

Road, sewer issues remain from Thursday's rain

BY NORM CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Officials were working Friday to deal with closed roads and sewer spills after Thursday's heavy rains in Oconee County.

Oconee interim Fire Chief Scott Krein said only six county roads remained closed on Friday afternoon due to water on the roads or damage from flooding. A total of 19 county roads were closed in the county about 24 hours earlier.

"We're actually looking pretty good right now," he said. "Six roads are still not open, and four of the six have significant damage."

Krein said Conley and Cobb Bridge roads near Westminster as well as Hope Avenue near Seneca and Buscsh Creek at Coffee Road in Walhalla were all damaged and not expected to be repaired Friday. Shrine Club Road near Seneca and Camp Road near Walhalla both had water on them, and officials were not able to determine whether there was damage on those roads.



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Heavy rain Thursday caused significant flooding at Sertoma Field in Walhalla.

SEWER OVERFLOWS

Diluted wastewater continued to spill Friday near the Duck Pond Reservoir south of Walhalla and at the trunk sewer near Return Church Road and the Coneross Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Seneca. An overflow at the Seneca Creek pump station near Wells Highway and U.S. Highway 123 ended Thursday afternoon, according to a news release from the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority.

The release said the sewer overflows were "due to continued flooding and related issues." The water reclamation facility reported 5.9 inches of rain on Thursday.

OJRSA officials will collect bacteria samples in the affected areas once stream flows return to

normal, according to the release. People and pets downstream of those areas are encouraged to avoid contact with the floodwaters until the advisory is rescinded, according to the release, which added that drinking water

In Walhalla, utilities director Scott Parris said between 3/4 of a mile and a mile "of sewer mains and manholes" were underwater on Thursday because of the rain.

"Due to water covering the manholes, we did have

the unknown start time, and how much may have escaped the manholes underwater, and not visible."

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