

Icy roads freeze some businesses

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

It was a tough week for some local businesses as snow and ice put a chill on the retail landscape.

But for other stores, the frigid conditions provided a blast of customers.

At Domino's Pizza, the slick road conditions brought deliveries to a halt for one day Tuesday. Store manager Jeff Hall restarted pizza delivery in limited areas Wednesday afternoon before resuming full delivery Friday.

"We can't risk the safety of our employees," said Hall, who drove around town to see road conditions for himself. "We didn't deliver all day Tuesday and we closed early that day. We resumed deliveries Wednesday, but just to the main streets."

Without delivery service and closing early, Hall estimates Domino's business was down 90 percent on Tuesday.

The *Southern Standard* experienced a similar situation when it came to delivering Wednesday's edition on Tuesday night. Only about one-third of all newspapers were delivered due to road conditions.

"It's not worth it to put our route carriers at risk, or risk damage to their vehicles," said district manager Vickie Scott. "Some customers came to our office to pick up Wednesday's paper and that's fine. The rest had Wednesday's paper delivered along with Friday's edition."

Business was sluggish at Three Star Mall where stores shut down early due to bad weather.

On Wednesday, JC Penney and Bath & Body Works both closed early at 4:30 p.m.

On the flip side, customers flocked to Ace Hardware, which is



Brenda Scott takes a pizza from the oven Wednesday afternoon at Domino's Pizza. After temporarily halting deliveries due to snow, Domino's is back at full speed.

known for its winter-weather products. The store was extremely busy Tuesday and Wednesday, according to owner Lindsey McGregor.

"We've sold over three pallets of salt and over 100 sleds," said McGregor. "We carry all types of sleds from the round discs to the long toboggan sleds that last forever. We still have a few sleds left."

McGregor said except for closing one hour early Tuesday, Ace has maintained regular business hours.

Business was also brisk at Waffle House during the storm.

The restaurant is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and has built a reputation of staying open during bad weather.

"Our goal is to be open all the time, through all

the storms so folks always have a place to eat," said Waffle House spokesman Pat Warner. "We don't want to put any of our associates at risk so sometimes this involves putting them up at a hotel room nearby, or finding a manager who has a 4x4 who can pick people up. We want our stores to be open, but we have to make sure everyone is safe."



Pictured is a Highway Patrol helicopter in flight.

Couple found by helicopter after night in brutal cold

BY **DUANE SHERRILL**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A couple and their dog who became lost in Big South Fork this past week were rescued after they were spotted from the air by a Highway Patrol helicopter using an infrared camera.

The couple had gone hiking last weekend in Scott County at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in the northern part of the state. Temperatures dipped into the teens during the evening they first went missing.

The couple contacted their daughter on Saturday night saying they were lost and unable to find their vehicle. At approximately 7 a.m. Sunday, they called their daughter saying they

had spent the night in the woods and were going to try to find their way out.

When they did not come back to their vehicle, a search was initiated. Due to rugged terrain and sub-freezing temperatures, park rangers requested air support.

Lt. Brad Lund and trooper Ryan Quinn flew a THP Jet Ranger helicopter to the search area and conducted a visual and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) camera search. After approximately an hour and a half of searching, they located the woman along with the dog. She appeared disoriented and had trouble moving.

Lund and Quinn guided ground searchers to her location. Searchers made contact with the female but indicated they were having

trouble communicating with her. She told the searchers she became separated from her husband and he was lying on the ground somewhere not doing well.

Lund and Quinn continued searching for the man and eventually found him lying down appearing to have trouble moving. Searchers were guided to the man's location by THP aviation.

The female was transported to an area hospital with non-life threatening, cold-weather injuries, including frostbite. The male was flown to The University of Tennessee Medical Center in serious condition. The Scott County Sheriff's Office, Scott County Rescue Squad and park rangers conducted the ground search.

Couple hauls in big trouble

BY **DUANE SHERRILL**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A couple owes \$23,000 in restitution for the theft of a trailer, a case that was solved thanks to Facebook and phone records.

Shelby Renae Greco was placed on probation for three years by Circuit Court Judge Bart Stanley while Jonathan Z. Rowland was directed to serve 270 days of a four-year sentence for actually stealing the trailer.

The couple will be jointly and severally liable to make \$23,000 restitution to the owner of the trailer as part of their sentences.

The enclosed trailer was stolen from a location on North Chancery Street last April.

The rightful owner offered a reward for information about the whereabouts of his trailer and posted pictures of it on Facebook.

There was also video recorded at the time of the crime from a surveillance camera.

"Someone made contact and stated the truck (that was shown in the pictures taking the trailer) belonged to Jonathan Z. Rowland of Smithville," said McMinnville Police detective Todd Rowland of what prompted him to question the suspect.

The detective obtained a search warrant for the

suspect's phone and discovered he had been warned not to come to Warren County.

"He was being told not to come to McMinnville because the heat was on," the detective reported of his findings from Rowland's phone messages. "Through video and the phone messages we have confirmed he has, or had, the enclosed trailer in his possession."

During subsequent questioning, Greco admitted she was with Rowland when he took the trailer but she claimed she did not realize he was stealing it.

Impasse in Congress leads to government shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans and Democrats showed no signs of ending their standoff over immigration and spending Saturday as Americans awoke to the first day of a government shutdown and Congress staged a weekend session to show voters it was trying to resolve the stalemate.

The closure of many government agencies was a striking display of Washington dysfunction, played out on the one-year anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration, and there was more finger-pointing than signs of bipartisan deal making.

Trump made light of the debacle in a tweet that Democrats "wanted to give me a nice present" to mark the start of his second year in office.

The president spoke with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to discuss the next possible steps, while chief of staff John Kelly also worked the phones.

White House negotiators, legislative affairs director Marc Short and budget chief Mick Mulvaney, went to Capitol Hill to meet with House Republicans, who emerged holding fast to their stance they would not negotiate while the government was shuttered.

Right around midnight, Senate Democrats killed a GOP-written House-passed measure that would have kept agencies functioning for four weeks. Democrats were seeking a stopgap bill of just a few days in hopes that would build pressure on Republicans, and were opposing a three-week alternative offered by GOP leaders.

Democrats have insisted they would back legislation reopening government once there's a bipartisan agreement to preserve protections against deporting about 700,000 immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children. Each party believes it had a winning political hand,

and the day's first words by party leaders underscored that so far, neither side believe it was time to give ground.

Though the House and Senate were in session Saturday, it is unclear whether lawmakers would take any votes of consequence.

Social Security and most other safety-net programs are unaffected by the lapse in federal spending authority. Critical government

functions will continue, with uniformed service members, health inspectors and law enforcement officers set to work without pay. But if no deal is reached before Monday, hundreds of thousands of federal employees will be furloughed.

Political damage could grow quickly if the closure is prolonged. Both parties are wagering that voters will punish the other at the ballot box in November.

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