, and Tim Hill take a break Sunday, Nov. 12, after clearing away wood debris that cluttered a stretch of McDonald Road near the Nehalem River. Neahring lives on a nearby dairy farm and Hill lives in Nehalem. The two said they wanted to help with flood relief any way they could.

The Flood of 2006

First steps toward recovery

Federal, state and county officials met in a telephone conference Wednesday, Nov. 8, to begin the process of estimating damages so the county could qualify for state and, possibly, federal aid. Gov. Ted Kulongoski declared the county a disaster area that day.

On Friday, U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley, State Sen. Betsy Johnson and State Rep. Deborah Boone toured flood damaged farms and businesses with state and county officials and heard preliminary reports from County Emergency Management Director Tom Manning and Commissioner Mark Labhart.

JOE HAPP/HEADLIGHT-HERALD

TOP: With a rainbow glistening in the background, flight suit-clad U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley, left, and County Commissioner Mark Labhart board a Coast Guard helicopter for a brief aerial tour of areas hard hit by last week's flooding.

FAR RIGHT: Derrick Josi points out flood damage on the family farm to State Sen. Betsy Johnson.

With them are, from left, State Emergency Management Director Ken Murphy, State Rep. Deborah Boone and Hooley.

RIGHT: County Commissioner Mark Labhart shares aerial photos of flood damaged parts of Tillamook County with U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley at an impromptu briefing session with officials at the Tillamook Airport.

