

Title: **Malfunction Junction a 'poster child' for road needs**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
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FIXING YOUR ROADS

Malfunction Junction a 'poster child' for road needs

Up to \$1.5 billion needed to repair congested corridor, part of state's larger road-repair budget needs

Lawmakers to decide whether to reform — again — state Transportation Department, raise gas tax or both

Recent flooding could be softening some opposition to a tax hike

BY CASSIE COPE
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S.C. Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. David Jones worked hundreds of collisions during his seven years patrolling traffic in Malfunction Junction.

The huge number of cars traveling through the area daily — up to 133,600 — at a high rate of speed caused many wrecks in the twisting and turning cluster of interchanges, he said.

Recognizing the danger, state officials have set easing congestion in the area as a top priority.

But how to pay for those

fixes is a mystery.

Untangling the 14 miles of interstate, 12 interchanges and 19 bridges of Malfunction Junction could cost up to \$1.5 billion, according to preliminary estimates by the Transportation Department. The state only has set aside \$92.6 million for the project.

The missing money to fix Malfunction Junction, which

SEE ROADS, 6A

Fixing your roads

A four-part series in The State focusing on South Carolina's road-repair crisis.

Next Sunday: Stopping the revolving door between state Transportation Department leaders and private firms.

Inside: Where the Transportation Department proposes to spend \$1.75 billion next year and where that money would come from. Also, the state's most-congested interstates and most dangerous bridges.

Pages 6A-7A

Video at thestate.com: State Rep. James Smith has grown up with Malfunction Junction's congestion. Richland County Coroner Gary Watts says he has seen its dangers.

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FROM PAGE 1A

ROADS

the S.C. Department of Transportation re-branded this year as Carolina Crossroads, is just a part of the added \$1.5 billion a year that the Transportation Department says it needs to repair the state's crumbling and congested highways.

"It's sort of the poster child for the failure to take action over many, many, many years and the unwillingness to garner the political will to dedicate resources that are needed to fix (roads)," said state Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, whose district includes part of Malfunction Junction.

'PEOPLE ARE TIRED' OF BAD ROADS

Starting in January, the pressure will be on S.C. lawmakers to decide

whether and how to pay to fix the state's crumbling roads.

After last month's flooding, there is near-universal agreement that something must be done. But what that "something" is will be the subject of intense debate.

Legislative conservatives say fixing the state's roads must start with reforming the S.C. Transportation Department, ensuring politics and waste are removed from road building. Then, they say, the state should spend its growing annual surpluses on roads. This year,

for example, lawmakers sent \$216.4 million in surplus money to counties to pay for road repairs.

However, most legislators say those prescriptions are not enough.

Reform has been tried before, as recently as 2007. And the amount of added money needed to repair the state's roads far exceeds \$200 million a year. There also are other priorities for any added state dollars, including a Supreme Court ruling that the state should spend more on rural schools.

The Transportation Department says it needs an additional \$1.5 billion a year to repair, maintain and expand the state's highways. Just repairing, preserving and modernizing the existing roads system will cost an added \$1 billion a year, the agency says. But some critics argue far less is needed — about \$350 million a year, according to a plan by Gov. Nikki Haley — if expansion is taken off the table.

When legislators return to Columbia, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, says he will fight as hard as he can to increase the state's gas tax, using that added money for road repairs. "People are tired of their roads being in the condition that they're in."

The Republican-controlled S.C. House passed a plan to do just that last

April, voting to raise up to \$600 million a year, largely by increasing by 10 cents the state's 16.75-cent-a-gallon gas tax —

third lowest in the nation.

Members of the Leatherman-led Senate Finance Committee amended the House proposal to increase taxes even more — raising roughly \$800 million a year. But that proposal died when state Sen.



Leatherman

Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, filibustered the bill, saying future state surpluses could pay for road repairs if

the Transportation Department was restructured, changing how it spends road money.

'THROWING MONEY AT IT IS NOT GOING TO FIX IT'

Davis is not the only legislative conservative who says that increasing taxes alone is not the solution.

"Throwing money at it is not going to fix it until we reform the Department of Transportation," ensuring all existing road dollars are being spent as wisely as possible, said state Rep. Rick Quinn, R-Lexington, whose district — like Smith's — also

SEE ROADS, 7A

How much is needed?

\$1.5 billion a year

To maintain, preserve and expand the state's road, bridge and mass-transit system.

\$1 billion a year

To maintain, preserve and modernize only — not expand — the existing road-and-bridge system.

SOURCE: S.C. Transportation Department

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IT'S SORT OF THE POSTER CHILD FOR THE FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION OVER MANY, MANY, MANY YEARS AND THE UNWILLINGNESS TO GARNER THE POLITICAL WILL TO DEDICATE RESOURCES THAT ARE NEEDED TO FIX (ROADS).

State Rep. James Smith, D-Richland, whose district includes part of Malfunction Junction

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Five worst S.C. bridges

1. Berkeley/Charleston counties

S.C. 41, over the Wando River

2. Georgetown/Horry counties

U.S. 701, over the Great Pee Dee River

3. Charleston County

S.C. 174, over Store Creek/Sand Creek/Russell Creek

4. Richland County

Garners Ferry Road (U.S. 76), east-and-west-bound over Mill Creek

5. Chester/Union County

S.C. 9, over Broad River/Broad River Canal



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Cars try to merge on and off a portion Interstate 26 near Columbia during rush hour traffic.

County: Richland

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MATT WALSH

Cars traverse Interstate 26 near Columbia, nicknamed Malfunction Junction, during rush hour traffic.

Title: **Hard work, good life earn Clover farmer top award**
 Author: BY JENNIFER BECKNELL jbecknell@enquirerherald.com
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S.C. AGRICULTURE

Hard work, good life earn Clover farmer top award

BY JENNIFER BECKNELL

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CLOVER

Farming is dirty work with long hours and few vacations. But Evelyn Edmunds would prefer

no other way to raise her children and live her life.

At 87, Edmunds roams her 300-acre farm in a little red pickup truck, checking daily on a herd of about 55 black Angus cattle that come running when she calls.

"You're outside, you're close

to God and you don't have anybody hollering at you," Edmunds said. "But it's hard work, and you're always dirty. You're never nice and clean."

Edmunds has spent most of her life running the family's Circle E Farm on U.S. 321 south of Clover where turkeys and black Angus cattle are raised and hay is cultivated.

She and her husband, John Edmunds, began farming in 1950. He died of a heart attack

in 1978, at 48, when three of the couple's six children were still at home.

"We had turkeys in the field, hens, and it was coming November," Edmunds remembers of the day her husband died. "They were ready for market."

The turkeys were sold and Edmunds took over management of Circle E Farm with matter-of-fact efficiency.

She has been a mentor for

SEE EDMUNDS, 3A

FROM PAGE 1A

EDMUNDS

women in agriculture, and has encouraged many local youths to pursue careers in agriculture through 4-H, Scouting and Angus associations.

Gov. Nikki Haley recently awarded Edmunds the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in South Carolina. Sen. Harvey Peele, who represents part of York County, presented the award during the annual Partners in Agriculture and Conservation Legislative Dinner in York.

The Order of the Palmetto is given for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance. Edmunds was nominated by the York County Soil & Water Conservation District, where she served as a commissioner for 19 years.

Barbara O'Connell, coordinator of the conservation district, called Edmunds "a trailblazer for women in agriculture" through her work with groups such as the S.C. Cattleman's Association and S.C. Farm Bureau.

During meetings, "many times, she was the only woman at the table," O'Connell said.

Wesley Edmunds, 51, her youngest child and only son, was 14 when his father died.

"She was put in a position where she didn't have any choice," he said. "If you want to be in agriculture, you have to go to meetings to find out what is going on."

Edmunds said his mother also took her children and others around the country to show beef cattle through the S.C. Junior

Angus Association, which she co-founded.

"That's where you get common sense," he said, "by having to do things."

Wesley Edmunds still lives on the family property, where he grows the hay and tends 84,000 turkeys every eight weeks. Circle E is a brooder farm, nurturing young turkeys under a contract arrangement.

The farm has one hired hand, but Evelyn Edmunds said over the years, she and her husband and their children did most of the work, feeding and caring for the animals and planting and harvesting the hay.

For a while, the farm had a few horses and Edmunds gave riding lessons.

Edmunds, who grew up in Clover, said she be-

lieves the farm was a wonderful place to raise her children. "It's just a better environment, and they have something they can do all the time," she said.

She said the work then was more labor intensive than it is today. Automation has improved efficiency. Turkeys that once had to have their beaks removed on the farm now arrive debeaked. They were once loaded for market one at a time from the field; now they are loaded in houses.

"It's still a dirty job," she said. "But it's so much easier now."

Edmunds said farming has been a good life.

"I wouldn't trade it," she said. "I thought when I lost my husband, what would I do? You think you can't make it, but with the Lord helping and working,

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you can.”

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ANDY BURRISS aburris@heraldonline.com

Circle E Farm owner Evelyn Edmunds of Clover has been honored with the S.C. Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor.

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BARBARA O'CONNELL York County Soil & Water Conservation District

State Sen. Harvey Peeler presents the Order of the Palmetto to Evelyn G. Edmunds of Clover.

Title: **National Guard duty extended to Nov. 25**
Author:
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National Guard duty extended to Nov. 25

Gov. Nikki Haley is keeping the National Guard on active duty through Nov. 25 so units can continue helping local governments make emergency repairs. Haley signed an order Friday allowing National Guardsmen to keep working, primarily in Columbia and rural Clarendon County. Guardsmen are needed to repair impassable roads in Clarendon County and help with breached dams at the Columbia Canal. — AP

Title: **Risky SC dams go years without inspection**
 Author: RICK BRUNDRETT STAFF WRITER
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Risky SC dams go years without inspection

Small staff must
check thousands of
structures statewide

RICK BRUNDRETT

STAFF WRITER

Of the 75 South Carolina dams under emergency repair orders issued in the wake of recent historic flooding and rainfall, at least a dozen hadn't been previously inspected by state regulators for five years or longer, *The Greenville News* found in a review of inspection reports.

Since 2010, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), which manages the state's dam-safety

program, previously has issued such orders only three times, including one each in Greenville and Anderson counties, according to records obtained by *The News* under the Freedom of Information Act.

There are 6.75 employee positions to oversee the state's approximately 2,400 regulated dams—32 of which, plus an additional four unregulated dams, failed during October's rainfall and flooding.

And that's been the highest staffing level in the safety program in recent years, based on requested information provided by DHEC. In fiscal 2005, for example, there were only 1.5 full-time positions in the program.

The corresponding program budgets also have been relatively small, taking only \$469,035 this fiscal year from the agen-

See DAMS, Page 6A

Dams

Continued from Page 1A

cy's total current budget of \$596 million.

Within several weeks of what was publicly described as a "1,000-year flooding event," DHEC said it had assessed all 652 "Class One" and "Class Two" dams statewide, issuing emergency orders for 75 dams, including one each in Spartanburg and Anderson counties, two in Laurens County, three in Chester County, and three in Greenwood County.

A Class One Dam is defined by DHEC as a potentially high-hazard dam whose failure "may cause loss of life or serious damage to infrastructure." Failure of a potentially significant-hazard, or Class Two dam, "will not likely cause loss of life but may damage infrastructure," while failure of a "Class Three," or low-hazard dam, "may cause limited property damage."

DHEC's small dam-safety staff had a lot of help in completing the hundreds of

inspections in a relatively short time span.

In a written response to *The Greenville News*, agency spokesman Robert Yanity noted DHEC "mobilized more than 125 staff dedicated to dam response for this disaster event," adding the agency "partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Homeland Security, SCE&G and HDR Engineering as part of our response to the 1,000-year flood."

As for prior dam inspections, Yanity acknowledged that "due to resource and budget limitations, the time between inspections for some dams was longer."

"DHEC has partnered with HDR Engineering to conduct a comprehensive review of the department's dam safety program, including staffing resource needs and frequency of inspections," he said.

"We will be working with policy makers to review these recommendations and implement any needed program im-

provements in the future."

'We need to rethink'

Asked whether Gov. Nikki Haley will include more money for the dam safety program in her upcoming executive budget for fiscal 2016-17, Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams replied in an email response, "DHEC is working on a request for additional resources and we intend to address dam safety in the executive budget and in the next legislative session, but the process for producing the budget and legislation is still underway."

"It's clear from this extraordinary event that we need to re-think the way we regulate dams in South Carolina and Director (Catherine) Heigel is looking at her operations, regulations, and the law to determine what that looks like going forward."

The Greenville News reviewed hundreds of pages of inspection reports

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posted on DHEC's website or provided separately to the newspaper by the agency. Of the 75 dams covered by the emergency repair orders, at least 12 had years-long gaps in the last-listed prior inspections, ranging from five years to more than 14 years.

Two of those dams are located in Chester and Fairfield counties; the rest are in Richland County, which also recorded the largest number of failed dams. All 12 dams in question are classified as Class One or Class Two dams.

In addition, last-recorded inspections were done in 2000 for three Class Three dams in Richland County that failed and were the subject of emergency repair orders, and there were no past inspection records for three Class Three dams that failed in Aiken County.

Yanity said Class One and Class Two dams are scheduled to be inspected every two years and three years, respectively. But a national model calls for inspections every one year, two years and five years for potentially high-hazard, significant-hazard and low-hazard dams, respectively, according to information from the Kentucky-based Association of State Dam Safety Officials.

"Obviously, the more often you see a dam, if there were a problem to come up, you would be able to identify that more quickly," said Mark Ogden, the association's project manager.

Asked if waiting five or more years to inspect potentially high- or significant-hazard dams is too long, Ogden, a registered professional engineer and retired Ohio Department of Natural Resources administrator, said, "The easy answer to that is, yes. ... A dam is like any other man-made structure; it deteriorates or it can if not properly maintained."

Of the 75 dams covered by the emergency orders, virtually all are listed in the National Inventory of Dams maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as earthen dams, which Ogden pointed out are more susceptible to failing compared to other types of structures. The 75 dams were built from 1830 to 1989. The median age, or halfway point on the list, is 1955.

The Greenville News earlier reported that of 604 listed dams in Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson and Laurens counties, nearly 95 per-

cent are earthen.

The national inventory, which was last updated in 2013, doesn't specify for the public which particular dams are classified as potentially hazardous. Jennifer Read, DHEC's chief communications officer, said under state law, only Class One and Two dams are required to

have Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), and that based on an initial review Friday of agency records, 582, or 92 percent, of the 636 Class One and Two dams statewide have EAPs on file.

Read said her agency's review of records Friday found that nine Class One dams and 47 Class Two dams do not have EAPs, and that 13 Class One and Class Two dams "do not require an EAP due to the fact that the dam was previously breached or drained."

"DHEC will be working with the 8 percent of Class One and Class Two dam owners who do not have EAPs on file to ensure that they submit current EAPs," Read said. "As part of our partnership with HDR Engineering, DHEC also is developing proposed statutory and regulatory changes that would increase the Agency's enforcement capabilities and strengthen requirements for dam owners moving forward, including maintenance and submittal of current EAPs."

Only eight dam owners out of the 75 covered by the emergency orders had submitted EAPs at the time of their last-known prior inspections; the rest either provided no EAPs, or no information on that was listed, *The Greenville News'* latest review found.

That finding was based on online inspection reports ranging in dates from March 10, 2000, to Sept 30 of this year. Read on Friday said 66 of the 75 dams that were issued emergency orders have EAPs on file.

Upstate emergency orders

Henry Jacobs, owner of a Spartanburg County dam bearing his name and located on a tributary of the Turkey Hen Branch stream near Cowpens, received one of the 75 emergency orders.

Under the emergency orders, owners are required to lower water levels or empty reservoirs under the supervision of a licensed South Carolina professional engineer, and provide the results of a "detailed" inspection by the engineer,

"including a plan of action to be taken" to DHEC. Jacobs' order requires him to submit his inspection by 5 p.m. Monday.

"I'm in the middle of that whole process, and I don't have enough information from DHEC to give you anything that's concrete information," Jacobs told *The News*, declining further comment.

In an October 2014 letter, DHEC inspector James West informed Jacobs his Class Two dam is "not functioning properly," noting there is "severe erosion" around a concrete discharge pipe, which could "compromise the safety of the dam."

"Should this dam experience difficulty ... the impacted area downstream would need to be evacuated and downstream roads blocked," according to the letter.

Another Upstate dam – the Broadway Lake Dam, located at the convergence of Broadway and Neals creeks near Anderson, and owned by Anderson County – also received an emergency order. Jon Batson, the county's storm water manager, said the county hired a private engineering consultant to design repairs to the dam, noting there is "some erosion" on the back side of the dam and around a concrete block structure at the end of the dam's primary outlet pipe.

"It was something that we were aware of, and we were working with the local DHEC office on it," Batson said.

The Class Two dam received an overall poor rating in an inspection last December, DHEC records show. At least eight other Class One or Class Two dams under the emergency orders also received poor ratings in their last-listed inspections, while two Class Two dams in Edgefield County and another Class Two dam in Greenwood County garnered overall unsatisfactory ratings in inspections from 2012 through last year, records show.

Under DHEC regulations, an unsatisfactory ranking means that a "dam safety deficiency is recognized that requires immediate or emergency remedial action for problem resolution."

Asked about the three dams that received unsatisfactory rankings, Yanity said, "At this time, repairs for the dams have not been made and they have been referred for enforcement action."

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'Hanging over my head'

In July 2013, DHEC issued an emergency order — one of the previous three issued statewide since 2010 — for the Wesley North Pond Dam, a classified high-hazard dam in Anderson County, records show. Dam owner Ramona Wesley said she had her approximately 1.5-acre pond, located across the street from her Williamston home, emptied in response to the order and has left it drained.

"They wanted to me to get an engineer over here and all that, and I couldn't afford it," she said.

In his written response, Yanity said Wesley and a Richland County dam owner "lowered their reservoirs and left them as is." He also said dam owners are "responsible for the costs to rebuild or repair their dams."

DHEC issued another emergency order in 2013 for the Anne Parks Short Branch Dam on Short Branch Creek in northern Greenville County near The Cliffs Valley community. The Class One dam received an unsatisfactory rating in a follow-up inspection this year, records show.

"I would like to clear this up. It's been

See **INSPECTIONS, Page 7A**

Inspections

Continued from Page 6A

hanging over my head," said Mac Parks, the trustee for his mother's estate, which owns the dam.

Yanity said the dam's owner "did not comply," noting DHEC "hired a contractor to install siphons to lower the water level."

"It has been referred to our enforcement division to make repairs and for DHEC to recover costs," Yanity said.

A June 23 inspection report said that "thick vegetation, including weeds, small trees, shrubs, brush, and other deleterious vegetation, must be cut and removed from the entire dam."

Parks said problems with the dam started about two years ago when "beavers moved in," stopping up an overflow

pipe and building a dam across the emergency spillway. DHEC also wants trees removed from the dam, but "it's impossible to get a car in there," he said.

Parks, who lives in Greenville, said he was a small boy in the early 1950s when his grandfather and three other men bought property off Short Branch Road and built the dam there to create a third fishing pond, which he estimated covers about three acres.

He said his mother, who is 90 years old, inherited the property from her father but "hasn't been up there in years."

"She never dreamed it would be a problem," Parks said.

Rick Brundrett can be reached at 864-478-5904 or rbrundrett@greenville-news.com.

Title: **Haley visits Georgetown for flood relief effort**
 Author: BY ELIZABETH TOWNSEND etownsend@thesunnews.com
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Haley visits Georgetown for flood relief effort

BY ELIZABETH TOWNSEND
 etownsend@thesunnews.com

Gov. Nikki Haley visited flood survivors and volunteers and helped pack up distribution materials Friday afternoon at the Team South Carolina flood relief event in Georgetown.

Hundreds of residents from Horry, Georgetown, and other surrounding counties came to get aid and free resources at the event that was held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Beck Recreation Center at 2030 Church Street in Georgetown, and nearly 600 had already been served by about 1:30 p.m., officials said.

"We want people to know we've got their backs, so we're happy to be here," Haley said. "Hundreds of people have been

here so far."

Haley has been hosting and visiting the events in flood-affected counties for weeks, including Sumter, Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Berkeley, and now Georgetown.

Team South Carolina events group resources for flood-impacted residents, creating a

one-stop place where people can find out about aid available to them, get free cleanup materials, food, and other items needed for recovery.

"We're hitting every county that was affected. These are our Team South Carolina days. It's where we bring all the services to the people instead of them

having to find them," Haley said.

The event bustled indoors and out. Flood survivors had already started lining up outside the building in the early morning hours. A lengthy line wrapped the recreation center and once the event began, Federal Emergency Management Agency workers swung into action

SEE HALEY, 13A

Event groups services at one place for residents

Help is still available at FEMA disaster recovery centers

FROM PAGE 1A

HALEY

armed with iPads, registering people for FEMA assistance and fielding questions.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce, and Samaritan's Purse were among the agencies participating.

Residents were able to register for financial assistance from FEMA, apply for disaster loans, learn about repairing and flood proofing homes, get information about assistance for farmers with crop losses, apply for unemployment, food and financial assistance from the state, receive free well water testing kits, and much more.

Jacob, a therapy Golden Retriever, also made the rounds with his handler Walter Britton with Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis Response, delighting flood survivors and volunteers by offering comfort.

While the floodwaters have ebbed considerably, the recovery and rebuilding process is still ongoing, Horry and Georgetown county authorities said.

"Up-to-date, recovery in Georgetown is going very well," said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager.

Parts of Horry and Georgetown saw some additional minor flooding with king tides this week; however, the rivers have been

receding and recovery is moving forward as many riverbank residents are now able to access homes, officials said.

"Federal and state groups and faith-based groups, along with nonprofits are here on the ground. They're really out there working with the community to find out what the needs are," Hodge said.

Jane Cribb of Andrews said she was at the event to get help with food and supplies. She lives in a Habitat for Humanity home that was damaged by more than a foot of water.

"I lived through Hugo and Hugo was bad - don't get me wrong. But this time we couldn't stop the water.

Water was everywhere," Cribb said.

Cribb said volunteers have been working on her home and she hopes to be back in it by Thanksgiving.

Barbara Powell of Georgetown said she experienced some minor flooding and was there at the event to get some help to restore her property.

"It wasn't that bad, but we were blocked away from town," she said of her experience.

This was the only Team South Carolina event scheduled for the area, but those who were not able to attend or still need additional assistance can also find help at FEMA disaster recovery

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centers in Horry or Georgetown counties.

Elizabeth Townsend:
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Horry County Disaster Recovery Centers

- North Strand Recreation Center, 120 Highway 57 South, Little River
- South Strand Recreation Center, 9650 Scipio Lane, Myrtle Beach

Georgetown County Disaster Recovery Centers

- Potato Bed Ferry Community Center, 531 Big Dam Swamp Drive in Andrews
- Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church Street in Georgetown

FEMA Mitigation advisers offer guidance to flood survivors in Horry County

FEMA mitigation specialists will be on hand to answer questions and offer home improvement tips to prevent and lessen damage from future disasters. Most of the information is geared towards do-it-yourself work and general contractors.

Horry County: Lowe's at 8672 Highway 17 Bypass in Myrtle Beach (Thursday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Monday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

To register with FEMA online visit <http://www.disasterassistance.gov> or call (800) 621-3362. Help is available in most languages and phone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY should call (800) 462-7585.

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THE FLOOD OF 2015

S.C. roads, bridges closed by flood dip below 100

BY CASSIE COPE

ccope@thestate.com

Only 96 roads and bridges remained closed Friday across South Carolina after historic flooding washed out roadways earlier in the month.

In hardest-hit Richland County, 34 roads remain closed, down from a peak of 133.

It is not known when 13 of those roads — closed

FROM PAGE 3A

ROADS

Department Secretary Christy Hall praised the hard work of road crews and contractors laboring to return roads and bridges to service.

"They understand the importance of the highway network and the role it plays in the daily lives of our citizens and businesses," Hall said Friday.

Transportation Department staff have done a magnificent job, said Department of Transportation Commission chairman Jim Rozier of Berkeley County.

The amount of damage done to roads and bridges during the flooding was overwhelming, he said.

when dams broke — will be reopened. Another 10 will not be reopened until Thanksgiving.

Transportation Department crews have been working 12-hour shifts in affected areas on road repairs.

Interim Transportation

SEE ROADS, 9A

For example some bridges appeared fine, "but there wasn't anything holding them up" because the structure had been washed out underneath.

Rozier applauded Hall for pulling road crews from counties not affected by the storm to help in counties that had damage. "It's been unbelievable to me the amount that they've gotten done."

Hall has been appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to become Transportation secretary. She must be confirmed by the state Senate.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, [@cassielcope](https://twitter.com/cassielcope)

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Roads closed

State roads and bridges that remain closed and when they are expected to reopen

LEXINGTON COUNTY

By Saturday

Taylor Street

By Thanksgiving

Old Barnwell Road, Ottawa Trail/Natchez Street, Sandlewood Drive, Windy Road, Woodberry Road

Repair dates unknown (roads closed because of failed dams)

Devils Backbone Road, Drawdebil Road, Durham Drive, Ramblin Road, Wilton Road

RICHLAND COUNTY

By Saturday

Blue Johnson, Chappell, Covenant, Pinebelt,

Guard to stay on active duty

Gov. Nikki Haley is keeping the National Guard on active duty through Nov. 25 so units can continue helping local governments make emergency repairs.

Haley signed an order Friday allowing National Guardsmen to keep working, primarily in the capital city of Columbia and rural Clarendon County.

The governor's office says officials of those local governments requested the continued assistance. Guardsmen are needed to repair impassable roads in Clarendon County and help with breached dams at the Columbia Canal.

Associated Press

By Thanksgiving

Air Base Road at two locations, Bluff Road from Poultry Lane to Griffins Creek Road, Lower Richland Boulevard, Tom Creek Road

After Thanksgiving

Bluff Road from Congaree Church Road to Griffins Creek Road, Caughman Road, Congaree Road, Congress Road at two locations, Fairfield Road, Harmon Road, Rimer Pond Road, Rockbridge Road, Zeigler Road

Repair dates unknown (roads closed because of failed dams)

Arcadia Lakes Drive, Arcadia Lakes Drive East, Chatsworth Road, Community Pond Road, Eastshore Drive, Millbrook Road, Overcreek Road, Overpond Road, Rawlinson Road, Shorebrook Road, Spears Creek Church Road, Wilson Boulevard, Zeigler Road

Title: **S.C. roads, bridges closed by flood dip below 100**
Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
Size: 78.27 square inch
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Monticello Road in Richland County reopened earlier this month after a bridge was washed out.

Title: **S.C. again faces challenge to remain calm**
 Author: The (Columbia) State
 Size: 34.25 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



GUEST EDITORIAL

S.C. again faces challenge to remain calm

The (Columbia) State

South Carolina is once again in the national spotlight. Video of a school resource officer throwing a Spring Valley High School student to the floor and arresting her is, as Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott put it, disturbing. The video and the arrest have rightfully captured the attention of our state and nation.

As federal, state and local authorities investigate the incident and the deputy's actions, the rest of us must react as we did after the Charleston shootings in April and June and the statewide floods in October. It is essential that we again show amazing peace, calm and togetherness.

We inspired ourselves and the nation before. We must do it again.

Understandably, parents, students, administrators and the public have questions about what happened in that Spring Valley classroom. All have the right to seek answers, offer opinions and express concerns. A public discussion is healthy.

We had similar discussions in April after a white North Charleston police officer shot an unarmed black man; in June after a young white man massacred nine parishioners at Mother Emanuel

AME Church in Charleston; and just a few weeks ago after widespread flooding damaged thousands of homes and left at least 19 dead statewide.

After the North Charleston shooting, fears about violence surfaced because of the unrest we had seen in Ferguson, Mo., Baltimore and New York following the deaths of black men in police encounters.

"People mention Baltimore. People mention Ferguson. People mention New York," North Charleston City Attorney Brady

Hair told The Associated Press earlier this month. "What's different here is there were no acts of violence. There were no buildings burned.

"None of us did anything to escalate this into an uncontrolled environment. It is a different template from what you have seen around the country."

The Mother Emanuel shootings sparked outrage among South Carolinians of all races and religious beliefs. Immediately, the people and churches of Charleston reached out to the congregation, providing food and other support. A *Toronto Star* reporter tweeted video of a

mostly white crowd marching through Charleston chanting "black lives matter."

A few days after the shootings, a crowd estimated at more than 10,000 gathered at Charleston's Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge to honor the victims and to show those who would divide us that South Carolina really is different.

Next, our Legislature voted overwhelmingly to move the Confederate flag from the State House grounds.

Earlier this month, when hundreds of our neighbors lost their homes, an army of volunteers showed up to help, uninvited and unannounced.

Our responses this year have been praised by national media and by politicians across the political spectrum, from Gov. Nikki Haley to President Obama.

Thankfully, the Spring Valley High School encounter did not end in the loss of life. But it is disturbing, as Sheriff Lott said. South Carolinians should ask questions. If any laws were broken, we should expect justice.

But in our response, we should continue being who we are — a community that will not be divided.

Title: **Haley signs order so National Guard can continue restoration**
Author:
Size: 6.2 square inch
Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



Haley signs order so National Guard can continue restoration

COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley is keeping the National Guard on active duty through Nov. 25 so units can continue helping local governments make emergency repairs.

Haley signed an order Friday allowing National Guardsmen to keep working, primarily in the capital city of Columbia and rural Clarendon County.

According to the state Department of Transportation, more than half of the 99 roads still closed nearly a month after a catastrophic storm are in hard-hit Richland and Clarendon counties.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

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COMMENTARY

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Lesson of tragedies: We need each other

Wake up, South Carolina. We need each other. Black, white or Hispanic. Young or old. Republican, Democrat or independent. Rich or poor. Urban, suburban or rural. We need each other.

That's the message that was



Warren Bolton

savagely delivered June 17 with the senseless and merciless murder of nine people at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. And that's the message that

was delivered last weekend as historic rains and unprecedented floodwaters engulfed the Palmetto State.

In each case, South Carolinians found lines that once divided them being washed away as they came together to seek healing, comfort and restoration.

In the case of the Charleston tragedy, in which the Rev. Sen. Clementa Pinckney and eight of his church members were ruthlessly gunned down in a racially motivated attack, the people of South Carolina came together to reject the notion of hating someone based on the color of their skin and, led by Gov. Nikki Haley and the Legislature, removed the Confederate flag from the State House grounds.

We all knew that was only the beginning; the tragedy, the unity and the grace that abounded in the midst of it all demands that we do more to improve race relations as well as the quality of life for all our state's people.

But just as we were still contemplating what our next move should be, last weekend's historic rains delivered yet another gut punch to our system, once again forcing us

to rely on one another for support, encouragement — and, most of all, survival.

At least for the time being, the drenching rain faded lines of division that might have existed. If you lived in Clarendon County, it didn't matter what your political leanings or financial means were; for a time, the entire community was cut off from the outside world because practically every major road in the county was impassable because of flooding. In the Midlands of South Carolina, it didn't matter what you looked like or whether you lived in a million-dollar home or an apartment complex; roads and dams were washed away and threatened rural poor communities and upscale suburban neighborhoods alike.

Even the arbitrary jurisdictional lines that we have set up for ourselves were washed away.

At a Monday press conference outlining how local authorities — from elected officials to law enforcement and fire and EMS leaders — would handle the many complications caused by floods, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said that there would be no jurisdictional lines: The county, the city of Columbia and Forest Acres would be working side-by-side and would be patrolling where they were needed, not bound by city or county lines.

Unfortunately, South Carolina's archaic laws governing annexation and the incorporation of new municipalities have fragmented communities and created turf wars among elected officials and law enforcement, while leaving residents divided, confused and often underserved or overcharged because of the inefficient delivery of services.

But tragedy and grief have a way of bringing — or forcing — people together. Pride and turf concerns succumbed



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to the floods produced by the heavy rains; the intrusive waters showed no respect or appreciation for the imaginary lines we set up to separate cities and towns and counties.

The flood waters didn't stop at Columbia's or Forest Acres' city limits. They didn't acknowledge the boundary between Lexington and Richland counties. They indiscriminately destroyed roads and bridges and dams and homes in jurisdictions across the state.

Facing a monumental challenge that flowed from one jurisdiction to another to another, elected and public officials, law enforcement and community and church leaders did the only thing they could: came together to create as cohesive and seamless a response as possible.

To be fair, many jurisdictions and even communities and churches partner to address various issues from time to time. But they don't do it nearly enough, particularly when it comes to some of the large-scale, common problems that plague us.

But this is different. People are uniting and working in ways they never really have before. Yes, it's driven by a disaster. Yes, we're compelled to do so out of concern for community and public safety. But it's also personal, really personal. People who have just met for the first time are helping one another clean and clear houses, sift through soggy personal items and cling to cherished memories. Many are sharing prayers and offering words of comfort and encouragement.

Even as we pick up the piec-

es, even as we assess, recover and talk of rebuilding, we're actually building and renewing community.

As we work side-by-side, share one another's pain and learn more about our neighbors, we're learning to care for our neighbors and fellow South Carolinians, which could lead to lasting relationships and a desire to work together on an ongoing, day-to-day basis and not just in times of crisis.

From the Charleston tragedy to the big flood, South Carolinians are learning to lean on — and dare I say, trust — one another.

If we're willing to truly embrace and take advantage of these opportunities born of tragedy and strife, the sky is the limit as to how much better we can make South Carolina. If we can recover from the horror of Charleston and the devastation of the flood, we can do anything. And we've got plenty facing South Carolina that will require a "we can do anything" attitude to overcome. The list is long and challenging, including improving race relations, education, roads, health care, ethics laws, and more. It won't be easy, but we can address each of those challenges. Ultimately, it's not our challenges that doom us. It's our refusal to understand that we need each other to overcome them.

Editor's note: Journalist Warren Bolton worked at The State newspaper for 30 years as a reporter, editor and member of the Editorial Board. See his work at www.theboltonreport.com.