

# The Fayetteville Observer

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## STOCKS

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Staff photo — CRAMER GALLIMORE

on the top of the car of Kevin Roach off Virginia Avenue

## Storm Clean-Up Continues Here

From Staff and Wire Reports

Clean-up operations continued in earnest across eastern North Carolina today in the wake of a series of severe storms and tornados which swept across the area early Wednesday, leaving one dead and millions of dollars in damages.

Stirring winds of up to 50 mph and pouring two to four inches of rain on many parts of the state, the storm damaged building roofs, snapped power lines and toppled trees.

Beulah Stephenson, 77, of the Stoney Point community near Hope Mills, died early Wednesday of injuries she received when high winds demolished her mobile home. Several other injuries were reported across the state.

Debris cleanup in Fayetteville is expected to take "a good week," according to John Ray, acting superintendent of the city sanitation department.

Sanitation workers, who do not work on Wednesdays, began clearing away streetside debris as they worked their regular garbage routes today, Ray said.

"It looks like it will take a long time — probably a good week — to get it up because some people aren't going to (clear their yards) as fast as others."

Ray said residents should cut debris into

pieces no longer than 4½ feet and pile it at curbside for sanitation crews to remove.

Fayetteville Public Works Commission repair crews were completing cleanup of debris this morning.

Officials said power service was 99 percent restored in Fayetteville by 1 p.m. Wednesday. The PWC lost four substation circuits and about 10 power poles during the storm.

Operations were pretty much back to normal at the Social Services Building on Hay Street this morning, according to Jerry Huckabee, director of personnel.

The building suffered substantial water damage from leakage, but carpets were dried out overnight and debris cleaned up.

"You'd never know it, unless you looked up," Huckabee said this morning.

Things were more chaotic at the Neill A. Currie Building, which houses the administrative offices for the Fayetteville City Schools.

"It's certainly not normal, and it's probably not going to be for several days," said Zolly Bowden, assistant superintendent.

Numerous records had to be moved to different parts of the building after roof damage to the east side allowed water to pour in.

(See CLEANUP, Page 2A)

## Downtown erred

wo lots, but specifically one located the street from the store.

aid the offer was to show a willingness town property owners to donate land state office building.

e of us are quite willing to offer land," l. Mrs. Deem indicated that her property t be large enough for the proposed \$6 structure, but she hopes to "try to get rolling."

dded that the property would be given e condition that the state office building ocate there. She indicated that other vn property owners were being ap- on the subject, but she declined to any of their names.

similar attempt to counter the precipi- nd offer by Riddle and Wood, the wn Fayetteville Association Wednesday (See DOWNTOWN, Page 2A)

## Where It Is

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- General Assembly news, Page 18A.
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## Grim White Lake Picture Is Painted

By TIM PITTMAN

Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTOWN — More than 150 White Lake property owners and residents painted a grim picture Wednesday for state water officials of choking pollution and dwindling water levels at Bladen County's 1,000-acre resort lake.

For nearly three hours Wednesday residents took the podium in the Bladen County Courthouse to tell of pockets of pollution creating a foul odor and killing fish along what were once white, sandy beaches.

Of repeated fears of falling water levels at the lake were voiced anew Wednesday, but state water officials told the crowd that this winter — the driest cold weather season in North Carolina since 1965 — has probably caused the low water level.

A group of six state officials from the state's Water Resources Division and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission came to White Lake

early Wednesday for a tour of potential drainage spots around the lake.

About 75 property owners toured the lake with the state officials in a 25-car caravan that crisscrossed White Lake to examine culverts and other questionable drainage locations.

"Our conclusion, based on what we know now," said Carl Bailey, a state hydrologist, "is that there is no evidence of lake water moving out of culverts and drains around the lake."

Bailey said the lake level, which now is one foot below the monthly average for February, has fallen because of high evaporation rates during the summer and the lack of rainfall during the winter.

The lake's fabled springs — the source of clear water that gave the lake its name — are apparently providing less of the lake's water than they have in the past, Bailey said.

Reports from state officials, however, indi- (See GRIM PICTURE, Page 2A)

## Release Of Angry Soviet Note Stuns U.S.