

Some Businesses Welcomed Last Week's Nasty Weather

BY DOUG RUTTER

While many area businessmen found themselves without customers when the weather turned nasty last week, others looked at the icy roads and frozen conditions and knew business was about to pick up.

Wreckers retrieved wayward vehicles, plumbers serviced frozen and burst water pipes and grocers emptied their shelves, as hazardous driving conditions, frigid temperatures and the threat of more inclement weather snuck up on most of Brunswick County last Thursday.

As a dusting of snow changed into freezing rain and a thin sheet of ice developed on most area roads, several motorists were forced to abandon their vehicles in roadside ditches.

"There's been a whole lot more calls because of the storm," said Billy Clemmons, owner of Bill's Auto Service of Supply. "We're not used to this kind of stuff."

He said he received 10 calls as a result of the storm, about seven more than he usually gets during an entire week.

While most driving incidents were minor, involving single cars which had simply slid off the road, Clemmons said he also towed a few

vehicles which had been totaled in multi-car accidents.

Larry Hewett, owner of Hewett Wrecker Service, said, "I'd hate to even guess how many calls we've had. It's been a lot more than usual."

He added that his wrecker pulled numerous vehicles from roadside ditches and also gave a few jump starts.

Hewett expected more business earlier this week, following Monday's freezing rain and low overnight temperatures.

Plumbers also found themselves making housecalls last week, as temperatures dropped low enough to cause water pipes to freeze and eventually break in some instances.

Elroy Smith, owner of Smitty's Plumbing and Wiring Service of Shallotte, said he serviced several frozen and broken pipes last week, but not as many as he had when temperatures dropped below the 10-degree mark a few years back.

"It's not been as bad as it was the last time we had a good freeze," he said. "People must be taking care of their pipes a little better now."

Ocean Isle Beach plumber Corby Tew added, "We've had right many calls on the pipes freezing up."

He also said homeowners appear to be more aware of the potential for

frozen pipes, especially along the oceanfront, and have taken more precautions against freezing than in previous years.

Tew said he expects more business as the temperature rises, when the pipes thaw out and homeowners discover leaks.

Area food stores also benefitted from last week's inclement weather, as customers fearing the worst stocked up on weekend essentials.

Ocean Isle IGA Manager Fleet Crowell said sales increased about 25 percent last Thursday when area residents became aware that snow

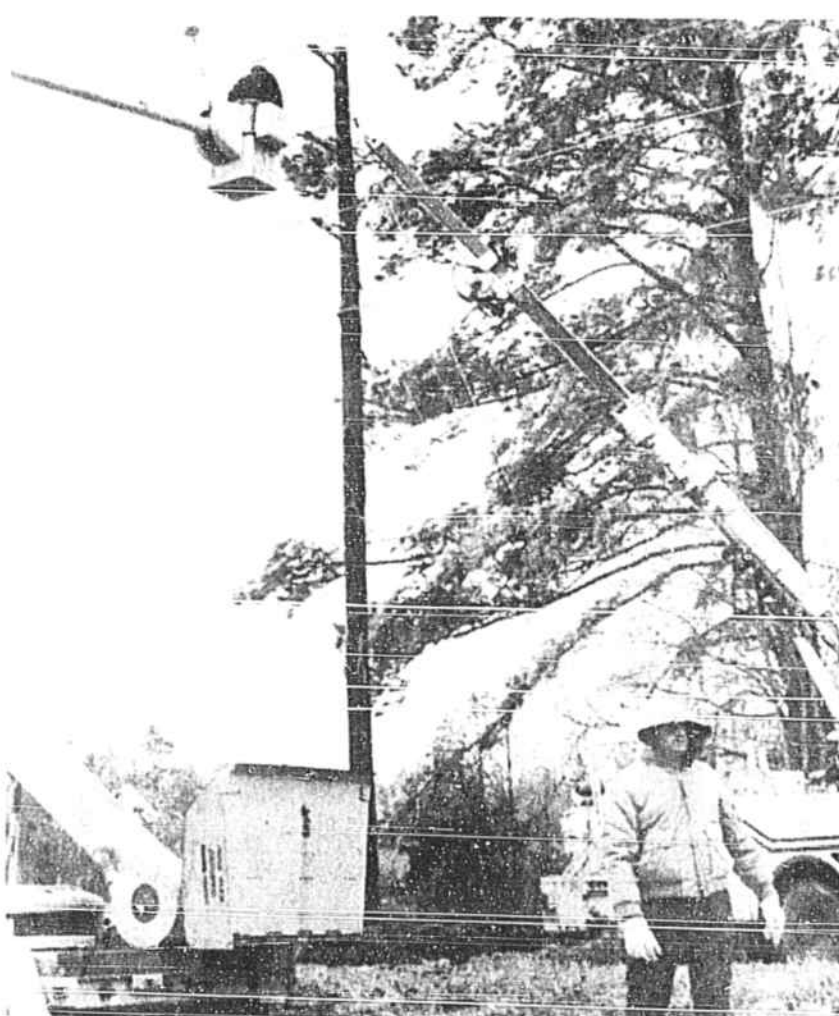
and ice were on the way.

He said that in addition to extra sales of bread and milk, customers just about cleaned him out of beer and wine. "They really went after those two goodies."

And at many auto parts stores, ice scrapers, antifreeze, wiper blades

and snow chains were in high demand.

According to Fletcher Frink, manager of Calabash Auto Parts, "I can't really say we've had more sales. But we've been selling a lot of different things people need in this type of weather."



FREEZING RAIN and ice caused little damage to power lines in Brunswick County, with a 40-minute outage at mid-day Friday between the Sunset Beach substation and Union Primary School "the worst problem," according to Manager of Operations Bobby Gore, seen directing traffic on N.C. 904 above as lineman Muriel Wilson (in bucket) replaces the cracked insulator that caused the problem.

Boards Meet Together Tonight

BY SUSAN USHER

Meeting for approximately 12 minutes Monday night, Brunswick County Commissioners held a first reading on two proposed additional bond refundings and set a public hearing on them.

But the board didn't hear from one party that wanted to speak, the Brunswick County Board of Education. Instead it called a special meeting today (Thursday) at 6:30 p.m. in its chambers for that purpose.

Chairman Grace Beasley told the audience commissioners would not be able to hear from the school board on its proposed 10-year facility needs plan because the item had not been on the advertised agenda for Monday's special meeting.

To amend Monday's meeting agenda, Beasley added, based on advice from County Attorney David Clegg, would have required the approval of the full board of commissioners. As it happens, only three were present: Frankie Rabon, Benny Ludium and Beasley. Absent were Chris Chappell and Jim Poole.

reduce that cost, but would result in a substantially higher payment on principal during FY 1988-89, rather than no principal payment that budget year.

The annual savings per year would range from \$1.8 million to \$1.5 million.

Hahn plans to review the two schedules with County Manager John Smith, she said, "to see which would be the best to go with" in terms of initial costs, long-term savings and timing of principal payments.

By issuing the bonds under separate orders, they can be sold at different times, depending upon market conditions, rather than at all once.

"That's the problem with issuing bonds," commented Smith. "You don't know until you put them out there."

Smith told commissioners he thought the Local Government Commission would favor including the school bonds, but perhaps not the miscellaneous bonds.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Strickland On Marine Council

Southport resident Mary McHose Strickland has been appointed to the N.C. Marine Science Council by Gov. Jim Martin. She will serve until June 30, 1991.

Strickland, 52, co-owns Undersea Ventures Ltd. and is chairman of the Brunswick County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee, a former Southport alderman and past spokesperson for the Brunswick County Taxpayers Association.

The 25-member council was established in 1973 to encourage the use and study of the ocean, estuarine and coastal waters of North Carolina by the state's citizenry and industry.



He is the son of Dennis and Julia Sealey of Leland and is a 1987 graduate of North Brunswick High School.

Galloway Arrives

U.S. Army Spec. 4 Gregory E. Galloway has arrived in South Korea for duty with the 2nd Supply & Transportation Battalion.

Galloway, son of Annie Galloway of Winnabow, is a petroleum supply specialist. He is a 1981 graduate of South Brunswick High School.

Parker Commended

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Scarlett P. Parker has been awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

This medal is awarded to those individuals who demonstrate meritorious achievement or service while assigned to multi-service activities of the Department of Defense.

Parker, the daughter of Ann Price of Southport, is a public affairs technician with the Headquarters Pacific Communications Division. She is a 1983 graduate of Southport High School.

Training Completed

Army Reserve Sgt. Richard A. Bohland has completed the behavioral science specialist course at the U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam Houston, Tx., where he learned to recognize, assess and deal with basic social, psychological and psychiatric problems.

He is the son of Helen F. and John Walters of Southport and is a 1980 graduate of South Brunswick High School.

Core Graduates

U.S. Coast Guard Fireman Apprentice Gerald K. Core recently graduated from eight weeks of Coast Guard recruit training at Cape May, N.J., and was promoted to his present rank.

He is the son of Gerald K. Core of Boiling Spring Lakes. Core is a graduate of South Johnston High School, Four Oaks, and joined the Coast Guard in October.

In Who's Who

Anna M. Varnam of Supply is among 39 students at Lenoir Community College, Kinston, featured in the 1988 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges."

Students were nominated based on academic achievement, community service, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

She is enrolled in the court reporting program.

Bullard Arrives

U.S. Army Pvt. 1st Class James M. Bullard Jr. has arrived for duty with the 504th Infantry at Fort Bragg.

An anti-armor weapons infantryman, he is a 1987 graduate of West Brunswick High School, Shallotte. He is the son of Larry R. and Peggy W. Turnage of Route 5, Shallotte.

Course Completed

Private 1st Class Samuel L. Sealey, serving in the U.S. Army at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., has completed the personnel administration specialist course.

The course is designed to provide students a working knowledge of unit administration duties including files and publications, correspondence procedures, unit personnel actions and basic typing skills.

Employee Decisions Made

Brunswick County Board of Education members approved numerous routine personnel actions following a lengthy executive session Monday night.

The search for a new superintendent of schools was not discussed, according to Chairman James Forstner. "We had too many other things to do," he said.

The board met at Bolivia Elementary School and

- Hired: Robin Guterrez, fourth grade, Bolivia Elementary; Jon Amundson, special education, Alternative School; Sonya Anderson, interim teacher, Waccamaw Elementary; Robert Simmons, eighth grade, Leland Middle; Warren Fenton, interim social studies/science, Leland Middle and English, North Brunswick High; teacher assistants Gloria Wilson, Waccamaw Elementary; John Brown, Alternative School; and Cynthia Hill, Union Primary; and an assistant secretary, Judy Ward, Waccamaw Elementary.
- Accepted resignations from: Sandra Dilworth, special education, Alternative School; Judy Page,

special education, Leland Middle; and Bryan Hollis, warehouseman for child nutrition.

- Accepted the retirement of: Bobbie White, teacher, Union Primary, effect, Jan. 19.
- Granted leaves of absence to: Phyllis Kelly and Bonita Phelps, teachers, Lincoln Primary; and Bruce Pfeifer, P.E. teacher, South Brunswick High; Valerie Fullwood, assistant secretary, ranging from 1½ months to six months.

Tri-Beach VFD Annual Meet Set

The Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the department building located on Sabbath Home Church Road near Holden Beach.

Election of the Board of Directors and all other officers shall be conducted along with transaction of any other such business that is brought before the meeting.

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