

## Judge finds Stanfield guilty

By Keren Rivas  
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GRAHAM — For the past three days, Larry Isley Sr. has entered the courtroom where Robin Michelle Stanfield was on trial carrying a portrait of his late wife, Mildred "Sissy" Isley.

Mildred Isley, 57, was one of four people killed the morning of July 14 when 33-year-old Stanfield lost control of her car on University Drive in Elon. Stanfield was subsequently charged with four counts of misdemeanor death by vehicle.

"I see her and I know that she's responsible because I know she was the one holding the steering wheel," Isley, 59, said. But at the same time, he added, "The sim-

"I see her and I know that she's responsible because I know she was the one holding the steering wheel. The simple thing is it could be an accident."

LARRY ISLEY SR.  
Husband of one of the victims

ple thing is it could be an accident. Accidents do happen."

Alamance County District Court Judge Wayne Abernathy weighed these issues Wednesday morning as he announced his verdict.

"Folks, this is an extremely emotional case," Abernathy told the audience after attorneys from both sides presented their closing arguments. But, "In making my decision, I'm bound by the law," he said. "I don't have the authority to interpret the law the way I'd like it to be interpreted."

When it comes to misdemeanor death by vehicle in North Carolina, he explained, if

you commit "any violation of chapter 20 (motor vehicles statute), even though totally unintentional, you are automatically guilty. It is a tough law."

"Having considered all that," he continued, "I'm convinced, without a reasonable doubt, that Mrs. Stanfield is guilty of the unintentional death" of four people.

Abernathy sentenced Stanfield to the maximum sentence he could give her by law considering that she didn't have a criminal record: Four suspended sentences of 45 days and five years of supervised probation. She was also ordered to

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Peter Schumacher / Times-News

Robin Stanfield leaves the courtroom Wednesday after being found guilty of four counts of misdemeanor death by vehicle in a July 14 accident that killed four people.



See video from the courtroom at [TheTimesNews.com](http://TheTimesNews.com)

# Time for CAUTION

Power outages and other problems associated with icy weather often cause stoplights to go out temporarily. In the past, Burlington police set up measures to aid city drivers. That'll change this winter. Here are some things folks need to know.

- There will no longer be temporary stop signs placed at intersections where stoplights are out.
- The use of generators to supply power to stoplights will cease.
- Drivers are asked to treat these "dark" intersections as four-way stops.

### WHAT TO DO AT A FOUR-WAY STOP

- The vehicle already in the intersection has the right-of-way.
- When two or more vehicles reach an intersection at same time, the car to the right has the right-of-way.
- The vehicle with the right-of-way may move straight ahead or after signaling, turn right or left.
- When two facing vehicles approach an intersection at the same time, either can move straight ahead or turn right.
- If one driver is going straight and the other wants to turn left, the driver going straight has the right-of-way.
- Use caution. Do not assume you have the right-of-way or that other drivers will yield.

Sources: N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles, Burlington police

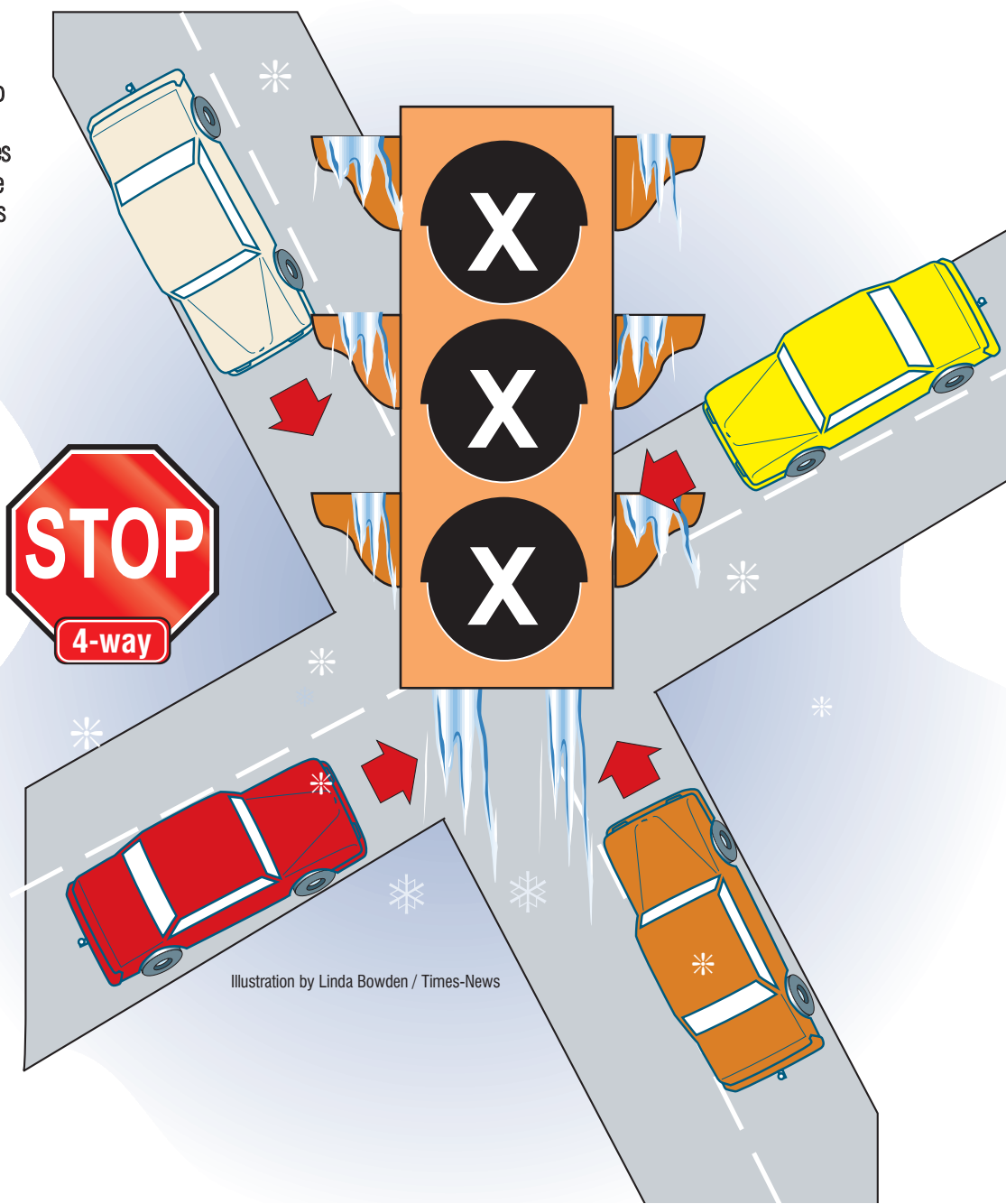


Illustration by Linda Bowden / Times-News

### HOW BURLINGTON PREPARED

- Preliminary de-icing of city streets began Wednesday morning.
- A brine solution was applied to roads which slows precipitation accumulating on pavement.
- 50 lane miles of thoroughfares in the city were treated and nine lane miles of downtown streets.
- Extra attention was given to hilly and curvy areas.
- 200 tons of salt are on hand and trucks on standby during the night and early morning hours.
- Those with downed branches or trees that fall into streets can call the city at 222-5066.

### WEATHER CHANGES DEADLINE

The Times-News published early Wednesday night to keep carriers off the road during the most potentially hazardous time. As a result, some late-breaking items were not available at press time, including the basketball game between North Carolina and Georgia Tech. Check [TheTimesNews.com](http://TheTimesNews.com) for late-breaking news and sports.

## Study points to need for new high school

By Mike Wilder  
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The Alamance-Burlington Board of Education has talked about the possibility of building another high school — and maybe a middle school as well — since last year.

A report the board looked at this week says lack of space at high schools warrants "immediate consideration" of a new facility. The middle school situation is less pressing, though within four years, crowding will be more serious.

It would take three to four years to complete a new high school once there's a decision to pursue one, the report says. Because of the length of the process, board members appear open to considering both a new high school and middle school.

Last year, school board members looked at figures from a group affiliated with N.C. State University that examined classroom space at schools in the Alamance-Burlington system.

The report the board looked at this week, compiled by Moseley Architects, examines space in "core facilities." Those include cafeterias, media centers and gyms.

See **STUDY SCHOOL**/Page A2

## Crews working to keep streets safe

By Roselee Papandrea  
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While it's impossible to stop Mother Nature if she decides to strike, crews from Burlington's streets division as well as the state's Department of Transportation worked throughout Wednesday to prepare for whatever winter weather she had in store.

Weather forecasters predicted a mix of snow, sleet and rain, which was expected to add up to icy road conditions this morning.

Burlington crews spent Wednesday morning applying a brine solution to area roads to get a jump-start on the ice. DOT did the same on Interstate 85/40 and highly traveled roads in the county.

"This solution helps to limit frozen precipitation from sticking to the roads' sur-

faces," according to a city of Burlington news release.

While the brine mixture doesn't always help, especially if it rains, forecasters predicted for snow to fall first, said Nanette Fogleman, DOT maintenance engineer for Alamance County.

"It's a mixture that we put on the roadways," Fogleman said. "Generally, if we have a snow mixture, it will help with the melting process and help us when we go to push the snow off the road. If it is a rain mixture first, it doesn't do much good because it washes off."

Burlington street crews were stocked with more than 200 tons of salt, which they were planning to begin putting down as soon as the snow or ice started to accumulate. The city plans to use its 11 plow trucks and two motor graders as needed,

See **STREETS SAFE**/Page A3

### Icy weather looms

By Robert Boyer  
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Skywatching, Alamance County's newest and most popular spectator sport, continues as local residents, businesses and governments brace for what could be a nasty little storm.

From 4 a.m. through 4 p.m. today, much of the western and northern Piedmont is under a winter storm warning.

A warning means that a storm is imminent and is a stronger designation than a watch, which means conditions favorable to creating a storm are present.

The "precipitation is expected to start a few hours before the morning rush hour and will likely have (a) significant impact during the morning commute over the Piedmont Triad region," the warning from the The National Weather Service states.

See **WEATHER LOOMS**/Page A3

### Corrections

■ A headline that ran with a story about a proposed calendar change at Cummings High School said the change would result in a longer winter break. The purpose of the change would not be a longer break, but to start the school year early enough to allow students to take exams before the break. They currently take exams after returning to school in January. The proposed calendar indicates a break similar in length to the one students had this year.

■ In its Wednesday edition the Times-News gave the wrong name for John Robinson, a speaker at the state Department of Transportation's public hearing on the N.C. 119 Bypass. Additionally, Robinson did not say the state Department of Transportation is stupid.

### Inside today



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