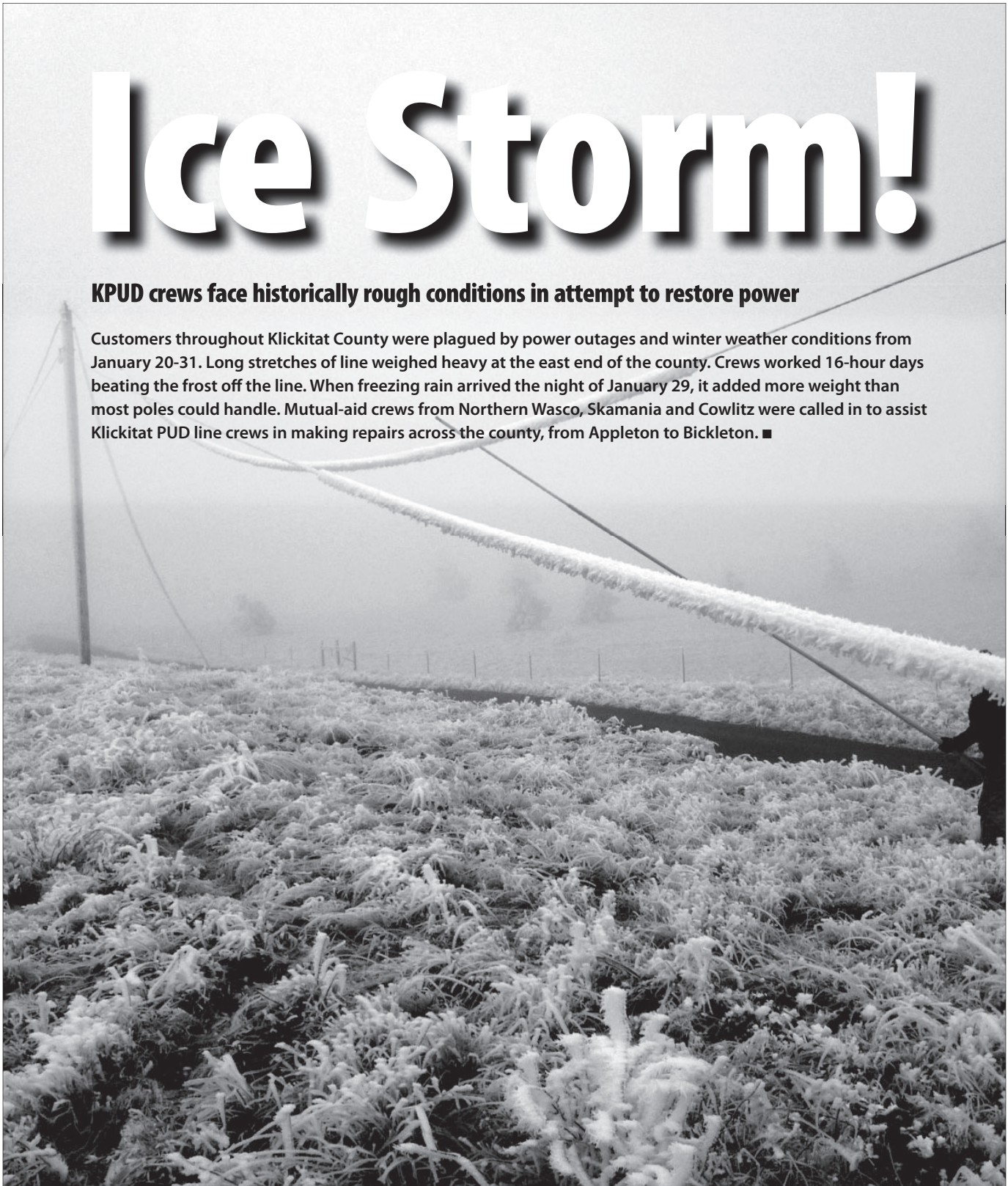


Ice Storm!

KPUD crews face historically rough conditions in attempt to restore power

Customers throughout Klickitat County were plagued by power outages and winter weather conditions from January 20-31. Long stretches of line weighed heavy at the east end of the county. Crews worked 16-hour days beating the frost off the line. When freezing rain arrived the night of January 29, it added more weight than most poles could handle. Mutual-aid crews from Northern Wasco, Skamania and Cowlitz were called in to assist Klickitat PUD line crews in making repairs across the county, from Appleton to Bickleton. ■





Opposite page, line crews use insulated extend-o sticks to beat the frost from the line. These sticks are designed to keep linemen safe from the energized lines. Only qualified employees are allowed near power lines. Customers should always stay clear of low or downed lines and immediately report them to KPUD.

This page, clockwise from top left, line crews work on the 230-kilovolt line from Energizer to Willis, making repairs in the worst kind of weather conditions.

Sometimes the frost comes off by barely tapping the line. Other times it comes off with such force it can break the cross-arms on the pole. There were stretches of line that crews had to revisit and clean three to four separate times as the frost continued to build. Pictured are Foreman Kip Graves and Lineman Bernie Predeek.

Energizer and White Creek substations were covered in frost during January's freezing fog.

Broken poles are the most time-consuming thing to fix. Line crews were busy for days working around the clock making repairs. In numerous locations, 10 to 12 poles came down at once.

Photos by KPUD staff and customers