

Title: **Business as usual**
 Author:
 Size: 12.4 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



Business as usual

A while back I wrote to then-director of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Catherine Templeton, calling to her attention that there are hundreds of families living within yards of the proposed cruise terminal site. I asked that her agency support shoreside power for ships to protect citizens whose health will be adversely affected by dangerous ships' emissions discharged in such immediate proximity.

Those affected include senior citizens, as well as hundreds of children using the park for sporting events. Templeton's response was to completely ignore my letter and concerns, as did her boss, Gov. Nikki Haley. So much for DHEC's mission statement actually meaning anything ("We promote and protect the health of the public and environment").

The State Ports Authority has, from the beginning, stridently opposed the use of shoreside power. Interestingly, in a recent edition of The Post and Courier, we learn that Ms. Templeton has been hired by the SPA as a vice president at a salary of \$235,000 per year — \$73,000 more than she made leading DHEC. I find this very interesting in view of her complete disregard for the concerns I raised.

There's nothing new in the world of politics, and folks wonder why Republican presidential candidate "outsiders" are doing so well in the polls.

TOMMIE ROBERTSON
*Laurens Street
 Charleston*



Title: **Flooding hits East Coast; 1 killed in SC**
 Author: By TOM FOREMAN JR. The Associated Press
 Size: 57.19 square inch
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

Flooding hits East Coast; 1 killed in SC

By TOM FOREMAN JR.

The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG — Drenching rains along an already-saturated East Coast caused major flooding Thursday, drowning a woman whose car quickly filled up with water and prompting flash-flood warnings from historic Charleston to Washington, D.C.

An early morning downpour dumped 4 inches of rain on Spartanburg in a short time, causing floods that submerged several cars.

To the northeast, one person died and another was injured in a crash near Fayetteville, N.C., when a tree fell across an interstate and hit two cars.

Residents across the region were bracing for several more days of rain and a possible strike by Hurricane Joaquin — a major Category 4 storm set to wallop the Bahamas and move toward the U.S. Joaquin could intensify damage around the region, but more rain is forecast regardless of the storm's path.

In South Carolina, 56-year-old Sylvia Arteaga was driving home after a night shift at Bridgewater Candle Company on Thursday morning when authorities said the floodwaters trapped her underneath a railroad bridge at the edge of Spartanburg.

Below the bridge, the street narrows to one lane and cars have to alternate passing under it to let traffic flow through.

Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger said in a news release Thursday that Arteaga's car flooded "to capacity" inside.

Neighbor Hattie Palafox described Arteaga as a "very sweet, very kind, very loving" mother of 17- and 20-year-old daughters.

Palafox said she had discussed the weather forecast with Arteaga earlier this week, but she hadn't seemed concerned about the expected heavy rains.

"She was very, very soft-spoken. I couldn't say enough about her," Palafox said after placing a bouquet of flowers at Arteaga's home, not far from where she died.

Palafox said she made it a point to keep up with Arteaga and her two daughters after her husband died of a heart attack two years ago.

The house is located on a narrow, quiet street not far from a highway and bordered on one side by a mobile home park.

Relatives of Arteaga declined to comment.

Elsewhere in Spartanburg County, authorities said a man was rescued Thursday morning after his vehicle was swept off the road where a culvert had washed out.

The man managed to cling to a tree and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Authorities around the region have warned of saturat-

ed soil giving way to falling trees, which appears to have played a role in the death near Fayetteville.

In the historic city of Charleston, National Weather Service urged motorists to avoid driving in downtown Charleston unless absolutely necessary.

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The Weather Service said that streets were expected to flood and with high tides, the water would be slow in receding from roadways.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency Thursday night, allowing government agencies to immediately start making preparations.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Lt. Jeff Gordon said the fatal crash happened on Interstate 95 about 1:30 p.m. when a tree fell across the road, hitting two vehicles.

Gordon says the passenger in one of the vehicles died, and the driver was taken to the hospital. There was no immediate word on the survivor's condition, and the driver of the second vehicle was not hurt.

Gordon said the area has had a lot of rain in the past several days. The National Weather Service reported

light rain and winds of about 10 mph around the time of the wreck.

Governors up and down the coast warned residents to prepare for more heavy rains.

In addition to South Carolina, states of emergency were declared in Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina and Virginia.

The National Weather Service issued flash-flood watches for Washington, D.C., northern Virginia, southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore from this morning through late Saturday.

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ZACH FRAILEY • Daily Free Press via AP
Garrett Jones packs life vests into a container aboard the North Lenoir Volunteer Fire Department's swift water rescue boat on Thursday in Kinston, N.C. The boat, equipped with sonar and other life saving equipment, will be ready to deploy in the event of flooding.



Title: **Board postpones vote on Planned Parenthood review**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 33.17 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688

Board postpones vote on Planned Parenthood review

BY SEANNA ADCOX
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA

South Carolina's Legislative Audit Council postponed voting Thursday on whether to launch another state investigation into Planned Parenthood.

Members of the agency's governing board expressed concern about duplicating other investigations. But they said they're still inclined to approve audit requests signed by dozens of House and Senate Republicans.

The board plans to vote at its next, not-yet-scheduled meeting. Meanwhile, staff will consult with other agencies on work done since the council received legislators' requests two months ago.

Rep. Garry Smith, who wrote one of the letters, said he still wants the Legislature's investigative

agency to do a separate review to verify what's being reported. His letter, signed by 26 representatives, was the first received by the council in late July.

The investigations follow the release of secretly-taped videos showing Planned Parenthood officials in other states discussing the collection of fetal organs for research.

Thursday was the board's first meeting since receiving legislators' letters.

In August, Gov. Nikki Haley asked South Carolina's public health agency to investigate the state's abortion clinics, starting with Planned Parenthood. Attorney General Alan Wilson then announced he's looking into Medicaid payments for abortion. And the House Oversight Committee pursued its own investigation of any tax-

payer funding tied to abortions.

Planned Parenthood officials have repeatedly said the organization has done nothing illegal, and that none of its clinics in the South Atlantic region — which includes the Carolinas, West Virginia and much of Virginia — participates in fetal tissue collection.

"We've been told it's not happening here, but I'd rather inspect than expect," Smith said.

A Planned Parenthood spokeswoman said Wednesday the multiple investigations are part of a political witch hunt.

Her comments came after the director of the state's Medicaid agency testified at the House Oversight Committee's first hearing on the issue. Director Christian Soura told legislators Medicaid paid for 222 abortions statewide over the last five

fiscal years, at a cost of \$437,361, but none of those were provided by Planned Parenthood.

The law allows Medicaid to pay for abortions in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is in danger.

The investigation prompted by Haley's Aug. 18 request resulted in the Department of Health and Environmental Control suspending the licenses of two of the state's three abortion clinics earlier this month. Both turned in correction plans and paid their fines by Monday's deadline. While the Greenville clinic has been cleared, Planned Parenthood's suspension was put on hold after the organization disputed four of the cited violations and sought a review.

Of the three clinics in South Carolina that provide abortions, Planned Parenthood operates only the one in Columbia. It's also the only one enrolled as a Medicaid provider.

Wilson has given no update on either his office's review of the Medicaid payments or the DHEC findings.



Title: **Floodwatch issued as storm nears**
 Author: BY ANDREW DYS AND TEDDY KULMALA adys@heraldonline.com
 Size: 46.03 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688

WEATHER

Flood watch issued as storm nears

Rainfall predictions unclear but forecasts show York, Chester, Lancaster counties could see anywhere from 4 to 8 inches

State transportation officials urge drivers to avoid flooded roads

BY ANDREW DYS AND TEDDY KULMALA

adys@heraldonline.com

ROCK HILL

Emergency personnel are preparing for what one official said could be a “biblical” rainfall of up to 8 inches in York, Chester and Lancaster counties from late Friday through the weekend as Hurricane Joaquin barrels up the East Coast.

The National Hurricane Center updated Joaquin on Thursday afternoon to an “extremely dangerous” Category 4 storm. The storm path remains uncertain, and the rain is not all from the hurricane. Chris Horne, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greenville, said 8 to 10 inches of rain is possible.

The weather service also said “significant flash flooding is possible” in a flood watch that runs through Sunday night.

Thursday evening, Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency in advance of the storm.

FROM PAGE 1A

WEATHER

The storms could bring far less rain, but emergency officials are preparing to handle a storm that could affect travel, power, driving and public safety. The American Red Cross is ready to open emergency shelters if needed.

Ten inches or more of rain could bring a “major emergency,” said Chuck Haynes, emergency management director for York County, mainly because

stormwater runoff systems are not built to handle so much rain in a short period of time. Officials from York County and the county’s municipalities and rescue squads held two conference calls Thursday to coordinate

potential response, and swiftwater rescue equipment was readied by rescue squads and fire departments, Haynes said.

The worst problems

from rain and flooding usually involve drivers who become trapped, Haynes said, so emergency officials are urging extreme caution through Sunday. S.C. Department of Transportation officials have already issued a warning about driving on flooded roads.

The rain and flooding could be so severe that Chester County has asked rescue squads to ready

boats and lifesaving equipment in case of crisis. Rain the past week has almost saturated the ground and flood-prone areas will not be able to handle 8 inches of rain, said Ed Darby, senior planner for Chester County’s emergency management office.

“We can handle 3 inches, but 8 inches is biblical,” Darby said. “We aren’t sure what we will get but we have to plan for the worst.”

SEE WEATHER, 6A

Cancellations

Lancaster Community yard sale scheduled for Saturday.

Kings Mountain Daughters of the American Revolution yard sale, scheduled Saturday, is rescheduled for Oct. 10.

Email cancellations to assignmentdesk@heraldonline.com

Contact us

If you see any major flooding, trees down or other weather-related problems in your neighborhood, please email our newsroom at assignmentdesk@heraldonline.com or call 803-329-4008.

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 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688

We are expecting very heavy rain, and if we get it we will have flooding.”

The area saw such heavy rainfall from Hurricane Hugo in 1989, during which heavy rain and high winds downed power lines and trees and cut off roads and power to tens of thousands of people.

Tega Cay workers

cleaned storm drains for that lakeside city which has had problems with flooding for years during heavy rains.

Lancaster County administrators on Thursday met with the heads of law enforcement, fire and EMS departments to coordinate efforts in advance of the storm.

The storm comes after a week of intermittent rain that has saturated the ground that was dry from months of drought. Lake Wylie just a week to 10 days ago was 6 feet below normal levels. Officials at Duke Energy, which regulates the Catawba River flow at the dam in Fort Mill, said the company

does not expect a “high-water event” for lakeside residents and has not planned to open dam gates to release water downstream, said Duke spokesperson Lisa Parrish.

Andrew Dys:
803-329-4065,
Teddy Kulmala:
803-329-4082

Title: **Flooding hits East Coast; 1 killed in SC**
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 Size: 57.19 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



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ZACH FRAILEY • Daily Free Press via AP

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Title: **Board could approve a fourth review of Planned Parenthood**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 25.57 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



JOHN SLEEZER/THE KANSAS CITY STAR VIA AP

People participate in a rally to show support for Planned Parenthood, organized by MoveOn and called "Pink Out Kansas City," are seen at the Country Club Plaza on Tuesday in Kansas City, Missouri.

Board could approve a fourth review of Planned Parenthood

BY SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's Legislative Audit Council could launch the state's fourth investigation into Planned Parenthood in six weeks.

The governing board of the Legislature's investigative agency is set to decide Thursday whether to approve audit requests submitted two months ago by House and Senate Republicans. It's the board's first meeting since receiving the letters signed by dozens of legislators. The public part of the meeting had yet to start as of late Thursday afternoon.

Legislators' requests were submitted amid public outcry over secretly-taped videos showing Planned Parenthood officials in other states discussing the collection of fetal organs for research.

Weeks later, Gov. Nikki Haley asked South Carolina's public health agency to investigate the state's abortion clinics, starting with Planned Parenthood. Attorney General Alan Wilson then announced he's looking into Medicaid payments for abortion. And the House Oversight Committee pursued its own investigation of any taxpayer funding tied to abortions.

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A Planned Parenthood spokeswoman said Wednesday the multiple investigations are part of a national political witch hunt on the organization.



Title: **Aiken braces for rain as Charleston floods**
 Author: BY DERREK ASBERRY dasberry@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 107.72 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635

Aiken braces for rain as Charleston floods

Gov. Haley declares state of emergency

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency for the state of South Carolina on Thursday evening due to potentially historical flooding expected to sweep through Aiken County, the CSRA and the rest of the state over the weekend. Aiken will be under a flash flood watch beginning Friday but is not expected to get hit by Hur-

ricane Joaquin, an "extremely dangerous" storm that has already claimed one life.

Aiken County is expected to see 4 to 6 inches between Friday at 8 a.m. and Monday at 8 a.m. due to a low pressure storm system separate from Hurricane Joaquin. The upper parts of the CSRA, which include Clarks Hill and Greenwood, are expected to see up to 8 inches.

Aiken joins 17 other counties in South Carolina and several counties in Georgia that are also under the watch, which has been issued by the National Weather Service in Columbia.

"There's still a lot of uncertainty, but it doesn't look like (Hurricane Joaquin) is supposed to hit South Carolina," said Doug Anderson, a meteorological technician.

Please see **JOAQUIN**, Page 10A

INSIDE
 A list of event cancellations, **10A**

JOAQUIN

CONTINUED from 1A

"It just looks like the state will get heavy shower after heavy shower, so that's why we're expecting a possible flooding situation."

In response to the expected rainfall, the Langley Dam water levels are being reduced.

Aiken County officials began planning for the inclement weather earlier this week.

County EMS Director Tommy Thompson said officials are monitoring Langley Dam, and SCE&G is monitoring Misty Lake off Ascauga Lake Road.

With Langley Dam, Thompson said the County has all eight of its siphons sucking water out of the pond to compensate for the expected rainfall. The dam has

been on Operational Control Level 4 since November 2014 when officials first confirmed a leak.

"Level 4 just means we're monitoring the area and checking for irregularities," Thompson said.

In addition to the dam, Thompson said the County is readying extra ambulances and other emergency equipment.

The City of Aiken is also preparing for flooding by making sure fuel tanks are fully stocked so that generators will stay running in an emergency.

George Grinton, the director of engineering and utilities, added that City workers will be riding around and looking at storm drains.

"There's not much we can do if

they get backed up but we can try to keep debris out of them and keep them flowing as smoothly as possible," Grinton said.

The S.C. Department of Transportation divisions from each

county spent Thursday preparing debris-clearing equipment, including heavy equipment, chainsaws, and other items used to remove tree limbs and debris from roadways and bridges. Employees also readied equipment such as signs and barricades to be put in place on roads and bridges that could become washed out, according to a press release.

Temperatures through the weekend won't get higher than 75 degrees, but there's an 80 percent chance of rain for Aiken

on Friday, including a 50 percent chance Friday night around the time high school football teams will be taking the field.

On Saturday, Aiken will see a 100 percent chance of rain, and on Sunday a 90 percent chance. Monday's projection is expected to drop down to 70 percent.

If the weather gets more severe, the National Weather Service will follow up with a flood warning targeting the specific counties and communities that storms are expected to hit the hardest.

The heaviest rains should be over by Sunday, Anderson said. By Monday, drier air should be coming back into the area.

Tuesday's forecast shows sunny weather with a high of 77 de-

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grees and a zero percent chance of rain.

Hurricane Joaquin is a Category 4 storm that was tracking west into parts of the Bahamas on Thursday with winds of 140 mph. In the United States, areas

from North Carolina to New York are at risk of landfall.

Haley joined the governors of North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey in declaring a state of emergency for their respective states.

Weekend events canceled, changed for rain threat

Several weekend events in Aiken County have been canceled or postponed due to expected heavy rain:

SATURDAY

- The 27th Annual Sassafras Festival will be postponed until next weekend.
- The Aiken Walk to End Al-

zheimer's will take place inside the H. Odell Weeks Activities Center on Saturday. If severe storms and flooding occur, they ask that everyone stay home and stay safe.

- The Aiken Driving Club's Equine Flea Market scheduled for Saturday has been canceled. The event was to be at the

Gaston Livery Stable. For more information, call 914-204-4189 or email ponies3@comporium.net.

SUNDAY

- The Aiken Symphony Orchestra performance during the Aiken Symphony Guild's Horses and Harmony event at 3 p.m. has been canceled. The event was to be held at Wind-

swept Farm, 114 Larkspur Road, Wagener. Tickets will be refunded.

For more information, call president Em Ligon at 803-648-5876 or visit www.aikensymphonyguild.org.



PHOTO BY LEROY BURNELL, THE POST AND COURIER

A bike rider makes her way through Huger and King Streets in Charleston. Heavy rains brought flooding to the upper peninsula Thursday.



PHOTO BY LEROY BURNELL, THE POST AND COURIER

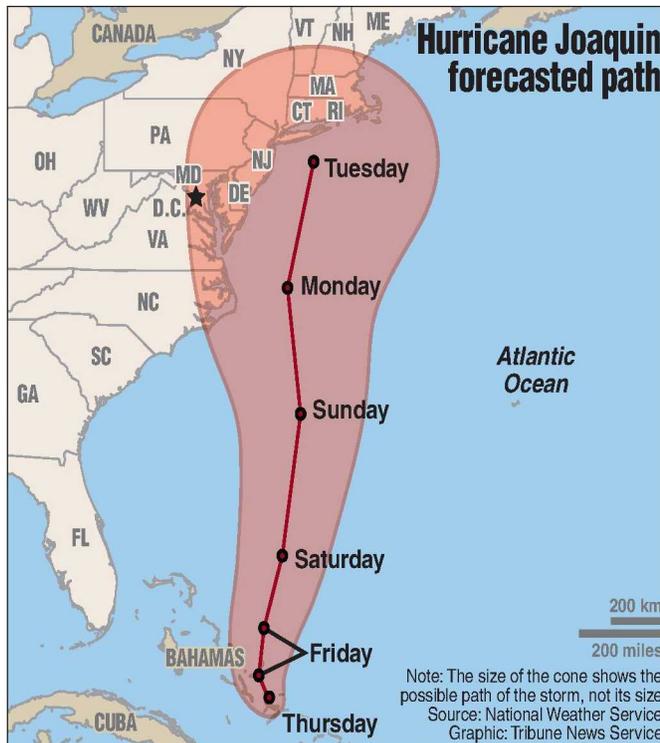
A Charleston firefighter helps push a motorist's car off King Street. Gov. Haley declared a state of emergency Thursday.

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PHOTO BY PAUL ZOELLER, THE POST AND COURIER

Heavy rains and high tides caused major traffic delays as streets flooded downtown Charleston on Thursday.



Title: **Work to fix rural schools**
 Author: THE POST AND COURIER Charleston
 Size: 29.14 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Work to fix rural schools

THE POST AND COURIER

Charleston

The General Assembly seems to have two choices: It can complain about an order of the S.C. Supreme Court, or it can try to improve the inadequate schools in rural South Carolina.

Too bad the Legislature's leadership has opted to complain, as yet another class of rural students spends the year in schools that are inadequate in the eyes of the court – and people throughout the state.

Oddly, S.C. Sen. President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, did not take advantage of legal grievance procedures in an effort to amend or modify the order.

Of course, ignoring the court is easier. After all, the Legislature has neglected the rural schools problem for decades.

South Carolina's high court took an inordinately long time – 22 years – to find that the state has failed in its duty to provide a “minimally adequate” education to children in the its poorest school districts.

In November of 2014, the justices instructed the Legislature to work with the school

districts that had sued the state to develop a plan in a reasonable amount of time to address the inadequacies.

The court later said a panel of experts should be established by Oct. 15 of this year to review the plan and report on it to the court. The plan itself is due on Feb. 1, 2016 – a full 14 months from the finding.

Still, Lucas called the deadlines “arbitrary” and “unreasonable.”

He even told Carl Epps, the lawyer representing the plaintiffs and certainly someone whose perspective and knowledge would be helpful to the committee, that he must withdraw the request for a deadline or forfeit his seat on the task force.

Given the foot-dragging that lawmakers have exhibited so far, it's a good guess that without deadlines they would have continued to put off finding a comprehensive solution to the rural schools problem.

It really shouldn't have taken a lawsuit to spark legislators' concerns about failing schools in the poorest parts of the state. Without adequate edu-

cations, the residents of those

counties face tough odds for getting good jobs. And without adequately trained workers, those counties face tough odds for attracting business and industry and the jobs they provide.

This governor and the Legislature have stressed “jobs, jobs, jobs” – and this is no way to bring them to our state.

Gov. Nikki Haley has shown an interest in helping those poor, rural districts by offering incentives for teachers who take jobs in them, expanding the reading coach program and providing modern technology.

But there is much more to do, and the General Assembly must be part of that overdue process.

If voters question their elected representatives' commitment to public education, the legislative leadership's response in this Supreme Court case offers disturbing answers.

It's time for lawmakers to stop looking for excuses and start looking for solutions to the long-standing – and devastating – problem of inadequate rural schools.



Title: **County begins assessing damage**
 Author: By Max Hrenda mhrenda@southstrandnews.com
 Size: 57.19 square inch
 Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446

County begins assessing damage

By MAX HRENDA

mhrenda@southstrandnews.com

Although the possibility of additional flooding lingers, Georgetown County staffers have begun to assess the damage in the wake of the historic rain levels and flooding that began on Friday, Oct. 2.

The National Weather Service estimates that, between midnight on Friday, Oct. 2, and 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 5, an average of 16.21 inches of

rainfall fell across Georgetown County.

In addition to Georgetown County, the state, as a whole, was affected by what Gov. Nikki Haley referred to as a "1,000-year level of rain" in an interview with CNN. Associated Press reports indicated 14 South Carolinians died during the event — eight from drowning and six from traffic accidents — while more

than 800 people were staying in emergency shelters.

No deaths were reported in Georgetown County, though Public Information Officer Jackie Broach said the county's emergency response agencies handled 1,204 distress calls between midnight on Oct. 2 and 9 a.m. Oct. 6. Additionally, Broach said that, at its peak, 738 homes were

without power as a result of the flooding.

The city of Georgetown was the hardest hit area of the county, Broach said, after accumulating about 21.75 inches

See COUNTY, Page 2A

SOUTH STRAND NEWS

To see more photos, go to southstrandnews.com/photos

County assessing damage

FROM PAGE 1A

of rainfall through the event, much of which fell on Sunday, Oct. 4. Georgetown Police Chief Paul Gardner said his department began the event helping stranded motorists before later closing the city to outside traffic Sunday afternoon.

"It really all started out with some stranded vehicles and people not being able to navigate the city," Gardner said. "What happens then is you start to get a free-form traffic flow of people getting in territory they're not familiar with, and they get in deeper water. ... We (the city and county) decided we needed to shut the city down coming in, because we needed to stop more problems from happening, if we could."

In addition to Georgetown, the town of Andrews also experienced significant issues

related to the flooding. Mayor Rodney Giles told Times staff more than 30 families had been evacuated from their homes during the event, which, he said, was the worst flooding he had ever seen.

"I've lived in Andrews my entire life and I have never seen devastation like this storm delivered," Giles said. "The water rose very quickly and in so many places all at one time."

Pawleys Island accumulated an average of 13.95 inches of rainfall during the event. In addition to problems with roadways, stranded motorists and evacuations, Mayor Bill Otis Jr. told Times staff he watched as rain water eroded beach dunes near his home. "This is not going to be a short-term fix, not just in Pawleys Island," Otis said.

Town Administrator Ryan Fabbri added beach access ramps would have to be re-

configured because the sand that served as their foundations had washed into the sea.

NWS also estimated the Georgetown County side of Murrells Inlet experienced an average of 15.24 inches of rainfall.

Though many areas of the county sustained damage, Broach said no repair estimates had been made as of Tuesday afternoon. "It is too early to have any type of estimate on damages," Broach said. "Damage assessment just began (Monday) morning and we won't be able to complete it until flooding is over."

Included in that assessment was an evaluation of how many county roads were in need of repair following the event. As of Tuesday afternoon, Broach said 89 county roads sustained damages and needed repair.

While the county is waiting on a damage assessment

total, a declaration from President Barack Obama has allowed residents an opportunity to seek compensation or assistance for their own damages. Obama issued a Major Disaster Declaration for all of South Carolina on Oct. 5, which provided the public with an opportunity to apply for grants through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Those grants, which are limited to \$33,000 per household, can be applied toward needs as they pertain to housing, medical and dental expenses, funeral and burial costs, vehicle repair, or the repair, cleaning or replacement of other personal items. Applications can be submitted online at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362.

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Size: 57.19 square inch
Georgetown, SC Circulation: 8446

may still be at risk for additional flooding. In a press conference held Tuesday afternoon, Haley said flood waters from the Midlands had begun moving into the Lowcountry, and added the state was “watching over” Georgetown, Jamestown, Effingham, Orangeburg and Williamsburg as those waters continued to move toward the coast. While Broach said the county — along with hydrologists and NWS — would monitor receding flood waters and any potential effects on local rivers and streams, she added that any resident who feels unsafe should leave their home. “Anyone who feels unsafe where they are can evacuate voluntarily,” Broach said. “If you feel your safety is threatened, don’t wait to be told to leave.” The emergency shelters in Georgetown — the Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church St. — and Andrews — 13072 County Line Road — will remain open. For more information, call the county’s Emergency Operations Center at 843-545-3273. *(South Strand News writers Chris Sokolowski and Eileen Keithly and the Associated Press contributed to this report.)*

Title: **To our emergency responders, we say, 'Hip! Hip! Hooray!'**
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To our emergency responders, we say, 'Hip! Hip! Hooray!'

Everytime the rain came over these past few days, it seemed as if an A.A. Milne tale was coming to life.

Do you remember how it went? *"It rained and it rained and it rained. Piglet told himself that never in all his life ... had he seen so much rain. Days and days and days. ... It went on raining, and every day the water got a little higher."*

But it wasn't a story. It was all too real.

Days upon days of intermittent – and, at times, torrential – rains fell not only on the South Strand but all over South Carolina. Gov. Nikki Haley has referred to it as a 1,000-year flood. If that conjures up images of Biblical proportions, it certainly seemed that way at times.

And throughout all this, there were emergency responders out keeping the rest of us safe here in Georgetown County. There were doctors and nurses and support staff

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on duty at Georgetown County's two hospitals to take care of the sick and the injured. And of course, there were scores of utility workers keeping power on and restoring power, when needed.

To put it all into perspective, look at the number of calls made by Georgetown County emergency services from Friday to Tuesday: Georgetown County Fire/EMS, 158; Midway Fire Rescue, 56; Georgetown City Fire Department, 161; Andrews Fire Department, 25; Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Department, 73; Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, 395; Georgetown City Police, 257; Pawleys Island Police, 15; and Andrews Police, 64.

Those are staggering numbers, and to say citizens are grateful would be a woeful understatement. We've all heard stories of rescues from flooded homes. We've heard about

the volunteers who helped man shelters. We've heard stories of neighbors pitching in to clean up homes and businesses trashed by Mother Nature's unforgiving onslaught. We've heard stories of heroes and prayers answered.

Fourteen people died in South Carolina during these storms, but Georgetown County recorded no deaths. We can contribute that to luck or God's good grace or to the valiant effort of our emergency service crews – or a combination of all the above.

The rain clouds are slowly disappearing, and the sun will shine again. Yet there is still work to be done, lives to rebuild. It will take our whole community to come together.

And when we talk about our emergency responders, let's borrow one more time from A.A. Milne: *"For truly they're the heroes of the day, so we say Hip! Hip! Hooray! ... we salute you ... for deeds of bravery and generosity. Hip! Hip! Hooray!"*