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Floyd disrupts life for NC residents

By Staff Story

The storm of the century, Hurricane Floyd, wreaked havoc on Nash County and its citizens on September 16. Two-thirds of the state took emergency measures as Floyd approached. The eyes of the nation focused on Tarboro when President Clinton visited on September 20.

Although none of Nash-Rocky Mount's twenty eight schools were destroyed, several did suffer damage.

The Tar River Learning Center, situated within feet of the river, was inundated under five feet of water. It will not reopen until November, but has temporarily moved its operations to Edwards Junior High and the Teacher Resource Center.

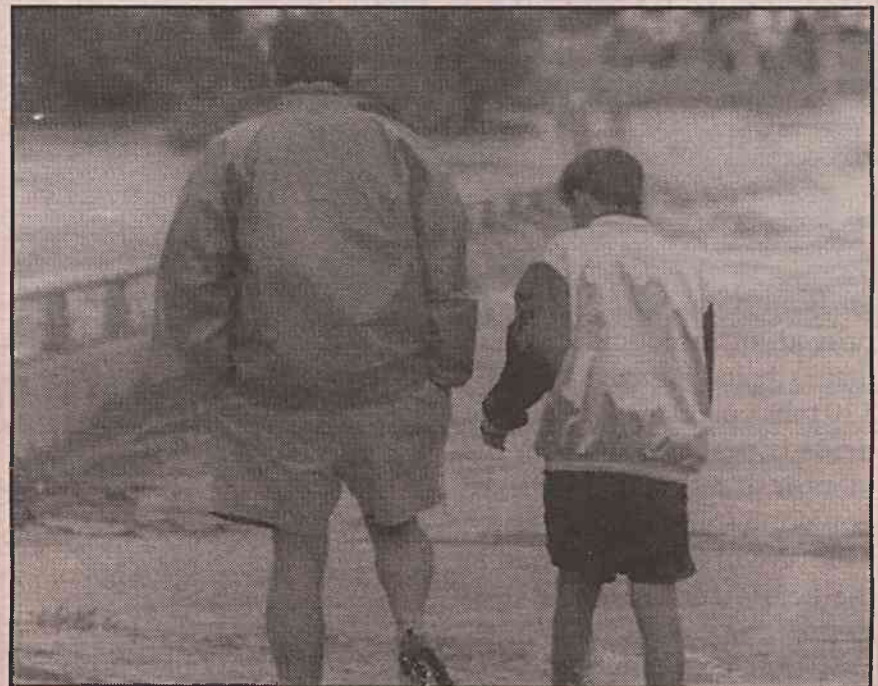
Parker Middle School suffered flooding to its basement level including a computer lab, the shop equipment room, and boiler room. EJHS also suffered some equipment damage.

On campus, the buildings suffered no significant damage other than some roof leaks. Our stadium, on the other hand, was flooded. Seven feet of water from the Tar River rose to the level of the second row of bleachers. The hot water system was destroyed and replaced, the goalposts were uprooted, and the playing field required twenty two days to dry out.

Over one hundred and fifty

students and their families were affected by the hurricane and flood damage. Students lost their homes, cars, and other material things such as furniture, clothes, and even school books. School officials are trying to aid these families. When students returned to school, they filled out a form indicating whether or not they were affected by the hurricane in any way. The administration then selected those most needy to receive any contributions allotted for them.

Two high schools in North Carolina, Triton High and East Randolph High School sent a tractor trailer full of supplies to be given to those in need. East Randolph also presented a \$4,000 check to be distributed among the needy families. East Randolph has also promised to adopt families at Christmas as well as provide flowers for graduation in the spring of 2000. East Randolph's principal, Ed Todd, has promised that this will not be the last that we, as a community, hear from them. Students provided their services to aid the needy throughout the six school days missed. National Honor Society and Key Club members worked at various shelters in Rocky Mount sorting canned goods and clothing as well as unloading trucks full of donations. Many churches and other buildings opened as shelters offering



Staff Photo

Father and son walk together through waters left by Floyd the day after the hurricane hit Rocky Mount and surrounding areas. Residents began leaving their homes the morning after to survey the damage left by flooding and high winds. Others began the clean-up process that, for many, lasted weeks.

food, water, and ice. Senior Burns Page commented that he helped because he, "felt that I needed to, since I was fortunate enough to not be affected by the flooding." Page volunteered at his church, Englewood United Methodist. Students also helped those whose houses were flooded completely. Groups of teens assisted homeowners in tearing down walls and sheet rock, ripping up carpet, and moving out personal items that were ruined.

Area businesses have also been hit by the wrath of Floyd.

Of those businesses flooded, small businesses were some of the hardest hit. Businesses such as Morgan's Cycle and Fitness, the Red Caboose, and the Uniform Shop were flooded by the waters brought by Floyd. Steve Morgan, owner of Morgan's, has decided to liquidate saved items and shut down after that. This decision is common for most small businesses in our area. Not only will a loss of merchandise affect businesses,

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