

MORE FLOOD COVERAGE INSIDE

NORTH BEND CENTRAL BASKETBALL TEAM FLEES FLOODWATERS. *Page 5A*PHOTOS CAPTURE NEBRASKANS PITCHING IN, TAKING IT ALL IN. *Page 6A*FREMONT PULLS TOGETHER DURING FLOOD, ERIN GRACE WRITES. *Page 7A*

Sunday World-Herald



KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

WATCHING FOR SIGNS OF WHAT'S TO COME

Fremont, cut off by floodwaters, may serve as a warning for towns downstream

BY ERIN DUFFY, JULIE ANDERSON
AND ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITERS

Let Fremont be a warning. Floodwaters there cut off all roads in and out of town starting Friday. Two levees were breached Saturday.

So residents know all too well about washed-out roads. They heard the flash flood warnings blaring from cellphones. They left their homes behind and ended up on cots in community centers or churches.

And all that could be an ominous sign of what's to come in parts of southeastern Nebraska and western Iowa as record-busting water levels continue to push huge torrents of water downstream.

Similar scenarios have played out from Columbus to Wood River to Plattsmouth. Levees breaching. Rivers, lakes and creeks swelling. And people in the way forced to make critical decisions: Should I stay

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CONTINUING COVERAGE ON OMAHA.COM

Get the latest weather forecasts, info on road conditions, photos, videos and more.

From left, Calvin Schmidt, 6; dad Paul Schmidt; and Avery Schmidt, 7, look back at the water at the end of the Broad Street viaduct in Fremont, Nebraska, on Friday.

In Plattsmouth as the rivers rise: Sandbagging to save downtown

BY RICK RUGGLES
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

PLATTSMOUTH — Blue sky and sweet sun beamed over Plattsmouth, a city whose rivers have become lakes.

The cool, late-winter Saturday belied 48 hours of worry in town and flooding around it.

By Saturday afternoon, city leaders found it necessary to erect a low sandbag wall in one spot where the now-extremely wide Missouri River threatened to enter Plattsmouth's

downtown.

For the most part, Plattsmouth sits safely above the floodwater pooled along the Platte and the Missouri.

But some surrounding areas endured flooding. Further, employees at the Cooper Nuclear Station power plant near Brownville stood on alert downstream. The Salvation Army's Gene Eppley Camp washed out and appeared to be a total loss upstream toward Omaha.

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Perfect storm of harsh winter, bomb cyclone brought flooding

BY NANCY GAARDER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

An eerie, thick fog settled over Nebraska and Iowa on Tuesday.

Wisps of moisture drifted up from this winter's record-setting snow piled along driveways and streets, blanketing cornfields and yards.

The fog was bringing an early

warning: a powerful cyclone was arriving.

In popular culture it's known as bombogenesis, or a bomb cyclone, an epic drop in air pressure that triggers historic weather.

By itself, the moisture-filled storm would not have dealt Nebraska the crippling blow that has occurred. Our harsh, late winter

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CHRIS MACHIAN/THE WORLD-HERALD

Washington highlights

The World-Herald's Joseph Morton rounds up the news from Capitol Hill and beyond. **Midlands**

Weather

High: 50 Low: 24 Mostly sunny
Note: The weather map has permanently moved to the A section. You can find it on **10A**.

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