

# Winter arrives in southeastern U.S.

## A region ripped by floods is hit anew

by Anna Griffin  
Knight-Ridder Tribune  
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RALEIGH, N.C. — A year of bizarre, tragic weather turned even stranger Tuesday, January 25, as close to 20 inches of snow covered Eastern North Carolina, leaving millions of people trapped in their homes and hundreds of thousands without power.

State and local emergency officials reported hundreds of car accidents and one N.C. death, a traffic fatality.

Authorities say it could be days before they're able to reach everyone in need or to compile a complete list of injuries. Gov. Jim Hunt declared a state of emergency and urged people to stay indoors.

Most residents in this part of the state followed his advice Tuesday — either because their businesses and schools were closed or because they simply couldn't get out of their snow-clogged driveways.

Emergency officials, caught by surprise, tried desperately to identify and reach those most in need, such as elderly in need of medicine and pregnant women close to going into labor. But even ambulances and fire trucks had trouble cutting through the snowdrifts, two-feet-high on some back roads.

Meteorologists said up to four inches of snow was falling each hour in the Sandhills on Tuesday morning.

In the Triangle, which got 22 inches in the deepest spots, snow began falling Monday night, Jan. 24, and didn't end until after 3 p.m. Tuesday. Most

schools and many businesses planned to stay closed again Wednesday, Jan. 26. Temperatures were expected to

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-David Puckett, paramedic in Moore County

drop overnight, icing highways again. "Right now, the only cars on the road are Humvees from Fort Bragg. Even our fire trucks can't get through," said David Puckett, a paramedic in Moore County.

Moore County, left completely without power by 7 a.m. Tuesday, didn't prepare emergency shelters because only about five inches of snow was predicted. Parts of the mostly rural county got between 15 and 17 inches, and several nursing homes were left without power or heat. Moore Regional Hospital had power, but lost its water service.

"We had no idea this was coming," Puckett said. "We were caught completely off guard." State emergency officials estimated that close to 300,000 customers of CP&L and rural electrical co-operatives lost power.

For those utilities, the worst of the storm hit the Interstate 85 corridor and Sandhills counties such as Montgomery, Moore, and Richmond.

Because of heavy snow along I-40, Raleigh was virtually cut off from the rest of the state. Counties as far southeast as Onslow, outside Wilmington, and as far north as Halifax, near the Virginia border, were reporting more than half a foot of snow.

"Everything is shut down. Nothing is open," said Cliff Trenton, owner of the Yellow Car Taxi Co. in Fayetteville.

"We tried staying open, but none of our drivers could get anywhere. We've got four cabs out there waiting for tow trucks. I think it may be a day or two before they get around to towing them away."

For Eastern North Carolina, just four months removed from the terror of Hurricane Floyd, which killed 51 people, the storm was another reminder that Mother Nature can strike in a myriad of ways.

Minor flooding was expected as snow began to melt. The Neuse River was at 11 feet in Goldsboro Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 25, and was expected to crest at 16 feet Thursday, Jan. 27, two feet above its flood level. Most counties reported at least a few

downed trees and power lines, though property damage wasn't predicted to be severe.

"This hasn't been our best year," said Eric Tolbert, N.C. Emergency Services director. Tolbert said. "You sort of start to wonder what comes next."

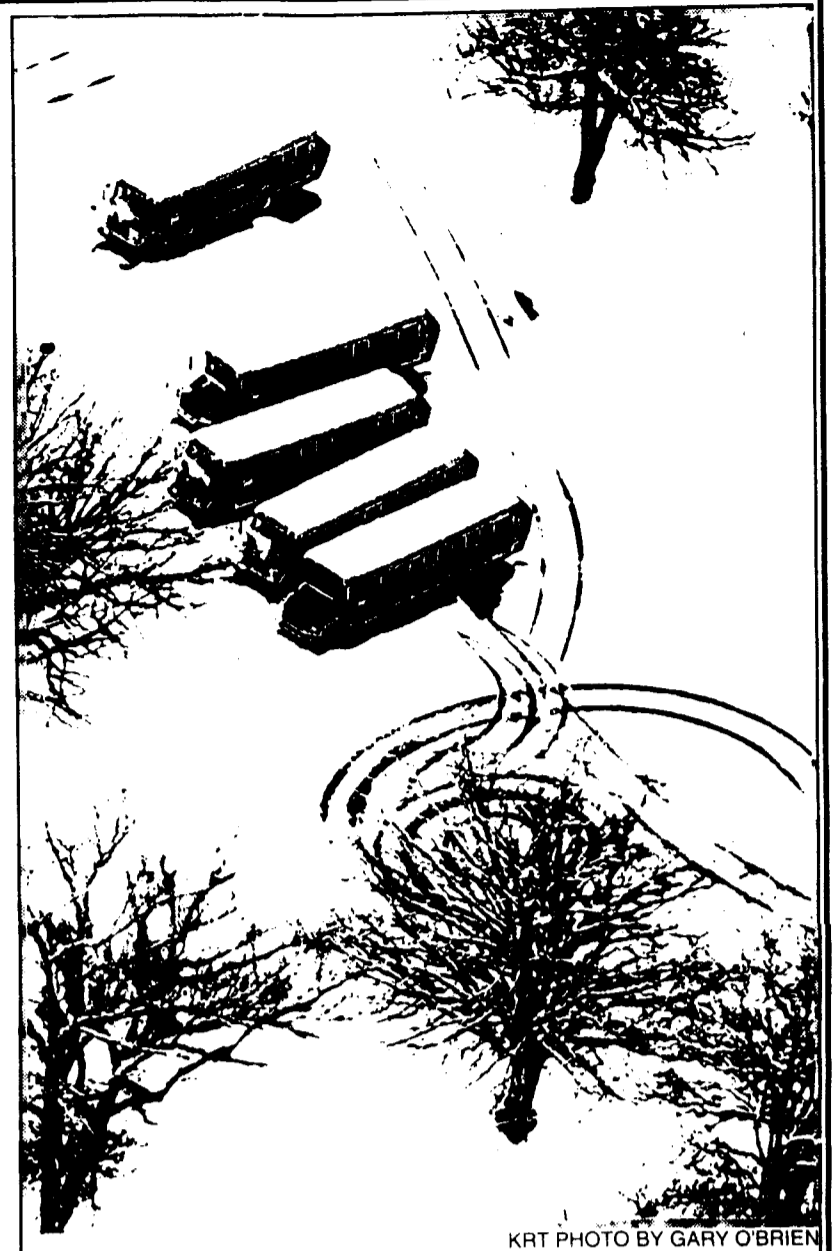
In Raleigh, city crews began plowing on Monday, Jan. 24. Twelve hours and several plowings later, the only traffic was on foot — graduate students Gretchen and Chris Cooke were walking their German shepherd.

Cougar was the only one who seemed happy to be outdoors — his human owners both had scarves clamped to their mouths and several layers of clothes on. The wind, which peaked at about 30 miles an hour in the Triangle, sent a steady, painful spray of snow blowing across the road.

"This is so dumb," Gretchen Cooke said. "We thought it would be nice out here, playing in the snow and all that. But nobody should be out in this."

More than 200 National Guard troops were mobilized to help clear roads, restore power and assist medical crews, but many were having trouble getting to their assigned posts.

Most hospitals were being staffed with doctors and nurses who'd worked the night before. Duke University Medical Center's emergency room was near-empty Tuesday afternoon, in part, doctors said, because ambulances were having trouble getting through.



KRT PHOTO BY GARY O'BRIEN

School buses sit covered with snow at a school in Union County, N.C. The largest snowstorm in 72 years has paralyzed the community, forcing schools throughout the region to cancel classes.

Hospitals and nursing homes were seeking volunteers with four-wheel-drive vehicles to help ferry in doctors and patients. Everyone else was encouraged to stay indoors, keep

warm, and remain patient.

"The next few days are going to be difficult," said Durham Mayor Nick Tennyson. "This is not a one-day problem."

## Supplies put away for Y2K find use

by Diane Suchetka  
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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — You laughed at them when they stocked up for the Y2K disaster. You made fun of their millennium cupboards full of food, ridiculed their gallons of water, howled when they lugged generators home. But guess who's laughing last?

All those families who were ready for the end-of-the-millennium catastrophe that never happened put their feet up last week when the worst winter storm in years knocked out power and most of the Southeast for a loop.

While cars crawled along icy roads to get to the store for bread and milk and people rummaged through kitchen drawers for a flashlight with batteries that worked

while cursing the power failure, all those people who prepared for New Year's trouble relaxed and opened up another can of stockpiled soup.

"We could enjoy the whole thing and not worry," said Bonnie Wallace, 33, who lost power for eight hours Sunday, Jan. 23.

"We didn't have to worry, 'Do we have candles?' 'Do we have batteries?' 'How are we going to cook?' 'How are we going to stay warm?' It was very comforting to know that we had all those things

in place," said Wallace who lives in York, S.C., with her husband and four children.

"We knew we didn't have to go to a relatives' house, we didn't have to pack the children up, we didn't have to get out on the roads with them."

Instead, she said, they just enjoyed the weather. They cooked hot dogs and hot chocolate on their outdoor grill. They roasted marshmallows over the fireplace. They lobbed snowballs at each other and built snowmen and took long walks together as the feathery flakes drifted down from the clouds.

"They kind of laughed at us when nothing happened," said Loretta

Tuttle, 39, who lives on the southern edge of Mecklenburg County and had prepared for Y2K.

When her electricity went out this week, Tuttle and her husband, Perry, lit their emergency candles, then dragged out sleeping bags, a camp stove and their new generator.

They were ready to keep life going as usual for their five children just as their power returned.

"You're relieved when you're prepared and you're not in a panic state," Loretta Tuttle said. "Now my first thought is, 'Who can I help?'"

"I think that's one of the things the whole Y2K scare brought out — the humanity in all of us."



KRT PHOTO BY GAYLE SHOMER

Dwight Eudy uses a chainsaw to cut away sections of downed tree limbs on Rt. 75 in Monroe, N.C. Governor Jim Hunt declared a state of emergency, mobilizing National Guard troops to provide emergency medical services.

## Special counsel seeks tests on Branch Davidian recording

by Lee Hancock  
Knight-Ridder Tribune  
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DALLAS — The Waco special counsel's office asked a federal judge Thursday, January 27, for permission to perform independent testing on tape recordings made from FBI surveillance devices on the crucial last day of the 1993 Branch Davidian siege.

The tests could help resolve whether the tapes now being held by the federal court in Waco are originals or altered copies — a concern raised last year by a recording expert hired by lawyers for the sect.

An independent analysis also might help address the question of what could be heard as the devices broadcast to an FBI command post on April 19, 1993, the day that the Branch Davidian compound near Waco burned with leader David Koresh and more than 80 followers inside.

One FBI agent who helped monitor the bugs said in a deposition last month that little or nothing could be discerned from the surveillance devices during the last hours of the siege because of poor transmission quality and background noise.

But a retired Army colonel who was in the FBI's command post as a military liaison that day told *The Dallas Morning News* last fall that he clearly heard voices of Davidians being broadcast by the bugs, including discussions in which the sect members talked about spreading fuel and setting fires.

The former colonel, Rodney Rawlings of Austin, was questioned

last November by the independent counsel's office and has also been interviewed by congressional investigators.

FBI officials have long insisted that they could not hear anything from the surveillance devices on April 19 and have said they did not learn about the sect's fire discussions until weeks later when recordings from the bugs were enhanced. But the federal prosecutor who directed the criminal trial of surviving Branch Davidians told Congress in 1995 that he could clearly hear those conversations the first time he listened to the raw, original tapes.

The FBI commander who oversaw the operation told Congress that he would have stopped the FBI's assault on the compound with tanks and tear gas if he had known about the sect's talk of spreading fuel and other preparations for setting a fire.

Government arson investigators ruled that sect members set the compound fire, but the Davidians' pending wrongful death lawsuit alleges that government negligence and missteps caused the tragedy.

Thursday's filing seeks custody of seven surveillance tape recordings made on April 19 for 60 days of "independent tests" and expert reviews.

The tapes have been in court custody in Waco since last fall, after U.S. District Judge Walter Smith ordered the turnover of all original government documents, recordings, and other evidence relating to the 1993 tragedy.

Government lawyers told the court that the surveillance tapes sent to Waco from FBI headquarters were originals.

But a former U.S. Secret Service scientist hired by lawyers for the Davidians began examining those recordings in Waco late last year and issued a preliminary finding that the surveillance tapes from April 19 did not appear to be originals.

Mike Caddell, lead lawyer for the sect, said the expert found evidence that the tapes from that day were recorded in stereo, while bugging devices typically used by U.S. police agencies transmit their signals in a single monaural or "mono" channel. He said the expert also found suspicious signs of cutouts or editing on some of the tapes.

An FBI agent who helped supervise the bureau's bugging system in Waco, an electronic surveillance program dubbed "Trojan Horse," said in a December deposition that all of the FBI bugging transmissions in Waco were sent and recorded in mono.

"They were all to my knowledge, monaural," said the now-retired agent, who described himself as "Trojan Horse coordinator." "Since we had only two telephone lines, if we tried to send, you know, stereo down, we would have doubled the number of telephone lines we needed, so that we wouldn't have wanted to do that."

Last week, the special counsel's office asked to conduct independent toxicology tests on tissue samples from the Davidians killed in the 1993 standoff. They have previously sought custody of bullet shell casings found in a sniper post manned by the FBI during the siege and of the FBI's infrared videotapes shot April 19 for scientific tests.

## Microsoft ignoring court rulings

by James V. Grimaldi  
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WASHINGTON — Even a blizzard that shut down the federal courts didn't stop the Microsoft antitrust battle from moving forward Tuesday, January 25, as the Department of Justice and 19 states accused the software giant of ignoring the law, the facts, and the court's findings.

"Microsoft treats as nearly an afterthought both the court's core finding that Microsoft has monopoly power and the unifying theme of the court's numerous findings on Microsoft's conduct," government lawyers said.

The argument was part of a brief filed in a courthouse closed by more than a foot of snow. It came in reply to Microsoft's contention, filed last week, that the company did not break federal antitrust law.

Even as the paper war heads toward final arguments next month, some dissension arose in government ranks over remedies, should Microsoft lose the case.

Reports surrounding the trial have said government officials are in agreement that breaking up Microsoft was the appropriate way to restore competition to the computer industry. But Betty Montgomery, attorney general of Ohio, is leaning against a "structural remedy," adding it is too soon to decide remedies, said her spokesman, Todd Boyer.

Since reports emerged that the Justice Department and the states supported a breakup, some officials close to the government's case have emphasized the decision was not final.

At the same time, Microsoft has mounted a vigorous public defense against breaking up the company and is expected to make a similar case behind the closed doors of a mediation effort to settle the case.

In a letter to *The Seattle Times*, spokesman Mark Murray argued that "there is absolutely no precedent for the radical notion that Microsoft should be broken up, even if the court rules against the company. Over the past 100 years, there is no case in which the government has ever broken up an operating company, no matter how severe the antitrust violation."

Murray argued that Standard Oil and AT&T — each broken up after being subjected to antitrust scrutiny — were "trusts or umbrella holding companies that had been assembled from previously stand-alone companies." Intellectual-property companies cannot be divided along geographical lines, he suggested.

William Kovacic, a George Washington University law professor and expert in antitrust enforcement, said that while such an argument has some merit, it isn't unique to Microsoft. The parallels to Standard Oil are stronger than Murray claims, Kovacic said.

"That really understates the degree of integration that had taken place in the Standard Oil family itself," Kovacic said. "When you look at Standard Oil, you see Standard representatives saying: 'If you require the [breakup], you will tear apart integrated operations, whose success depends separately on other pieces of the Standard family.'"

Meanwhile, the arguments being

made in mediation sessions in Chicago remain secret. No meetings were scheduled last week.

As those talks continue, both sides are busy filing their final rounds of briefs before final arguments on the law are made Feb. 22. Those arguments follow findings by U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson that Microsoft had engaged in a pattern of activities that hurt consumers, harmed competitors, and stymied innovation.

In their filing Tuesday, Jan. 25, government lawyers argued that Microsoft's brief last week set up and knocked down straw men and applied "to this case out-of-context passages from decisions involving patently different market circumstances."

In particular, the government brief, written by U.S. Department of Justice attorneys and signed by a Wisconsin state lawyer on behalf of 19 states, argued Microsoft evades Jackson's finding that Microsoft has monopoly power.

The government also said Microsoft ignored the ruling that it had used its power in "a multi-front campaign, using a broad array of anti-competitive tactics that reduced rather than enhanced consumer choice to sustain the critical barrier to entry protecting monopoly power."

Murray said it is the government that is denying reality.

"The government is both misreading the law and misrepresenting the facts of our industry," Murray said. "This is an intensely competitive industry, and it is only getting more competitive."