

# Huge swath submerged; rescuers save hundreds

By MIKE RAMSEY

Staff Writer

Floodwaters left by Hurricane Floyd continued to spread as the Waccamaw, Cape Fear and Lumber rivers rose to record levels in Columbus, Duplin and Pender counties.

For the second day, Columbus County rescuers were sent to Crusoc Island to carry out residents who were trapped by water. The isolated area in the southeast portion of Columbus County near the Green Swamp was submerged.

But for the other inland counties, the rescues seemed to be slowing as almost everyone who lived near water had evacuated.

Around Wilmington, life was returning to near-normal, with county government and courts set to open today. The public schools remain closed, however.

Eddie King, Pender County's assistant director of emergency management, said that between 350 and 400 people have been picked up from their Pender homes by rescuers over the last few days.

"We have some people who have said, 'We are high and dry and we are going to stay,'" Mr. King said.

Bottled water is in short supply in most of the affected areas, and relief workers have begun

handing out bags of ice.

"Put it in a pot, and it will turn into water," Mr. King said.

Around Wilmington, the situation turned to frustration as city residents, their streets dry and power working, continued to be largely cut off from the rest of the region.

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington, which had announced it would open dormitories Sunday and classrooms today, said Sunday that state emergency management officials asked UNCW to close the campus until roadways improve.

"The university has gone to a lot of effort to get prepared and open Monday, but consequently we have been told that the roads for our students are dangerous for them to travel," said Chancellor James Leutze.

"We have students from every county in North Carolina. If we are told the roads are not passable, then we are certainly not going to ask students to travel."

John Moore, the emergency management director for Columbus County, said one man was killed earlier last week when his car slid off a road and into deep water. He drowned. The man's name was not available.

The report brings the North Carolina death toll to 26. *Please see FLOOD on page 4.*

## Flood

*Continued from page 1A*

toll to 26.

From U.S. 701 eastward, thousands of acres are under water. Riegelwood, Acme and Delco remain flooded, and floodwaters there were rising or expected to crest Sunday.

"We spent all day yesterday taking people out," he said.

About 60 square miles of Duplin County were covered by water. The county received a truckload of food from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Sunday, said Jimmy Pate, the assistant director of county emergency management.

Law-enforcement workers have stepped up waterborne patrols to combat looting, of which there have been several reports, he said.

Crews also are checking homes for missing people. There already have been three deaths in Duplin County.

In New Hanover County, flooding also was the central issue, said Bill Clontz, emergency management spokesperson.

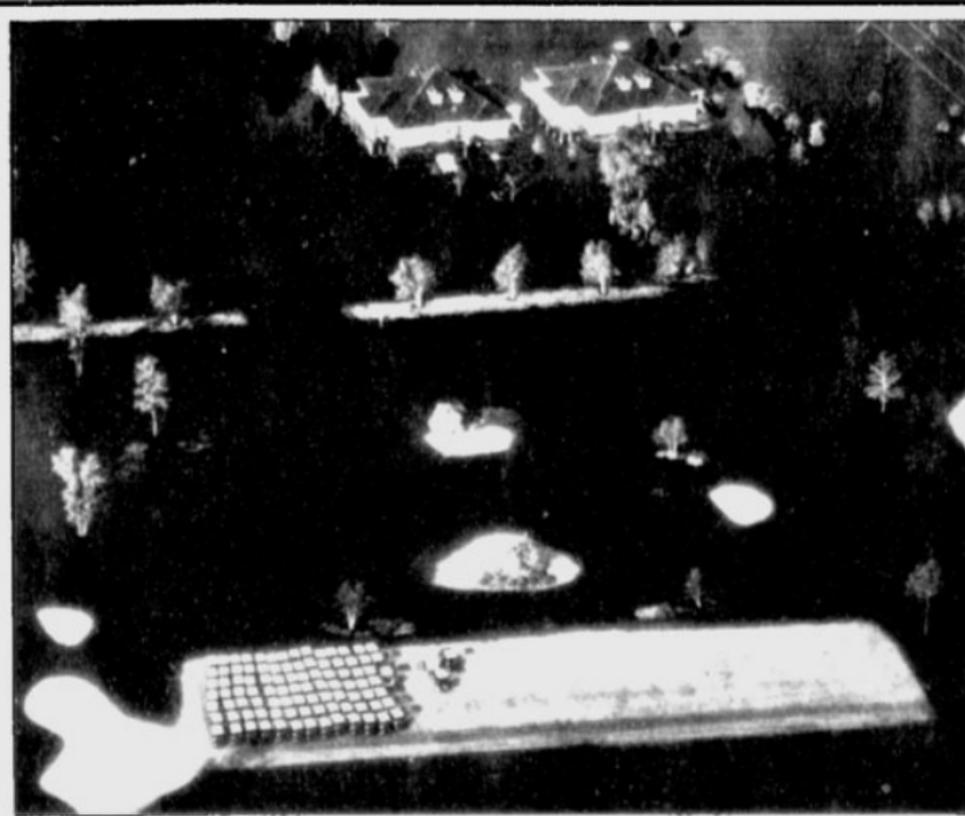
"We have a lot of stranded citizens," he said. "The water is still rising."

He said the county has more than 100 impassable segments of road.

And in Brunswick County, Annice Narcise of Oak Island said there has been uncontrolled access to the island during the day, which has led to looting.

"There's no protection," she said. "You had people just walking into homes."

The town has limited the access to the beach



At least the golf carts stayed dry at this golf course in the Burgaw area.

area to property owners with IDs, but Ms. Narcise said there was little enforcement.

Cecil Logan, the Brunswick County emergency management coordinator, said N.C. 211

and U.S. 17 have reopened to traffic, but N.C. 133 was closed due to rising floodwaters.

Air rescues continued in Brunswick County Saturday night. A pregnant woman gave birth

### STORM UPDATES

You can get storm updates through the day. By telephone: Call StarLine, 762-1996, and dial category 1111. The Web: Go to StarLine On Line at <http://starnews.wilmington.net>

on a military helicopter on its way to New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Mr. Logan said.

Mr. Logan said grocery stores were beginning to receive shipments of food.

Across the region, grocery stores were cleared of food. Runs on the stores prior to and following the storm emptied the shelves. Then flooded roads prevented trucks from restocking the stores.

"Our warehouse is so backed up . . . honestly it's a shortage across the board," said Jeff Preddy, the store manager of the Food Lion at 3600 S. College Road near Wilmington.

He said shipments were expected today. Other grocery store chains have already received shipments and are beginning to restock.

Power was restored to most people whose homes and businesses were not destroyed or underwater Sunday.

Jones-Onslow and Brunswick electric cooperatives reported no significant failures, but Four-County still had 2,500 customers without power on Sunday.