

The News-Review

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County declares state of emergency

MAX EGENER
The News-Review

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners declared a local state of emergency at its meeting Wednesday morning in response to a series of snowstorms this week. Some residents in

outlying areas remain trapped at home – while others cannot return home – as rural roads are blocked by downed trees and snow. Thousands of people were still without power Wednesday, days after snow downed power lines and toppled

utility poles that caused a system-wide outage.

Outages have decreased from their peak of more than 31,000 on Monday but, as of Thursday morning, more than 10,000 Pacific Power customers in Douglas County and more than

7,000 Douglas Electric Cooperative customers in the Roseburg area are still without power.

In response to the crisis, the board unanimously voted to declare the entire county in a state of emergency. The order will allow the

county to waive normal contract bid requirements, expediting the allocation of county funds to contractors assisting with clearing roads and repairing power infrastructure.

Lane County declared a local state of emergency

Tuesday and Coos County declared one Wednesday following similar storm impacts.

Hazardous conditions are expected to continue for several days, the order said. Some people

EMERGENCY, A3

A chilling tale



PHOTOS BY ROBIN LOZNAK/FOR THE NEWS-REVIEW

Todd Hannah walks around a downed tree as heavy snow falls during a storm along a country road in Kellogg. Thousands are without power and roads remained closed after a massive snow storm hit the area on Sunday.

Life on the family farm during the great snowstorm of '19

Editor's note: The following is a first-person account of surviving this week's storms in a remote area.

CARISA CEGAUSKE
Senior Staff Writer
The News-Review

We were expecting nothing but rain on the day the biggest snowstorm in memory hit our farm. There was no warning that we were about to be cut off from the world.

SUNDAY

About 5 p.m., we called my mom, Janet Fisher, to see if she wanted to come down for dinner, but it had started snowing and she didn't want to drive down the steep gravel drive that winds two-thirds of a mile to our house.

Nobody knew how crazy it was going to get in sleepy little rural



Workers clear downed trees and debris from along Highway 138 near Tyee.

Kellogg, about 7 miles from Elkton, where we all live on the same large farm that's been in the family since 1868.

The snowflakes kept getting larger. The power winked on, off, on, off, on and finally off. It won't likely return for weeks, but we didn't

know that yet.

My husband, Robin Loznak, and I listened on the scanner through the evening as call after call about downed trees and power outages and accidents was taken by county dispatch. At one point we heard the dispatcher, overwhelmed, say she just couldn't keep track of everything anymore.

Overnight, a foot of snow fell. Heavy snow following up on days of rain proved fatal to many of the trees in our heavily wooded part of the world.

It's just about the eeriest thing I've ever heard. All through the night – crack, crack, crack – the dying message of dozens of trees as huge limbs and whole trees crashed down in the night. With every crack, our three dogs barked.

SURVIVAL, A8

Snow damages buildings

JANELLE POLCYN
The News-Review

SUTHERLIN – Tuffie Curtis Jr. of Sutherlin thought losing power in his temporary home at Techbuilt Inc. was a challenge already, until he heard a sound and discovered snow had

brought down half of the building.

Techbuilt is one of the most notable buildings to sustain damage from this week's storms. Others that were damaged include the cafeteria at Douglas High School, greenhouses at Norm Lehne Garden

and Orchards and Kruse Farms, and a barn at Blue Heron Vineyards.

"I was there when part of it collapsed on Monday," Curtis said. "I wasn't expecting the building to collapse. It scared me when it made that big of a racket."

Techbuilt, which builds roof trusses, was registered with the Oregon secretary of state's office in 1991, almost 27 years ago. Curtis and Sutherlin Emergency Manager Dennis Riggs said the building has

COLLAPSE, A3



MIKE HENNEKE/THE NEWS-REVIEW

A delivery driver arrives at Techbuilt Inc. in Sutherlin on Wednesday, to find that the building had collapsed.



INSIDE, A2
People seek warmth in Sutherlin with food and friendship

HIGH: 43
LOW: 33



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