

Title: **Officials rush to preserve drinking water**
 Author: By ADAM BEAM and SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
 Size: 66.34 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



S.C. FLOODING AFTERMATH

Officials rush to preserve drinking water

Canal that serves as a main source in Columbia collapses in 2 places

By ADAM BEAM
 and SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
 The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's capital city had too much water. Now, officials are racing to make sure it has enough.

A canal that serves as the main source of drinking water for about half of the Columbia water system's 375,000 customers collapsed in two places following historic rainfall and flooding over the weekend, sending contractors scrambling to build a rock dam to plug the holes while National Guard helicopters dropped giant sandbags in the rushing water.

Water from the canal normally flows directly into the reservoir at the city's water treatment plant. But with the water level falling because of the levee breach, workers were forced to place orange pumps on the banks of the canal to pump water directly into the reservoir. And if that wasn't enough, the city had plans to pump water directly from the nearby Broad River.

Officials sought to beat back rampant rumors of an imminent water shortage.

"The system is running, and it is running strong," Columbia Mayor

Steve Benjamin told reporters.

Meanwhile, Gov. Nikki Haley issued a terse warning to thousands of people in low-lying areas near

**Please see WATER on 9A
 MORE ON FLOODING**

- Road closures from flooding have out-of-towners concerned about getting to area festival. **3A**
- For how and where to donate, go to **9A**.
- To keep up with the forecast, go to our website at bit.ly/bc-weather.

WATER

Continued from 1A

the coast to "strongly consider evacuating" before a mass of water rumbling toward the ocean floods some places for up to two more weeks. Any mandatory evacuations would be ordered by local officials.

She asked people watching on television to call relatives who may have a false sense of security after surviving hurricanes, calling the second round of expected flooding "a different kind of bad." She said the standing water could last up to 12 days.

"We have thousands of people that won't move. And we need to get them to move," she said. "They don't need to be sitting in flooded areas for 12 days."

In Georgetown County near the swollen Black River, National Guardsmen

made multiple runs in a military truck to pick up people whose homes had been cut off by submerged roads, sometimes driving through water several feet deep. Among its passengers were a woman and her three children, who were dropped off at a shelter in Georgetown.

Back in Columbia, city officials urged residents to conserve water. And when they do use it, they have to boil it at least one minute. Restaurants are offering bottled water and serving meals on paper plates to avoid washing dishes. And many people often make daily trips to their local grocery stores to stock up on water.

"It's easy to conserve because you can't really use (the water)," said 26-year-

old Laura Reinman, who was pushing a shopping cart with two gallon jugs of water at a Publix grocery store just across the street from the canal.

The city is like hundreds of others along the East Coast and in the Midwest that have been told to fix their aging infrastructure.

Columbia is under orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fix its sewage treatment plant and sewer pipes to reduce overflows that can contaminate waterways. Those orders include spending \$1 million on projects to reduce flooding along Gills Creek, one of the areas devastated by record rainfall and flooding.

And just last month, the state Supreme Court revived

a lawsuit challenging how the city has paid for maintenance to its water and sewer systems, saying "simply put, the statutes do not allow these revenues to be treated as a slush fund."

Columbia separates its property tax collections, which are only imposed on city residents, from its water fees, which are paid by its customers who live throughout the region. In 1993, the city passed a resolution allowing it to pull money from the water fund to help balance the city's budget. According to the lawsuit, in the past three years, \$12 million has been transferred from utility customers to pay for non-utility projects, such as economic development and efforts to lure businesses to the city.

Title: **Officials rush to preserve drinking water**
Author: By ADAM BEAM and SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
Size: 66.34 square inch
Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



JOHN BAZEMORE • The Associated Press

Workers use a crane to repair a break in a canal on Thursday in Columbia. The canal that serves as the main source of drinking water for about half of the Columbia water system's 375,000 customers has collapsed in two places.

Title: **WEDNESDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS**

Author:

Size: 21.7 square inch

Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



WEDNESDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS

MORE FLOODING?

Along the coast, residents prepared for a second round of flooding as rivers swollen from days of devastating rains make their way toward the Atlantic.

DEATH TOLL RISES

The death toll in North Carolina and South Carolina rose to 19 after search teams found the bodies of two people who died after they drove around a barricade and into standing water in South Carolina.

GRAHAM ON COSTS

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham warned the disaster could "break the bank" of federal emergency funds, possibly topping more than \$1 billion.

HALEY ON THE COAST

Gov. Nikki Haley took an aerial tour of damaged areas Tuesday and visited the coast Wednesday.

DAM FAILURES

Haley says 62 dams across the state are being monitored and 13 had already failed.

WILDLIFE RESCUES

Haley says state wildlife officials have made at least 600 rescues.

WITHOUT POWER

Electricity had returned to most homes and businesses and about 10,000 people were without water, down from a peak of 40,000.

ROADS, BRIDGES

Some 200 engineers were inspecting more than 400 roads and bridges that remained closed.

INTERSTATE 95

Long-distance traffic on about 60 miles of I-95 in the 74-mile stretch between Interstates 20 and 26 was being detoured onto those interstates for a 168-mile trek.

GAME MOVED

The University of South Carolina announced it was moving Saturday's football game against No. 7 LSU to Baton Rouge, La.

Source: The Associated Press

Title: **Death with dignity law needed in SC**

Author:

Size: 10.85 square inch

Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Death with dignity law needed in SC

Senior citizens have for a long time been talking about "Death with Dignity" laws enacted in five states; California this week was the latest. At least 23 other state legislatures have proposed bills to legalize the practice. A good article on this matter appears in the Sept. 28 issue of Time magazine.

I strongly request your readers ask Gov. Nikki Haley to advise our legislature for an end-of-life option permitting terminally ill patients to control the timing of their death rather than prolong painful life by machines, drugs and morphine fogs.

It is wrong that a fatally ill person could exhaust assets saved during a lifetime for ultimately unsuccessful medical treatments. We all know that many people die badly. It is cruel to demand that one await death in a medically induced coma after losing all faculties.

It is also cruel to require a person with only six months to live to leave their South Carolina family and friends to drive thousands of miles to Oregon, Vermont, Washington or Montana to legally pass away on his/her own terms.

Dying is sacred, and death should be peaceful.

**Joe Nelson
Bluffton**

Title: **SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP**
 Author: By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO The Associated Press
 Size: 154.22 square inch
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP

Levels may still rise as mass
of water rushes toward sea

By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The family of Miss South Carolina 1954 found her flood-soaked pageant scrapbook on a dining room floor littered with dead fish on Tuesday, as the first sunny day in nearly two weeks provided a chance to clean up from historic floods.

"I would hate for her to see it like this. She would be crushed," said Polly Sim, who moved her 80-year-old mother into a nursing home just before the rainstorm turned much of the state into a disaster area.

Owners of inundated homes were keeping close watch on swollen waterways as they pried open swollen doors and tore out soaked carpets. So far, at least 17 people have died in the floods in the Carolinas, some of them drowning after trying to drive through high water.

INSIDE

Want to help?
See **9A**

Please see **FLOOD** on **9A**

FLOOD

Continued from **1A**

Sim's mother, known as Polly Rankin Suber when she competed in the Miss America contest, had lived since 1972 in the unit, where more than 3 feet of muddy water toppled her washing machine and turned the wallboard to mush.

"There's no way it will be what it was," said Sim. "My mom was so eccentric, had her own funky style of deco-

rating, there's no way anyone could duplicate that. Never."

Tuesday was the first dry day since Sept. 24 in South Carolina's state capital, where a midnight-to-6 a.m. curfew was in effect. But officials warned that new evacuations could come as the huge mass of water flows toward the sea, threatening dams and displacing resi-

dents along the way.

Of particular concern was the Lowcountry, where the Santee, Edisto and other rivers make their way to the sea. Gov. Nikki Haley warned that several rivers were rising and had yet to reach their peaks.

"God smiled on South Carolina because the sun is out. That is a good sign, but ... we still have to be cautious,"

Haley said Tuesday after taking an aerial tour. "What I saw was disturbing."

"We are going to be extremely careful. We are watching this minute by minute," she said.

Georgetown, one of America's oldest cities, sits on the coast at the confluence of four rivers. The historic downtown flooded over the weekend, and its ordeal

Title: **SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP**

Author: By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO The Associated Press

Size: 154.22 square inch

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

wasn't over yet.

"It was coming in through the kitchen wall, through the bathroom walls, through the bedroom walls, through the living room walls. It was up over the sandbags that we put over the door. And, it just kept rising," Tom Doran said, bracing himself for the next wave. "If I see a hoard of locusts, then I'm taking off."

In Effingham, east of Columbia, the Lynches River was at nearly 20 feet on Tuesday — five feet above flood stage. Kip Jones paddled a kayak to check on a home he rents out there and discovered that the family lost pretty much everything they had, with almost 8 feet of standing water in the bedrooms.

"Their stuff is floating all in the house," Jones said. "Once the water comes in the house you get bacteria and you get mold."

In downtown Columbia, about 200 workers rushed to fix a breach in a canal that is threatening the city's water supply to its 375,000 custom-

ers. The city's main intake valve is in the canal, and the water level was steadily dropping, Columbia Utilities Director Joey Jaco said.

Crews planned to work into this morning, sinking a barge and piling bags of rocks and sand on top to try and block the hole in the canal, Jaco said.

If the water gets below the intake valve, there is less than a day's supply in a reservoir.

"We need to make sure we get this dam constructed very soon to make sure we stay above a minimal level," Jaco said.

Haley said it was too soon to estimate the damage, which could be "any amount of dollars." The Republican governor quickly got a federal disaster declaration from President Barack Obama, freeing up money and resources. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican presidential candidate, promised not "to ask for a penny more than we need" and criticized other lawmakers for seeking

financing for unrelated projects in disaster bills.

Water distribution was a challenge. In the region around Columbia, as many as 40,000 homes lacked drinking water, and Mayor Steve Benjamin said 375,000 water customers will likely have to boil their water before drinking or cooking for "quite some time."

The power grid was returning to normal after nearly 30,000 customers lost electricity. Roads and bridges were taking longer to restore: Some 200 engineers were inspecting about 470 spots that remained closed Tuesday, including a 75-mile stretch of Interstate 95.

Some drivers had a hard time accepting the long detours around standing water. In Turbeville, Police Lt. Philip Wilkes stood at a traffic stop, telling motorists where they could go to avoid flooded roads and dangerous bridges.

"Some people take it pretty good," Wilkes said. "Then you've got some of them, they

just won't take no for an answer.

We can't part the waters."

South Carolina was soaked by what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropical moisture spun off by Hurricane Joaquin, which mostly missed the East Coast.

Authorities have made hundreds of water rescues since then, lifting people and animals to safety. About 800 people were in two-dozen shelters, but the governor expects that number to rise.

In Columbia, Ray Stilwell told a harrowing story of escaping his home along Gills Creek, where nearly 17 inches fell in as many hours Sunday.

He was upstairs when his backdoor failed and water rushed in, and was nearly swept away as he tried to make it outside to higher ground. He survived by hanging on to a neighbor's gate, and then climbing atop a patio table.

Title: **SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP**
Author: By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO The Associated Press
Size: 154.22 square inch
Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



The Associated Press

This aerial photo shows flooding around homes in the Carolina Forest community in Horry County between Conway and Myrtle Beach.

Title: **SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP**
 Author: By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO The Associated Press
 Size: 151.12 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP

Levels may still rise as mass
of water rushes toward sea

By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The family of Miss South Carolina 1954 found her flood-soaked pageant scrapbook on a dining room floor littered with dead fish on Tuesday, as the first sunny day in nearly two weeks provided a chance to clean up from historic floods.

"I would hate for her to see it like this. She would be crushed," said Polly Sim, who moved her 80-year-old mother into a nursing home just before the rainstorm turned much of the state into a di-

saster area.

Owners of inundated homes were keeping close watch on swollen waterways as they pried open swollen doors and tore out soaked carpets. So far, at least 17 people have died in the floods in the Carolinas, some of them drowning after trying to drive through high water.

Please see **FLOOD** on 9A

INSIDE

Want to help?
See **9A**

FLOOD

Continued from 1A

Sim's mother, known as Polly Rankin Suber when she competed in the Miss America contest, had lived since 1972 in the unit, where more than 3 feet of muddy water toppled her washing machine and turned the wallboard to mush.

"There's no way it will be what it was," said Sim. "My mom was so eccentric, had her own funky style of decorating, there's no way anyone could duplicate that. Never."

Tuesday was the first dry day since Sept. 24 in South Carolina's state capital, where a midnight-to-6 a.m. curfew was in effect. But

officials warned that new evacuations could come as the huge mass of water flows toward the sea, threatening dams and displacing residents along the way.

Of particular concern was the Lowcountry, where the Santee, Edisto and other rivers make their way to the sea. Gov. Nikki Haley warned that several rivers were rising and had yet to reach their peaks.

"God smiled on South Carolina because the sun is out. That is a good sign, but... we still have to be cautious," Haley said Tuesday after taking an aerial tour. "What I saw was disturbing."

"We are going to be ex-

tremely careful. We are watching this minute by minute," she said.

Georgetown, one of America's oldest cities, sits on the coast at the confluence of four rivers. The historic downtown flooded over the weekend, and its ordeal wasn't over yet.

"It was coming in through the kitchen wall, through the bathroom walls, through the bedroom walls, through the living room walls. It was up over the sandbags that we

put over the door. And, it just kept rising," Tom Doran said, bracing himself for the next wave. "If I see a hoard of locusts, then I'm taking off."

In Effingham, east of Columbia, the Lynches River was at nearly 20 feet on Tuesday — five feet above flood stage. Kip Jones paddled a kayak to check on a home he rents out there and discovered that the family lost pretty much everything they had, with almost 8 feet of standing water in the bedrooms.

"Their stuff is floating all in the house," Jones said. "Once the water comes in the house you get bacteria and you get mold."

In downtown Columbia, about 200 workers rushed to fix a breach in a canal that is threatening the city's water supply to its 375,000 custom-

Title: **SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP**
 Author: By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO The Associated Press
 Size: 151.12 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269

ers. The city's main intake valve is in the canal, and the water level was steadily dropping, Columbia Utilities Director Joey Jaco said.

Crews planned to work into this morning, sinking a barge and piling bags of rocks and sand on top to try and block the hole in the canal, Jaco said.

If the water gets below the intake valve, there is less than a day's supply in a reservoir.

"We need to make sure we get this dam constructed very soon to make sure we stay above a minimal level," Jaco said.

Haley said it was too soon to estimate the damage, which could be "any amount of dollars." The Republican governor quickly got a fed-

eral disaster declaration from President Barack Obama, freeing up money and resources. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican presidential candidate, promised not "to ask for a penny more than we need" and criticized other lawmakers for seeking financing for unrelated projects in disaster bills.

Water distribution was a challenge. In the region around Columbia, as many as 40,000 homes lacked drinking water, and Mayor Steve Benjamin said 375,000 water customers will likely have to boil their water before drinking or cooking for "quite some time."

The power grid was returning to normal after nearly 30,000 customers lost electricity. Roads and bridge-

es were taking longer to restore: Some 200 engineers were inspecting about 470 spots that remained closed Tuesday, including a 75-mile stretch of Interstate 95.

Some drivers had a hard time accepting the long detours around standing water. In Turbeville, Police Lt. Philip Wilkes stood at a traffic stop, telling motorists where they could go to avoid flooded roads and dangerous bridges.

"Some people take it pretty good," Wilkes said. "Then you've got some of them, they just won't take no for an answer. We can't part the waters."

South Carolina was soaked by what experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called a "fire hose" of tropi-

cal moisture spun off by Hurricane Joaquin, which mostly missed the East Coast.

Authorities have made hundreds of water rescues since then, lifting people and animals to safety. About 800 people were in two-dozen shelters, but the governor expects that number to rise.

In Columbia, Ray Stilwell told a harrowing story of escaping his home along Gills Creek, where nearly 17 inches fell in as many hours Sunday.

He was upstairs when his backdoor failed and water rushed in, and was nearly swept away as he tried to make it outside to higher ground. He survived by hanging on to a neighbor's gate, and then climbing atop a patio table.

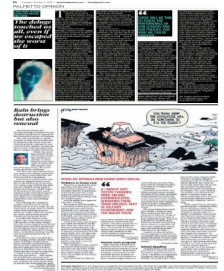
Title: **SOUTH CAROLINA CLEANING UP**
Author: By JAY REEVES and EMERY P. DALESIO The Associated Press
Size: 151.12 square inch
Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



This aerial photo shows flooding around homes in the Carolina Forest community in Horry County between Conway and Myrtle Beach.

The Associated Press

Title: **The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it**
 Author:
 Size: 61.53 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it

THE RAINWATER pooled on my front sidewalk Sunday morning, just as it does every time we get a heavy rain. Two miles away, it swallowed up entire cars, collapsed buildings, flooded businesses and took at least one life.

A friend had to escape through a window as the raging storm water overtook his SUV. I had to drive slowly when I ventured out of the house Sunday afternoon.

My water went out, which presents all sorts of problems that you never think of until it happens — but which is a minor inconvenience compared with what so many of my neighbors down the street, across the Midlands and throughout South Carolina are enduring. I wasn't flooded out of my home, wasn't trapped in surging water, didn't have to be rescued by our amazing first responders or forced to seek shelter with friends or strangers. As so many were.

This is the story that has reappeared across our state, as elevation and wind direction and even luck — did an earthen dam near your home or business breach, or remain intact? determined the degree of damage. The storm that swamped South Carolina over the weekend was so massive that each of us knows someone who is suf-

fering. The storm was so massive that all of us were touched in some way, even if just by the inconvenience of having to keep the kids home from school that are closed, or the prospect of

the state's dialogue being overtaken by its aftermath.

Most of us were spared the life-changing toll a storm of this magnitude can take. Is taking.

For this, I offer up my prayers of thanks. For those not so fortunate, I offer up my prayers of intercession.

As should we all.

And we all should offer up our assistance. We should check on our neighbors. We should reach out to those in need — even if we offer them nothing more than a friendly ear and opened arms. If we have time, we should volunteer to help the United Way or the Red Cross or other service organizations that are trying to help people survive from one day to the next and then start putting their lives back together. Money probably wouldn't hurt, if you want to send a check to the United Way or the Central Carolina Community Foundation. I'm sure Harvest Hope and the other food banks around the state would be happy to accept your monetary or food donations.

The worst may be over; it may not be. Flooding will continue as

ivers crest and overflow their banks from the mountains to the coast. More victims may be discovered as the flood waters recede and as rescuers and neighbors are able to venture into homes that were flooded. We have not yet begun to count the damage to private and public property, or to our infrastructure. More dams may breach, more bridges may collapse, more roads may disintegrate as

the rain continues, as the rivers crest, as the traffic rolls back over water-weakened asphalt.

Our local and state leaders will be tested — are being tested — by the storm. There will be time to assess their performance. There will be time to consider what, if anything, we could have done differently to make this less devastating. Would better maintained bridges and roads have survived the storm? In Columbia, the same question can be asked of a water system whose funding has been been diverted to frivolities. Would more conservative zoning have kept homes and businesses out of harm's way? Do we have, and enforce, adequate dam-safety regulations? Or was this deluge just too overwhelming for even the best public policy to make a difference?

For now, we can be grateful to the first responders who put

Title: **The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it**
 Author:
 Size: 61.53 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269

their own lives, at risk to save so many others over the weekend. Who are still out there, still saving lives. We can be grateful

for the good Samaritans who added their assistance, not because it was their job but because it was their calling. We can be grateful to the public officials, from Gov. Nikki Haley and Adjutant General Bob Livingston to sheriffs and police chiefs and mayors and council members and city managers, who offered calm but firm warnings, who put in place curfews and called on schools and businesses to close in order to, in Gov. Haley's words, "give us the space that we need" to begin to put the state back together. And we can remember to

practice patience.

The recovery will not be quick. Roads and bridges will take weeks or months to repair. Some homes and businesses will take longer — if they can even be salvaged. People who have been uprooted will not find normalcy soon, and the displacement will disrupt their entire lives, exacting a tremendous emotional toll. Those of us who have been merely inconvenienced can quickly forget that we were fortunate, that the damage was tremendous, that the suffering continues and that there is so much work to be done, for individuals and for our communities.

Be kind. Be careful. Be help-

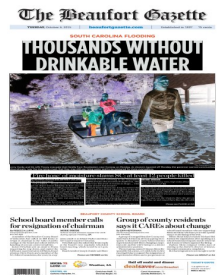
ful. And do unto others as you would have them do unto you. We are one family. Together, we will recover.

Ms. Scogge can be reached at cranflynz@thegazette.com or at (803) 771-8571.

“
THERE WILL BE TIME TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR LEADERS AND OUR POLICIES. FOR NOW, WE CAN BE GRATEFUL.



Title: **THOUSANDS WITHOUT DRINKABLE WATER**
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
 Size: 161.66 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



THOUSANDS WITHOUT DRINKABLE WATER

‘Fire hose’ of moisture slams SC; at least 12 people killed

By SEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS

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 Na-

tional 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 about 1,000 to shelters and left about 40,000 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

MORE INSIDE

How did the heavy rains, high tides affect Beaufort County? **3A**

Please see **FLOOD** on 9A

FLOOD

Continued from 1A

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, authorities evacuated an area on the northeast side of Columbia after a dam on Rockyford Lake burst around 2 p.m. Monday.

James Shirer lives in the area and said he saw the dam

fail and a 22-acre lake drain in 10 to 15 minutes.

“It just poured out,” Shirer said.

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. Environmental 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 chan-

Title: **THOUSANDS WITHOUT DRINKABLE WATER**
 Author: By SEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
 Size: 161.66 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269

nels 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 on 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 Offi-

cer 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."

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.

Title: **THOUSANDS WITHOUT DRINKABLE WATER**
Author: By SEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
Size: 161.66 square inch
Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



The Associated Press

Jerry Hardy and his wife Tracey evacuate their family from floodwaters near Conway on Monday. As showers tapered off Monday, the governor warned communities downstream, near the low-lying coast, that they may still see rising water and to be prepared for more evacuations.

Title: **THOUSANDS WITHOUT DRINKABLE WATER**
Author: By SEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
Size: 161.66 square inch
Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



The Associated Press

Samantha Scroggins and Janet Smalley smile as they navigate through waist-deep water in Conway on Monday.

Title: **MISERY IN S.C.**
 Author: BySEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
 Size: 158.25 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



MISERY IN S.C.

Obama declares a state of emergency
 Hundreds rescued; roads closed
 Thousands without power
 Columbia hardest hit

By SEANNA ADCOX
 and JEFFREY COLLINS
 The Associated Press

Hundreds were rescued from fast-moving floodwaters Sunday in South Carolina as days of driving rain hit a dangerous crescendo that buckled buildings and roads, closed a major East Coast interstate route and threatened the drinking water supply for the capital city.

The powerful rainstorm dumped more than a foot of rain overnight on Columbia, swamping hundreds of businesses and homes.

Emergency workers waded into waist-deep water to help people trapped in cars, dozens of boats fanned out to rescue people in flooded neighborhoods and some

were plucked from rooftops by helicopters.

Officials said it could take weeks or even months to assess every road and bridge that's been closed around the state.

Several interstates around Columbia were closed, and so was a 75-mile stretch of Interstate 95 that is a key route connecting Miami to Washington, D.C., and New York.

"This is different than a hurricane because it is water, it is slow moving and it is sitting. We can't just move the water out," Gov. Nikki Haley said at a news conference.

Please see MISERY on 7A

MORE INSIDE

• Rescue stories emerge. **7A**

MORE ONLINE

• Stay updated with the weather on our website at bit.ly/bc-weather.

Title: **MISERY IN S.C**
 Author: BySEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
 Size: 158.25 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269

MISERY

Continued from 1A

One death was reported in the area on Sunday, bringing weather-related deaths to seven since the storm began days earlier.

People were told to stay off roads and remain indoors until floodwaters recede, and a curfew was issued for Columbia and across two surrounding counties. The capital city told all 375,000 of its water customers to boil water before drinking because of water line breaks and the threat of rising water to a treatment plant. Nearly 30,000 customers were without power at one point.

State forecasters said another 2-6 inches could fall around the state, and it could be Tuesday before skies are sunny. The rainstorm around the Southeast has drawn tropical moisture from offshore that's linked up with an area of low pressure and a slow-moving front.

Local officials counted several hundred water rescues by mid-morning before Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins said in an interview that there were too many rescues to keep count.

"We're just trying to get to everyone," Jenkins said. "But there are places we just haven't gotten to."

One of the hardest hit areas

in Columbia was near Gills Creek, where a weather station recorded more than 18 inches of rain — or more than a third of the city's average yearly rainfall — nearly all of it in 24 hours. The creek was 10 feet above flood stage, spilling floodwaters that almost reached the stoplights at a four-lane intersection.

Vladimir Gorrin said he led his 57-year-old aunt through floodwaters about 7 feet deep surrounding her apartment near Gills Creek. He said his aunt, Wanda Laboy, waited several hours after calling 911, so family came to help.

"She's very distressed right now," said Gorrin, 38. "She lost everything."

His aunt, who didn't appear to be injured, was heading with her nephew to his house in an unflooded area of Columbia, he said.

"I'm trying to find my way back home, and every road that we've taken is blocked or flooded," he said in a phone interview.

Emergency shelters were being opened around the state for displaced residents, and President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency in South Carolina.

Along the coast, rainfall

had exceeded 2 feet since Friday in some areas around Charleston, though conditions had improved enough that residents and business owners were allowed downtown on a limited basis.

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley said he's never seen flooding as bad in his 40 years as mayor.

"This was a record storm," he said. "You know the amount of rainfall that we have experienced is unprecedented. I feel very fortunate that we were able to get through this as well as we have."

At least seven weather-related deaths have been reported since rains began spreading over the Eastern Seaboard, which appeared to dodge the full brunt of Hurricane Joaquin as it veers out to sea.

The latest death reported was a woman killed when her SUV was swept into flood waters in Columbia. Richland County Coroner Gary Watts said the woman's body was found Sunday afternoon, about 12 hours after she disappeared in flood waters near downtown.

Three people died in separate weather-related traffic accidents in South Carolina

on Friday and Saturday, the Highway Patrol said.

In North Carolina, a driver died on a rain-slickened road on Saturday, according to that state's Highway Patrol.

On Thursday, a woman drowned in her car in Spartanburg, while a passenger in a vehicle in North Carolina was killed when a tree fell on a highway.

LINDSEY GRAHAM CANCELS BEAUFORT COUNTY EVENTS

Republican presidential hopeful and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham canceled three Beaufort County campaign events today in the wake of devastating storms and flooding across South Carolina this weekend.

Graham had been scheduled to speak at Blackstone's Cafe in Beaufort, Aunt Chiladas on Hilton Head Island and Magnolia Hall in Sun City Hilton Head today.

The campaign plans to reschedule the events, according to the Beaufort County Republican Party. New dates have not yet been announced.

Title: **MISERY IN S.C**

Author: BySEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press

Size: 158.25 square inch

Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Title: **MISERY IN S.C**
Author: BySEANNA ADCOX and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press
Size: 158.25 square inch
Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



CHUCK BURTON • The Associated Press

Flood waters engulf a home in Columbia on Sunday. The Columbia Fire Department had 140 firefighters are working around the county. Fire chief Aubrey Jenkins said he's lost count of how many rescues have been performed.



CHUCK BURTON • The Associated Press

Floodwaters rush over a dam on Forest Lake in Columbia on Sunday.

Title: **Scott playing role in GOP race**
 Author: By MEG KINNARD The Associated Press
 Size: 28.67 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Scott playing role in GOP race

By MEG KINNARD
 The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — More than 2,000 voters, from college students to those of retirement age, packed a Columbia theater recently to see for themselves what it's like to experience businessman Donald Trump up close and personal.

The GOP presidential hopeful got an enthusiastic response when he walked on stage, energizing the crowd and cracking jokes about his opponents, the Obama administration and Washington elite.

But the concert hall also erupted when U.S. Sen. Tim Scott addressed the crowd, amping up the voters and sounding more like a fiery preacher than the soft-spoken politician many have come to know.

"I see a whole lot of Trump

CROWD FAVORITE

Tim Scott has a high approval rating among South Carolina voters — 83 percent, according to a Winthrop University poll in April. With his national profile also on the rise since 2012, when the newly minted congressman had a prime-time speaking slot at the Republican National Convention, a political expert says candidates only benefit by being associated with him.



Scott

out there!" Scott yelled to the audience, bending down and turning his ear toward the roaring crowd. "We're going to have a good night tonight!"

The event, one of more than a dozen town hall meetings Scott has orchestrated with GOP candidates vying for the party's presidential nomination, officially serves to help both Scott and South Caro-

lina's voters decide whom to support. But with South Carolina's other U.S. senator already seeking the nation's highest office, the meetings also serve as a way to elevate Scott's own profile.

The Senate's only black Republican, Scott has commanded attention in his own deliberate, subtle way. He's served in the U.S. Senate since 2013, when, just af-

ter his election to a second U.S. House term, he was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley following the resignation of Jim DeMint.

In a state accustomed to senators like Strom Thurmond and Fritz Hollings serving decades in office, Scott has since been working to introduce himself to voters and bone up on issues in which he's had little experience, such as foreign policy and trade.

He's also been continually running for his own reelection. In 2014, Scott was elected to the remaining two years of DeMint's term, becoming the first black to win a statewide race in South Carolina since the Reconstruction era. Next year, he's on the ballot again, seeking a full, six-year term in a state where around 70 percent of registered voters are white.

Title: **After the flood, a rush to preserve drinking water in South Carolina**
 Author: BY ADAM BEAM AND SUSANNE M. SCHAFER Associated Press
 Size: 52.23 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



After the flood, a rush to preserve drinking water in South Carolina

BY ADAM BEAM AND
 SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's capital city had too much water. Now, officials are racing to make sure it has enough.

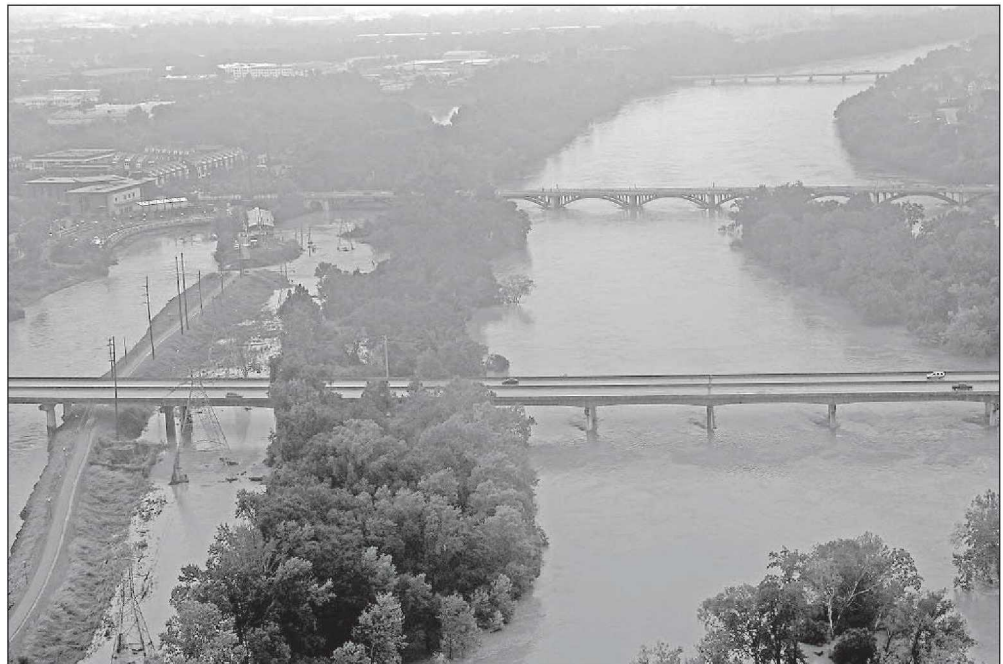
A canal that serves as the main source of drinking water for about half of the Columbia water system's 375,000 customers collapsed in two places following historic rainfall and flooding over the weekend, sending contractors scrambling to build a rock dam to plug the holes while National Guard helicopters dropped giant sandbags in the rushing water.

Water from the canal normally flows directly into the reservoir at the city's water treatment plant. But with the water level falling because of the levee breach, workers were forced to place orange pumps on the banks of the canal to pump water directly into the reservoir. And if that wasn't enough, the city had plans to pump water directly from the nearby Broad River.

Officials sought to beat back rampant rumors of an imminent water shortage.

"The system is running and it is running strong," Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin told reporters.

Meanwhile, Gov. Nikki Haley issued a terse warning to thousands of people in low-lying areas near the coast to "strongly consider evacuating" before a mass of water rum-



AP PHOTO/CHUCK BURTON

A breach in the Columbia Canal that supplies the city with drinking water is shown in Columbia on Monday.

bling toward the ocean floods some places for up to two more weeks. Any mandatory evacuations would be ordered by local officials.

She asked people watching on television to call relatives who may have a false sense of security after surviving hurricanes, calling the second round of expected flooding "a different kind of bad." She said the standing water could last up to 12 days.

"We have thousands of people that won't move. And we need to get them to move," she said. "They don't need to be sitting in flooded

areas for 12 days."

In Georgetown County near the swollen Black River, National Guardsmen made multiple runs in a military truck to pick up people whose homes had been cut off by submerged roads, sometimes driving through water several feet deep. Among its passengers were a woman and her three children, who were dropped off at a shelter in Georgetown.

Back in Columbia, city officials urged residents to conserve water. And when they do use it, they have to boil it at least one minute. Restaurants

are offering bottled water and serving meals on paper plates to avoid washing dishes. And many people often make daily trips to their local grocery stores to stock up on water.

"It's easy to conserve because you can't really use (the water)," said 26-year-old Laura Reinman, who was pushing a shopping cart with two gallon jugs of water at a Publix grocery store just across the street from the canal.

The city is like hundreds of others along the East Coast and in the Midwest that have been told to fix their aging infrastructure.