

# Flood victims coping

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**POCAHONTAS** — At 85, Wanda Bristol doesn't think she can remain in her home of 39 years.

Having sustained flooding in 2011, she's back again, trying to salvage what little she can after 2 feet of water poured into her home May 2 on Pace Road.

For her son Ted Rothe, it was like a kick in the gut.

"It took me and my son, working just about every weekend and holiday last time, it took us four years to get it done so she could move back in," Rothe said Thursday. "She's been here less than two years, and you see what it looks like now."

Emergency officials gave residents about 24 hours' notice that they had to flee their homes.

"We got the beds and all the living room furniture and a lot of other stuff out before it flooded," Rothe said. "We should have come back and got some more is what we should have done."

Left behind was some century-old furniture that was handed down through generations of Bristol's family. Several hand-sewn quilts were hanging outside.

Rothe and brother Alan Flainer were carrying a large number of damaged goods to the roadside. Rothe said a crew from the City of Pocahontas had already hauled away a lot earlier Thursday.



Staci Vandagriff | The Sun

**Farah Price (front) and Carolyn Kenny**, volunteers with the College Church of Christ Disaster Relief Team from Searcy, tear out wet insulation Thursday from a Pocahontas home that had been flooded.

The family chose to replace carpet, ruined in 2011, with tile. The floor was still wet Thursday as the family ran air conditioning and fans in an effort to dry out the house.

Rothe hopes to move his mother to a spot near his home on Arkansas 90 in the Five Mile Springs community in Randolph County.

Bristol is far from the only flood victim. Bo Graham, director of the Randolph County Office of Emergency Management, said he's documented roughly 200 homes that were flooded. At least 50 are consid-

ered a total loss.

"And there's still residences on county roads that we haven't been able to get to yet," Graham said.

At the Red Cross shelter in town, Dawn Riggs, another resident of the Robil Addition, is spending her days helping volunteers who came to Pocahontas to help flooding victims like her.

Water reached 5 feet in her home on Douglas Drive. Since then, she and her husband, Billy, have stayed