Flooding affects Oconee, Pickens

BY MIKAYLA KREUZBERGER
THE JOURNAL

Nearly four inches of rain fell Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, leaving several areas in Oconee and Pickens counties with emergency issues that continued into the afternoon and turned deadly Wednesday night.

Pickens County Emergency Management Director Chuck Haynes said his emergency teams responded to five swift water rescues Tuesday night near Pickens and Central.

"There were no injuries, and each rescue was successful, but it was extremely dangerous," Haynes said.

Of those rescues, three were on Silver Creek Road and one was on Browning Road, both in the Central area, while the fifth occurred near the Pickens Flea Market on S.C. Hwy. 183, the result of flash flooding along Twelve Mile Creek.

The positive news on Silver Creek Road turned tragic late Wednesday night, however, as authorities confirmed that a man

SEE FLOODING, PAGE A2



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Debris floats near a Clemson-area bridge after heavy rains Tuesday and Wednesday raised water levels.

FLOODING: Could continue with rain today

FROM PAGE A1

missing since Tuesday had been found dead.

David Russell, a volunteer with the Pickens Flea Market, said the flea market did open Wednesday despite flooding issues, and that he didn't see any flooding issues remaining late Wednesday morning. The flea market's property line runs along the creek, and heavy rains had backed up water into the parking lots.

"Everything is fine," he said. "I bet (the creek) dropped five feet since I've been here at 4 this morning."

In Oconee County, Scott Krein, emergency services director, said Tuesday's and Wednesday's rain flooded several areas that resulted in minor issues.

"We're still assessing damage, but it's not as bad as some of the flooding we've had before. We've had to close a few roads, but the water subsided when the rain stopped," Krein said.

He said a few homes had flooding issues, and several cars in the Shiloh area were caught in felled trees.

Oconee County Deputy Fire Chief Grahl Haney said emergency crews responded to a home in the Corinth-Shiloh area Tuesday that took in a large amount of water.

"We were trying to divert water with sandbags," Haney said.

Early Wednesday afternoon, Oconee emergency crews responded to a washed-out road near the Keowee Key Fire Department in Salem.

National Weather Service officials issued a flash flood warning in the area until Wednesday afternoon due to continued rains throughout the day.

The Clemson-Oconee Regional Airport reported 3.91 inches of rain from Tuesday to Wednesday morning, which is a total accumulation of 5.38 inches since Aug. 1.

Accuweather.com reported partly cloudy weather today with possible thunderstorms in the evening.

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