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## Mendocino County Gets a Soaking With Latest Rainfall

By Adam Randall

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Area rain is expected to continue throughout most of the holiday week as rivers rise to capacity and local roads become hazardous.

**The National Weather Service in Eureka reported Monday afternoon that Willits had received 2.3 inches of precipitation over a 24-hour span, with Ukiah receiving 1.2 inches and Boonville 1.3 inches.**

An additional 1 to 2 inches of rain was expected Monday night, with a tenth to quarter of an inch expected on Tuesday, according to the NWS.

A flood advisory was issued for the Russian River near Hopland, which will remain in effect until Tuesday afternoon. As of 2 p.m. Monday, the NWS said the flood stage for the river was at 5.6 feet. Actual flooding occurs at 21 feet for that particular location. The NWS expected the river to crest at 20.6 feet just before midnight Monday, then eventually fall back to 15 feet by Tuesday afternoon.

An urban and small stream flood advisory was also issued for the county before 4 p.m. Monday, with rock and mudslides possible in steeper terrain. The NWS is predicting flooding to occur in areas including Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits, Point Arena, Laytonville and Covelo. The Garcia River near Manchester was also expected to flood Highway 1 by Tuesday morning, the NWS said.

As a precaution with any flooding, the NWS recommends that commuters be on the lookout for standing water on farm and country roads, and in steep terrain. Do not attempt to travel across flooded roads. Instead, find an alternate route, the NWS suggests.

Friedman's Home Improvement in Ukiah on Airport Park Boulevard began offering 20 free sandbags per customer late Monday afternoon. Home Depot in Ukiah also reported that sandbags were available, although for purchase. Free sandbags are also available at the following fire department locations around the county, according to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office: Albion, Brooktrails, Comptche, Covelo, Fort Bragg, Hopland, Potter Valley, South Coast and Westport.

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