

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

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## Postponed

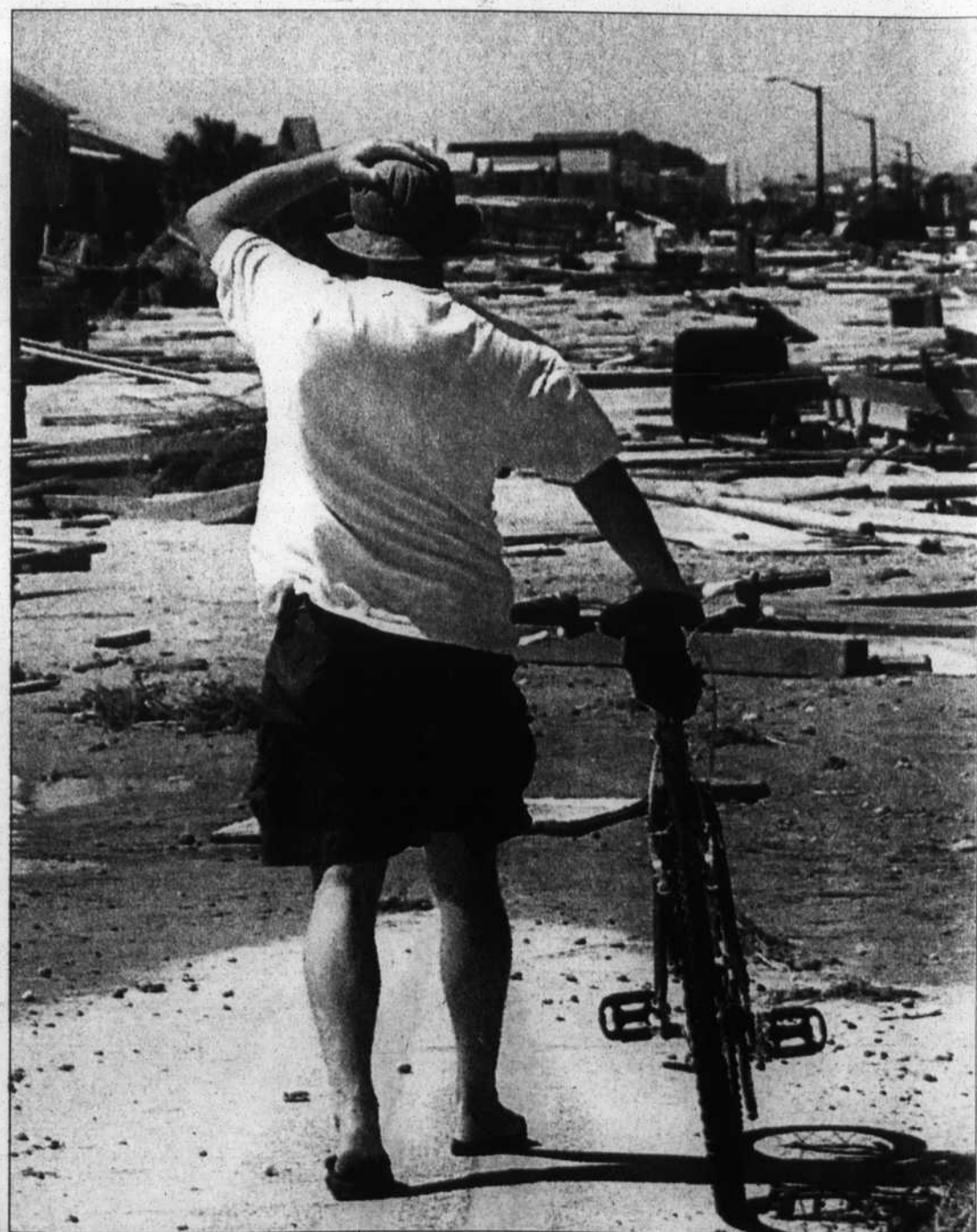
High school sports, curtain visit, will resume tonight when South and West meet in football.

September 22, 1999/ 50 cents

# BATTERED & BEWILDERED



East Beach Drive was a bewildering sight to Oak Island visitors early Thursday as scores of crushed, crumpled and standing-dead houses met their view. (Photos by Jim Harper)



## Damage \$20 million Floyd flattens OI beachfront

By Richard Nubel  
Staff Writer

When the Oak Island bridge was reopened at 2 p.m. Thursday, residents began a slow and often painful return to their battered town.

"Our town is a disaster area," said a flyer distributed over the signatures of co-mayors Dot Kelly and Joan Altman. "A state of emergency has been declared and will remain in effect as long as necessary. The town is doing everything possible to protect damaged property and to restore ser-

vices to damaged areas."

But, restoration may take months. Saturday, public works director John Olansen executed a two-month contract with a firm to haul construction debris from the Oak Island beachfront, the pride of Oak Island that was most often described at week's end as resembling a war zone. Public safety departments from across the state were being asked to send officers to spell Oak Island Public Safety Department officers who teamed with fire and rescue personnel to restrict access 24

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## On the inside...

**Damage**  
A town-by-town assessment, plus reports from schools, hospitals and county government

**Impact**  
Losses from Floyd extend beyond the cost of reconstruction

**Recovery**  
Nearly 300 Oak Island homes may or may not be recovered, depending on where CAMA draws the line

## Brunswick County Inland floods take a toll

By Terry Pope  
Staff Writer

Differences in how Hurricane Floyd has affected county residents puzzle most everyone now dealing with its aftermath.

By Monday afternoon, tourists were renting beach cottages once again at Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach. Just 20 miles inland, a crisis was growing worse by the hour.

Homes and weary residents yielded to flood waters from the Waccamaw River, and sheriff's deputies carried out the task of guarding victims from yet another prey — looters who were

using boats to recover property and valuables left behind.

"The people in Waccamaw are under a greater state of emergency than at any time in the history of this county," said Brunswick County sheriff Ronald Hewett.

Rising water from Hurricane Floyd's 19 inches of rainfall inland has finally made its way to the coast, along the Waccamaw and Cape Fear rivers. Earlier, homes in the Town Creek and Lockwood Folly River areas also were flooded by the storm.

At the beach the weather was nice, the sun was shining and

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