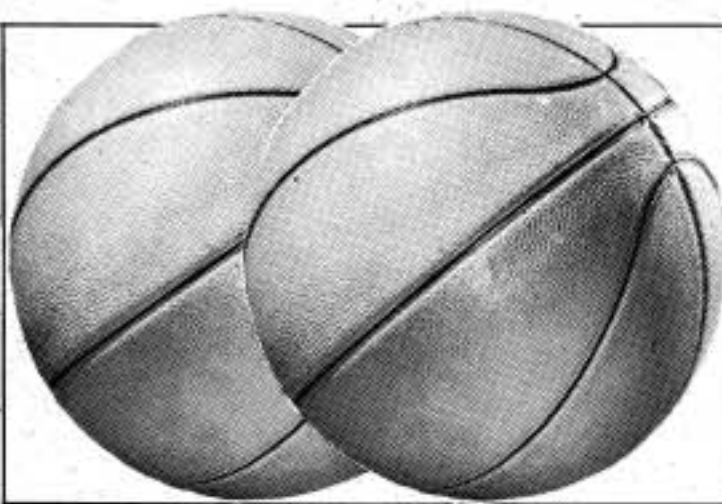


Luzadder: Another example of fighting back
Pathways: Behind the legend of Oral Roberts
Summit: AC/DC's nice guys out for fun
Sports Weekend: Purdue heads for the Big Apple
Channels: 'Love, Sydney' defangs the critics



Missed free throws plagued Harding in its 75-66 loss to South Bend LaSalle in the first game of today's Fort Wayne semi-state tournament at the Memorial Coliseum. LaSalle's Howard Edwards stung the Hawks by scoring 18 points, all in the second half **Sports Weekend**

Rain possible
 Low tonight: around 37
 High tomorrow: around 40
 Details on page 2A

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A Sigh Of Relief As Rivers Drop

How we'll act when it's over

By JIM QUINN
 Of The News-Sentinel

Enrico Quarantelli may know more about disasters than any person alive. And so he has a good idea what's happening in Fort Wayne and how we're likely to come out of it.

He's seen cities shaken by earthquakes, devastated by floods, and leveled by hurricanes. He's seen towns devoured by fire and wracked by riots. He's watched men clean up the debris left by broken dikes and dig out the victims of harsh blizzards.

And each time he's visited the site of a disaster he's stood by with pad in hand, writing down the way people react in those times of stress, and looking for patterns in their behavior.

Quarantelli is a social scientist. As head of the Disaster Research Center at Ohio State University in Columbus, he presides over the world's first and largest team of disaster experts.

"Right now, I'm certain there's a very strong feeling of brotherhood and sisterhood in Fort Wayne," Quarantelli said. "After a natural disaster there's almost always a powerful feeling of unity and high morale."

"A natural disaster brings out the hidden strengths in people. They rise to the demands of an emergency and do things they didn't realize they could do."

"But in the vast majority of cases, there is a period of conflict and disagreements that comes when the Adrenalin and money runs out."

Quarantelli said he became interested in studying the way people behave in a natural disaster when he was earning his doctorate in sociology at the University of Chicago. He founded the Center for Disaster Research at OSU in 1963 with a group of social scientists who were eager to learn how groups of men, women and children respond to the pressures forced upon them in the most trying times of their lives.

The first big disaster they studied was the 1963 explosion at the Indianapolis Coliseum that killed 81 people and injured many others. Since then the center has dispatched teams of researchers to scenes of more than 300 disasters all over the world.

Today Quarantelli has a massive library containing the findings of his researchers and social scientists from other universities. "What we've learned is that people react



Photo: Dennis Chamberlin/The News-Sentinel

Although the river levels in Fort Wayne finally began to drop Friday, the threat of more rain offered little rest for these weary volunteers who patrolled the Pemberton dike Friday night. Sandbags there have been placed against homes and garages to bolster the dike.

Danger isn't over but things calmer

From Staff Reports

While the city's rivers continue their slow decline, Fort Wayne may finally be getting some breaks in its eight-day battle against the flood of 1982.

Local officials, nonetheless, are keeping their vigil on the weather, rivers and the dikes.

The band of rainstorms that swept into the area Friday morning diminished by midmorning today, and had dumped only three quarters of an inch of rain, according to the National Weather Service at Baer Field.

There was a chance of rain this afternoon, but a weather service meteorologist said accumulation would measure only a half inch. He added the heavy rain predicted for Friday afternoon and evening did not materialize and the rainfall will not cause the Maumee River to rise.

"The rain has been slow enough and we've been getting enough runoff that we may actually see the rivers stabilize," the meteorologist said. "There is a possibility of rain later today, but it will be light and scattered. It would be accurate to say we may have seen the worst."

The Maumee River was measured at 23 feet this morning and was falling steadily. Officials are relieved because they had expected the Maumee to begin rising once it reached 23.5 feet. It is still about eight feet

above flood level.

The St. Joseph River was at 16.4 feet and was falling slowly. The St. Marys, on the other hand, was at 17.9 feet and was rising slowly. The weather service said, however, the St. Marys would probably crest at about 20 feet later today and either stabilize or begin falling.

Things at the city's Emergency Operations Center in the City-County Building were calm today compared to the frantic pace of the past week. There were few volunteers working this morning and sandbagging projects were few.

Although the task of filling sandbags has subsided somewhat, more volunteers were seen working on the dikes, especially the Pemberton and Edgewater dikes. Work on the secondary dike at Pemberton was completed early Friday morning, but volunteers worked most of the day shoring up the dike along Edgewater Avenue.

More than 5,000 volunteers either filled sandbags at the Memorial Coliseum or helped reinforce the Edgewater dike throughout the day Friday.

The Edgewater dike, like the Pemberton dike, is about 60 years old and was constructed of hard-packed dirt. And, like the Pemberton dike, it has softened considerably.

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Some, but not all, knew flood was coming

By CHARLIE GREEN
 Of The News-Sentinel

It was 1 a.m. when the National Weather Service alarm went off in Carl O'Neal's house. O'Neal jumped out of bed, called the weather service and was told thunderstorms were on the way.

Outside, the temperature was 55 degrees.

O'Neal, the Fort Wayne transportation director, phoned Don Bodeker, who oversees the city engineering department. He told Bodeker to dispatch three engineers to begin walking the dikes along the St. Marys, St. Joseph and Maumee rivers.

The water level on the Maumee was 18.8 feet and rising.

By 3 a.m., the water level had gone up to 19.27 feet. O'Neal called the dispatcher at the city street department. He told him to get department drivers and laborers into the street garage by morning to start filling sandbags.

At 6:30 a.m., members of the city's



O'Neal: The alarm went off

emergency preparedness team began meeting in the City-County Building.

The Maumee was at 20.49 feet and still rising.

This was how it began in the early morning of Saturday, March 13.

Looking back a week later, some are now asking whether the city

acted promptly. Could it have been more prepared for the massive flooding that followed? Could any of the flooding have been prevented?

Interviews with local, state and federal officials suggest the city was, in fact, ready. While everything did not go smoothly, most give city officials high marks for their preparations and response to the flood.

Said Ross Kittleman of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: "I think it was a very appropriate response. I've never seen better. This is an honest fight and we got ahead of it."

Preparations for the flood began more than a month ago.

In Cincinnati, the 14 National Weather Service employees working at the Ohio River Forecast Center were watching with concern the snow buildups in the Maumee River basin, which includes Fort Wayne.

"Practically every bit of moisture that fell from mid-December on was held in the snow pack or the ice," said Donald Close, the hydrologist in charge of the office.

The forecast center collects figures on precipitation and soil moisture, feeds them into a computer and develops river outlooks for five states, including Indiana. The forecasts are then forwarded to National Weather Service workers in the field and state and local officials.

In its weekly outlook issued Feb. 9, the forecast center said "the snow poses a moderate threat of flooding in the upper Wabash and the Maumee."

On Feb. 16, the outlook said a snow melt could cause some "light floods along the Maumee."

Throughout this time, the forecast center was characterizing the Maumee basin as the most flood-prone in the five-state area.

On Feb. 23, Phil Roberts, the natural disaster coordinator for the state civil defense office, convened a meeting of some 30 people in Indianapolis. His office wasn't big enough for the meeting so it was held in the Red Cross building.

Representatives from 16 different

agencies attended.

"We knew there was a potential for severe flooding this year so we had a meeting with state and federal agencies to look at the flood potential for the entire state," said Roberts.

At the session, Albert P. Shipe Jr. of the weather service's Indianapolis office repeated what the forecasters in Cincinnati had been saying: Watch out for Fort Wayne.

Roberts called Tom Rody, his counterpart in Fort Wayne.

"It turned out he had been doing the same thing I had," said Roberts.

Rody, director of emergency services for the city, had organized a meeting of the city's emergency task force a week earlier, on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Two more meetings were held later in the week.

By Feb. 23, Rody was ready to hold a press conference for reporters and release a 23-page outline of what

Turn to PREPARE/Page 5A



Photo: John Stearns/The News-Sentinel

Deb Dunwiddie, a first-grade teacher at Nebraska Elementary School, was hard at work cleaning mud from her classroom this morning. The big cleanup began in earnest today after a week of flooding in low-lying areas of Fort Wayne. Dunwiddie's students will attend classes at Price Elementary School until April 13.

Coming home: a muddy trek back to start the big cleanup

By JIM QUINN
 Of The News-Sentinel

Harold Saalfrank opened his kitchen cabinet and looked inside. He saw glasses filled with muddy water.

"I'm pretending I'm in Florida," Saalfrank said as he slowly cleaned the mud from his kitchen. He and his wife, Maureen, were preparing to leave on vacation a week ago when the floodwaters began surrounding the apartments they own at 6621 Fairfield Ave. "We were dressed and ready to go," Maureen Saalfrank said.

Instead of heading south for a carefree vacation, the Saalfranks stood and watched as the St. Marys River climbed its banks and filled their apartment to the ceiling.

"It came so fast we didn't have time to save a thing," Mrs. Saalfrank said as she turned on a garden hose and sprayed the mud from an upright vacuum cleaner. "You've got to get it off while it's still wet; it'll

never come off otherwise," she said. In flood-stricken areas all over Fort Wayne, residents were returning home today, some seeing the extent of damage to their property for the first time.

From the Nebraska neighborhood of Lincolnshire, people are returning in trucks loaded with vacuum cleaners, soap, brushes, and brooms.

Deb Dunwiddie stood in the classroom at Nebraska Elementary School where she teaches first graders. On windows behind her was a row of brightly colored flowers painted on the panes.

"My students painted those a few weeks ago. We got real optimistic because we thought spring was coming," Dunwiddie said, laughing. In the high humidity inside the school her painted flowers were running in streaks down the glass.

She struggled unsuccessfully to remove a row of books soaked by the flood. When the books got wet they swelled so much they were racked

tightly within the shelf. "I guess those books aren't going anywhere for a while," she said.

Dunwiddie's students, along with the rest of the 225 Nebraska Elementary School students, won't return to their own classes until April 12. In the meantime, they'll attend classes at Price Elementary School.

"Really, I think we look pretty good," said Principal Bob Connor. Connor stood on the muddy carpet inside the school library and looked at the aftermath of 6 inches of muddy water.

"I came wading in here Sunday and moved all the books off the bottom shelves," he said. "We only lost one book in here, and that happened when I dropped it in the water." Connor's teachers were hard at work all over the building this morning, cleaning up individual classrooms and making lists of things damaged beyond repair. They found slick

Turn to RETURN/Page 5A

Bulletin

President Reagan was to announce at 2:30 p.m. today Fort Wayne will receive federal flood aid, according to Sen. Richard Lugar's office.

Reading Guide

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GADGETS	SUMMIT
MARKETS	6C
METRO NEWS	3A
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