

SOUTHSIDE

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Downpours drench area roads

Couple looking at floods rescued after vehicle gets stuck in high water

By PAIGE E. WASSEL

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Roads were closed at eight locations around the county on Friday because of flooding after 2 to 3 inches of rain fell on the area on Thursday.

A couple had to be rescued by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office after their car was stranded in high water.

Area police said the downpour and high winds didn't cause any significant damage.

High winds hit the area early Friday morning, with gusts as high as 45 to 60 mph.

The howling winds knocked down some signs in the Whiteland area and set off business alarms in Greenwood.

Some residents lost power after tree limbs were blown onto power lines, area energy spokesmen said.

About 200 Greenwood energy customers were without power from 1:30 to 5:50 a.m. Friday, Cinergy/PSI spokesman Robert Norris said.

About 90 Franklin energy customers were without power from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. in the area of County Road 475 West and

"You don't know if it's 6 inches deep or if it's 6-foot deep and especially when you got the added danger of a current here."

Maj. Randy Werden
Johnson County sheriff's deputy
on drivers getting stuck in high water

County Road 300 North, Johnson County REMC spokesman Chet Aubin said.

Johnson County sheriff's deputies posted signs warning travelers about high water, but one couple was still affected by the dangerous conditions.

The man drove into water across a county road near Sugar Creek, and his car stalled, said Maj. Randy Werden of the sheriff's office.

"Cars think they can get through, and they attempt to get through and they stall out in the middle there. So at that point they're stranded," Werden told WISH-Channel 8.

The sheriff's office dive team responded to the couple's call for help. The man who was driving took his wife to see the high water. "You don't know if it's 6 inches

deep or if it's 6-foot deep and especially when you got the added danger of a current here. You don't know what you're getting into," Werden said.

The current pushed the rescue craft away from the car before being pulled back, and at one point a member of the dive team suddenly lost his footing as he encountered a deep spot.

"It could've been a lot worse. You see how close the river comes to the road right there," said Sgt. Tom Krukemeier of the sheriff's office.

The couple were not identified. In Franklin, Police Chief John Borges said that city parks are usually closed when the area gets significant rain.

Sections of the following roads are at risk whenever there is significant rain:

- County Road 510 East and Greensburg Road
- County Road 100 East, north of State Road 252
- County Road 300 South between County Roads 150 West and 225 West
- County Road 200 West north of County Road 700 North
- Graham Road, south of Whiteland Road
- County Road 400 North, west of County Road 225 West
- County Road 200 North between County Roads 100 North and 75 West
- County Road 700 East near Urmeville
- Forsythe Street at the Greenway Trail
- South Main Street and U.S. 31 in Franklin

A flood watch will be in effect this morning through Sunday morning for Franklin, WISH-Channel 8 forecaster Angela Buchanan said.

Area residents should be on the watch for damaging winds and heavy rain throughout the day on Saturday, she said.

WISH-Channel 8 contributed to this report.

BRIEFS LOCAL

EDINBURGH

Woman arrested in connection with fight

An Edinburgh woman has been arrested for a January assault against another resident, according to the Edinburgh Police Department.

Regina Rochelle Cosby, 33, was arrested Thursday on charges of battery with a deadly weapon, intimidation and possession of marijuana.

Her arrest comes almost two months after the victim told police she had been assaulted outside the Tasty Shoppes Tavern, 510 W. Center Cross St. in Edinburgh.

She told police that Cosby had attacked her with a tire iron Jan. 15 as she was leaving the tavern, according to a police report.

The bartender came outside and found the woman on the ground screaming, the report said.

Cosby denied the attack, but said she had gone to the tavern to give the woman a ride and had a drink thrown in her face, the report said.

The woman later got a protective order from the Edinburgh Police Department.

Police questioned Cosby this week about the incident and searched her car. They found less than 30 grams of marijuana in her car, the report said.

Cosby, of 215 N. Kyle St., was held Friday at the Johnson County jail on \$18,000 bond.

NINEVEH

Motorhome break-ins have police puzzled

Johnson County Sheriff's officers are trying to figure out who broke into six motor homes parked in a Nineveh storage lot on Thursday night.

Several electronics, such as television sets and stereos, and miscellaneous items, such as blankets, fishing poles and mattresses, were reported stolen. The motor homes were parked behind Ed's Trading Post at 8012 S. Nineveh Road, according to a Johnson County Sheriff's report.

An employee of Ed's Trading Post called the motor home owners after noticing damage to the homes on Thursday, said Maj. Steve Byerly, chief of investigations for the sheriff's office.

Officers found broken windows and damage to the doors at sev-

eral of the motor homes.

They aren't sure when the break-ins occurred, the report said.

Officers were unable to find fingerprints that might point them towards a suspect, the report said.

Owners reported the items as missing to the sheriff's office between 5:41 and 9:25 p.m. on Thursday.

Some trailers were also damaged from someone trying to remove stereo speakers and a CD changer, the report said.

Anyone with information about the break-ins is asked to contact the investigations office at 736-2241.

WHITELAND

Get tips about prom fashion today at show

As spring approaches, a high school girl's thoughts turn to the prom.

Whiteland Community High School guys and gals will showcase prom fashions at the second annual Prom Fashion Show at 7 tonight in the school auditorium, 300 Main St.

Representatives from Gold Nugget in Hope and That Special Touch in Columbus will feature men's and women's formal wear.

Students also can get information about flowers, hair style and photography in the lobby before and after the show.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Volunteers needed to assist seniors

Johnson County Senior Services is seeking volunteers in the Greenwood, Franklin and Edinburgh areas to shop for homebound seniors, take them shopping and do other errands.

Information: 738-4544

WHAT'S HAPPENING

New job, same goal: Get people to recycle

One of the county's top recyclers is still encouraging people to reuse and recycle — just in a different location. Melinda Antell left her job as director of Johnson County Solid Waste District in January to become area manager for Abitibi Consolidated in Indianapolis.

In her new job, she runs the group's paper retriever program, where she arranges for recycling bins to be set up at schools and churches in the Indianapolis metropolitan area.

After teaching people to recycle in her former job, Antell likes overseeing a service that helps people take action by recycling their paper products.

Her replacement, Amy Grimmer, used to work as educator for the district, where she was responsible for environmental education programs in the area.

In her new job, the Franklin resident wants to continue to encourage residents to join the quick-drop recycling program, and possibly extend the program to Edinburgh. Grimmer also hopes to continue to get more donations for the reuse center at the district office.

Office and craft supplies are collected at the office to be reused by teachers and after school groups.

Guardrails make county roads a little safer

Drivers will start seeing a few more guardrails to keep them on curvy, quick-ending rural roads throughout the county.

The county's highway department is putting guardrails along roadsides in parts of Greenwood and near Bargersville, hoping to stop accidents and make dangerous road conditions better.

A 400-foot metal guardrail is being put up along State Road 144, northwest of Whiteland Road.

Last weekend, a Mooresville man was found dead in his vehicle there.

Police believe his vehicle flipped over after missing the curve at the intersection.

Crews also installed a guardrail earlier this week on Worthsville Road in Greenwood, where South Emerson Avenue dead ends before a pond and new subdivision.

Motorists have driven off the road in foggy or rainy conditions in past years.

Interstate will get worse before it gets better

Motorists tired of dealing with a long back-up at the Greenwood exit on Interstate 65 can expect their wait to get longer this spring.

Construction to the most highly traveled ramps is planned to begin at the end of the month.

When the work is finished, state officials expect less congestion for drivers, said Marvin Jenkins, public information officer for the department of transportation Seymour district.

Crews will add a stop light and an extra left turn lane to the on-ramp from Main Street to I-65 North.

In addition, a stop light and an extra right turn lane will be built for motorists getting off of I-65 South and turning onto Main Street, Jenkins said.

In the meantime, expect back-ups and delays while crews perform the needed work, he said. No permanent closures are



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

Wrecking crews worked to demolish the former Chi-Chi's restaurant at 867 U.S. 31 North in Greenwood on Friday.

experts to the exits and lanes, but crews and machinery could block traffic from time to time, he said.

Restaurant spices up food offerings in Greenwood

Mexican-food enthusiasts will have another choice for dining in Greenwood as early as the fall.

Brinker International has started to tear down a vacant Chi-Chi's building and construct its own restaurant, On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, in the western parking lot of the Greenwood Park Mall at 867 U.S. 31 North.

The restaurant is expected to open in October or November, according to a company spokesman.

Chi-Chi's closed nearly two years ago after its parent company filed for bankruptcy, and the Greenwood restaurant has been vacant since. Brinker International now owns the property.

Indiana has two On the Border restaurant sites, at Castleton Square Mall in Indianapolis and in Avon.

What's Happening was compiled by Annie Goeller, Michael W. Hoskins, Paige E. Wassel, Jason Michael White and Jo Ellen Working Weedman.

Ask us a question about an event, a business, a construction project or why something is the way it is, and we'll get you an answer. newstips@thejournalnet.com

Church hosts seminar aimed at area leaders

By PAIGE E. WASSEL

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Two area churches are partnering to broadcast a leadership seminar for local business professionals.

The Maximum Impact Simulcast, which is broadcast from Atlanta, provides training to business leaders across North America via a satellite link. About 600 cities are expected to participate in the May broadcast this year.

Leaders at Mount Pleasant Christian Church and Community Church of Greenwood are hoping the event will let them meet a need in the business community that goes beyond sharing their faith.

"We see it as a tremendous twofold opportunity to give folks in the business world some excellent leadership training and resources at their fingertips," said Rich Green, an outreach and connections minister at Mount Pleasant Christian Church.

About 80,000 business professionals are expected to participate in the seminar nationwide.

Green said church leaders want the event to be a team builder for area businesses, and something they can bring their whole staff to.

Church leaders hope the broadcast will also give Christian business professionals an opportunity to build relationships with their non-Christian co-workers, Green said.

The event allows Christians to introduce non-Christians to church, said Steve Schellin, pastor of young adults, evangelism and communication at Com-

IF YOU GO

What: Maximum Impact Simulcast leadership seminar, which will be broadcast from Atlanta

When: 9 a.m. May 5

Where: Mount Pleasant Christian Church, 381 N. Bluff Road in Greenwood

Cost: \$39 before April 17; \$49 after

Who: Speakers will include Archie and Peyton Manning, Kathy Ireland and former U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts

Information: www.ccgonline.org or www.mount.org

munity Church of Greenwood.

The broadcast also will give area religious leaders the chance to show area residents that churches aren't competing against each other, Green said.

Mount Pleasant Christian Church in Greenwood will be a host for the nationwide broadcast, which will feature speakers such as Colts star Peyton Manning and his father, former NFL quarterback Archie Manning, model Kathy Ireland, former U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts and others.

The event starts at 9 a.m. May 5 at the church, 381 N. Bluff Road in Greenwood.

Community Church of Greenwood hosted the event last year, which drew about 150 people.

The church is helping to plan the event and is hoping to increase attendance numbers to at least 200 people this year, Green said.

Registration for the event is \$39 by April 17. Late registration is \$49. To register, go to www.ccgonline.org or www.maximumimpact.com/Events/MIS/live.aspx.

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