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Joey Logano
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Toys for Tots
campaign
underway.

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The Times and Democrat

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

Orangeburg, South Carolina • TheTandD.com

‘PRAY AND TRUST GOD’

North resident Mitchell Wright III stands on the porch of his home on Friday. It was left completely surrounded by water following heavy rain that pummeled that town on Wednesday and Thursday.

North residents cope with flooding problems

DIONNE GLEATON
T&D Staff Writer

North resident Mitchell Wright III doesn’t think he’ll be able to move back into his childhood home at 1239 Bedford Ave. following heavy flooding.

More than 10 inches of rain fell in some locations in the western part of Orangeburg County on Wednesday and Thursday, causing flooding and road issues.

‘The worst I’ve ever seen’

“There’s a crawl space under the house. When the water gets down there, whatever the water level is, that is what it is underneath. It’s not concrete. We’ve got wood floors all the way through. So the water has

damaged that, and when it gets dry, it’s going to start to mold and mildew,” he said Friday afternoon.

Wright had to get in and out of his house with boots.

“I think it’s all because of those drains. I got in touch with the councilman over the area, Councilman (Joseph) Garvin. They came out last year. They spent about 15 minutes, and they were gone. I’ve been texting him since yesterday because I took pictures,” Wright said.

“I said, ‘This is the problem that I was talking about that I’m trying to avoid.’ Every time it rains, the drains overflow and the

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Bodies of two people found

GENE CRIDER
T&D Editor

Two people’s bodies were found in Orangeburg last week.

In the first instance, the body of a 66-year-old woman was discovered in the area, which flooded swiftly on Thursday afternoon as the North Fork of the Edisto River began to rise.

Valerie Goff’s Nissan Cube was discovered in flood waters near Glover and Andrew Dibble streets.

Goff was reported missing after she didn’t return from a trip to an Orangeburg pharmacy on Thursday.

A man’s body was found on Friday night while officers were searching for a missing person in the Stonewall Jackson Boulevard area, according to Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Capt. Victor Cordon.

The police were informed that a person was missing at 8 p.m. Friday. ODPS officers had contact with the person in the Stonewall Jackson Boulevard area the night before.

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Edisto sets new flood record

GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

The North Fork of the Edisto River in Orangeburg set an all-time record crest of 15.34 feet 10:45 p.m. Thursday.

That shattered the previous record of 14.7 feet set in September 1928.

The river reached 14.28 feet in September 1945.

During the flood of October 2015, the river crested at 13.64 feet. That was the third-highest level on the river until Thursday.

The river is forecast to fall below flood stage Monday morning. The North Edisto’s flood stage begins at 8

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People struggle to find ways around washed-out roads

Five dams fail in county

GEN ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Residents struggled to find ways to their jobs or the grocery store after heavy rains damaged dams and washed out roads last week.

Emily Gardner, who lives on Fairview Road, said Friday her dirt

road was washed out due to severe flooding from a dam break.

“I was pretty much stuck. There was no way down North Road either way,” she said.

She was able to get out of her house Friday and headed to work toward Bamberg.

“What normally takes me 20 minutes to get to work took me 2-1/2 hours,” she said.

Gardner is hoping all roads can

be repaired for the people who are stuck and can’t get to their homes.

“I just hope everyone is safe and does not take any chances and let the county do what they have to do to get the roads repaired,” she said.

Dams breached

The state agency responsible for overseeing dams confirmed that

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Deaths • A11
• Robert “Bob” Coy Hawks -- Orangeburg

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