Written by Steve Frank
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Fallout and frustration over a week after flooding damaged High Country roadways and dwellings. While work is underway on apartments that were flooded in the deluge January 30th, such as the 23 condemned at Bavarian Village, some residents are frustrated over what they've been told by the DOT about repairs to their roads. One of those is Pamela Graham of Todd, who said she got home as the storm was hitting and found the culvert where her drive intersects Carter Miller Road was uprooted by the river of water flowing down the road, and her drive was inaccessible. Reporting that to the DOT, she was told that a truck had been on its way but broke down. Told that, she didn't call immediately the next morning, thinking a truck was on its way, but when she did call late that morning, the woman who answered told her there never was a truck on its way, that there were many calls, but hers would be handled. "By the end of the day they did come out," according to Graham, but she said they used available materials to put a narrow path across the culvert to give her access to her drive. "There's a huge hole left. If I don't stay on that path, I'm going to lose an axle," and she said that cars pull over on Carter Miller to let each other pass, and with the deep culvert cut through the road, there's little space for even one car. But after the weekend, Graham was again frustrated with no response, "Monday morning I called and asked Debbie if they were coming to fix it, and she assured me that they had hired extra people and they were working as hard as they could and they would be out to fix it as soon as they could. I tried to be patient, so I didn't call back until yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon—this was at 4:15—and I said maybe I should talk to Jim Blevins, and she said 'well he's gone home for the day.' And I said, 'why isn't he out there helping, and she said, 'Oh they all went home at 3:30 today.'" Graham went on, "And as you know, yesterday (Wednesday) was a beautiful day. I couldn't believe they quit at 3:30 on a day like yesterday." Pamela Graham has sent videos taken on the day after the flood and late Thursday, to show that, beyond the small path to her drive, no work had been done, and they're posted on our YouTube page at: http://www.youtube.com/user/GoBlueRidgeNews