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Final report on 2005

By **KATIE OLIVERI**
koliveri@the
spectrum.com

ST. GEORGE — January will mark three years since the 2005 flooding that destroyed 18 homes in Washington County, most of which were in St. George.

On Tuesday at SunFirst Bank on St. George Boulevard, Virgin River/Santa Clara River Flood Relief, Inc. officials presented a final report on money raised and where

it was applied to show the community how its efforts helped.

In total, just over \$3 million was given toward the 18 destroyed homes as well as the support pillar costs. About 25-plus families were helped in total and that over \$3 million included construction of a home for one of the families that totally lost its home in the flood, said Dave Watson, president of the Virgin River/Santa Clara River Flood Relief, Inc.

The flood committee was formed in February 2005 as a collection of money raised through a community effort, Watson said. Money, he said, was raised through dozens of events like bake sales, rodeo events, and car washes. The sale of "Portraits of Loss and Hope," was the largest of the fund-raising efforts, helping to raise

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through the night.

He learned it didn't, along with others in the Creekside neighborhood.

Duffin then learned the insurance he had on his home didn't cover the loss of the house or its contents.

"The insurance company said the damage was caused by erosion and they don't insure against erosion," he said. "That was a great disappointment to me."

He said the American Red Cross provided emergency food and clothing, which, Duffin said, was "a great help." But he said the true help came from the community effort, from the "flood relief fund."

Duffin said he received about 35 percent of the value of his home from the relief

"That was just a true financial blessing to me because it enabled me to get started," he said.

Duffin still lives in the Creekside planned unit development. Though he lost his home in 2005, he also owned a vacant lot in Creekside and was able to build a new home on that lot.

"The financial aid I received was just extremely instrumental in my being able to do that," he said. "I feel it was just wonderful help, a great financial help to me. I could not have built a new home without that help."

For the homes that were lost or destroyed, Watson said the committee settled on a specific number for everyone and applied that across the board. About \$110 per square foot was given to families for the main level

of their homes or destroyed per square foot level or base.

Under the plan and efforts of the tractor dealer, one new home was built for a family on that land, supply and services were provided.

Also, the committee raised money for pillars of homes that were destroyed. Between \$30,000 per home for that, Watson said, support was provided.

Of the just over \$3 million raised, \$28 million from the community effort was used to rebuild their homes, but in most cases, Watson said, the money was used for a down payment to repurchase a

Watson said the flooding happened on Jan. 10 and 11 in 2005. The first day, he

REMEMBERING

Through private donors, as a side effort, a commemorative heroic bronze statue is being built to remember the flooding of 2005 and the thousands of volunteer hours that followed. It will be dedicated to the volunteers. The 6-foot tall statue of a boy with a sand bag, called "Sandman," will be dedicated in the St. George Town Square in January. Those interested in making donations for the statue should call Charlotte Pace at 656-2058.

Small tabletop replicas will be available for sale to the public. They will be available for purchase from artist Annette Everett at ~~656-2058~~ ~~656-2058~~ Call 668-5154.

The book, "Portraits of Loss, Stories of Hope," can still be purchased from the Dixie State College Foundation.

Source: Dave Watson, president of the Virgin River/Santa Clara River Flood Relief, Inc.

Co. flood released



Jud Burkett / The Spectrum

The remains of several homes sit perched on the banks of the Santa Clara River after the 2005 flooding in St. George.

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us financially, she said, but they also assisted "emotionally and spiritually."

"There was so much effort that went into it," Pace said. "The community pulled together so well."

She said although the flood was a horrible event, it has turned out to be a great blessing, reaffirming for Pace that "this is a wonderful world and the community is special."

The financial assistance helped her buy the home she lives in now. Pace said she and her husband have said many times how much they love their home and neighborhood.

"It worked out so well for us," she said.

Pace emphasized the generosity of the community and how everyone pulled together to help after the flooding.

nation effort, on Tuesday.

And the committee donated heavy duty pumping equipment to the fire districts in the county. Nineteen fire service districts across the county received two large pumps, each with hoses to help with future flooding.

Glenna Sanderson's home in the Riverwood subdivision was destroyed in the flooding. The home was 4-years old, she said, and during the flood, "it just went down in an instant." It was her absolute dream home, Sanderson said.

She eventually bought a 30-year-old condo on 400 East, which she currently lives in. Before purchasing that condo, she lived with her sister for about two weeks and then rented a condo for a few months.

"It turned out to be exact-