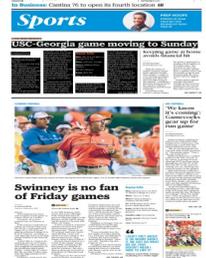


Title: **USC-Georgiagame moving to Sunday**
 Author: BY JOSHKENDALL jkendall@thestate.com
 Size: 53.94 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



WAITING A DAY TO PLAY

USC-Georgia game moving to Sunday

BY JOSH KENDALL

jkendall@thestate.com

South Carolina will play Georgia this weekend after all.

Just not on the day originally planned.

The Gamecocks' home game against the Bulldogs, which was originally scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, has been moved to 2:30 p.m. Sunday because of the predicted impact of Hurricane Matthew on the state. The game will be played at Williams-Brice Stadium and broadcast by the SEC Network.

"Due to the potential impact of the hurricane on Columbia and the surrounding area, it is in the

best interest of safety to play the game on Sunday rather than Saturday night," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said in a statement released by South Carolina at 9:15 p.m. "I appreciate the cooperation of the schools who worked closely to make the appropriate operational adjustments in order to accommodate this change in the schedule."

Gamecocks coach Will Muschamp announced the news on his weekly "Carolina Calls" radio show after receiving a phone call from USC athletics director Ray Tanner short-

ly before 8 p.m. Tanner was unavailable for comment Thursday night after the announcement.

"It's all about the safety of our student-athletes and being very sensitive to a very catastrophic situation hitting our coast," Muschamp said after his call-in show. "They went through everything. I had nothing to do with it other than game planning for the game. I just told them to let me know what we're going to do."

The Gamecocks (2-3 overall, 1-3 SEC) and the Bulldogs (3-2, 1-2 SEC) each have lost two consecutive games coming into

the contest.

"We will adjust to playing on Sunday," Muschamp said. "I told our guys it'll be a distraction if you let it be. It is what it

SEE WEATHER, 3B

Game Info

Who: USC (2-3, 1-3 SEC) vs. Georgia (3-2, 1-2)

When: 2:30 p.m., Sunday

Where: Williams-Brice Stadium

TV: SEC Network

Radio: 107.5 FM

Line: Georgia by 6½

FROM PAGE 1B

WEATHER

is. I've been pleased with how our guys have approached it. Looking forward to playing the 'Dogs."

Thousands of residents currently are evacuating from the state's coastal areas, and Governor Nikki Haley warned South Carolinians not to take the storm lightly during a Thursday evening news conference.

"I am begging you at this point to understand the seriousness of this storm," Haley said. "This is a scary storm. We really need you to evacuate. ... It is getting worse."

Haley already had informed USC it wouldn't be able to use any state resources (such as highway patrolmen) for the game.

Richland County sheriff Leon Loft indicated to The State

earlier this week he would be able to provide enough local law enforcement personnel to work the game.

South Carolina's campus will remain closed Saturday and reopen for normal operations Sunday, according to a release issued by the school.

"We have been and continue to be in communication with the Governor's Office and state officials, state and local law enforcement agencies including the Richland County Sheriff's Department, the National Weather Service, other local authorities and the SEC regarding potential weather issues," the statement read. "Based on the current forecast and expected weather conditions as well as information from local law enforcement agencies, at this time, the University is confi-

dent in our ability to host the game on Sunday at Williams-Brice Stadium. We will be able to staff traffic, security and other game day operations. The safety of everyone affected by the storm and the minimization of the impact on emergency

personnel were the most important factors considered in making the decision."

The statement encouraged Gamecocks fans who didn't need reserved hotel rooms in the area to quickly cancel those reservations so they would be available for evacuees.

"University officials are continuing to monitor the movements of Hurricane Matthew. Should weather conditions or other factors that impact game day operations change, the university will make adjustments accordingly," the state-

Title: **USC-Georgiagame moving to Sunday**
Author: BY JOSHKENDALL jkendall@thestate.com
Size: 53.94 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

ment read.

The Florida-LSU game, which was scheduled to be played Saturday at noon in Gainesville, Fla., has been indefinitely postponed because of Hurricane Matthew.

The latest forecast track from

the National Hurricane Center shows Matthew turning sharply toward open water as it approaches Hilton Head Island on Saturday and heading well into the Atlantic.

Forecasters said the track could still change, but for now,

Columbia and central South Carolina can expect 2 to 3 inches of rain and gusty winds Friday and Saturday, forecasters said.

Sunny conditions are expected Sunday and Monday.

— STAFF WRITER BEN BREINER
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

Title: **Haleymade right call on storm, ex-governors say**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 98.27 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



HURRICANE MATTHEW

Haley made right call on storm, ex-governors say

■ When S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley called Tuesday for coastal evacuations to start Wednesday, Hurricane Matthew was more than 1,000 miles and four days away from the Palmetto State. But Haley made the right call, two former S.C. governors say.

BY JAMIE SELF
 jself@thestate.com

When Hurricane Bertha took a brief turn toward the Isle of Palms in 1996, then-Gov. David Beasley said he entered “a whole other level of praying,” hoping the storm would miss the island community he had not ordered evacuated.

It did.

Three years later, when Hurricane Floyd threatened the state, then-Gov. Jim Hodges took the blame after S.C. motorists inched along Interstate 26 westbound, spending hours in their vehicles as they tried to obey his coastal evacuation order.

Tuesday, S.C. Gov. Nikki

Haley got an early start to her hurricane planning, calling for coastal evacuations to start Wednesday. At the time, Hurricane Matthew was pummeling Haiti, more than 1,000 miles and four days away from the Palmetto State.

SEE GOVERNOR, 7A

FROM PAGE 3A

GOVERNOR

Haley ordered school districts and government offices in more than half the state’s counties to close. She also announced lane reversals on I-26 to help motorists fleeing the coast.

The actions disrupted lives, forcing some Midlands parents to stay home from work to watch children who could have been in school.

But Haley made the right call, Republican Beasley and Democrat Hodges told The State on Thursday. Haley’s decisions are part of the tough calls a governor has to make to keep people safe, the former governors added.

“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.”

“There are a lot of tough decisions that need to be made,” Hodges said.

“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, Hodges added. “Second-guessing her or the team is inappropriate.”

If Matthew charts a course away from South Carolina, Haley might

take heat for evacuating the coast too early, leaving tourism dollars on the table, and disrupting the routines of S.C. families.

But if the storm wreaks havoc, she will be praised for protecting the state, observers say.

“It’s a no-win proposition for any governor if you do that (call for an evacuation),” said Bob McAlister, Republican Gov. Carroll Campbell’s communications director when Hurricane Hugo devastated South Carolina in 1989. “If you evacuate and the storm misses you, then you’re subject to all sorts of criticism. But that’s the risk that you

take when the buck stops at your desk.”

MOVING ‘A MILLION-PLUS PEOPLE’

Haley said Tuesday the early start to evacuations

Title: **Haleymade right call on storm, ex-governors say**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 98.27 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

was, in part, an attempt to avoid the gridlock created when coastal residents fled Floyd.

“When we look at the timeline, the amount of time it's going to take to move a million-plus people off the coast, that's the way we can do it safely,” Haley said.

Starting the evacuation early helps, said Beasley.

Motorists leaving the state's barrier islands need time to travel limited two-lane roads to interstates before the onslaught of Florida and Georgia traffic comes up I-95 and hits the state.

Reversing lanes on the interstate and other highways also now is seen as a crucial part of the state's evacuation plans.

That change happened as a result of Floyd.

Hodges said officials initially did not recommend he reverse lanes on the interstate, citing concern for motorists' safety. However, after traffic built up on I-26, Hodges did order traffic reversed on I-26 eastbound, allowing for westbound vehicles.

SCHOOLS, FAMILIES FEEL MATTHEW'S EFFECTS

Working with state emergency officials, Haley called Tuesday for school districts in more than two dozen counties to close

Wednesday through the end of the week.

On Wednesday, some Midlands parents wondered why schools weren't open.

Haley said she called for closures as far inland as the Midlands because of the influx of traffic that she expected in the area. She urged Midlands residents to stay off the roads if possible, making room on the highways for the coastal evacuees.

The storm's effect has been felt as far away as the Upstate.

“We dispatched our entire school bus fleet to Charleston,” said Beth Brotherton, spokesperson for the Greenville School District. “The buses ... are state owned. Therefore, when the governor asks for our buses, we give her our buses.”

Greenville schools stayed open, offering excused absences to students who relied on buses to get to school and could not get there.

Haley asked the district to send more than 250 buses to the Lowcountry to help Charleston County evacuate residents, who lacked transportation, to the Upstate.

As of Wednesday evening, no one had asked for a bus ride, Haley told reporters. State officials

ordered most of the buses back to Greenville, leaving 100 on standby in Charleston. By Thursday evening, 67 buses had been used to transport residents, officials said.

IF THE STORM WREAKS HAVOC, HALEY WILL BE PRAISED FOR PROTECTING THE STATE, OBSERVERS SAY.

Making the call

How S.C. governors have responded to hurricanes:

Hurricane Hugo, 1989: On Sept. 21, Gov. Carroll Campbell and Charleston Mayor Joe Riley urged barrier island residents to evacuate as the storm approached. Hugo made landfall devastatingly on Sept. 22. Campbell was praised for the steps he took before the storm but criticized for preventing coastal residents from returning to their homes immediately. Campbell said it was a safety precaution.

Hurricane Bertha, 1996: Gov. David Beasley ordered evacuations of the Grand Strand as Bertha threatened to graze the state. At one point, the storm turned toward the Isle of Palms, a coastal community that Beasley had not evacuated. Beasley later joked with a reporter that news made him throw up. The storm ended up sparing the island.

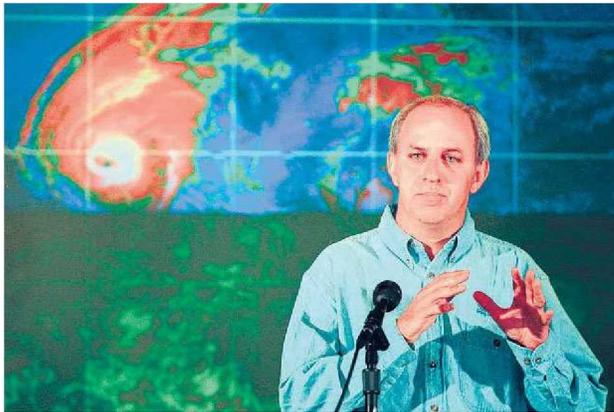
Hurricane Floyd, 1999: Gov. Jim Hodges ordered a mandatory evacuation of roughly 800,000 coastal residents on Sept. 14. However, massive traffic jams on I-26 spurred instant criticism of Hodges, who ordered the opening of eastbound lanes to westbound traffic at 8 p.m. The debacle prompted a review of the state's evacuation plan and an apology from the governor. Bertha hit North Carolina but caused flooding in South Carolina.

Title: **Haleymade right call on storm,ex-governors say**
Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
Size: 98.27 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



MATT WALSH MWALSH@THESTATE.COM

Gov. Nikki Haley briefs the media on Hurricane Matthew's status Tuesday.



FILE PHOTOGRAPH / THE STATE

Then-Gov. Jim Hodges speaks to the media as Hurricane Floyd threatens South Carolina in 1999.

Title: **'...Pleaseleavetown,' Charlestonmayor advises**
 Author: BY CYNTHIAROLDÁN croidan@thestate.com
 Size: 90.52 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



'... Please leave town,' Charleston mayor advises

BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN

croidan@thestate.com

CHARLESTON

Echoing Gov. Nikki Haley's earlier remarks, Charleston officials on Thursday urged residents to leave the city as soon as possible.

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg did not have estimates for how many city residents have left the city during his 2 p.m. news conference. He cited Haley's numbers, 175,000 residents, which she said were not

FROM PAGE 3A

THREAT

the city has gone well. He once again stressed to those who choose to stay that the city will have "very limited response capabilities" once the storm arrives.

"If you call 911, you will not get the normal response that you get on a daily basis," Mullen said. "You're not going to get a five- or seven-minute

enough.

"It really goes against my grain and against my nature to be inhospitable, but we're asking everyone to please leave town," Tecklenburg said. "It's that time."

Tecklenburg stressed businesses would not be operating as usual, making the city not a "great place to be hanging out over the next couple of days."

He lauded Haley's Wednes-

day evacuation order, calling it a "wise move on her part." Tecklenburg said the evacuation during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 was last-minute and it was "pandemonium."

Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen said the evacuation of

 ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: See more photos from the S.C. coast, online with this story.

SEE THREAT, 7A

response."

He said that once winds pick up past 45 mph, first responders will be pulled off the streets for their safety.

"Please understand that this is a serious storm," Mullen said. "It's a serious threat."

The Charleston area is expected to face more issues with surge and

flooding than with winds, said Doug Berry, forecaster at the Charleston office of the National Weather Service.

"Right now, we are forecasting more of 3 to 5 feet with isolated amounts up to 8 feet," said Berry of storm surge. "That's still pretty high for the downtown Charleston area, especially if that coincides with the high tides on

Friday and Saturday."

Berry said flooding can extend up to Goose Creek, West Ashley and North Charleston along the rivers. But downtown Charleston is expected to see the worst of the rising waters.

Cynthia Roldán:
 803-295-0435,
 @CynthiaRoldan

Title: **'...Pleaseleavetown,' Charlestonmayor advises**
Author: BY CYNTHIAROLDÁN croidan@thestate.com
Size: 90.52 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



JOHN BAZEMORE Associated Press

Ronnie Townsend climbs a ladder with a sheet of plywood as he and others work to secure a home's third-story window Thursday in historic downtown Charleston ahead of Hurricane Matthew.

Title: **Coastal SC in peril as hurricane looms**
 Author: BY SAMMY FRETWELL sfretwell@thestate.com
 Size: 118.11 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



HURRICANE MATTHEW

Coastal SC in peril as hurricane looms

Storm surge might exceed that of killer storm Hugo in 1989, governor warns

BY SAMMY FRETWELL

sfretwell@thestate.com

Hurricane Matthew bore down on the South Carolina coast Thursday, becoming a major threat to the state and prompting urgent warnings for people to leave seaside communities before the powerful storm arrives this weekend.

The hurricane at one point looked as if it would spare South Carolina substantial damage, but the forecast changed as Matthew crossed the Bahamas and approached the Florida coast.

Forecasts showed the storm, packing sustained winds of up to 140 mph, coming dangerously close – perhaps 50 miles – to Hilton Head Island and Edisto Beach south of Charleston on Saturday, before gradually moving offshore.

Hurricane warnings extended Thursday along much of the state's 187-mile-long coast, meaning that hurricane conditions are expected in the area.

The storm's eye wasn't expected to make landfall in South Carolina, but it would be

close enough to the coast to cause problems through early next week, forecasters said. An expansive storm that has been building for weeks, Matthew could be carrying winds of at least 110 mph when it reaches the Hilton Head Island area, according to the National Weather Service.

Unless the hurricane's path changes dramatically, state officials said South Carolina faces danger beginning Saturday from high winds, crash-

ing seas and heavy rain. Some beachfront homes could be wiped out.

Forecasters said potentially deadly storm surges south of Charleston might be more substantial than the surges those areas experienced during Hurricane Hugo, the 1989 storm that leveled parts of the South Carolina coast.

The highest surges could occur at Hilton Head Island, Hunting Island, Folly Beach,

SEE HURRICANE, 6A

FROM PAGE 1A

HURRICANE

Isle of Palms and Edisto Beach. Roads could become impassable, officials said.

"Right now, we are looking at the potential for disastrous and life-threatening storm surge inundation becoming more likely for the southern coast of South Carolina," said John Quagliariello, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Columbia.

Gov. Nikki Haley repeated her cry for people to evacuate, rather than try to ride the storm out this weekend.

"This is the time we

absolutely need you to go out," Haley said during an evening news conference. "When we are looking at storm surges that surpass Hugo, you know it is a problem."

Haley said thousands remained on the state's central and southern coast, despite evacuation orders. She said people who stay not only are in danger, but may not have access to supplies, such as gasoline, or have electricity as the storm worsens.

Up to 14 inches of rain are expected along parts of the coast, and homes along the immediate beachfront are vulnerable,

forecasters said. Winds are expected to down trees and cause widespread power outages.

While some residents weren't leaving, many people heeded Haley's call Wednesday to evacuate.

By Thursday evening, an estimated 280,000 people had evacuated, most of them from the Charleston and Hilton Head Island-Beaufort areas, state officials said. Haley ordered evacuations Thursday on the remainder of the coast, near Myrtle Beach and Georgetown, as well as parts of Jasper and Colleton coun-

ties. All told, the state hopes up to 500,000 people will evacuate to interior parts of South Carolina.

Many people fleeing the storm were headed to Columbia and destinations in other states, hoping to find hotel rooms. The state reversed the lanes on many major highways leaving the coast to help people get out more easily, although officials planned to end some of the reversals Friday.

Haley said rooms in many of the state's interior cities were booked, as were those in Asheville, N.C. The state has opened

Title: **Coastal SC in peril as hurricane looms**
 Author: BY SAMMYFRETWELL sfretwell@thestate.com
 Size: 118.11 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

64 shelters in interior cities for those who can't find a place to stay or who can't afford one.

Some coastal medical facilities also were closing. Beaufort Memorial Hospital was evacuating patients because of the storm's threat, according to the governor's office.

The storm continued to cause disruptions to daily life in South Carolina, and its threat sparked offers of help from the federal government.

President Barack Obama has declared a state of emergency in South Carolina. That means federal aid can help state and local responders. The order also authorizes the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief.

Meanwhile, state inmates continued to fill sandbags for coastal residents in an effort to protect expensive beachfront homes and houses along rivers or creeks, even as hospitals and nursing homes evacuated. The state expects to have as many as 50,000 sandbags

available Friday.

In Columbia – where 4 to 6 inches of rain are expected from Friday night through Saturday night – the University of South Carolina postponed its football game with the University of Georgia until Sunday afternoon.

USC, which canceled classes this week, was hosting 50 students from the College of Charleston who left the Lowcountry this week. Clemson, in the state's northwest corner, was housing 47 students from Coastal Carolina University.

Weather forecasters said the state is right to prepare for problems.

Ken Aucoin, a meteorologist with Richland County, said Matthew is a particularly large and potent hurricane. One computer model used by the National Hurricane Center to develop storm forecast tracks shows extensive rainfall over most of the coast Saturday, with heavy rain still lingering in the North Myrtle Beach area and Pee Dee region Sunday.

Aucoin said Hurricane Matthew has become so

wide that it will cause more rain in the Columbia area than first expected.

Columbia is more than 100 miles from the ocean and forecasts earlier this week showed the city getting 1 to 2 inches of rain. The city, which is packed with evacuees, now can expect 4 to 6 inches of rain from late Friday to Saturday night, he said. Aucoin said the city should be able to absorb the rain.

Tim Kana, a coastal geologist and adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina, said coastal property owners should pay particular attention.

Hurricane Matthew will create large waves for days that will eat away beaches and break directly onto some houses, he said. Sand could cover nearby roads, he said. At the peak of the storm, waves could reach 17 feet on beaches near Charleston; the normal heights are 3 to 4 feet, he said.

Edisto Beach, Pawleys Island, Folly Beach and Garden City are particularly vulnerable, said Kana, whose company

provides beach renourishment services.

"Our beaches will have to absorb more big waves than would be typical during most hurricanes," Kana said.

After moving away from the immediate South Carolina coast, the storm will linger farther out in the ocean, which Kana said should keep waves stirred up through early next week. Matthew also could return late next week because the storm is moving in a circular pattern. That would put the storm back along the Florida coast again, according to a National Hurricane Center forecast.

That could happen as another storm, Hurricane Nicole, churns farther out in the Atlantic Ocean. The combination of Nicole and a weather system over the United States that isn't as strong as expected could be contributing factors in pushing Hurricane Matthew toward South Carolina, Aucoin said this week.

Staff writers Cassie Cope, Avery Wilks and Jeff Kidd contributed to this story.

Title: **Coastal SC in peril as hurricane looms**
Author: BY SAMMYFRETWELL sfretwell@thestate.com
Size: 118.11 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



MIC SMITH Associated Press

Chief Ann Graham with the Isle of Palms Fire Department raises two hurricane flags Thursday.

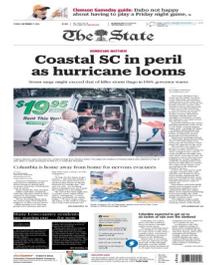
Title: **Coastal SC in peril as hurricanelooms**
Author: BY SAMMYFRETWELL sfretwell@thestate.com
Size: 118.11 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



JANET BLACKMON MORGAN jblackmon@thesunnews.com

Windows and doors are shored up on Myrtle Beach's Ocean Boulevard Thursday.

Title: **Many Lowcountry residents are staying put...for now**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 40.14 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Many Lowcountry residents are staying put . . . for now

BY CASSIE COPE

ccope@thestate.com

David Burke had a customer at his Hilton Head pharmacy Thursday who was surveying those who had not yet evacuated the island.

"I wanted to see who the dumb people were who were working today," the customer told Burke.

"Put us at the top of the list," replied Burke, who chose to stay in the Lowcountry on Thursday despite the looming arrival of

Hurricane Matthew.

Burke was one of an estimated 75,000 Lowcountry residents who had not yet evacuated Thursday despite Gov. Nikki Haley ordering the evacuation of the Beaufort and Charleston areas at 3 p.m. Wednesday. That number prompted Haley to tell a Thursday morning news conference that too many Low-

SEE STAYING, 7A

FROM PAGE 1A

STAYING

country residents were not evacuating.

Many of those who stayed behind said they were waiting to miss the initial rush of evacuees.

Others, however, intend to ride out the storm.

Burke's pharmacy serves the health care needs of local residents, including filling prescriptions for an assisted-living facility. Residents of that facility did not evacuate until Thursday morning, Burke said.

Burke doesn't plan to ride out the storm. He planned to make a decision on when to evacuate either Thursday night or Friday morning.

"There's no reason to stay," he said. "It's just not safe."

However, Burke added, some residents have become complacent about the severity of storms, especially since it has been so long — more

than two decades — since a major hurricane hit South Carolina.

Still, many Lowcountry residents were evacuating.

As of Thursday, an oceanfront Hilton Head resort had only 19 of its 846 villas occupied by visitors who had decided to stay, said David Weatherwax, supervisor of security.

While the resort had shut down its amenities and administrative offices, it was "still in full operation as far as security is concerned," Weatherwax said Thursday.

But, he added, "At the appropriate time, when safety becomes the issue, we will, obviously, get out of here."

Those still staying at the resort Thursday were asked to fill out a next-of-kin form, so security could notify their relatives if something hap-

pened to them during the storm, he added.

Some plan to leave on Friday, Weatherwax said. The rest plan to stay. They say they have been through it before and are going to wait it out.

But Weatherwax said residents and staff are being encouraged to leave.

Meanwhile in Charleston, West Ashley resident Gilbert Bradham plans to ride out the storm at his home.

"We just decided not to head up the highway in that crowd," Bradham said. "We did that in (1999's Hurricane) Floyd and it turned out to be a long trip for nothing."

Bradham said he is most worried about pine trees breaking in the high wind.

"It's quiet here," Bradham said Thursday, adding almost nobody was around.

Back in Hilton Head, Alan Perry planned to

board up his house Thursday and monitor the storm.

Those who had stayed behind so far likely plan to "see what happens and probably boogie on out" once the storm became more imminent, Perry said.

When Perry does evacuate, he will head to his sister's house in Columbia. He planned to make the call on when to leave after Thursday's 5 p.m. hurricane update.

Perry, who has lived on Hilton Head since 1972, said waiting a little later makes getting off the island easier.

Vacationers exit the island first, then nursing homes, hospitals and others needing assistance, he said.

Others leave "when the winds start tickling your fanny," Perry said.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope

Title: Important hurricane information

Author:

Size: 137.64 column inches

Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 7503



Important hurricane information

Coast RTA providing buses to help with evacuation of coastal areas

In the event of a mandatory evacuation, Coast RTA will provide free transportation to evacuation shelters.

Pick-up locations include Inlet Square Mall; Wal-Mart Highway 544; Coastal Grand Mall; Myrtle

Beach Helping Hand 1411 Mr. Joe White Avenue, Myrtle Beach; Myrtle Beach Street Reach 1005 Osceola Street, Myrtle Beach; Myrtle Beach Transfer Center 10th Avenue North & Oak Street, Myrtle Beach; Food Lion 79th Avenue North & Kings

Highway; Myrtle Beach Mall 10177 North Kings Highway; and Wal-Mart Gator Hole Plaza North Myrtle Beach.

To find the evacuation location closest to you contact Coast RTA Customer Service at 843-488-0865.

Storm prompts closings of government, schools

By executive order of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, all Horry County Government's offices, and all circuit/family and magistrates courts are closed Wednesday, October 5, through Friday, October 7, 2016.

Although county offices were mandated to close, almost 60 to 70 percent of Horry County's workforce are deemed "essential" employees and will be working to support the Horry County Emergency Operations Center, the potential evacuation of Horry County and the needs of our citizens and local businesses.

The Myrtle Beach International Airport will remain open. People are encouraged to check with their airlines on flight status throughout the rest of the week and this weekend.

The Horry County Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 6, has been rescheduled for Oct. 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Horry County Schools will be closed Wednesday through Friday, in anticipation of severe weather conditions with the arrival of Hurricane

Matthew. The three-day closure applies to students and employees and all school-related events. Please refer to www.scmd.org for storm updates, emergency preparedness, and resources for evacuation.

As a reminder, Monday, October 10 is noted as a holiday for students and a workday for teachers. Oct. 10 will not be a make-up day for students. HCS will monitor the development and impact of the storm and provide more information as it becomes available.

Coastal Carolina University and Horry-Georgetown Technical college have also canceled classes for the remainder of the week.

Several banks in Horry County have also announced they will be closed through next Monday.

Horry County administration wants citizens to know whether they are in an evacuation zone before an evacuation is called..

According to the information issued by the county, Zone A includes all areas east of US 17 Business (Kings Hwy) up to the intersection of US 17 Bypass, and all areas east of US 17 to the northern county line.

Zone B includes all areas south of SC 707 and Longwood Drive including all areas in Longwood Plantation to the Waccamaw River and all areas east of US 17 Bypass (Mark Garner Hwy) to US 17 (North Kings Hwy) and all areas east of US 17 to the northern county line.

Zone C includes all areas between US 701 South and SC 544 south of Brown's Chapel Avenue and SC 814, plus all areas east of SC 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway) to SC 90 and all areas east of SC 90 to US 17 north to the county line.

Horry County evacuates for storm surge, not for wind, meaning that locations prone to flooding due to storm surge would be included in an evacuation. The county asks that those in mobile homes, campers, or flood prone areas also evacuate for storms.

Evacuation routes change according to your location

Horry County asks that those evacuating be familiar with their evacuation routes before any evacuation orders are issued.

For residents north of Briarcliffe Acres, the evacuation route is to take SC 9 north to Interstate 95 and beyond.

Residents in Briarcliffe Acres and those south to 10th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach should take SC 22 (Conway Bypass) to US 501 to Marion, after which they will take US 76 to Florence to access Interstate 95 southbound or stay on US 501 to SC 38 to access Interstate 95 northbound.

Myrtle Beach residents between 10th Avenue North and Myrtle Beach International Airport should take US 501 to Conway, then take either US 378 to Columbia or continue on US 501 to Marion.

Those south of Myrtle Beach International Airport south to Surfside Beach should take SC 544 to US 501 in Conway, then proceed to either Columbia or Florence using the aforementioned routes.

Title: **I mportan t hurricane informat ion**

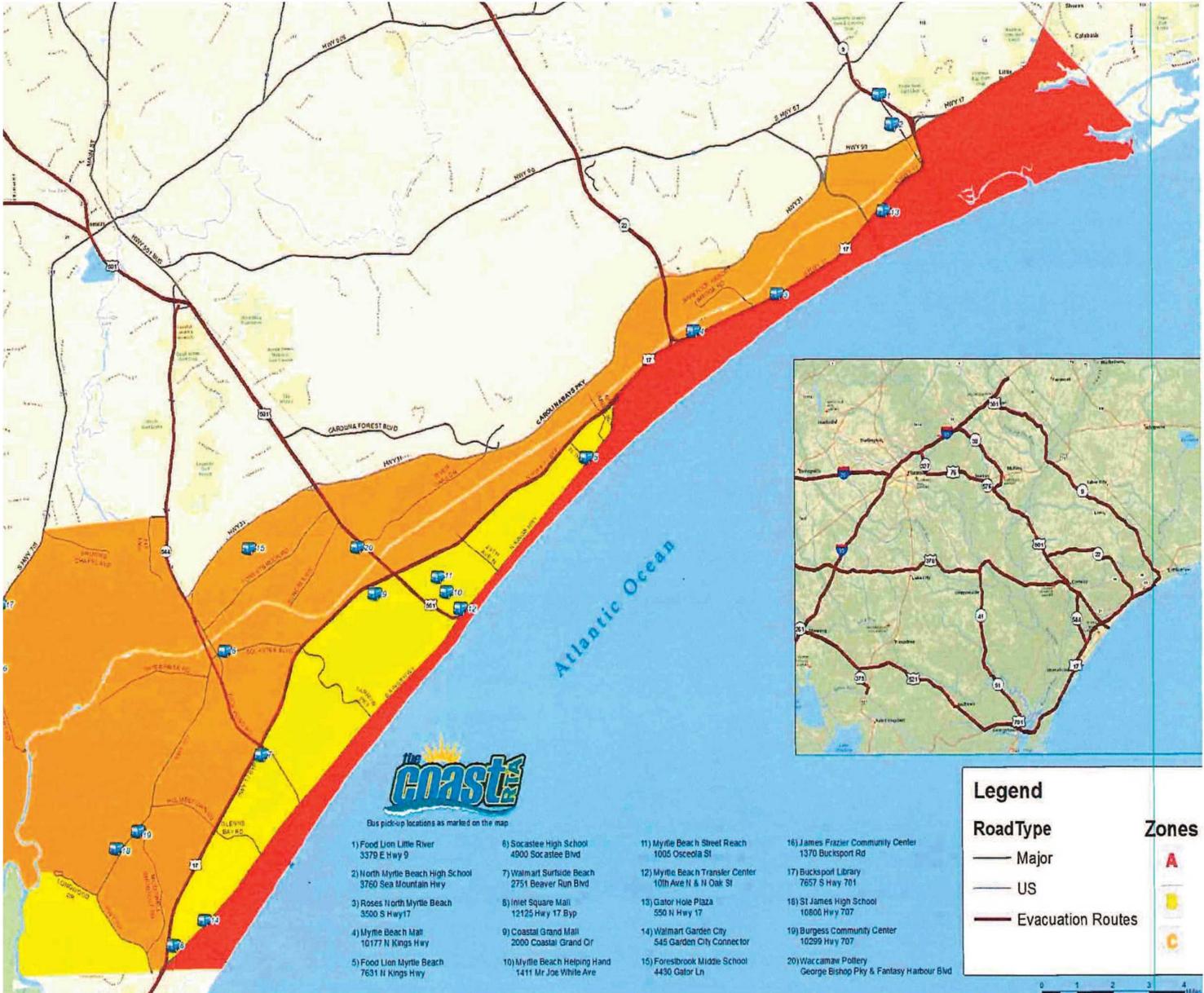
Author:

Size: 137.64 column inches

Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 7503

Those living south of Surfside Beach should take US 17 South through Georgetown, then take US 521 to SC 261. From SC 261 they should take US 378 to Columbia. Alternately, they may take US 17 south to US 701 in Georgetown to SC 51, then to US 378 in Kingsburg.

Residents in Evacuation Zone C should use the closest available evacuation route.

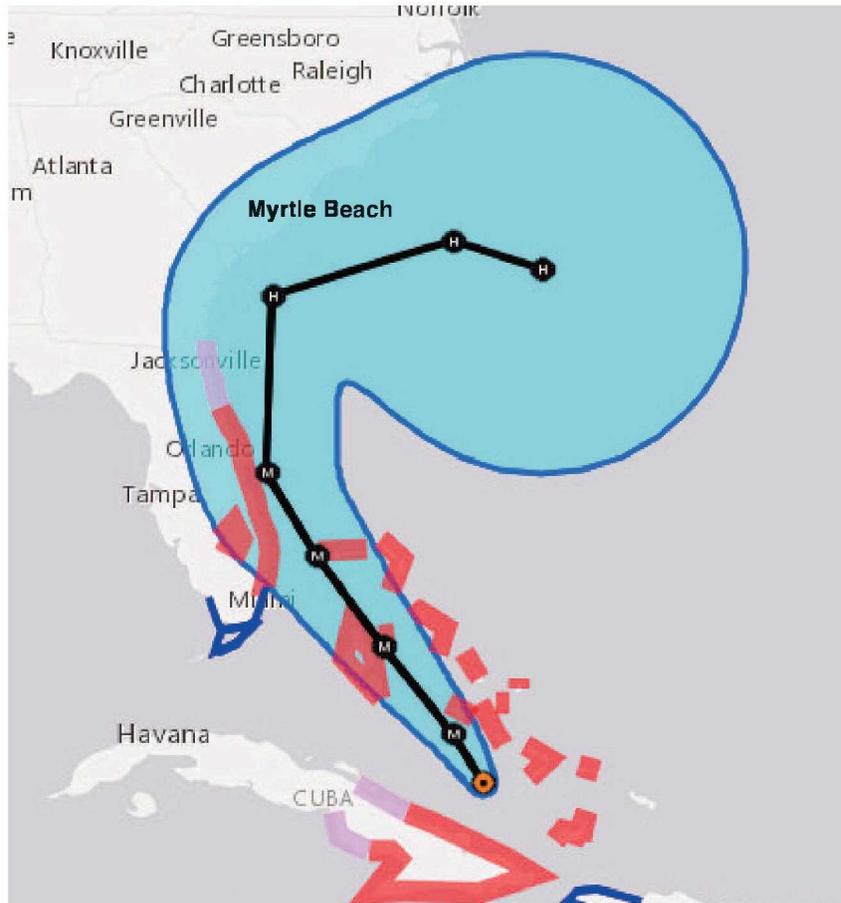


Title: **I mportan t hurricane informat ion**

Author:

Size: 137.64 column inches

Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 7503



Title: **Strand bracing for Hurricane Matthew**
 Author:
 Size: 42.00 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 7503



Strand bracing for Hurricane Matthew

From staff reports
 info@myhorrynews.com

Horry County residents are being urged to prepare for Hurricane Matthew.

Gov. Nikki Haley on Tuesday declared a state of emergency and issued an evacuation order for South Carolina's coastal counties, including Horry. Schools will be closed Thursday and Friday as well as county government offices.

"This is something that we want to take very seriously as we go forward," Haley said.

Matthew was a category 4 storm on Tuesday, but local meteorologists project it will be a category 2 or 3 hurricane by the time it reaches the Grand Strand around 8 a.m. Satur-

day.

WMBF, the Chronicle's news partner, reported the storm would make landfall between Little River and Carolina Beach, though rain and wind from Matthew would affect the entire Grand Strand.

"With a track closer to the coast, locally heavy rain may be a threat from late Friday through Saturday," WMBF reported. "With the closer track, flooding is now a concern. Rain amounts along the immediate coast of 8-10 inches with 5-7 inches inland. This rainfall forecast is conservative based on what we know right now, and will most likely change."

In a news release, county officials said Matthew poses "a significant

threat" to the area and they have been in discussions with state emergency management authorities monitoring the storm's progress.

County officials are insisting that residents pay attention to the area's evacuation zones.

Zone A: All areas east of U.S. 17 Business (Kings Highway), up to the intersection with U.S. 17 and then all areas east of U.S. 17 to the northern county line.

Zone B: All areas south of S.C. 707 and Longwood Drive, including all areas in Longwood Plantation (Blackmoor) to the Waccamaw River and all areas east of U.S. 17 Bypass (Mark Garner Highway) to U.S. 17

See **HURRICANE**, Page 3A

HURRICANE: Mobile home residents asked to evacuate

FROM PAGE 1A

Zone C: All areas between U.S. 701 and S.C. 544, south of Brown's Chapel Avenue and Highway 814, plus all areas east of S.C. 31 (Carolina Bays Parkway) to S.C. 90 and all areas east of S.C. 90 to U.S. 17 to the northern county line.

Officials are also asking mobile home residents and people living in flood-prone areas to evacuate.

Those evacuating can follow several routes:

- Evacuees north of Briarcliffe Acres can take S.C. 9 north to I-95.
- Those living between Briarcliffe Acres and 10th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach can take S.C. 22 to U.S. 501 to S.C. 38 to I-

95.

- Evacuees between 10th Avenue North and Myrtle Beach International Airport can take U.S. 501 to Conway. They may then take U.S. 378 to Columbia or stay on U.S. 501 and continue to S.C. 38 and I-95.

- Evacuees between Myrtle Beach International Airport and Surfside Beach can take S.C. 544 to Conway or U.S. 501.

- South Strand evacuees can take Garden City Beach U.S. 17 south through Georgetown. They can then take U.S. 521 to S.C. 261 to U.S. 378 to Columbia.

They may also take U.S. 17 south to U.S. 701 in Georgetown to S.C. 51 and U.S. 378 at Kingsburg.

Title: **Many Lowcountry residents delay evacuations, stay put**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 85.40 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



HURRICANE MATTHEW

Many Lowcountry residents delay evacuations, stay put

BY CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

David Burke had a customer at his Hilton Head pharmacy Thursday who was surveying those who had not yet evacuated the island.

"I wanted to see who the dumb people were who were working today," the customer told Burke.

"Put us at the top of the list," replied Burke, who chose to stay in the Lowcountry Thursday despite the looming arrival of Hurricane Matthew.

Burke was one of an estimated 75,000 Lowcountry residents who had not yet evacuated Thursday despite Gov. Nikki Haley ordering the evacuation of the Beaufort and Charleston areas at 3 p.m. Wednesday. That number prompted Haley, during a Thursday morning news conference, to say that too many Lowcountry residents were not evacuating.

Many of those who stayed behind said they were waiting to miss the initial rush of evacuees.

Others, however, intend to ride out the storm.

Burke's pharmacy serves the healthcare needs of local residents,

including filling prescriptions for an assisted-living facility. Residents of that facility did not evacuate until Thursday morning, Burke said.

Burke doesn't plan to ride out the storm. He planned to make a decision on when to evacuate either Thursday night or Friday morning.

"There's no reason to stay," he said. "It's just not safe."

However, Burke added, some residents have become complacent about the severity of storms, especially since it has been so long — more than two decades — since a major hurricane hit South Carolina.

Still, many Lowcountry residents were evacuating.

As of Thursday, an oceanfront Hilton Head resort had only 19 of its 846 villas occupied by visitors who had decided to stay, said David Weatherwax, supervisor of security.

While the resort had shut down its amenities and administrative offices, it was "still in full operation as far as security is concerned," Weatherwax

said Thursday.

But, he added, "At the appropriate time, when safety becomes the issue, we will, obviously, get out of here."

Those still staying at the resort Thursday were asked to fill out a next-of-kin form so security could notify their relatives if something happened to them during the storm, he added.

Some plan to leave on Friday, Weatherwax said. The rest plan to stay. They say they have been through it before and are going to wait it out.

But Weatherwax said residents and staff are being encouraged to leave.

Meanwhile in Charleston, West Ashley resident Gilbert Bradham plans to ride out the storm at his home.

"We just decided not to head up the highway in that crowd," Bradham said. "We did that in (1999's Hurricane) Floyd and it turned out to be a long trip for nothing."

Bradham said he is most worried about pine trees breaking in the high wind.

"It's quiet here," Brad-

ham said Thursday, adding almost nobody was around.

Back in Hilton Head, Alan Perry planned to board up his house Thursday and monitor the storm.

Those who had stayed behind so far likely plan to "see what happens and probably boogie on out" once the storm became more imminent, Perry said.

When Perry does evacuate, he will head to his sister's house in Columbia. He planned to make the call on when to leave after Thursday's 5 p.m. hurricane update.

Perry, who has lived on Hilton Head since 1972, said waiting a little later makes getting off the island easier.

Vacationers exit the island first, then nursing homes, hospitals and others needing assistance, he said.

Others leave "when the winds start tickling your fanny," Perry said.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657,
@cassielcope

Title: **ManyLowcountry residents delay evacuations, stay put**

Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com

Size: 85.40 column inches

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



REBECCA LURYE rlurye@islandpacket.com

A boarded-up home on Hilton Head Island's Jonesville Road features a message for Hurricane Matthew on Thursday.

Title: **Light evacuation traffic puts local lane reversals on hold**
 Author: BY ERIN HEFFERNAN eheffernan@islandpacket.com
 Size: 13.79 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



Light evacuation traffic puts local lane reversals on hold

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN
 eheffernan@islandpacket.com

Highway lane reversals on U.S. 278 and U.S. 21 in Beaufort County were put on hold Thursday due to light Hurricane Matthew evacuation traffic, according to S.C. Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol officials.

Both highways had one lane reversed beginning at 4 p.m. Wednesday to allow residents to comply with Gov. Nikki Haley's call for all coastal residents to evacuate before the storm.

Normal traffic patterns will continue on the roads unless there is congestion, Lance Cpl. Gary Miller of the S.C. Highway Patrol said late Thursday afternoon.

The change came after traffic was extremely light Wednesday night, said

Wendell Mulligan, with the S.C. Department of Transportation Beaufort office.

"It seems a lot of people took heed to the warning about getting out early," Mulligan said.

Mulligan said crews have been warned that traffic may pick up again as the storm nears, Mulligan said.

"We're playing it by ear but are looking out if there might be a second wave of people who are waiting to leave," Mulligan said.

S.C. Highway Patrol officials warn coastal residents not to wait until it's too late to evacuate as it may be too dangerous to travel Friday night or Saturday evening.

Erin Heffernan:
 843-706-8142,
 @IPBG_ErinH

Title: **'You're putting your life in danger,' Bluffton mayor warns**
 Author: BY GINASMITH gsmith@islandpacket.com
 Size: 44.33 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



HURRICANE MATTHEW

'You're putting your life in danger,' Bluffton mayor warns

■ As Hurricane Matthew storms toward the South Carolina coast, some in Bluffton are still refusing to evacuate.

BY GINA SMITH

gsmith@islandpacket.com

A suspected high number of Bluffton residents have yet to evacuate ahead of Hurricane Matthew, prompting Mayor Lisa

Sulka to issue a video message Thursday afternoon, pleading for them to go.

"If you stay, you're putting your life in danger as well as all the first responders that are here working tirelessly to keep all of us safe and protected," Sulka said in a video that was sent to the media and posted to the Bluffton Police Department's Facebook page.

FROM PAGE 3A

BLUFFTON

by some meteorologists to be 3 to 5 feet – that could happen at high tide, Nelson said. It could be paired with high winds and heavy rain.

"All of that water from the Atlantic is going to be thrown up into the May River, which can only handle so much. The water will go into roads, yards, homes," she said.

False rumors that looting is occurring in Bluffton may also be a reason some residents remain.

No estimates exist on the number of remaining town residents, said Joy Nelson, spokeswoman for the Bluffton Police Department. But only 175,000 of 1.1 million coastal residents had evacuated, according to Gov. Nikki Haley during a Thursday morning news conference.

New Bluffton residents, unfamiliar with the dangers of hurricanes on the mainland, are part of the problem. So are longtime residents who have successfully weathered past

"I've driven around Bluffton all day today and we have officers riding around. There is no looting in Bluffton, S.C.," Sulka said in the video. "If there are any issues, our Bluffton blue are prepared."

Several residents who Bluffton police urged to evacuate on Thursday said they would leave Friday morning, said Lt. Joe Babkiewicz of the Bluffton Police Department.

But most say they plan

storms, say town leaders. a storm surge – projected

But Hurricane Matthew, a giant Category 4 storm, is something most Bluffton residents have never experienced, say town officials. The eye of the deadly storm is expected to travel close to South Carolina's coast between Friday night and Saturday morning.

"Meteorologists and experts are saying, this is a historic storm, that they have never seen anything like this," Nelson said. "People need to leave."

The threat to Bluffton is

SEE BLUFFTON, 4A

“

METEOROLOGISTS AND EXPERTS ARE SAYING, THIS IS A HISTORIC STORM ... PEOPLE NEED TO LEAVE.

Joy Nelson, Bluffton Police Department spokeswoman

to stay.

Meanwhile, hundreds of members of the National Guard, the S.C. Highway Patrol and the S.C. Forestry Commission are already set up in the Buckwalter Recreation Center to help during the storm.

For now, Bluffton's 52 police officers are patrolling the town and continuing to encourage everyone they encounter to evacuate.

Once winds hit 40 to 45 mph, Bluffton police offi-

cers will be pulled off the roads, Nelson said.

And that will slow emergency response times for town residents who stay behind.

"A first responder will most likely not be able to get to you," Sulka said in her message.

Gina Smith: 843-706-8145, @GinaNSmith