

Hamilton: Surviving the deluge



Photo by Laura Pierce
While a newspaper photographer watches at left, two Hamilton children and their dog wade in knee-deep water down their street last Wednesday.



Photo by Laura Pierce
Knowing they had a newsworthy event on their hands, area residents from left, David Dean, Eli Peak and Charles Anderson were out the evening of Oct. 21 watching and wading in the floodwaters near Hamilton. Dean and Anderson had video cameras and were filming a house surrounded on all sides by floodwater.



Photo by Laura Pierce
Right: Hamilton resident Jim Thomason moves flood-deposited mud as best he can outside Willie's Hi-Lead Tavern in Hamilton last Wednesday.

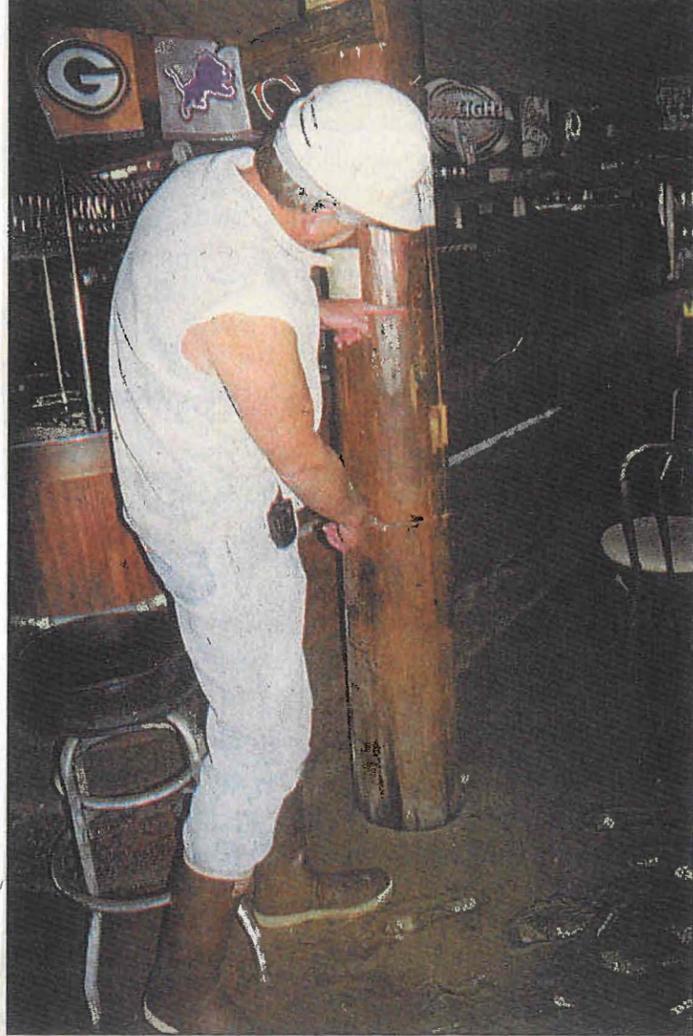


Photo by Laura Pierce
 Skagit County Commissioner Ted Anderson shows two different water lines last Wednesday on a timber at Willie's Hi-Lead Tavern in Hamilton. The higher point on the timber is where this year's floodwater climbed to; the lower line is the 1995 flood level.



Photo by Laura Pierce
 A bike tire sticks up from what used to be a street in Hamilton last Wednesday, as a home sits on a tiny island of elevation. Hamilton was one of the hardest-hit communities in last week's flooding.
 Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Around the county



Photo by Laura Pierce
 U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen, left, listens last Wednesday as a National Guardsman talks about his activities assisting area residents during last week's flooding. Larsen, along with National Guard officials, was on hand to speak with soldiers of the 81st Armor Brigade, who worked 'round the clock with other emergency officials when the flooding began last week. Larsen met the soldiers at the brigade's organizational maintenance shop at the former Northern State Hospital Complex site.



Photo by Laura Pierce
 Hamilton youngster April Osborne, 9, wades with a boat through the flooded front yards of her neighborhood. Osborne said she'd kept most of her valuables above floodwater.



Photo by Laura Pierce

The Lower Baker Dam releases water last Wednesday from the Lake Shannon Reservoir near Concrete. The dam, one of two on the Baker River operated by Puget Sound Energy, was helpful in controlling flood waters earlier in the week, although some water had to be released following the worst of the flooding. Hydroelectric facilities owned by Seattle City Light on the Skagit River also helped with flood control.

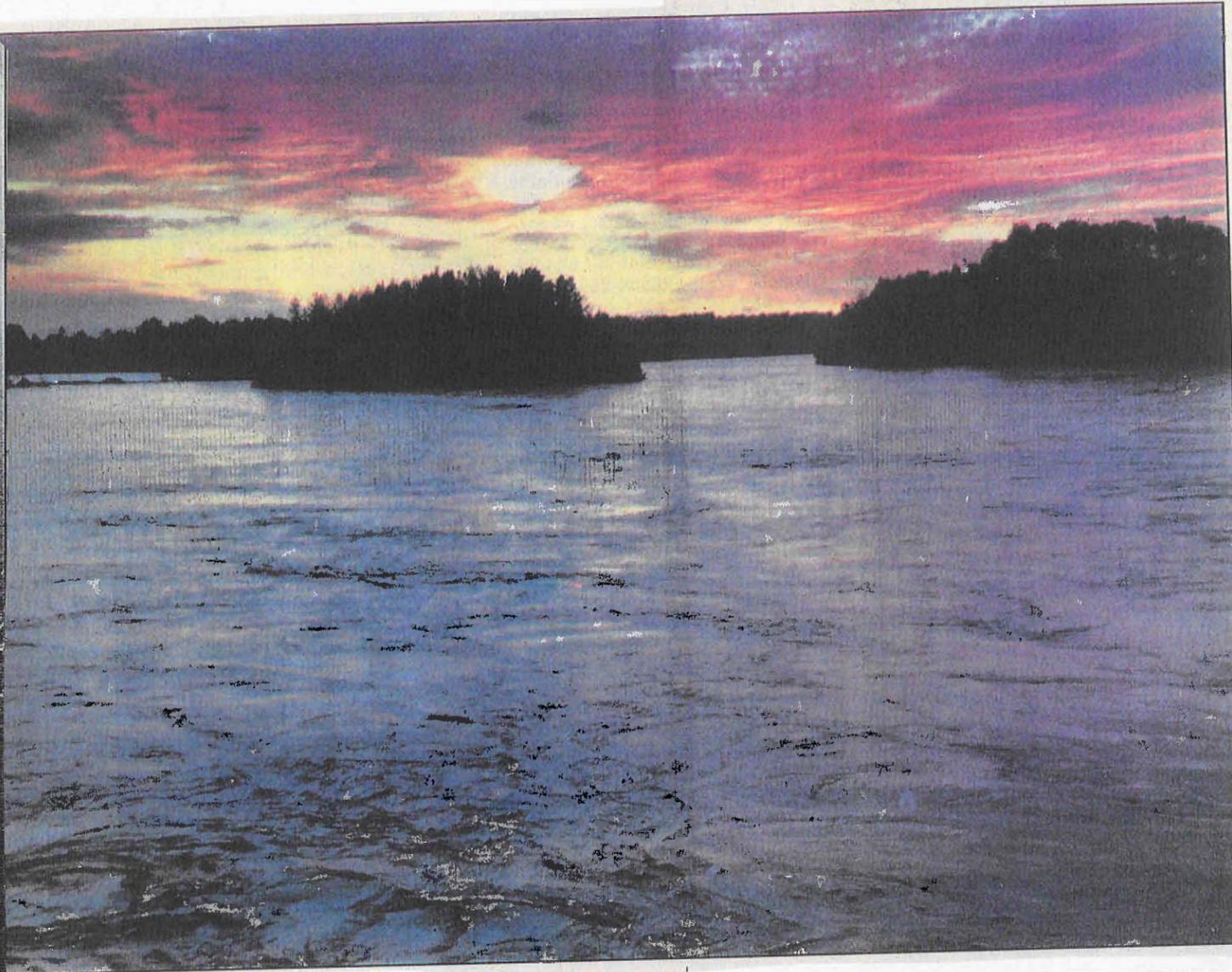


Photo by Laura Pierce

Looking more like a scene from the San Juan Islands, the flooding Skagit River, pictured the evening of Oct. 21 from the State Route 9 bridge, seems limitless in its expanse.



Photo by Laura Pierce

Standing on Township Street behind a dirt berm, Sedro-Woolley residents watch the Skagit River floodwaters rise the evening of Oct. 21 at Riverfront Park. Before the end of the evening, a significant crowd had gathered to watch the waters creep up the street.