

RENO HAPPENINGS

SENTINEL-VOICE

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Bryan declares state of emergency in four counties

Serious flooding threatened Reno

Three major routes out of Reno remained closed Tuesday, making road travel to California long and difficult.

And although Reno street conditions improved somewhat as flood waters receded, many northern Nevada roads and bridges were still impassable.

The following major Nevada and California highways were closed as of late Tuesday: Interstate 80 at the state line; U.S. 50 over Echo Summit; U.S. 89 at Emerald Bay; State Route 88 at the Carson Pass; U.S. 70 through the Feather River Canyon; U.S. 395 north of Reno at Red Rock Road and at Doyle; and U.S. 395 south of Carson City at Cradlebough Bridge.

Both eastbound and westbound lanes of I-80 remained closed Tuesday because of rockslides west of Floriston. Five slides about three feet deep now block the four-lane road within a mile, and the westbound lanes have been turned into a rocklined river channel.

California Department of Transportation spokeswoman Pat Miller said the state is contracting with Teichert Construction Co. of Sacramento to clear the highway, but there was no estimate when work would be completed -- or when it would begin. Officials initially said it would take several days before they could move in the heavy equipment needed.

"The weather is going to dictate what we do," Caltrans Supervisor Dale Bourne said. "As long as it's still raining, there is a chance of another slide, and we're not going to do anything while there is still that chance."

Once work does begin, Bourne said I-80 could be

opened to two-way traffic in one day, although engineers on the site said it could be weeks before the highway's drainage system could be restored. The state will also have to rebuild portions of the road's riverside embankment.

Flood control officials remained hopeful Tuesday that the worst of western Nevada's bout with floods was over, but said they were concerned that another Pacific storm system could swell rivers past flood stage later in the week.

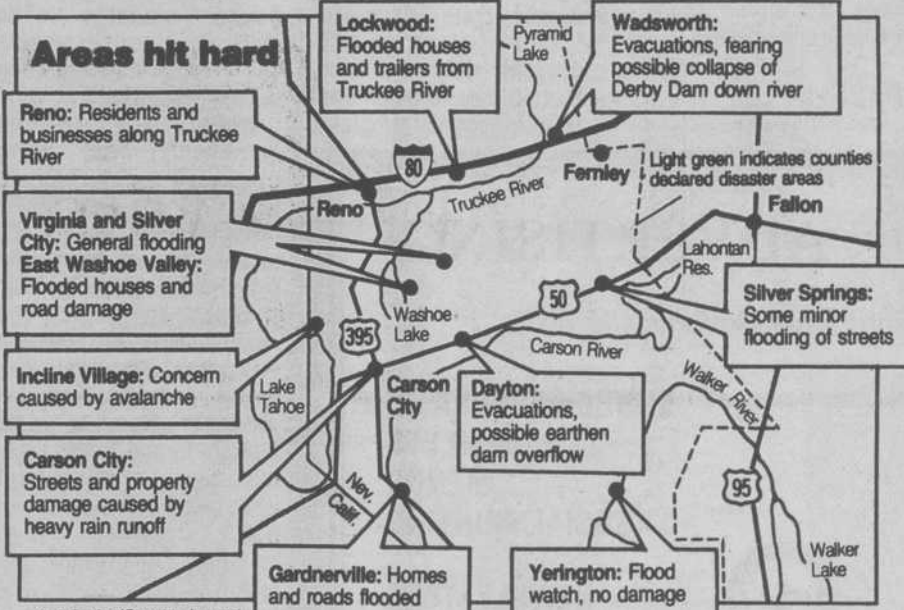
Gov. Richard Bryan declared a state of emergency in Carson City and in Douglas, Storey, Lyon, and Washoe counties.

The declaration will allow the counties to qualify for federal flood relief programs.

About 100 National Guardsmen were mobilized to provide help and equipment after Bryan declared the state of emergency.

One of the biggest evacuations took place in Lyon County where 150 residents Monday evening left their homes near Dayton, about 10 miles east of Carson City, when the El Dorado Reservoir threatened to cut off residents from the outside.

As many as 180 people were forced to flee a housing development in Douglas County as water rose



Paul Carbo/Gazette-Journal

Basketball bounces into Reno

If the University of Nevada-Reno falls from the Big Sky Conference tournament, northern Nevadans will still have an opportunity to cheer for the home team.

The state AA basketball tournament is scheduled March 6-8 at two area gyms and the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

The state A basketball tournament is scheduled March 7-8 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, which will play host to 12 games in two days.

Both boys' and girls' tournaments will compete for attendance with the Big Sky



Delores Feemster, Reno Sentinel-Voice General Manager. For news, weekly locations of paper and advertising information, contact her at 323-3677.

Conference tournament March 6-8 at Lawlor Events Center, especially if the Wolf Pack reaches the finals.

The AA boys' first round is scheduled for March 6 at Hug High School, starting at 3:30 p.m.

The AA girls' first round is scheduled for March 6 at Sparks High School, starting at 3:30 p.m.

The second rounds and A semifinals are scheduled for March 7 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, where the opening tipoff is 10 a.m. and the last tipoff is 8:30 p.m.

The Northern AA tournament is Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28-March 1, at Elko High School, the league's eastern outpost.

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