



Closings Set By Stations At Christmas

Service stations throughout the Sandhills area generally will be closed either December 24 or 26, as well as on Christmas Day and on the Sunday before Christmas, a survey of station operators indicates.

Purpose of the closings is to stretch curtailed supplies of gasoline and prevent lengthy shutdowns that would be necessary should a station's pumps run dry.

As one operator said, "I expect to be closed either Monday the 24th or Wednesday the 26th, depending on my gasoline supply situation. If I don't have gasoline to sell, I might just as well shut up shop."

Indications were that stations planning an extra day's closing, in addition to the scheduled December 23 and 25 closings, favor shutting down on December 26. A December 24 shutdown, they point out, actually would close a station from

Priorities To be Set By Board

Official adoption of the priority list of capital outlay projects to be paid for with State bond money, plus county funds anticipated over the next five years, is expected to be made at a meeting of the Moore County Board of Education at 2 p.m. Thursday.

This will be the board's regular December meeting, held early because of Christmas, and already postponed once because of weather conditions.

At their November 27 meeting, the board sent over their "package" of school construction and major renovation projects, checking details with their architect and trying to

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Group to Study Traffic Changes

A modification of the proposed traffic control plan for downtown Southern Pines would be acceptable to the State Highway Department, which would be receptive to recommendations of the Town, Mayor E. Earl Hubbard told a crowd of merchants attending a public hearing on the plan at last week's council meeting.

But, he said, before the council could make recommendations, on the subject, they would have to know the reactions of the people most concerned—those

making their living in the downtown district.

In the hour-long discussion, it appeared the merchants were going to agree on just about one thing—that they didn't like the plan, the modification didn't help things much and, despite problems of traffic congestion, parking and safety at the railroad crossings, they'd rather keep things as they are than change.

Since-in view of the traffic engineers' projection of a double

Aberdeen Annexes Area; Zoning Change Rejected

There were no objections and no questions, so the Aberdeen Board of Commissioners on Monday afternoon voted to adopt an ordinance extending the town's limits to include a new shopping center and other land areas on US 1 and 15-501.

It was a called meeting for a public hearing on the annexation. Mayor J.M. Taylor presided. Commissioners present were Cliff Blue Jr., Lloyd Harris, Al Cruce, Hugh M. Styers, and Vivian W. Green.

Mayor Taylor stated that the Board should make a decision on rezoning a portion of property

located on U.S. 15-501, south of the city limits, from Residential to B-2, General Business District, it was advertised and hearing held at the August 13 meeting. Those present for this matter were Ed Graham, chairman of the Planning Board, Fentress Phillips, Jere McKeithen and S.R. Ransdell. After this was discussed, a motion was made by Commissioner Blue, seconded by Commissioner Harris, that this change be approved, as recommended by the Planning Board.

The vote was taken and Commissioners Blue and Harris voted for this change and Commissioners Green, Cruce and Styers voted against this change, so this proposal was defeated. Mayor Taylor presented a resolution to amend the Land Use Policy Act, the General Assembly of North Carolina, Senate Bill No. 837 and House Bill

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MESSAGE FOR SANTA—Three-year-old Gwendolyn Gehweiler of Southern Pines has a message for Santa Claus to look out for her and all good boys and girls when he comes calling next Monday night. Santa Claus was taking such messages last week at the Town and Country Shopping Center.—(Photo by Glenn M. Sides).

Special Christmas Programs Slated by Sandhills Churches

Churches in Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen have announced special Christmas programs to be held for the remaining part of the Christmas season.

The Emmanuel Episcopal

Shoppers Warned

Three thefts of women's pocketbooks from supermarket shopping carts over the past weekend prompted Southern Pines Police Chief Earl Seawell to warn shoppers to be more vigilant.

Losses in the three thefts totaled approximately \$125 plus credit cards, keys, gloves and other personal items. In each case the victim had placed her purse in the shopping cart rather than keeping it in her possession.

Chief Seawell also advised shoppers to lock their cars at all times and place packages in their car trunks where they cannot be seen by thieves on the prowl.

Church will have a half hour service of Christmas carols on Christmas Eve beginning at 5 p.m. Also on Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, communion, will be given, with the service beginning at 11 p.m. On Christmas day a worship service will be conducted at 11 a.m.

The Church of Wide Fellowship in Southern Pines had a covered-dish supper on Tuesday, December 18. The Pinecrest

Two Sandhills Teachers On Distinguished List

The honors most coveted by members of the faculty of Sandhills Community College, two Distinguished Professorships, were presented Thursday by Dr. Raymond A. Stone, president of the college, to Dawson V. Carr, chairman of the department of mathematics, and Marion J. Rogers, coordinator of the department of music.

The C. Foster Brown Distinguished Professor Award presented to Carr, was established by Mrs. Brown and

Choir provided the music and Va Xiong, a Vietnamese, spoke. On Thursday, December 20, the Church's Cub Scout Pack will have a Christmas Party. And, on Sunday the Church's Christmas Pageant, "In the Same Country" will be presented at 7:30. At this program the white Christmas gifts for the needy will be given and Santa Claus will pay a visit. The Church will have a Candle

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Closings Varied For Christmas

Snow Hits Area; Schools Closed

The second snow of the season—some two inches—came to the Sandhills on Sunday night, but except for the closing of schools for two days there was little disruption of pre-Christmas activity.

The first snow came one week earlier, and was really only enough to barely cover the ground in early morning.

This week's snow, however, came on the heels of a cold rain, measuring almost an inch on Sunday, and it did not stick to the ground for several hours. Flurries continued sporadically until after noon on Monday, snow

sometimes falling while the sun was shining.

Roads and streets were quickly cleared as the sun melted the snow, but Supt. Robert E. Lee of the Moore County schools still felt that travel was too hazardous for school buses and the schools were closed Monday and Tuesday.

Temperatures skidded to a low for the season—dropping to 26 degrees at 5 a.m. on Monday and down to 16 degrees Monday night, according to weather observers at the Pinehurst station.

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Record Mail Set At Local Office

A record 153,000 pieces of incoming mail were handled by the Southern Pines postoffice last week, peak period of the annual Christmas rush, Postmaster Robert E. Peele announced Monday.

This is better than 30 per cent more than the 118,000 pieces handled in the comparable week of 1972, he reported.

Outgoing mail last week was approximately the same as the incoming volume, he estimated. Because much of the mail leaving Southern Pines goes to Fayetteville for cancellation and distribution, outgoing volume can only be estimated, Peele explained.

"But I feel safe in saying that this postoffice handled approximately 300,000 pieces of mail in that one week," he asserted.

"Because the public responded so well to the Postal Service's plea for early mailing of cards and packages, we now are past the peak in mail volume. We should have no difficulty in staying current with both incoming and outgoing mail."

Incoming mail has been so heavy that the postoffice has been receiving an extra truckload from Fayetteville each day, he said.

Of last week's incoming volume of 153,000 pieces, 120,000

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Sanford S&L to Open Branch Office in Area

The First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Sanford will open a branch office in the Town and Country Shopping Center on Jan. 2.

W.M. Womble, president, announced Tuesday that he has been advised by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta that the Federal Home Loan Bank

Board, Washington, D.C., has approved their application for permission to establish a branch office in the Town and Country Shopping Center.

Womble said plans are to open the branch office in a mobile unit until such time as an office facility, to be constructed by Storey Corporation, is completed, which should be in approximately 120 days.

First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Sanford has served the Moore County area since its organization in 1950, which today is represented by a loan volume of approximately \$7 million.

The Aberdeen Branch office is to be staffed by local personnel upon completion of a training program.

By 1960, the association opened a branch office in Pittsboro and a

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Most retail stores in the Sandhills area will be closed on both Christmas Day and the day after, a spot check by the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce has disclosed.

On the other hand, there is little uniformity in the working schedules of town, county, state and federal offices over the Christmas-through-New Year's holiday period, according to queries made to those agencies.

Supermarkets and a few retail stores will be open as usual on December 26, it was indicated. But even these will close at or around 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, in most instances.

As for the various government offices, about the only certainty is that all will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Here, for example, is the situation at the municipal level:

Southern Pines and Aberdeen town offices will be closed Wednesday, December 26, in addition to the two holidays. They will be open on December 24. This schedule is being followed to provide a business day break between the normal weekend closing December 22 and 23 and the Christmas holiday. They will be open as usual January 2.

Carthage town offices will close on December 24. No decision has been made on the working schedule for the New Year's holiday, but it is expected the offices will be closed only on January 1.

Pinehurst, Inc., general offices will be closed December 24 and 31, in addition to the two

Pilot Holiday

The Pilot will be closed for two days—Monday and Tuesday—for the Christmas holidays, but will publish on its regular day, Wednesday, next week.

Advertising copy is requested on Thursday and Friday of this week, as well as columns from correspondents, and other news features and items.

The Pilot will also be closed on New Year's Day—Jan. 1.

Road Work Approved In Moore

Approval for secondary road construction in a number of counties was given in Raleigh last Wednesday by the Secondary Roads Council as that body met in a regular monthly session.

Council members said that the projects had been discussed previously with Boards of Commissioners in the counties affected, and that the work will be done with allocations made for the fiscal year 1973-74.

Work approved for Moore

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THE PILOT LIGHT

LEGISLATURE—Because of the energy crisis a cloud of uncertainty will hang over the General Assembly for several weeks until a better picture is obtained of what the future will be under the energy crisis.

The Legislature will reconvene on January 16 and will be presented a record high budget, along with a tax reduction package which was approved overwhelmingly by a House Finance Committee a few days ago.

Neither one, however, is likely to get speedy approval. Several legislators already are speaking out against any tax cuts, which might cut into anticipated state revenues, and there's a good chance the budget which comes from Governor Holshouser's

office may be reduced itself. There's no way, or course, to give revenue estimates at an early stage of the session in view of the uncertainties of the economic situation.

That's why the session might go longer than first thought. Legislators will be delaying decisions on taxes and budget until well into spring.

PERSONNEL—There doesn't seem much doubt but that the Democratic Legislature will pass some laws in 1974 which will give more job security to career state employes.

At the '73 session the House did pass a bill which would, in the words of Rep. Willis Whichard of Durham, set up a "due process" (Continued on Page 10-A)



OPEN HOUSE — Visitors from a wide area were present for the Open House held by the Horticulture department at Sandhills Community College. Here a group admires some of the many flowers on display.



WINTER WONDERLAND — Winter doesn't officially come until 7:05 p.m. Saturday but Monday morning's snowfall here made most of Southern Pines look like a winter wonderland. Photographer Glenn Sides caught this dogwood on Dogwood Lane shortly after the snow had stopped falling.