



SHALLOTTE TOWN EMPLOYEES, from left, Danny Roden, Isaac Ward and Roland Varnam use a motorized pump and buckets to remove water from around a

mended water main last Friday morning. The water line, located along N.C. 179 in front of Shallotte Middle School, broke three times last week.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Water Line Break Provides Holiday At Shallotte Middle

Students at Shallotte Middle School received a pleasant surprise last Tuesday when a water line near the front of the property burst and the children got an afternoon holiday.

Bill Turner, assistant superintendent of operations for Brunswick County schools, said students were dismissed at 11:30 a.m. because there was no water available.

He said superintendents are required by law to consider closing any school if it is without water for more than two hours.

The decision to send students home early, he explained, was based on the fact that it would not have been safe or healthy to keep the children in class without water service.

Shallotte Water Supervisor Albert Hughes said last Tuesday's problem, the first of three breaks in the same water line last week, resulted in about 100 customers losing water for approximately 12 hours. All town residents in Brierwood Estates and others along N.C. 179 lost service from about 3 a.m. until 3 p.m.

He said the break apparently resulted because a water tap to Shallotte Middle School had rusted and weakened.

Hughes said the same six-inch line, constructed of asbestos and concrete, broke again Wednesday and Thursday after water which leaked during the initial break weakened the pipe and created an unstable base around it.

The two other cracks occurred in the same general area but at different points in the line, he said.

According to Hughes, the town waited until school closed both Wednesday and Thursday before shutting off the water.

On Wednesday, the same 100 customers were without water service for about four hours, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. He said only a few customers lost town water for about three hours Thursday afternoon.

Despite the three leaks, Hughes said, "We got on it pretty quickly. There wasn't that much water lost."

Turner added that students will not have to make up the missed class time.

Hewett Named County Solid Waste Director

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County Manager John T. Smith announced this week that Leo Hewett was named director of the county's solid waste department effective Monday.

Hewett, 48, of Cedar Grove, had served as acting solid waste director since Feb. 29 when former director Major White resigned for business reasons. White also is seeking the Democratic nomination in the District 1 commissioner's race.

According to Smith, Hewett was selected over five other candidates for the position. All six applicants were interviewed Friday in Bolivia by Smith and county commissioners. The interviews were scheduled to last about 15 minutes each.

Smith said Hewett's 10½ years of experience in the solid waste department was the key factor in his promotion to the post, which has an annual salary of \$20,220.

"He was already in the department, and I thought he was the logical choice," Smith commented Tuesday.

Hewett said he was named as-

stant solid waste director in January. Prior to that, he held several different positions within the department including laborer, truck driver and assistant supervisor.

"I kind of worked myself up from the bottom to where I am now," he said. "As soon as I get caught up, I think I'll be able to do a good job getting this county cleaned up."

According to Smith, Hewett's main

objective will be to make the solid waste department operate more efficiently.

The county manager added that other tasks facing the solid waste department include figuring out how to extend the life of the county landfill, which is expected to reach capacity in three to five years. Also, the county soon will need to locate another approved landfill site.

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South Brunswick Schools Drinking County Water

Students and staff of two county schools are drinking county water instead of well water this week—and liking it.

Both South Brunswick High School and South Brunswick Middle School were connected to the county water line on N.C. 87 at Boiling Spring Lakes last Friday, said Bill Turner, special assistant to the superintendent of schools.

"We're real excited about it," he continued, adding, "It was not the best water. County water is making all the difference in the world. That's all they're talking about."

Principals also like the increased pressure provided by the 6-inch line.

The pumps will be left for the time being, he said, and would have to be used in the event of an emergency.

Still, he's as glad as anyone that the schools have county water.

Treatment of the well water had been costing the county \$24 a day for salt alone, he noted, with daily water consumption at the two schools combined is roughly 20,000 gallons.

County water became available to the schools with the start-up last year of the county's new 24 mgd plant at Northwest and extension of a line along N.C. 87 south to Southport.

With the addition of the two Boiling Spring Lakes campuses, a majority of the county's 14 schools are on public water. Still served by well water are Lincoln Primary, North Brunswick High School and Leland Middle School, all in Leland; Waccamaw Elementary School at Ash and Union Primary School at Shallotte.

Public water will be available to all students in the Leland area by the end of the calendar year. Hook-up to

the Leland Sanitary District line was completed Friday for Lincoln Primary School, but water is not yet available.

The district plans to buy treated water from Brunswick County.

Sanitary district lines have also been constructed by both Leland Middle School and North Brunswick High School and the school system

has paid hook-on fees. However, water service may not begin until the middle of the fall semester because of the cost of connecting the school to the water main.

It cost \$9,400 to run a water line from the South Brunswick schools to the county main on N.C. 87, Turner said, with the school system providing the labor.

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