

Rex Maynard receives Order of the Palmetto

BELTON - Lifelong Belton resident Rex Maynard was honored with the Order of the Palmetto, which is considered the highest civilian honor in the state. It recognizes a person's lifelong achievements and contributions to the state.

Maynard was named for the award by Gov. Nikki Haley, who was unable to attend a presentation ceremony Thursday.

In her place, the award was presented by state Senator Billy O'Dell and representative Mike Gambrell.

The ceremony was held during the Belton Alliance "after 5" event held at the Belton Center for the Arts.

Thomas McAllister and Kathleen McAllister, who presented the nomination to the governor, also participated in the presentation.

The Order of the Palmetto comes with in the form of a framed certificate that, in part, reads: "In grateful recognition of your contributions and friendship to the State of South Carolina and her people."

Five other Belton-area residents have been recognized with the award in the past 20 years, E. B. "Fluffy" Rice in 1995, Matthew LeCroy in 1996, Alda Smith in 2002, V. Laniel Chapman in 2003 and Stan Marshall in 2004.

As a part of the nomination process, Mrs. McAllister requested Letters of Recommendation from several of Maynard's business, church and civic associates.

"Rex is a person of impeccable character. His word is his bond and I always appreciated and admired him for this character trait," read one of those comments, while another was "He has been a driving force in the economic developments of Belton. He has committed his life to his city, state and country. I cannot think of a more deserving person."

"Rex is one of the most competent men I know. He deeply cares about the needs of others and his servant's heart is best expressed through his involvement in meaningful organizations and ministries. Whatever Rex does, he does very well," another person said.

Maynard has a long list of community service. He is best known for his involve-

ment as a tennis volunteer at the local, sectional and national levels. He is a past president of both USTA South Carolina and USTA Southern and now serves on the USTA executive and nominating committees.

He has served as the tournament director of the Palmetto Championships for the past 35 years and is a member of the S.C. Tennis Hall of Fame.

He has served Belton First Baptist Church for more than 50 years in numerous leadership roles. Also, he is a long time United Way volunteer, former chairman of the county's UW and president of the state UW.

He is a past president of the Belton Lions Club where he has been a member over 40 years and chairs the committee to provide eyeglasses to those in need in the

Belton community. He was the first President of the Belton Alliance and continues to serve on the board as Treasurer.

Maynard has worked at Maynard's Home Furnishings since graduating from Wofford College in 1969, and has served as president since 1977. The business celebrated its 68th anniversary this year.

He is a past president of the Southern Home Furnishings Association and served on the board and executive committee of the National Home Furnishings Association.

Maynard expressed his thanks to Gov. Haley for the recognition and acknowledged the former Belton recipients.

He expressed a special thanks to his sister, parents, wife, children, grandchildren and friends for their guidance, teaching, love and patience.

He also thanked Wofford College for the education he received and for instilling the real meaning of community and the importance of service.

Maynard expressed his pride in Belton and South Carolina and encouraged everyone to work together to make both the best they can be.

He emphasized the importance of volunteering and closed by saying "When you volunteer, you meet and become friends with the best people in the world!"

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NEWS-CHRONICLE PHOTO - Norma Hughes-Smith

BELTON RESIDENT REX MAYNARD, second from right, was presented with the state's highest honor for civilians "Order of the Palmetto" on Thursday. Pictured are (l-r) master of ceremonies Thomas McAllister; Kathleen McAllister, who nominated Maynard for the award; State Rep. Mike Gambrell; Maynard; and state Senator Billy O'Dell.



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'Don't Trust Republicans'

Dear Editor,

I have been a life-long Republican. As co-chairman of the state Reagan for President Campaign in 1980 and as one of the first Republicans elected to the SC House of Representatives, I have a message for the people of South Carolina: "Don't trust the Republicans." Since the days of Lincoln, they have, at least covertly, always aided their cronies in big business to make money. They have engaged in "corporate welfare," if you will, to line their pockets and advance personal political agendas.

Yet, Republicans have recently stepped farther and stooped lower to achieve their monetary and political aims. Nikki Haley has "remade" herself at the expense of the honor and good names of South Carolina's 22,000 Confederate dead by colluding with the enemy as an anti-South "civil rights" figure. With the staging assistance of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, her shameless exploitation of the families of the nine victims gunned down by a deranged lone-wolf shooter have branded her as a "national" Republican figure.

Yet the Republican masquerade continues. I knew Carly Fiorina personally when she was a contract officer for AT&T. She was then a liberal, pro-abortion Democrat. Few, if any, of the Republicans, are really what they seem. They, together with the Democrats, will continue to betray the trust and traditional values of South Carolinians. As the Scripture admonishes us, "put not your faith in princes."

Sincerely,
Richard T. Hines

Greer Citizen
Greer, SC
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Mitsubishi Polyester Film expanding operations

Investing \$100 million at Greer plant

One of the world's largest suppliers of polyester film is expanding its existing operations in Greer.

Mitsubishi Polyester Film recently announced it is investing \$100 million in the expansion of its Greer facility.

The American affiliate of the Japan-based Mitsubishi Plastics, Inc., Mitsubishi Polyester Film was established in 1964 with the opening of its Upstate South Carolina film plant. Celebrating its 50th anniversary last year, the facility has grown its footprint from 95,000 square-feet upon its inception to nearly one million square-feet today.

The plant, which is located at 2001 Hood Road in Greer, is the largest polyester film plant in the United States. It employs more than 500 workers engaged in the develop-

ment, manufacturing and sales of a wide variety of specialty films used in industrial, packaging and electronics applications.

"Mitsubishi Polyester Film has been operating in South Carolina for more than five decades, and their continued commitment to our state is something we are extremely proud of," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

"This \$100 million investment to upgrade their existing facility is a tremendous win for Greenville County and for the state of South Carolina as a whole."

Greer Mayor Rick Danner said the city has "enjoyed an incredible relationship with Mitsubishi Polyester Film for a long, long time."

"We are truly grateful for their continued investment in the good health and the bright future of Greer."

Bill Radlein, president and COO of the company, said this expansion will further enhance their ability to support customers and provide employment.

"Mitsubishi Plastics has once again demonstrated its commitment to our business, employees, our customers and the Greer community. This investment would not have been possible without the strong support of state, local and county officials. This expansion further enhances our ability to support our customers and markets with value added low cost solutions, while at the same time providing employment for the more than 500 families that depend on our business for their livelihood," he said.

The investment will include the installation of a world-class polyester film production line, which will combine a high level of technology with production efficiency.

Mitsubishi intends to use this line to support the growth of its business in both the U.S. and overseas markets.

The investment is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2017.



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Confederate flag political impact to be determined

A new Winthrop Poll released Wednesday backs up the belief that a majority (two-thirds) of South Carolinians support Gov. Nikki Haley and the Legislature in their decision to remove the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds. But inside the numbers is a message that many, particularly Republican voters, stand by the flag as a symbol of Southern pride.

The decision came after nine African-Americans, including the pastor who was a state senator, were gunned down in their Charleston church by a man who used the Confederate flag as a symbol in espousing racism and violence. The symbolism of the banner being used in such way led to Gov. Nikki Haley calling for its removal, and even many ardent supporters of the flag's place in South Carolina history backed away from it flying in an official state capacity.

Breaking down the survey results by race, 54 percent of white respondents said furling the flag was the right decision, while support was 93 percent among African-Americans, who long have argued the flag must be recognized as a symbol of oppressing black people.

Just how much the Charleston tragedy changed opinions can be seen in the response by nearly 50 percent that they disapproved of the flag before this summer — a percentage not supported by November 2014 Winthrop Poll numbers showing only a third felt the flag should no longer continue to fly on Statehouse grounds.

But nearly half of those surveyed Sept. 20-27 (47 percent) said the flag is a symbol of Southern pride and not of racial conflict. Forty percent responded that the banner is more a symbol of conflict than pride. Of political significance, nearly half of those who lean GOP in a Republican-dominated state said their personal choice would be to let the Confederate flag continue to fly.

As to those who believe Haley will pay a political price for her leadership on the flag issue, comparing the poll numbers with those from a survey by the Democratic-leaning Public Policy Polling in early September offers insight on how the flag issue might play out politically, particularly for Republicans.

The PPP survey showed Haley's approval rating at 53 percent, up from 51 percent in February. But the support has shifted.

Thirty-nine percent of Democrats approved of Haley, up from just 17 percent in February. Among Republicans, support fell from 76 percent to 67 percent.

In the Winthrop poll, 55 percent of respondents approved of Haley, nearly identical to her overall approval rating in March.

Among Republicans and those who lean Republican, her approval rating is a strong 68 percent. But that number is down from the 78 percent she garnered from GOP supporters among the general population in March.

Meanwhile, the GOP-led General Assembly received a stamp of approval from 45 percent of respondents.

Haley is not eligible to run for another term as governor and her political future could be focused nationally. Her stand on





the flag and the continuing level of support she enjoys are enough to maintain her lofty status nationally. But the potential political fallout for others, particularly Republicans, over the Confederate flag issue remains to be seen.

Just how much the flag is or is not an issue after its removal from the Statehouse this summer will not be fully known until 2016, particularly in GOP primary races in the many heavily Republican areas of the state.

— *The (Orangeburg) Times and Democrat*

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Speaker objects to unscreened Muslim refugees coming to Spartanburg

By Vic MacDonald

Staff Writer

Clinton
Chronicle
Clinton, SC
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A speaker to Laurens County Council last Tuesday said he doesn't have "Islamaphobia," but he wanted the council to write a letter opposing Muslim refugees coming into neighboring Spartanburg County.

Larry Bateman said he was making the presentation to the Laurens council because the county is "in the target zone."

He said he made a presentation to Spartanburg County Council and "the chairman was rude, he slammed down the gavel."

Council took Bateman's presentation as information. On a question by council member Diane Anderson, Bateman said he lives in Spartanburg County and attended the Laurens council meeting at the invitation of council member Stewart Jones.

Bateman said earlier this month, 275 people met at Byrnes High School to oppose what he called "immigration fraud." The potential for civil war in Syria is causing thousands of Syrians to flee the country for Europe. Bateman said a large portion of the continent has open borders, and these refugees will be able to move freely among France, Germany and Belgium - many will make their way to the United States, he said.

One group is proposed for immigration to Spartanburg County. Bateman said the free immigration of Muslims is supported by President Obama and SC Gov. Nikki Haley.

"The President will not attend the National Day of Prayer but he will pray with Muslims. He celebrated, well, I don't know if

he participated in it, but he talked about (Islamic holy day) Ramadan. He celebrated the many achievements of Muslim Americans to our country. ... He is off-base.

"I want to speak the truth in love. I don't have Islamaphobia, but this is immigration fraud. On Sept. 17, 22 immigrants arrived in Germany, there were zero women, zero children. These were all young men, the average refugee is 25 and single. That's a lot of testosterone to be loosed on a community."

Bateman said the U.S. should "welcome people to this country who are properly vetted." He said the immigrants are coming from a place where for men, "It's culturally acceptable to sexually molest anyone."

Bateman said Haley has authorized 800 refugees to come to South Carolina, and he asked Laurens County Council to write a letter to the governor saying "we're not going to take people who are not properly vetted."

Bateman said First District Congressman Trey Gowdy is going to convene an investigative hearing about Muslim immigrants to the United States. But he said Upstate SC does not need a hearing, it needs action.

"We need to take action to prevent people from coming here who will harm our women and children."

Jones said Laurens County spends \$4 million a year on law enforcement and the county should be committed to "protect(ing) private property."

Jones also proposed offering a leadership class for council members, county administrative staff and department heads.

Council member Diane Anderson objected. She said, "We already belong to and pay the

(SC) Association of Counties for training. They give education credit for all department heads. It is not appropriate to go outside when we have an inside program, we already pay for it. ... They offer Level I and Level II leadership training."

"This (leadership class) is not going to change anybody's mind," Council Chairman Joe Wood said. "If somebody wants to listen to it, that's fine."

"It's providing leadership tools," Jones said. "It's just an hour."

"I don't care if it's two minutes," Anderson said. "Is this something our employees are asking for?"

Wood called for a vote, but council vice-chairman Keith Tollison said, "I'm not ready to take that vote."

"I didn't realize it was coming to a vote," Tollison said. "I don't have a problem with leadership training, as long as it's not mandatory and there is no cost."

"I have not talked to the people (Positive Management Leadership, a company out of Greenwood)," County Administrator Ernie Segars said. "I don't have an objection to it. I didn't want to set a precedent the council was not aware of, but I don't see the harm in it."

Council took no action on Jones' recommendation to offer the class called "The Leverage of Leadership."

A facts sheet from the company says the class' Learning Objectives are to "introduce proactive leadership behaviors that are successful, positive workplace practices to avoid union campaigns. ... (and provide) a lasting leadership lesson for all of us from ... a teenager."

'Fire hose' of moisture slams South Carolina; 12 killed

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — People across South Carolina got an object lesson Monday in how you can dodge a hurricane and still get hammered.

Authorities struggled to get water to communities swamped by it, and with waterlogged dams overflowing, bridges collapsing, hundreds of roads inundated and floodwaters rolling down to the coast, the state was anything but done with this disaster.

"This is a Hugo-level event," said Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, head of the South Carolina National Guard, referring to the September 1989 hurricane that devastated Charleston. "We didn't see this level of erosion in Hugo. ... This water doesn't fool around."

Much-feared Hurricane Joaquin missed the East Coast, but fueled what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropical moisture that aimed directly at the state. A solid week of rainfall has killed at least 10 people in South Carolina and two in North Carolina, and sent about 1,000 to shelters. About 40,000 have been left without drinkable water.

One of the latest to die was McArthur Woods, 56, who drove around a barricade and drowned Sunday night. His passenger managed to climb on top of the sedan, which stalled in the rushing water. A firefighter rescued her after someone heard her screams.

"She came out the window. How she got on top of the car and stayed there like she did with that water—there's a good Lord," Kershaw County Coroner David West said.

By Monday, the heaviest rains had moved into the mid-Atlantic states. Along the Jersey Shore,

some beaches devastated by Superstorm Sandy three years ago lost most of their sand to the wind, rain and high surf.

South Carolina authorities mostly switched Monday from search and rescue into "assessment and recovery mode," but Gov. Nikki Haley warned citizens to remain careful as a "wave" of water swelled downstream and dams had to be opened to prevent catastrophic failures above low-lying neighborhoods near the capital.

"South Carolina has gone through a storm of historic proportions," Haley said. "Just because the rain stops, does not mean that we are out of the woods."

Indeed, shortly after the governor's news conference, two dams in two separate towns east of downtown Columbia burst on Monday afternoon, forcing the evacuation of some neighborhoods.

James Shirer, who lives in the area, saw one of the dams, in the town of Forest Acres, fail and a 22-acre lake drain in 10 to 15 minutes.

The 16.6 inches of rain that fell at Gills Creek near downtown Columbia on Sunday made for one of the rainiest days recorded at a U.S. weather station in more than 16 years.

An Associated Press reporter surveying the scene by helicopter saw the entire eastern side of the capital city awash in floodwater. Neither trailer parks nor upscale neighborhoods were spared: One mansion's swimming pool was filled with a yellowish broth.

South Carolina is accustomed to water, but not like this.

The state hosts 30,000 miles of rivers and streams that mostly run from the Appalachians to the sea, according to the U.S. En-

vironmental Protection Agency. It also has another 24,000 miles of "perennial waterways" — streams that are usually dry but can turn deadly in flash floods. Now swollen by a week of rain, they have carved new channels through an aging infrastructure.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, 1,048 of the 9,275 bridges were structurally deficient before this storm. Some 550 roads and bridges remained closed Monday, including nearly 75 miles of Interstate 95.

The governor said they will need close inspection to ensure they're safe.

Some towns were entirely cut off. About 60 miles southeast of the capital, all four roads leading into the county seat of Manning were closed, isolating 4,000 people. Many smaller communities in Clarendon County are in a similar predicament, Sheriff Randy Garrett said.

"I'm the sheriff of a bunch of islands," Garrett said.

The National Guard's Blackhawk helicopters were the best — and only — way to reach some places, and authorities were just starting to identify "vulnerable areas that may not be completely obvious," said Livingston, a two-star general.

The Blackhawk crew including Chief Warrant Officer 2 Antonio Montgomery finished its rescue training just in time for the storm, and quickly put it to use.

Some people waved towels at them, begging for rescues; Neighbors would then step out onto their porches, too, asking to be lifted to safety.

Montgomery, 34, served in Iraq 10 years ago, but there is something different about helping a place where his crew has lived, he said. "It's our home. We've all had friends and families who have lost things."

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At a Red Cross shelter in Rowesville, Nyshambi Vega of Holly Hill, about 50 miles northwest of Charleston, settled onto a cot with her boys — ages 2, 1 and 5 months — and hoped for the best.

Like most of her neighbors in her public housing complex, the 24-year-old mother had hoped to ride out the storm. Then the water reached her front door, and the toilet backed up. They were rescued Sunday morning by firefighters who walked small boats through the parking lot.

Along with her boys, all she managed to carry with her was a bag stuffed with diapers and baby formula. The water came up to her chest, and she struggled to hold the baby over her head as she waded to the boat.

“His feet were dipping into the water as we tried to get into the boat, so it was scary and dangerous,” Vega said Monday as the infant snoozed, content, in her lap.

Most of her neighbors got out with nothing but the clothes they were wearing, she said, “And the clothes we had on our backs were wet.”

Safe water, however, was in short supply: In Columbia, officials brought in bottled water and portable restrooms for the 31,000 students at the University of South Carolina, and firefighters used a half-dozen trucks and pumps to ferry hundreds of thousands of gallons of water to Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital.

Bett Williams’ family has lived below Rockyford Lake for nearly a half century; she said she had never seen flooding there before. But on Monday, she had only a few moments before fleeing with her 12-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son to a shelter at the nearby AC Flora High School.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS
 Floodwaters close in on homes on a small piece of land on Lake Katherine in Columbia. After a week of steady rain, the showers tapered off Monday and an inundated South Carolina turned to surveying a road system shredded by historic flooding.

Obama signs disaster declaration

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama has signed a disaster declaration, ordering federal aid to help storm recovery efforts in South Carolina.

The president’s action on Monday makes federal funding available to people in Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, and Williamsburg counties.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the flooding.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and additional counties may be designated for assistance after the assessments are fully completed.



A vehicle is stranded on Hwy. 41 Monday due to floodwaters near Huger, S.C.





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PHOTOS BY JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS

59 + 148
Pee Dee withstands a watershed event

BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON
Morning News
mrobertson@scnow.com

FLORENCE — Historic rains have passed, but the water associated with them might linger throughout the week as waterlogged soil throughout the Pee Dee drains and waters upstream pass through on their way to the Atlantic Ocean.

The weather forecast today calls for a 20 percent chance of rain, and sunny skies are expected Wednesday, with high temperatures both days in the 70s — a change from heavy rains

from Friday through Monday.

National Weather Service observers reported rainfall totals between midnight Friday and 8 a.m. Monday of 14 inches five miles west of Florence; almost 18 inches at Effingham; 13 inches seven miles south-southwest of Darlington; nine inches one mile west of Darlington; more than 22 inches at three areas around Kingstree and almost 17 inches at Hemingway.

Areas less affected by the rain included Bennettsville with readings

See **WATERSHED**, Page 5A



A resident near the Oakdale community in Florence looks down at the water flooding his yard on Monday.





Watershed

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of almost 12 inches and 4 inches; Marion with 5 inches and Mullins with 6 inches; and Dillon County, which reported readings of 5½ and four inches.

South Carolina authorities mostly switched Monday from search and rescue into "assessment and recovery mode," but Gov. Nikki Haley warned citizens to remain careful as a "wave" of water swelled downstream and dams had to be opened to prevent catastrophic failures above low-lying neighborhoods near the capital.

"South Carolina has gone through a storm of historic proportions," Haley said. "Just because the rain the stops does not mean that we are out of the woods."

Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, head of the South Carolina National Guard, called this "a Hugo-level event," referring to the September 1989 hurricane that devastated Charleston.

"We didn't see this level of erosion in Hugo. ... This water doesn't fool around," he said.

Much-feared Hurricane Joaquin missed the East Coast but fueled what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropical moisture that aimed directly at the state. A solid week of rainfall killed at least 12 people, sent approximately 1,000 to shelters and left roughly 40,000 without drinkable water.

Florence County officials announced Monday afternoon the mandatory evacuation of several residential areas along Lynches River and again implemented a 7 p.m.-to-dawn curfew for the county.

Darlington County also implemented the 7 p.m.-to-dawn curfew for the second consecutive day,

Sheriff Wayne Byrd said.

Shortly after 4 p.m. Monday, Florence County officials moved to evacuate Ben Gause Road, Hawkins Landing Road, the dirt road portion of Meadowprong Road, Roundtree Road and Fork Road.

"The rising flood waters are an imminent danger to residents and responders," Andrew Golden of the Florence County Emergency Management Division wrote in a news release about the evacuation. "According to the NWS, the water levels are expected to increase into the night. Therefore it is in the best interest of public safety that this mandatory evacu-

ation be implemented immediately."

As of 4 p.m., the Lynches River was at 18.67 feet headed toward a projected crest of 19.2 feet this afternoon. The river was last above 19 feet in 1945, when it crested at 21.21 feet, according to the National Weather Service.

A crest higher than 18 feet would qualify as a major flood for the Lynches River and would affect not only the residential areas being evacuated but also communities near the Sumter County line, according to the National Weather Service.

"This would be a top event in the history of this gauge and is most similar to levels experienced in December 1990 and 1994," according to the National Weather Service.

Golden said it was too soon to tell Monday evening if the projected crest would be high enough to cut off traffic along U.S. 52 in the area.

On Sunday afternoon, Florence County officials ordered the mandatory evacuation of communities along Black Creek as

it flooded. Black Creek crested overnight Sunday at a record 16.81 feet and by Monday had started to fall. Black Creek's crest

qualified as a moderate flood by National Weather Service measurements, and the river is projected to fall below 15 feet Thursday – the level to be considered a minor flood.

Rising flood waters closed many Pee Dee roads – including Interstate 95 south of Interstate 20 to Interstate 26. The SCDOT notation on the interstate's closing cites "road conditions."

Old River Road is closed between Papermill road and Keef Road because of a washout, according to a SCDOT release.

Other Florence County roads washed out include N.C.C. Road between Huggins Road and Johnsonville Highway; Diamond Branch Road between White Oak Drive and Lake City Highway; Bay Road between Bass Road and East Myrtle Beach Highway; South Friendfield Road between Bass Road and East Myrtle Beach Highway; Bass Road near Friendfield Road and Marion Street.

Other Florence County roads closed because of the storm included portions of Old Manning Road, Hill-Harrell Road, Alligator Road, Neely Matthews Road, Whitehall Shored Road, U.S. 378, McLaughlin Road, Salem Road, Pamplico Highway, Big Swamp Road, Francis Marion Highway, Francis Marion Road, South Knollwood Road, Twin Church Road, Church Road, West Ralph Lane, Loop Road and Old Gerogetown Road, according to a SCDOT posting on roads.

Darlington County had only three road closures: East Lynches River Road, Law Plantation Road and Lawson Road. East Lynches River and Law Plantation Roads have washed out, according to the SCDOT list of closed roads.

"At first light (Monday), SCDOT engineers and inspectors began assessing the damage that has occurred to hundreds of

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roads and dozens of bridges across South Carolina,”

the agency said through a news release issued Monday afternoon. “SCDOT staff will assess the overall damage and prioritize the repair work that is expected to take several months to complete. Priority routes for returning to service are Interstates, primaries, and then the secondaries.”

Statewide, 550 roads and bridges were listed as closed. All will have to be checked for structural integrity, Haley said.

The city of Florence water and sewer system continued to work as designed despite rumors to the contrary on social media.

“There is no truth to rumors regarding the City of Florence cutting off water,” Florence City Manger Drew Griffin said in a news release issued Monday morning to combat rumors circulating on social media. “There are currently no issues with the city providing water service to residents.”

Michael Hemingway, the

city’s utilities director, said there is no visible damage

to the utility system.

“Once the water recedes, then staff will investigate all locations presently submerged and assess for damages,” he said.

So far, the only issue with the water system was in an area of central Florence County – Whippoorwill Road, Myers-Cemetery Road, Pheasant Road, Quail Lane, Bob White Trail, Karundy Circle and McKeen Lane – that remains under a boil water advisory until lab results come back, Hemingway said.

“The city was notified on an issue of low water pressure at approximately 4 p.m.,” Hemingway said. “City crews investigated and found Whippoorwill Road washed out, which created the 6-inch broken water main impacting water services for approximately 110 water customers.”

The city is also working closely with DHEC over issues with the sanitary sewer

er system, he said.

“All issues related to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are being investigated and documented by city staff and reported to SC DHEC,” Hemingway said. “City staff has been in continual contact with the local SC DHEC staff with the onset of our present weather conditions since Saturday.”

While all but one of Florence County’s public school systems will remain closed for a second day today, Darlington County Schools announced the system would open but operate on a two-hour delay.

The rains are set to move out overnight.

“Drier conditions and the trend for decreasing rainfall will occur from southwest to northeast across the area tonight into Tuesday morning,” National Weather Service Meteorologist Steven Pfaff wrote in a Monday weather briefing.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Travelers make their way through a flooded section of West Palmetto Street in Florence on Monday.

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS



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Part of Haley's domestic violence panel holds meeting

COLUMBIA — Part of Gov. Nikki Haley's task force on domestic violence meet this week.

The Victim and Offender Services Division of the Governor's Domestic Violence Task Force was scheduled having a meeting Friday at the State Data Center in Columbia.

Organizers say members of working groups would review the status of recommendations the panel has made. Haley created the task force in January.

South Carolina has long ranked among the nation's worst in violence against women.

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CAUSE OF THE CRASH.

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**Haley orders flags
at half-staff to honor
slain officer**

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley has ordered flags on state property to be flown at half-staff to honor the police officer who was shot and killed at



Alia

a suburban mall.

Haley also asked Friday that flags across the state be lowered Saturday in

memory of Forest Acres officer Greg Alia. His funeral is today in Columbia.

The 32-year-old officer was fatally shot after responding to a report of a suspicious person at Richland Mall.

Alia was a seven-year veteran of his small police force, a new father and a lifelong resident of the Columbia area.

The State Law Enforcement Division has charged 34-year-old Jarvis Hall with murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.

Arrest warrants state that Alia was killed with a .40-caliber handgun stolen last month.



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Republican masquerade continues

I have been a lifelong Republican. As co-chairman of the state Reagan for President campaign in 1980, and as one of the first Republicans elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, I have a message for the people of South Carolina: "Don't trust the Republicans." Since the days of Lincoln, they have, at least covertly, always aided their cronies in big business to make money. They have engaged in "corporate welfare," if you will, to line their pockets and advance personal political agendas.

Yet, Republicans have recently stepped further and stooped lower to achieve their monetary and political aims. Nikki Haley has "remade" herself at the expense of the honor and good names of South Carolina's 22,000 Confederate dead by colluding with the enemy as an anti-South "civil rights" figure. With the staging assistance of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, her

shameless exploitation of the families of the nine victims gunned down by a deranged lone-wolf shooter have branded her as a "national" Republican figure.

Yet the Republican masquerade continues. I knew Carly Fiorina personally when she was a contract officer for AT&T. She was then a liberal, pro-abortion Democrat. Few, if any, of the Republicans are really what they seem. They, together with the Democrats, will continue to betray the trust and traditional values of South Carolinians. As the scripture admonishes us, put not your faith in princes.

RICHARD T. HINES
Mayesville