



Nehalem Bay News

March, 1996- P.O. Box 67, Nehalem, OR 97131 Ph. 368-6318 Bob McCain, Publisher Vol. 3 No. 14

'96 Flood Worst In Nehalem Bay History

The devastating February flood will go into history as the worst one ever to hit this area. A check with local historians, Bing Bake and Shang Knight revealed. They both recalled vividly the flood of 1934, which was particularly bad because it came on the heels of the

Tillamook Burn forest fire of 1933. In that flood, high water ripped out the road between Nehalem and Wheeler, but, it was noted, the severe damage which occurred was a result of the burn areas not being able to absorb any runoff whatsoever. Sort of like

water damage in Los Angeles after brush fires denude the hillsides. And, both Shang and Bing recalled, there was several weeks of never ending rain, preceeding the 1934 flood.

It just simply didn't compare to the 1996 flood, however,

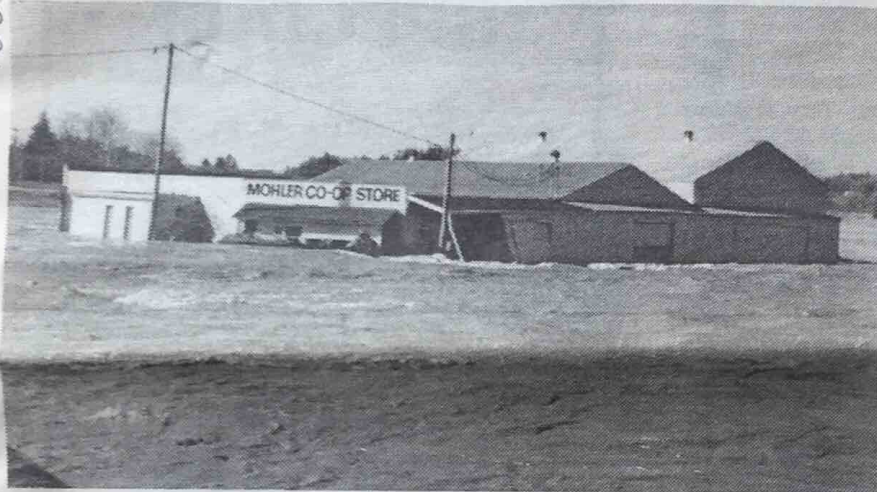
NEHALEM BAY VIDEO OPENS ROCKAWAY STORE

Larry and Elly Overstreet, owners of Nehalem Bay Video in Manzanita, have expanded their video rental business by opening a new store in Rockaway Beach.

Located between the post office and Upper Crust Pizza at 316 Hwy 101 N, the new store is managed by Elly, while Larry holds down the fort in Manzanita.

"Business in Rockaway Beach has been extremely good...much better than we anticipated for this time of FNBKyear," Larry said.

Both stores are open seven days a week. Elly noted that Highway 101 between Wheeler and Rockaway Beach is open for traffic after 6 pm, which is when she returns to Manzanita.



MOHLER CO-OP - The Mohler Co-op store was one of the hardest hit during the recent flood. This picture explains why. (Ray Smith photo)



DEVASTATION - The Steve Neahring farm on McDonald Road suffered catastrophic damage to buildings and livestock. (Ron Hintz photo)



HELPING OUT - Pictured are (l to r) Brent Lasure, Josh Lasure, Vikki Rettinger, Jack Nussbaum and Vikki Smith lending a hand during the flood. (Courtesy Bayway Tavern).

March 1996

Dis 'N Dot

We're happy to report that just about all businesses in downtown Nehalem are open again after being flooded out. It was rough on everyone...dairy farmers and businesses alike. Please patronize your Nehalem merchants as much as possible. It has been a devastating time for them and most had no flood insurance.

Randi Hilary of the Bayside Gardens area was using the pay phone at Nina's one day recently and noted that she prefers to use it, because it is the only pay phone in the area that is inside...or at least that she has been able to find. The others all seem to be outside booths. We'd never given it much thought, but she's right. You learn something new every day!


Don Brinkman tells us that his business, the Wiener Wagon in Wheeler, will be reopening for its second year on Friday, Mar. 15th. He will be adding hand dipped Tillamook ice cream, along with his fine quality Polish sausage and hot dogs. The stand will be open Fri. Sat. and Sun. 11 am till 3 pm. and until 5 during the summer.

We got another call from a bulk long distance carrier trying to sign us up for some AT&T long distance discount calling. A check with Nehalem Tel and Tel and AT&T confirmed our suspicions. These people are not connected with AT&T at all...they merely buy time in bulk from AT&T and re-sell it. They have nothing to do with AT&T which does NOT solicit business on the phone. NT&T will not include anyone except US West and AT&T long distance calls on their statements.

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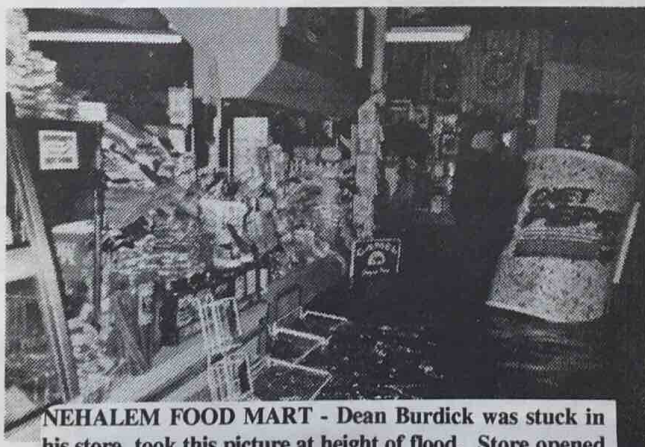
For Reservations: 368-4243
 165 Laneda Ave.
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MERCHANT RESCUED - Judy Sellars, owner of Bay Way Cafe, was rescued from fast rising water. In the boat are: Sellars, Suzanne Repass and Ken McGough with Jim Clark at right.



PAVEMENT MOVES - This photo was taken by Ron Hintz on McDonald Rd at the height of the flood. The road ended up 30 feet to the right.



NEHALEM FOOD MART - Dean Burdick was stuck in his store, took this picture at height of flood. Store opened up just a few days after the flood.

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Sewer District Lucky During Recent Flood

"We were very lucky!" Those were the words of Jim Goble, commenting on how the Nehalem Bay Wastewater Agency fared during the devastating February flood.

"There was about \$20,000 damage to the containment dikes around our settling pond in the midst of the flood area, but all things considered, damage was minimal."

The agency actually suffered a double whammy as their headquarters building in downtown Nehalem was also flooded, but the pump in the basement of the building, although completely

submerged under 10 or 12 feet of water, did what it was supposed to do and started right up after the water had

receded, with no damage to the motor or other parts.

Goble pointed out that there was no pollution caused by the flooding of the holding ponds in the flood area. This was because of the enormous amount of water which came through at the height of the flood. Wastewater in the ponds was immediately dissipated by the millions of gallons of river water which deluged the entire valley.

One NBWA truck, which was in the agency garage just west of downtown Nehalem, was severely damaged by the rampaging water and will

probably have to be totaled. Other than that, their equipment came through in fine shape, Goble concluded.



WASTEWATER PLANT - Looking across the river at the NBWA plant at height of flood. (Jim Goble photo)

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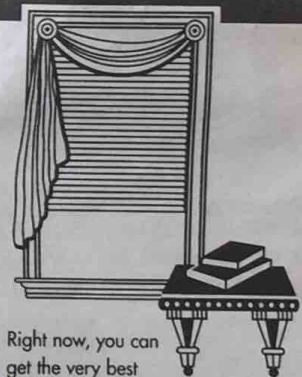
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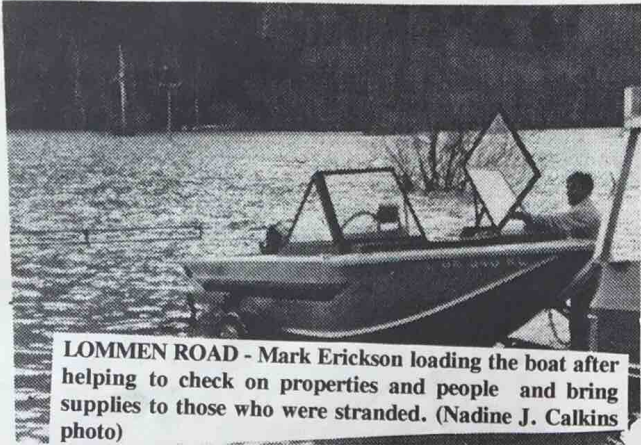
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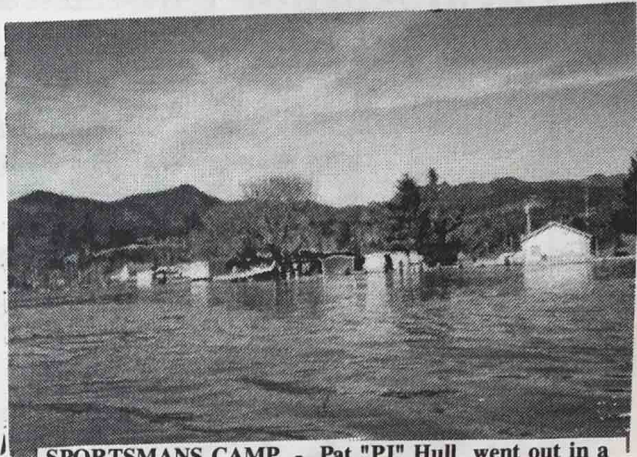
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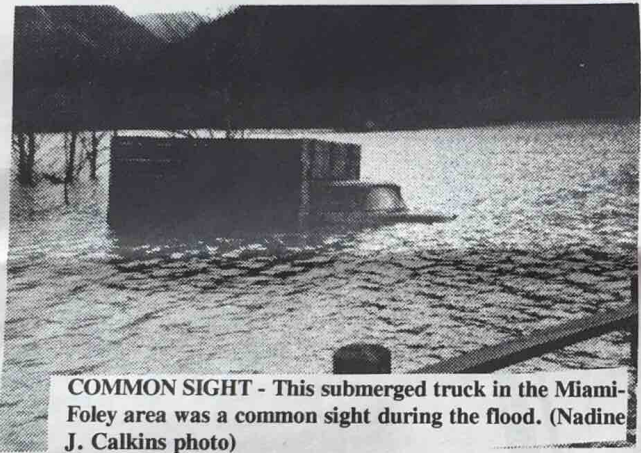
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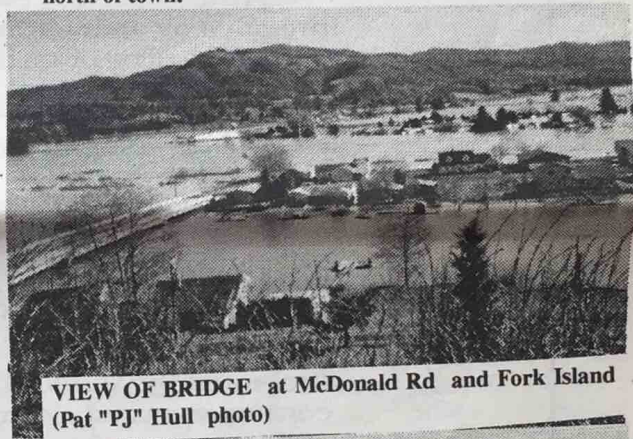
LOMMEN ROAD - Mark Erickson loading the boat after helping to check on properties and people and bring supplies to those who were stranded. (Nadine J. Calkins photo)



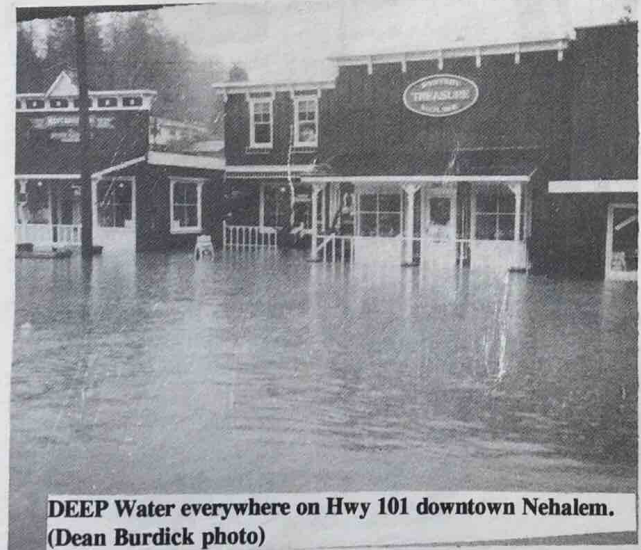
SPORTSMANS CAMP - Pat "PJ" Hull went out in a boat to get flood pictures. This one is of Sportsmans Camp north of town.



COMMON SIGHT - This submerged truck in the Miami-Foley area was a common sight during the flood. (Nadine J. Calkins photo)



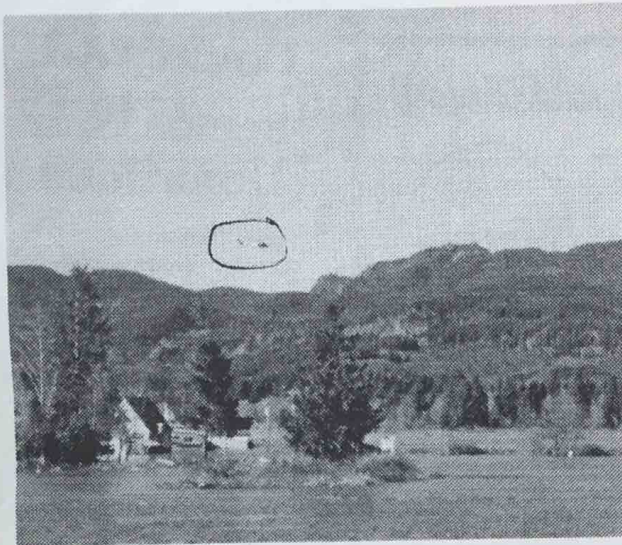
VIEW OF BRIDGE at McDonald Rd and Fork Island (Pat "PJ" Hull photo)



DEEP Water everywhere on Hwy 101 downtown Nehalem. (Dean Burdick photo)



DEBRIS EVERYWHERE - Virgil Calkins standing on Miami-Foley Rd looking at only a portion of the debris that was on the road between Shiffman and Foss Rds. (Nadine J. Calkins photo)



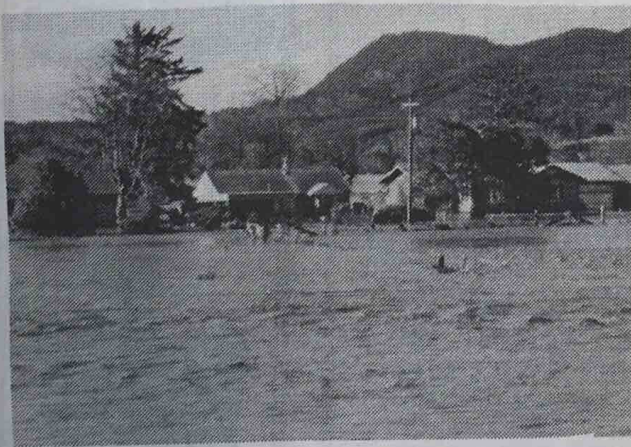
COAST GUARD - A Coast Guard helicopter approaches the Neahring farm on McDonald Rd. at height of flood. (Ray L. Smith photo)



DOWNTOWN NEHALEM - You needed a boat to get around downtown area. (Dean Burdick photo)



ROAD DAMAGE - Miami-Foley Rd damage near Shiffman Rd. (Nadine J. Calkins photo)



SUBMERGED FENCE - Fence line under water at Neahring farm. (Ray L. Smith photo)

Help! FNBK Needs You!

by Susan Hills

Wont' you join the FNBK Circle of Friends?

Where in the Nehalem Bay area can you make a positive contribution to area youth and have fun at the same time? At the Friends of Nehalem Bay Kids Center!

The FNBK Youth Center (in the swim pool building) offers recreational activities for area young people in a drug, alcohol and tobacco free setting. Friends of Nehalem Bay Kids invites caring adults and older teenagers to join our circle of Friends by becoming and FNBK volunteer.

The group offers a range of volunteer opportunities for

individuals who are 16 or older. A volunteer training session, to prepare new Friends to supervise young people during Teen Center, Kids Center and special activities, is in the works. The center also needs volunteers to provide clerical assistance, cleaning and maintenance help and to assist with fundraising efforts.

If you can possibly help in this worthwhile program or have any questions, call Susan Hills at 368-7644 or 842-3979. You'll have fun and be a lot of help to the youngsters in this community. Thanks!

Kiwanis Club Opens Flood Relief Account

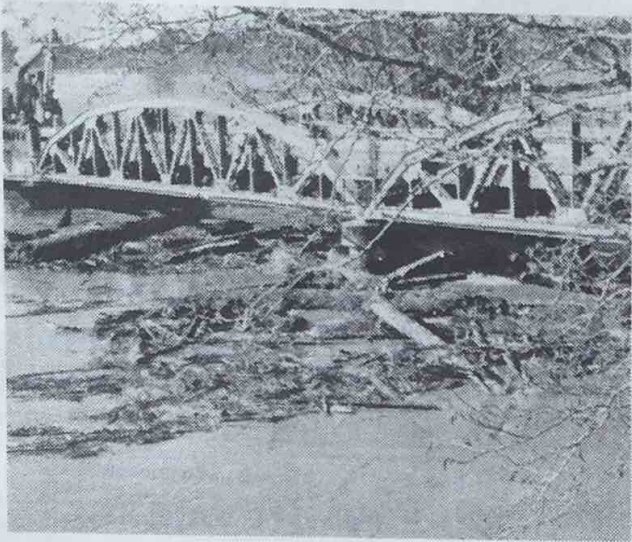
The Manza-Whee-Lem Kiwanis club has opened a flood relief account at US Bank in Manzanita, for assistance to victims of the recent devastating flood, according to Margaret Stoltenberg, club treasurer.

Persons wishing to donate help to local victims of the devastating flood may call Margaret at Nehalem City Hall, 368-5627.

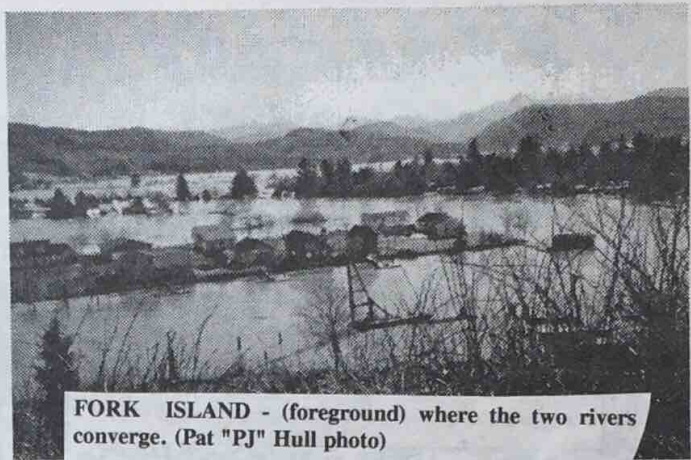
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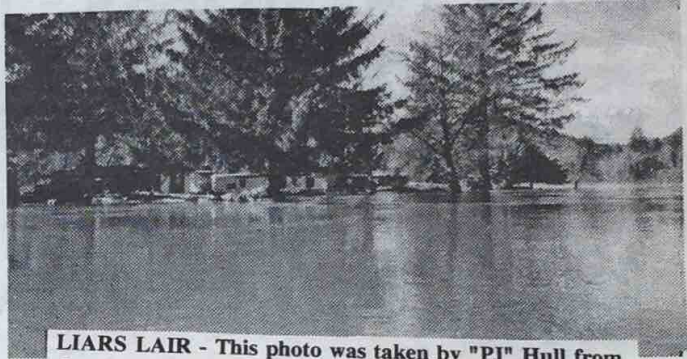
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LOG JAM - The Mohler bridge with logs and debris from Miami-Foley bridge. (Ray L. Smith Photo)



FORK ISLAND - (foreground) where the two rivers converge. (Pat "PJ" Hull photo)



LIARS LAIR - This photo was taken by "PJ" Hull from the river.

Entertainment '96 Books Here

The 1996 editions of the Entertainment Books have arrived at the Manzanita library. If you ordered one, please stop by and pick it up. If you are waiting to see what they have to offer this year, stop at the library and take a look. The Portland Book is \$40, the Greater Oregon Book is \$35 and the Northwest Getaway Book is \$10. The Friends of the Manzanita Library keep 20% of the cost of the books. The money is used to help maintain the library building and grounds.

Salvation Army Workers Converge On Flood Area

Salvation Army volunteers from all parts of Oregon converged on the stricken Nehalem Bay area during the recent flood, helping dairy farmers, hired hands and renters in the flooded areas, according to Phil and Nancy Bogle who coordinated the local relief effort.

There was much more damage to farmers here than in the Tillamook area, which received mostly commercial damage, Bogle said. The Nehalem area received little media attention because of its isolation from the rest of the county, but the needs here were as great as anywhere.

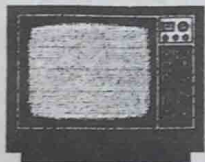
Salvation Army shelters were set up at the TBCC building in Nehalem and at their

facility in Wheeler. Cots, food, coffee were available and more than 1000 meals were served during the first three days following the flood. This was in addition to the Methodist Church, which fed and helped a lot of people, Bogle pointed out.

One thing overlooked was the plight of migrant farm workers in the area, who had absolutely no one to turn to and nowhere to go when they were forced to flee the rising waters. The Salvation Army took them in, feeding and housing at least 25 persons who had no place to stay. The children were suffering from hypothermia and were brought to the TBCC Center for warm showers, food and a place to stay. The Salvation Army and other volunteers saw to it that their needs were taken care of. The local Salvation Army unit desperately needs food, cleaning supplies, bedding

and clothing (not underwear) to help flood victims. Cash donations are also needed to purchase necessary items for flood victim relief. The monies received will all be spent locally. Please send your donation to the Salvation Army, PO Box 235, Nehalem, OR 97131.

The local Salvation Army unit was started two years ago in this area, with the Bogles at the helm. Their first call for help was for victims of a fire and they have been assisting those in need ever since with food boxes, energy assistance, food, clothing and lending a helping hand when needed. It was never needed as much as during the recent devastating flood and we can all be thankful that they were on the spot to lend their assistance.



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Dillard Tracks Rising Water At Nehalem Tel & Tel Office

While high water had never before gotten into the downtown Nehalem Tel and Tel's new office building, they were prepared for it and consequently suffered only a small amount of damage to the floor.

Lee Dillard kept track of the rising water on Thursday, Feb 8th and he told the News that at 11 am the water was 15" from the front door. At 12:05, 12"; 12:30, 10"; 1 pm, 6"; 1:55 pm it was 1" from the door. At 2:15, zero inches and at 2:45 pm (when everyone cleared out) it entered the building and was several inches deep on the floor. Fortunately things had been moved around so the damage was to the floor, rugs and the like. Dillard noted that according to his records, the water rose about

a foot and one half in less than three hours.

The old NT&T building, which houses the NT&T Direct TV offices, was not as fortunate and suffered extensive damage. David Godsey's Pacific Northwest Naturally store, just south of there, suffered minimal damage. A matter of just a few feet higher elevation. To the west of town, the post office and Stockton Lumber were not affected, but Nehalem City Hall and Wind Rose Florist were inundated. Cheryl Fihn at Wind Rose said she had two or three feet of water in the main store...waist high in the garden supply section. She was back in business for Valentine's Day and expressed thanks to her customers for being so

patient as "it was a mess in here!"

City Hall received no damage as the staff was able to move everything out of the way of the rampaging high waters.

All of the downtown Nehalem businesses suffered water damage, but everyone is open again, thanks to a herculean amount of work by the local merchants and building owners. Jack Nussbaum of Nuttree's Closet said there was 8 ft. of water in the store. It was much the same story throughout the downtown area. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, see our pictorial coverage of the disaster, elsewhere in this issue.

Many people buy Sunset Surf gift certificates (in any amount) for friends, relatives or for business reasons and they have proven to be quite popular

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