

High water is here

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 02 June 2011 19:27 -



More flooding in Gothenburg, Brady predicted by Sunday.

More flooding in low-lying properties near the Platte River and south Gothenburg confirm what officials have been telling us.

High water is here and will continue to rise.

National Weather Service officials on Tuesday said flood stage at Brady was 7.9 feet which is .4 feet over flood stage.

The river is expected to continue to rise there to near 8.3 feet by early Sunday morning with high flows continuing downstream to Gothenburg.

NWS forecaster and hydrology program leader Kenny Rober of North Platte said officials expect significant flooding like what occurred in 1997 when the river rose to 8.4 feet at Brady.

The nearest locations for Platte River water measurements are at Brady and Cozad.

Rober said rain from thunderstorms predicted Wednesday (today) could push the river level higher, especially if there is heavy rain over the South Platte basin near North Platte.

“Then there could be even a more significant rise in the river downstream,” he said.

High water is here

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 02 June 2011 19:27 -

However Rober said folks in low-lying areas near the river should also be bracing for what is expected in mid June when snow melt from the South Platte River comes roaring out of the mountains.

Mid to late June is often also when storms bringing plenty of rain are likely to move into the area, he said.

“Our greatest flooding concern is in June and maybe into July,” he said.

The high water hurtling down the Platte this week and last is from increased runoff into reservoirs on the North Platte River in Wyoming.

“Every few days, they’re releasing water from Lake Conaughy which is like stair steps in height and flow,” Rober said.

The North Platte River near North Platte was expected to rise well above flood stage to 8.2 feet by Sunday.

Highway 30 has been closed between the North Platte Airport and Maxwell because of flooding which made it impassable.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636