

Rock River now predicted to crest late Tuesday

By Catherine W. Idzerda
cidzerda@gazettextra.com

JANESVILLE

City workers and volunteers spent Friday filling sandbags at the Janesville City Service Center. They'll be at it again today and Sunday, said Jay Winzenz, Janesville's interim city manager. The city has given out an estimated 2,500 sandbags, and some of them were used Friday on the river wall on North Main Street. "The water was starting to lap over the river wall up near Fireman's Park," Winzenz said.

The Rock River is expected to crest late Tuesday into Wednesday, Winzenz said.

Initial estimates had the river cresting at 13 feet, but that has since been lowered to 12.3 feet, Winzenz said. The measurements are taken at the Rock River in Afton, where flood stage is 9 feet.

In 2008, the high-water mark was 13.5 feet. At that time, the river ran into North Main Street.

That's not likely to happen again, Winzenz said. Even if the water were to reach record levels, changes in the storm sewer system in the downtown area will keep it out of the street, Winzenz said.

At 6 p.m. Friday, the Rock River in Afton had reached 11.64 feet. That's considered "moderate flooding" by the National Weather Service.

Residents around Lake Koshkonong have been sandbagging in earnest for the past few days. At 6 p.m. Friday, the Rock River in Newville was at 8.24 feet. Flood stage is 5.5 feet, and the area is experiencing major flooding.

Flood warnings continue for much of southcentral Wisconsin, including for the Rock River at Janesville, Newville, Afton, Jefferson and Fort Atkinson. The flood warning also applies to the Sugar River in Brodhead and Turtle Creek near Beloit.

While Saturday is expected to be dry, rain or snow could return on Sunday.



Ice Age Way, formerly Joseph Street, in the Mole & Sadler's subdivision on the city's west side, is one of the first areas to go under water when the Rock River floods.

Bill Olmsted