

Title: Pine Ridge looking for town clerk

Author:

Size: 22.78 column inches

Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Pine Ridge looking for town clerk

The Town of Pine Ridge is accepting applications for a Receptionist/Municipal Clerk of Court. The job is full-time with duties of answering the phone and assisting visitors, processing traffic citations and collecting fines, and preparing and maintaining accurate records for municipal court.

Qualifications include:

- High School Diploma and four years of related experience or Bachelor Degree and two years of related experience
- Ability to multi-task and work under pressure with frequent interruptions
- Must be able to operate standard office, word processing and data entry equipment

Compensation: \$25,000 to \$28,000 annually plus retirement/benefits package.

Deadline to apply is October 28 by 5 p.m. Respond by email to prtownclerk@sc.rr.com.

THE YOUTH OF Trinity Baptist Church made sure members of the Cayce Department of Public Safety had food, drinks and a lot of en-

TERRY WARD

lexchron@ yahoo.com



**AROUND CAYCE, WEST COLUMBIA
& SPRINGDALE**

couragement as they dealt with Hurricane Matthew. Church members brought the food to Cayce's Emergency Operations Center.

THE RHYTHM ON the River Fall Concert Series is a great place to bring visiting family members for a relaxing

Sunday afternoon. The concerts are at the West Columbia Ampitheater. The last concert of the season starts at 2 p.m. Oct. 18. Brad and Craig Giles, owners of Giles Brothers Insurance, brought their aunt and uncle to listen to Stolen Hearts last Sunday. Sandy and Lance Christ, who are from Washington, D.C., said they enjoyed it.

DUE TO GOVERNOR Nikki Haley's declaration of a state of emergency with coastal evacuation, the Holiday Inn and Suites and Greater Cayce-West Columbia Chamber staff have had to postpone the annual Awards Dinner and Silent Auction scheduled for Oct. 6. The Chamber will announce the new date soon.

Title: **Mayesville resident awakens to tree on home**
 Author: BY BRUCE MILLS bruce@theitem.com
 Size: 43.86 column inches
 Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



Mayesville resident awakens to tree on home

80-year-old man waiting for cleanup assistance

BY BRUCE MILLS

bruce@theitem.com

MAYESVILLE — Leonard Sumpter woke up to a surprise Saturday morning when he opened his front door and saw that a large tree from his yard had fallen on his house from winds and rain generated from Hurricane Matthew.

"In the early morning hours on Saturday, I heard a thump," Sumpter said. "I figured it was a tree, but I didn't think it hit the house. But when I got up Saturday morning, it was on the house."

Sumpter also lost power at his house at 5400 Neighborhood Road on Saturday, but only for three hours.

The 80-year-old says he called the Columbia TV stations on Saturday, but they said if nobody was hurt and no trees were crossing the road, then they couldn't help.

From across the street, a tree did fall during the storm onto the road outside his house.

He said emergency personnel came Saturday and moved that tree from the roadway. Sumpter was in his yard at the time.

"I looked at the service repair person," Sumpter said. "He looked back and just drove off."

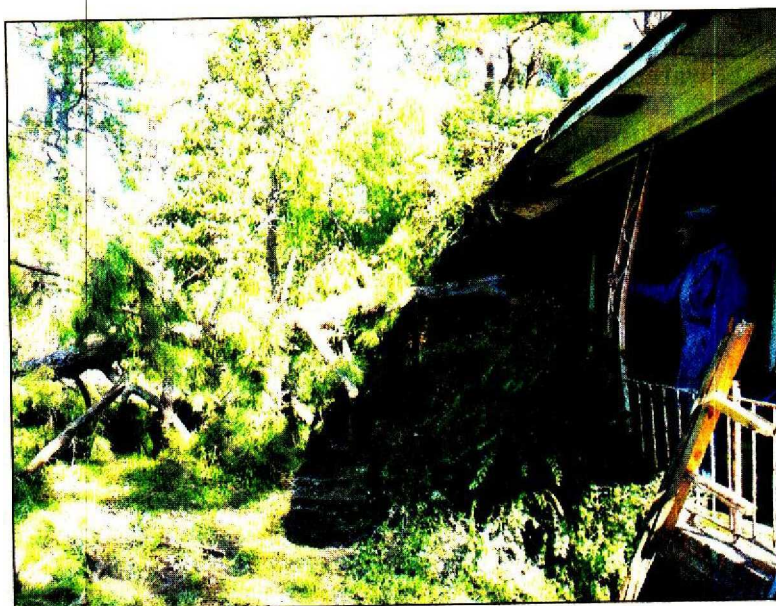
Finally on Monday, he called

the governor's office and was given the phone number for a state multi-agency cleanup assistance hotline to report damages from the hurricane. The hotline system shared his information with local officials and a volunteer relief agency in the area. Sumpter says he was informed that a crew would be out as soon as possible.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Sumpter was cutting up as much of the tree as he could to make the removal easier when a crew comes.

"As long as they say they are coming, I will keep sawing it — me and my little saw," Sumpter said. "When you get to my age, you have to be patient. It keeps your blood pressure down."

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BRUCE MILLS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Leonard Sumpter looks out on the tree that hit his Mayesville home, wondering how he's going to get it removed. Sumpter called the governor's office and was given the phone number for a state multi-agency cleanup assistance hotline to report damages from the hurricane.

**SUMPTER**

Title: **Tri-county region not in initial federal disaster aid area**
 Author: BY JIM HILLEY jim@theitem.com
 Size: 47.12 column inches
 Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



Tri-county region not in initial federal disaster aid area

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties are not yet among the South Carolina counties President Obama declared part of a major disaster in the State of South Carolina, but Sumter County Emergency Management Director Erik Hayes says he is confident the county will qualify.

The declaration allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to partially reimburse local governments, state

agencies, eligible private nonprofit organizations and electric co-operatives for certain expenses they have incurred.

Federal disaster aid is not available for individual residents at this time, according to a press release from the governor's office.

On Oct. 10, Gov. Nikki Haley formally requested a disaster declaration from the White House for Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion and Williamsburg counties, according to the release.

Her request followed an assessment of damages by

representatives of South Carolina Emergency Management Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, affected electric co-operatives, and local and municipal governments.

As emergency managers assess the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, FEMA could determine that additional counties are eligible to receive the federal assistance.

Joe Farmer, chief of external affairs at South Carolina Emergency Management Department, said the process of adding additional counties to the list is underway.

"It takes a while," he

said. "There is no way to second guess until they go out there and take a look."

He said personnel in the field are very thorough.

"When those teams go into counties, they scour for damage," Farmer said. "I have been with those teams when they go in and they scour."

The counties which qualify are specified on the amount of damage that is immediately seen, he said.

SEE **DISASTER**, PAGE A5

DISASTER FROM PAGE A1

Hayes said Sumter County should be on the list shortly.

"It should be a no brainer," he said.

"We already have our preliminary damage assessments and we will be sending that up," he said.

Hayes said there are separate thresholds for public assistance, which provides money for public expenditures and private assistance, which helps hurricane victims pay for damages. Clarendon County Council Chairman Dwight Stewart said he was told that damage assessments along the coast were conducted by air due to the need for urgency in

those areas.

"We are in the process of assessing damage and we will submit it to the federal government on Tuesday," he said. "We certainly feel we will meet the threshold and will be included."

Lee County Administrator Alan Watkins said the county has already submitted its damage assessments and will meet with FEMA today. He said damage assessment in Lee County range from \$450,000 to \$500,000, which he said is well above the thresholds.

Lee County is still tallying the cost local agencies have

incurred due to the hurricane, he said.

Once the damage is better understood, counties are added to the disaster list in a "joint effort" among local, state and federal agencies, Farmer said.

According the governor's office press release, the FEMA Public Assistance Program allows state and affected local governments to apply for federal funding to pay 75 percent of the approved costs for debris removal and emergency services related to the storm. The division of the remaining 25 percent is determined later. The declaration also makes

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cost-shared funding available to the state for approved projects that reduce or mitigate future disaster risks, according to the release.



OBAMA

Title: **THUMBS UP TO GOV. HALEY ON HANDLING EVACUATIONS**

Author:

Size: 18.29 column inches

Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



THE MORNING NEWS

Oct. 7

THUMBS UP TO GOV. HALEY ON HANDLING EVACUATIONS

Thumbs up to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley. Last week, she called for coastal evacuations to start on Oct. 5. She has been criticized for making that call too soon, while Hurricane Matthew was still in Haiti, 1,000 miles away. In more than half of the state's counties, she ordered school districts and government offices to close. She also ordered lane reversals on Interstate 26 to help motorists evacuate Charleston and get to Columbia.

Some parents weren't happy because they had to stay home to care for children who could have been in school. But, as they say, hindsight is 20-20. Many schools are used as shelters for evacuees. Those shelters needed to be prepared. Former Gov. David Beasley told *The State* that Haley made the right call. "It's got to be an orderly process and, if you wait too late, the roads get jammed and then tempers flare and there's catastrophe,"

Beasley said. "You err on the side of caution. You can't err on the side of convenience."

In 1996, Beasley ordered the evacuation of the Grand Strand when Hurricane Bertha threatened the coast. He was nervous when the storm turned toward the Isle of Palms, which he did not order evacuated, but the island ultimately was not hit. In 1999, with Hurricane Floyd on the

way, Gov. Jim Hodges ordered a coastal evacuation, but he didn't order the reversal on I-26 until a massive traffic jam had occurred. That makes him sympathetic toward Haley. "There are a lot of tough decisions that need to be made," Hodges told *The State*. "She (Haley) has much better information than any of us have" about the storm's path and what it will take to keep people safe. "Second-guessing her or the team is inappropriate."

Online: <http://www.scnw.com/>

Title: **BEWARE OF POST-STORM SCAMS**

Author:

Size: 31.31 column inches

Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



THE POST AND COURIER

Oct. 10

BEWARE OF POST-STORM SCAMS

Property owners can't control which structures a hurricane targets. But they can avoid becoming financial victims after a storm has done its damage.

Hurricane Hugo battered thousands of roofs across the Lowcountry in 1989. People were shell-shocked and anxious to prevent further damage.

They were also inexperienced in dealing with such devastation. Perhaps they let their guards down as selfless volunteers flooded the area to help the area recover.

So some fell prey to scam artists who presented themselves as roofers, took a hefty down payment for repair work and then skipped town.

Others hired companies that followed through with the work, but did so at ridiculously high prices — and sometimes in a slipshod manner.

Before Hurricane Matthew finally got here Saturday morning, no one knew whether he would be a major disaster for the city, or something less.

Fortunately, Matthew was no Hugo, and there wasn't

nearly as much harm done.

But last Thursday, Charleston City Council wisely imposed a price-gouging ordinance to keep vulnerable people from being overcharged. It's better to hedge your bets when the stakes are so high.

And while Matthew didn't do as much property damage as feared, he still left residents needing repairs on their homes and businesses. That means you should beware of unscrupulous people inclined to ignore the city's anti-gouging mandate.

Property owners need to inform themselves about what is reasonable and remain vigilant. It's advisable to pay for work as it is done rather than in advance.

Gov. Nikki Haley warns of the threat of cyber-scammers who send residents emails purporting to come from an electric utility company about their power outages. By clicking on those emails, the scammers can obtain information from personal computers and further defraud the owners. So, don't click if you don't know the sender.

Some of the pitfalls people fall into after a hurricane are self-imposed. For example, don't touch downed power lines. They might be live.

Don't try to take down a tree that has been broken by winds or has been blown onto a roof. That's a job for a professional. Chain saws aren't for novices.

Don't forget to take pictures before making any repairs. They might be necessary for insurance and FEMA assistance.

Floodwater can be filled with contaminants. Use disinfectants and gloves when cleaning it up. Power out? Never use a portable generator, a grill or a camp stove inside. Exercise caution even when using candles.

Of course, the best outcome from a hurricane is to escape damage altogether.

But if the storm wasn't so kind to you this time, the best thing to do is to avoid further financial headaches by carefully choosing who repairs your damaged property.

Online: <http://www.post-andcourier.com/>

Title: **S.C. National Guard continues Hurricane Matthew response**
 Author: By CAPT. JESSICA DONNELLY 108th Public Affairs Detachment
 Size: 88.19 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 15000



S.C. National Guard continues Hurricane Matthew response

By **CAPT. JESSICA DONNELLY**
 108th Public Affairs Detachment

The South Carolina National Guard responded to missions along the state's coastal region Sunday in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, clearing roads so people could return to their homes.

National Guard assets were pre-positioned throughout the region in preparation for the devastation expected as the storm passed through the state.

"When the storm was over, we woke up that morning and they put us on the road," said Army Staff Sgt. David Roberts, 125th Engineer Company section leader for heavy-equipment operators.

Soldiers had been staged in the Hilton Head area earlier in the week as Hurricane Matthew was monitored, Roberts added. They were able to get their equipment ready for missions and were prepared to start clearing roads as soon as the storm passed, he said.

The engineer company is working to clear the roads here as citizens begin returning home.

"There's a lot of debris, but we can go over just about any obstacle [or can] go through it, cut through it or knock it out of the way," Roberts said. "We're just trying to make the roads as passable as possible."

Other engineer units are conducting similar missions throughout the state in areas affected by the storm, including Conway, Georgetown, Bluffton and McClellanville, as well as others.

Army Col. Jeffrey Jones, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade commander, said these assets were in place because floods in October 2015 demonstrated their importance. "We were thinking ahead this year," he said. "We anticipated the needs, and we're responding to the needs of the citizens in a timely manner."

About 2,800 South Carolina National Guard soldiers and airmen have been activated since Oct. 4 to support state and county emergency management agencies and local first responders after Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency.

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Photo by SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE CASHION

South Carolina National Guard Soldiers with the 1263rd Forward Support Company remove tree debris from highway SC 46 in Bluffton, S.C., Oct. 9, 2016, in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

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Photo by CAPT. JESSICA DONNELLY

Soldiers with the 108th Public Affairs Detachment, South Carolina National Guard, load their military vehicle to assist Hurricane Matthew response Oct. 5 at the McCrady Training Center, Eastover, S.C. Approximately 1,400 S.C. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were activated to support coastal evacuations.

Title: **MAYOR'S MOMENTS**
 Author: by Anne Johnston ~ Mayor of St. George
 Size: 62.31 column inches
 St. George, SC Circulation: 3054



MAYOR'S MOMENTS

by Anne Johnston ~ Mayor of St. George



GET INVOLVED!

**Regular Monthly
Council Meeting
Monday, Oct. 10, 2016
7:00 pm Civic Center
Monday,
October 10, 2016**

On Thursday of last week, as we prepared for Matthew, I wrote this week's Moments which I have left unchanged following this opening statement. I said we were prepared and we were, to the greatest extent possible. Damage in this area was minimal compared to neighboring municipalities such as Edisto Island and Holly Hill. **Thanks be to God.**

Now the time of patience is upon us. Rest assured that SCE&G, Edisto Electric, SCDOT, Dorchester County, the Town of St. George and the other municipalities are doing all possible for the citizens. Crews from out-of-town are here and more are coming. Areas involving outages which affect the most individuals will be repaired first, but all will be served as quickly as possible. Roads that are blocked will be opened as soon as possible. Rest assured help is on the way. Try not to let anger and frustration cloud your thinking. Just remember there are those faced

with far greater devastation.

And now, you can reflect on where we were Thursday and where we are now.

The preparation went well and for that we must all give thanks. Take time now to review what you see that could help next time. Make notes, whether they concern you and your family or the greater community. We must do an even better job next time.

In the case of hurricanes in the south and east, they will occur! And then, they will occur again. Being prepared is a science, an art and a necessity.

**Thursday,
October 6, 2016**

I am writing this on Thursday morning, October 6, 2016. I do not know what faces us, but I do know we are preparing. We will be ready.

Our governor has made the right call on evacuation. She knew plans had been made with great care after extensive research. All state agencies involved knew their roles. The Reversed Lane operation is working smoothly. South Carolina is ready.

The Dorchester County Emergency Management Operations, under direction

of Mario Formisano is on 24 hour duty. Here again, plans have long been ready

and are constantly being revised as a better scenario presents itself. We are in good hands.

County Council knows the role it must play in the days to come. Shelters manned by the Red Cross are open as I write. Updates are being fed continuously to the media. All emergency agencies (fire, EMS, police and deputies) are in place. Dorchester County is ready.

The mayors of the five municipalities have been meeting with the chairman of County Council and Mr. Formisano. All understand their responsibilities. The towns are ready.

SCDOT is in communication with counties and municipalities in the path of the storm. Their employees are prepared and all equipment checked and ready.

SCE&G already has equipment and personnel in route from as far away as Mississippi. No, doubt there will be outages, but we can rest assured they will be for as short a duration as possible.

I sit here with a great sense of pride in the ability, the preparation and dedication of the various levels of government as they watch over the people in their



Title: **MAYOR'S MOMENTS**
 Author: by Anne Johnston ~ Mayor of St, George
 Size: 62.31 column inches
 St. George, SC Circulation: 3054

care.

If we are fortunate, Matthew will take an unexpected turn directly east and quickly wear itself out in the vast Atlantic. Then there will be no damage to the mainland, no flooding, no electrical outages, no water/sewage problems, no problems with evacuation, no property damage.

The one down side to such a wonderful outcome would be that people would think all of the preparation

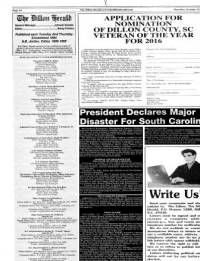
was unnecessary. The next time they might think, "I went to all that trouble with Matthew and spent all that money for nothing. This time I shall stay right where I am and not listen to all those officials!" That could lead to irreparable damage and heartbreak.

If all goes well, if damage is slight, if our homes and businesses are safe, if there are no injuries and deaths, there is only one

thought each individual should have, "I thank God for our good fortune. I am grateful to all of those who were prepared to protect me and my loved ones. I promise that in every future potential disaster I will listen, prepare and follow directions."

Last of all, even if we do have extensive damage, we must remember and pray for those who suffer far more damage and we must help in any way we can.

Title: **President Declares Major Disaster For South Carolina**
 Author:
 Size: 56.42 column inches
 Dillon, SC Circulation: 5278



President Declares Major Disaster For South Carolina

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of South Carolina to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Hurricane Matthew beginning October 4, 2016, and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible tribal and local governments and certain private non-profit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg counties. Federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

W. Michael Moore has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Moore said additional designations may be made at a later date if warranted by the results of damage assessments.

FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available as needed and warranted under President Obama's disaster declaration issued for the State of South Carolina.

Assistance for State, Tribal, and Affected Local Governments Can Include as Required:

- * Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for debris removal and emergency protective measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. Emergency protective measures assistance, including direct federal assistance is available to state and eligible tribal and local governments on a cost-sharing basis (Source: FEMA funded, state administered.)

- * Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by state, tribal, and local governments to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters. (Source: FEMA funded, state administered.)

How to Apply for Assistance:

Application procedures for state, tribal, and local governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies.

FROM SCEMD

COLUMBIA, S.C. – In response to Governor Nikki Haley's request, President Barack Obama declared a major disaster exists in the State of South Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in 13 counties most severely affected by Hurricane Matthew.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program helps reimburse local governments, state agencies, eligible private non-profit organizations and electric co-operatives for certain expenses they have incurred. Federal disaster aid is not available for individual residents at this time.

On October 10, Governor Haley formally requested a disaster declaration from the White House for Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg counties. Her request followed an assessment of damages by representatives of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, affected electric co-operatives, and local and municipal governments.

As emergency managers assess the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, FEMA could determine that additional counties are eligible to receive federal assistance.

Under the Public Assistance Program, state and affected local governments are eligible to apply for federal funding to pay 75 percent of the approved costs for debris removal and emergency services related to the storm. The division of the remaining 25 percent will be determined later. More information about this pro-

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gram can be found here.

The declaration also makes cost-shared funding available to the state for approved projects that reduce - or mitigate - future disaster risks. Funds under this program will be available to state agencies, local governments, and certain non-profit organizations only. A wide variety of potential projects are eligible.

The S.C. Emergency Management Division will explain procedures for requesting assistance at a series of applicant briefings at locations to be announced shortly in the affected areas.

Title: **Hopes for a turn gave way to fear of 'Hugo scenario'**
 Author: BY CHARLES SWENSON COASTAL OBSERVER
 Size: 83.23 column inches
 Pawleys Island, SC Circulation: 5136



HURRICANE MATTHEW | The path of the storm

Hopes for a turn gave way to fear of 'Hugo scenario'

BY CHARLES SWENSON
 COASTAL OBSERVER

The hurricane that Georgetown County plans for, the one its Emergency Management director calls "the perfect storm," is the one that makes landfall south of Winyah Bay and puts the county in the way of the strongest wind and waves.

That's what Hurricane Matthew did last week, but after landfall south of McClellanville the storm moved north over the Waccamaw Neck before turning east near Myrtle Beach, according to the National Weather Service. Not only did the area get lashed by east winds from the Category 1 storm, it was hit hard from the west after the eye of the hurricane moved north.

"In most places, the west wind was worst," said Richard Kreitner, lead forecaster at the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, N.C. "We

anticipated that about 18 hours in advance."

It wasn't the hurricane alone that caused those winds. "Cold upper level winds were pulled into it," Kreitner said.

The track of Hurricane Matthew parallel to the coast meant the winds lasted longer than if the storm had moved inland. Had it crossed perpendicular to the coast, the path of Hurricane Hugo after making landfall near Charleston in 1989, the winds would have been stronger, but of shorter duration, he said.

The Hugo scenario led local officials to call a press conference Friday afternoon to warn residents in low-lying coastal areas to evacuate. They estimated less than half the people who live in the A Zone had done so since Gov. Nikki Haley's evacuation order was issued a day earlier. Sam Hodge, the county di-

rector of Emergency Management, held up a graphic from the National Weather Service showing the track of the storm passing 6 to 10 miles off the coast of the county.

Forecasts showed Matthew taking a turn to the east, but all week long that turning point shifted to the north. After listening to a weather briefing Friday, County Administrator Sel Hemingway said, "Mayor Otis and I look at each other and we simultaneously said 'Hugo.'" That hurricane was already on the minds of Pawleys Island Mayor Bill Otis and members of Town Council as they made evacuation plans for the island. Although it hit land as Category 4, Hugo's effects were Category 1 at Pawleys Island and still caused widespread damage.

"The nature of forecasting is you can never be 100

percent accurate," Kreitner said. Matthew's track was affected by a cold front and a low pressure system, he explained.

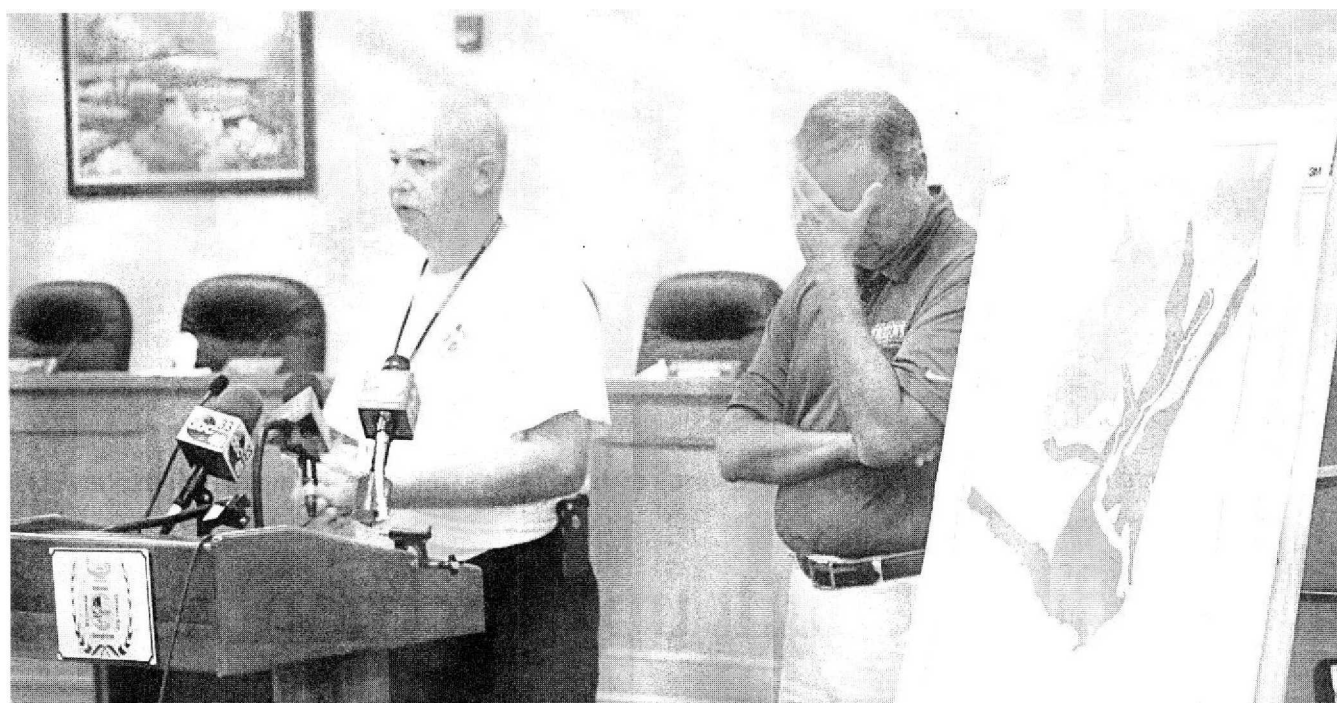
The rainfall projected for Matthew was about 12 inches. Instead, because

of the track and the timing of the bands as the storm passed over the Waccamaw Neck, the actual totals were lower. Citizen observers for the National Weather Service reported up to 8.75 inches of rain in the Pawleys Island area and up to 5.5 inches in Murrells Inlet.

The storm surge that damaged walkways, decks and porches along the beachfront and creeks came about an hour and a half before the high tide. The west winds pushed the water away from the oceanfront. "It could have been worse," Kreitner said of the surge. "It's all a matter of timing."



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Author: BY CHARLES SWENSON COASTAL OBSERVER
Size: 83.23 column inches
Pawleys Island, SC Circulation: 5136



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

County Administrator Sel Hemingway, above right, shows the strain during a press conference urging coastal residents to evacuate before the storm. Below, Jon Jackson wades through the storm surge on the South Causeway. "It's the fastest flood I've ever seen," Jackson said.

Title: **Fragile dunes, built up over months, disappear in a day**
 Author: by Charles Swenson COASTAL OBSERVER
 Size: 99.51 column inches
 Pawleys Island, SC Circulation: 5136



Fragile dunes, built up over months, disappear in a day

BY CHARLES SWENSON
 COASTAL OBSERVER

"The sand dune was so high it was almost a nuisance," said Bill Foxworth.

That's not something many property owners on the narrow south end of Pawleys Island could say. After Hurricane Matthew rumbled up the Waccamaw Neck over the weekend, Foxworth can't say it either. "We had 20-foot dunes," he said looking up from the hard packed sand to where steps used to be.

Foxworth was the first property owner to return to Springs Avenue after a state evacuation order was lifted. He came by foot from Pritchard Street where members of a National Guard engineer unit were clearing sand and debris from the road. The town of Pawleys Island kept property owners and anyone not part of the emergency services off the island until Monday morning, about 36 hours after the storm passed.

"I've been coming to Pawleys Island for 79 years. I don't know why the hell they won't let me on," said Bill Doar, who serves on the town Planning Commission, as he returned for the second day to a checkpoint at the North Causeway staffed by police and National Guard. "I told them I'd walk."

Mayor Bill Otis said he'd heard similar complaints. "One person got on, and I've been catching hell for it ever since," he said.

Debris still covered Myrtle Avenue as a convoy of National Guard trucks

headed to Springs Avenue early Monday. A front-end loader lifted a fallen tree from the road and the trucks rolled on. Wreckage from docks, decks and porches was mixed with everyday items of beach living: boats, grills, chairs, toys. Power lines and power poles sat astride the road. A town project to move those lines underground is working its way toward the south end.

In the cool fall air that came in behind the storm, emergency workers found the scent of propane from damaged tanks. Midway Fire and Rescue removed them with help from two gas companies.

The storm surge from Matthew was estimated at 4 feet on the North Causeway. It washed over the island about two hours before the high tide. "What saved us was the wind on the back side of the storm," Otis said.

Matthew made landfall at McClellanville as a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph and higher gusts. That put Georgetown County at the focus of the strongest winds. The eye passed over the Waccamaw Neck and the wind that had been blowing from the east shifted to the west.

Otis said he watched the wind that had been blowing up white-capped waves in Pawleys Creek shift and blow the water flat. Unlike the storms of October 2015 that caused

severe flooding and erosion, the winds from Hurricane Matthew blew against the rising tide.

The only house that was lost was due to a fire that started at 216 Atlantic Ave. on the island's north end the morning before the hurricane arrived. (See story, Page 8.)

"Midway did an amazing job," Otis said.

Water was turned off during the storm. That wasn't a factor in the fire, Otis said. It was a factor in allowing property owners to return. It was restored late Sunday afternoon. Sewer service was not.

Town Council convened an emergency meeting Monday morning at Pawleys Island Realty, which like the island and large portions of the mainland was still without electricity. With the National Guard at work and Gov. Nikki Haley ending her evacuation order for Georgetown County, Otis and Council Members Rocky Holliday and Sarah Zimmerman agreed it was time for the owners to return.

"The most critical thing is to let them back on," Holliday said.

Midway Fire and Rescue had surveyed all the oceanfront homes and pronounced them safe. Only one, on Atlantic Avenue, had a widow's walk hanging from the roof that was deemed a hazard. "We got an amazing amount done on this island in one day,"

Otis said.

Foxworth headed over the sand ridges that had formed along Springs Avenue to his house. It was built in 1990, the year after Hurricane Hugo washed the house his family built in the 1950s across Pawleys Creek. "I knew these posts were solid," he said, patting one of the pilings. His outdoor shower was gone, but his fish table and trash cans remained.

A family from Lexington, Ky., rented the house last week. They wanted to stay. "I came down and told them they needed to leave," said Foxworth, who lives in Conway.

His family had put off a visit until November because of a series of October rentals. Those are gone now.

The family from Lexington locked up, which gave Foxworth a little trouble getting back in since he usually doesn't fasten the deadbolt. With a shove, the door opened to show a house with freshly made beds and the pattern of a recent vacuuming on the carpets.

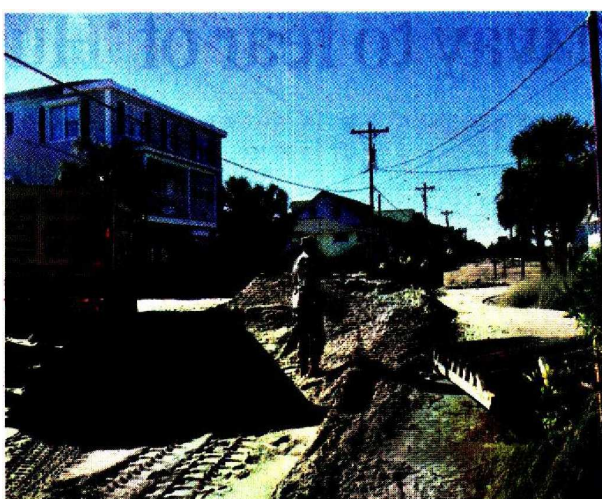
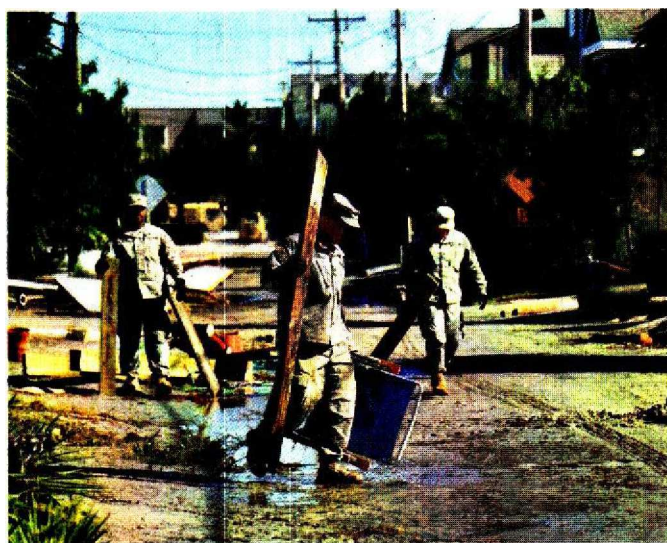
Some stains on the living room ceiling caught Foxworth's eye. "The real test is going to be upstairs," he said. On the second level, some ceilings also had dark water stains, but nothing Foxworth hadn't seen before. "It's not too bad," he said. "I can repair this. I believe we can make it work for next year's rentals."

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Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Bill Foxworth's dune reached almost to his deck.



Photos by Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer

National Guard engineers begin clearing Springs Avenue of debris and sand. Work is due to finish today. At left, scores of damaged walkways will be cleared away.

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