

Title: **S.C.'s Scott plays role in GOP race with candidate forums**  
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD The Associated Press  
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# S.C.'s Scott plays role in GOP race with candidate forums

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 adminis-

tration 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 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 Carolina'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 after 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 both to introduce himself to voters and bone up on issues in which he's had

**SEE SCOTT, 5A**

## FROM PAGE 3A

# SCOTT

little experience, like 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.

Scott announced the candidate forums earlier this year, inviting all the GOP

hopefuls for their own hour-long sessions. Even Donald Trump, the GOP front-runner who initially turned down Scott's offer to sit down, ultimately accepted, packing a downtown Columbia theater that seats more than 2,000.

The businessman deferred many times to Scott throughout the session, specifically excluding the senator from his frequent critiques of Washington politicians.

"Other than Tim, we're run by very stupid people,"

Trump said, the audience erupting in cheers and laughter.

South Carolina GOP Chairman Matt Moore, who previously served as Scott's state director before his election as party leader, said Scott truly wants to help voters learn more about the people vying to be their next president.

"It's not about him," Moore said. "It's a side benefit that his profile is a bit raised, but I don't think he sees it that way at all. He just wants a good, solid Republican to be elected

president."

Scott has a high approval rating among South Carolina voters - 83 percent, according to an April recent Winthrop University poll.

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.

"These no doubt that every presidential candidate

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sees it as a good thing to be on stage with Tim Scott," said Scott Huffmon, a political science professor and Winthrop pollster. "But Tim Scott also has to see that

this is a good thing for him to highlight his prominence within the party and on the national stage." Voter Pat Pope said she planned to attend several of

the forums, both to see GOP candidates in action and also to learn more about Scott himself in the process. "I don't know that much

about his platform and what he stands for," said Pope, a white, 83-year-old retiree. "But I do know that he's highly respected. ... The average person can relate to him."



Scott



MICHAEL HOLAHAN AP

Flanked by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C. (left) and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C. (right), Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina acknowledges applause from the crowd at the conclusion of a town hall meeting at the University of South Carolina at Aiken Convocation Center on Oct. 2.

Title: **Disastrous flooding on the Waccamaw predicted to strike Friday**  
 Author: BY AUDREY HUDSON ahudson@thesunnews.com  
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# Disastrous flooding on the Waccamaw predicted to strike Friday

BY AUDREY HUDSON  
 ahudson@thesunnews.com

Torrential rains that wreaked havoc across Horry County began to recede Monday, but for Lees Landing residents, a disastrous slow-moving flood is predicted to swamp riverbanks and invade homes by Friday.

A vacant field above the landing materialized into a parking lot filled with cars Sunday night – a timely move as water blocked the road by Monday morning.

Residents hiked through the flooded streets to reach their cars and make scheduled doctor

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## WACCAMAW

stayed put, but with the rising water rivaling the record set by Hurricane Floyd in 1999, most residents aren't taking any chances. Two dozen National Guard members arrived in Conway on Monday and checked on residents in neighborhoods isolated by the flooding.

"In 2013 they never said anything to us, we all just stayed here and this is what we did – drove in by truck or boated in and out with canoes to get to cars," Ford said. "They didn't even come down here to help us with water or stuff like that," neighbors just relied on neighbors, Ford said.

Ann LaPlante moved to Lees Landing from New York four years ago, and while she's packing up her belongings in preparation for the floodwaters to rush

appointments, last-minute grocery store runs, or to haul in supplies for livestock.

Kia Ford has a horse trailer ready for a speedy exit with her pony "Angel" out of Lees Landing if the predictions for a 15-foot crest of the Waccamaw River on Friday hold true.

It's only been two years since the last flood caused devastation in this low-lying area and many residents

**SEE WACCAMAW, 6A**

### EDITOR'S NOTE

We are enacting early deadlines again for the Tuesday print edition so carriers can make deliveries if road conditions are safe. They also will deliver any missed Monday editions.

You can find all the latest coverage at **MyrtleBeachOnline.com**.

Access to that content and all other news will be free for the rest of the week so all residents can stay up-to-date on how to stay safe.

— CAROLYN CALLISON MURRAY, EDITOR

her house, she's not sure she will leave.

"How will we know if we're supposed to evacuate?" LaPlante asked. "We don't know what to do or where to go. We have five dogs – what do we do with our dogs if we go to a shelter?"

Horry County spokeswoman Lisa Bourcier said the best the county could do in the next few days to prepare for potential river flooding is watch the river.

"A lot of the people in Lee's Landing have been through [Hurricane] Floyd and rebuilt to higher standards, so they know what to expect," she said. "But there might be some who don't, so we'll be prepared to help when we're needed."

The National Weather Service has issued a major flood warning for low-lying

areas along the Waccamaw River in Conway. At 14 feet on Monday, the river was well over the 11-foot flood stage causing minor flooding, and is expected to climb to 15.9 feet by Friday. Hurricane Floyd

caused massive flood damage as the river swelled to more than 17 feet.

Already a truck from Horry County Fire and Rescue Station 43 is patrolling Lees Landing and recommending that residents pack up and move out while roads are still passable by truck.

"We're advising them to leave because the flooding will only get worse over the next couple of days," said firefighter Danny Morris. "Most of the people we talked to are willing to get out."

But Joann Newman

hasn't made up her mind whether to leave. She hiked through the flooded street with the assistance of a walking stick to reach her car, asking neighbors along the way if the roads into Myrtle Beach were clear so she could get to a dental appointment.

She has a bathtub full of water at home, and candles in case the area loses electricity.

"I might just ride it out," Newman said.

More than 15 inches have dropped on the Myrtle Beach area since Friday, and totals have topped 27 inches across the state.

Gov. Nikki Haley has called out the National Guard to assist in search and rescue missions.

Horry County government offices and schools were closed Monday to allow emergency officials

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to deal with flooded roads and other dangerous conditions, including downed trees and power outages.

Contact Audrey Hudson at 843-444-1765.

**AT 14 FEET ON MONDAY, THE WACCAMAW RIVER WAS WELL OVER**

**THE 11-FOOT FLOOD STAGE CAUSING MINOR FLOODING, AND IS EXPECTED TO CLIMB TO 15.9 FEET BY FRIDAY**

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*Horry County Fire Rescue firefighter Danny Moris*



AUDREY HUDSON ahudson@thesunnews.com

Ann LaPlante (left) and Joann Newman hiked through flooded roads in Lees Landing to reach a make-shift parking lot on higher ground that materialized overnight for residents in this flood-prone area.

Title: **The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it**  
 Author:  
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**CINDI ROSS SCOPPE**  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
**THE STATE**

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

**T**HE RAIN water 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 repeated across our state, as ele-

vation 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 suffering. 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 schools 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 it 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 Red Cross or the United Way. 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 rivers 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

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

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 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

their own lives at risk to save so many lives 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 helpful. And do unto others as you would have them do unto you. We are one family. Together, we will recover.

*Ms. Scoppe can be reached at [cscoppe@thestate.com](mailto:cscoppe@thestate.com) or at (803) 771-8571.*



Title: **Homeowners along lower Saluda River rescued**  
 Author: BY TIM FLACH [tflach@thestate.com](mailto:tflach@thestate.com)  
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# Homeowners along lower Saluda River rescued

BY TIM FLACH

[tflach@thestate.com](mailto:tflach@thestate.com)

About 100 people living along the lower Saluda River were evacuated Monday as water released from Lake Murray upstream spread further into the Pine Glen neighborhood, flooding some homes.

More neighborhoods along the 10-mile stretch of the river might be evacuated as the amount of water released following the heavy rain fluctuates, officials said.

"With a rain of almost epic proportions, nobody knows where all this water is going to go," Irmo Fire District Chief Mike Sonefeld said.

Firefighters joined Lexington County deputies and state Department of Natural Resources officers in taking residents to safety and shelters, returning afterward to retrieve pets and medicine as needed.

About 80 people went to a shelter at nearby Seven Oaks Park, one of two in the area, officials said.

Amounts released from the 47,500-acre lake vary to balance the influx from rain and swollen streams as far away as the Upstate, South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., spokesman Eric Boomhower said.

"It's kind of dynamic," he said. "We adjust it as we need to manage things."

How long the releases will continue is uncertain, Boomhower said. "People realize this is an unusual time," he said.

The lake is estimated to hold 763 million gallons of water at the highest level allowed. It remained near that ceiling Monday, according to the U.S Geological Survey.

SCE&G operates the lake originally built for

hydropower 85 years ago but now a major source of recreation and drinking water for the Columbia area.

The flooding "is something many of us have never seen," said County Councilman Phil Yarborough of Irmo. "It's shocking and people are starting to realize it's not going to go away anytime soon."

The evacuation followed others near the river late Sunday as water levels started rising.

Overall, about 100 people were rescued then from part of the Pine Glen neighborhood as well as from flash floods in several neighborhoods in the Irmo and St. Andrews area, Sonefeld said.

Saluda Shoals Park is inundated, making a section of adjacent Bush River Road impassable, he

said.

Meanwhile, Gov. Nikki Haley warned against boaters approaching the dam to take pictures.

"That is extremely dangerous," she said. "I can't stress enough that this is not a fun event. We don't want to have to come out and rescue you, and much worse, we don't want to have you added to this number of fatalities."

Officials at Santee Cooper downstream announced water also is being released from Lake Marion into the Santee River.

"Santee Cooper's dams and dikes are secure," spokeswoman Mollie Gore said. "Spilling is a normal part of Santee Cooper's hydroelectric operations in periods of increased flows into the lakes."

*Tim Flach: 803-771-8483*

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TIM DOMINICK [tdominick@thestate.com](mailto:tdominick@thestate.com)

Residents of the Pine Glen subdivision off of Tram Road in the St. Andrews area of northwest Columbia console each other after abandoning their homes.

Title: **Concerned about safety, Midlands public schools keep doors closed Tuesday**  
 Author: BY JANE DAIL [jdail@thestate.com](mailto:jdail@thestate.com)  
 Size: 17.36 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



## Concerned about safety, Midlands public schools keep doors closed Tuesday

BY JANE DAIL  
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Several schools across the Midlands will stay closed for a second weekday Tuesday as a result of the weekend's severe weather.

After meeting with emergency preparedness officials, public schools in Richland, Lexington and Kershaw counties closed for a second day, after a storm dumped more than a foot of rain in a matter of days.

Richland 2 made the decision to close Wednesday, as well.

Gov. Nikki Haley recommended schools in the area remain closed at a Monday news briefing. Haley said even after rain stops, dangers from remaining flood waters and unstable roads pose a danger.

School officials said they would contact families via phone and email, along with posting information to social media

and websites, to keep them posted about classes rest of the week.

Richland 1 was the first to announce Tuesday's closure. Karen York, district communications director, said officials factored in road conditions and whether schools and families had reliable power and water when making the decision.

"Obviously, safety is the biggest concern," York said.

Among private schools that announced closings Tuesday were Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Glenforest School, Grace Christian School, Ben Lippen School and Covenant Classical Christian School.

The status of other private schools, including Hammond, as well as St. Joseph, St. Peters and St. John Neumann Catholic Schools, was not known Monday afternoon. They were keeping parents informed through social media and other means.

Title: **S.C. roads repairs will take time, money**  
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE [ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)  
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# S.C. roads repairs will take time, money

BY CASSIE COPE  
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State officials will have to wait for water levels to recede to determine the flooding damage done to S.C. roads and bridges.

"We can anticipate a long period of assessment and recovery," acting state Transportation chief Christy Hall said Monday.

To help with recovery efforts, Hall has requested

**FROM PAGE 3A**

## ROADS

"We don't know the extent of the damage," said John Hardee, S.C. Transportation Department commissioner for the Midlands counties, including Lexington and Richland.

But, Hardee added, it "absolutely" will take hundreds of millions of dollars to repair the roads statewide. He said the damage will be more expensive than the 2014 ice storm, which cost South Carolina more than \$167 million.

The Transportation Department will need money from the federal and state governments to absorb the cost of getting the highway system back

\$5 million in federal emergency-relief funds, a small portion of the money that eventually will be needed.

Nearly 125 Richland County roads and bridges and 45 Lexington County roads and bridges were closed Monday, according to the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Statewide, nearly 400

roads and more than 150 bridges were closed because of flooding conditions, according to the S.C. Emergency Management Division.

Approximately 100 roads and bridges were closed in the Columbia metropolitan area, Hall said.

Roads will be repaired

and returned to service based on a priority system, Hall said.

Interstates will be the top priority, followed by primary U.S. and S.C. routes. High-volume, two-lane roadways that connect communities then will be restored, Hall said.

**SEE ROADS, 6A**

up and running, he said.

The Transportation Department reopened Interstate 126 Monday and planned to open a section of Interstate 20 around the Monticello Road area.

As the flood waters move toward the coast, more road closures will happen, Gov. Nikki Haley said. "If there's a road that's open now, that doesn't mean it's going to stay open."

Some repairs in Richland County are estimated to be made Wednesday through Oct. 21, according to the Transportation Department.

Still, some repairs across the county and state could

take longer.

"It's going to take months," Hardee said.

North of Columbia, the state has moved into recovery phase, Hall said.

Columbia and areas south of South Carolina's Capital City still are in response mode with many roads flooded, she said.

As flood waters travel toward the coast, there could be a wave of road and bridge closures, Hall said.

The Interstate 26 bridge over the Saluda River will remain closed because of concerns about the Saluda River's water level.

"We're closing any roads that aren't safe," Haley said.

Traffic in the Midlands was very light Tuesday with the exception of Interstate 77, Department of Public Safety director Leroy Smith said.

That interstate is being used as a detour for traffic diverted off Interstate 95, portions of which are closed.

As flood waters recede, Transportation Department employees are going to check the condition of the now-closed roads before reopening them, Hall said.

"Our goal is to be overly cautious," Haley said.

Reach Cope at  
 (803) 771-8657.

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GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Flood damage to a section of Forest Drive on Monday, one of numerous roads damaged.

Title: **Columbia hospitals open, but limit service**  
 Author: BY SARAH ELLIS [sellis@thestate.com](mailto:sellis@thestate.com)  
 Size: 47.27 square inch  
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# Columbia hospitals open, but limit service

BY SARAH ELLIS  
[sellis@thestate.com](mailto:sellis@thestate.com)

Columbia-area hospitals say they are not in danger of shutting down in the wake of the catastrophic flooding, though the city's three downtown medical centers - Palmetto Health Richland, Palmetto Health Baptist and Providence Hospital - were without running water for at least part of the day Monday as the city worked to repair numerous water main breaks.

Water pressure had been restored to the

downtown hospitals by Monday afternoon, and thanks to stored water supplies and continuous water shuttling from firefighters, there were no plans to evacuate patients.

While the hospitals are open, services are limited.

Palmetto Health's Richland and Baptist facilities downtown were accepting only stroke, heart and pediatric patients, as well as critical care patients transported by EMS, according to Steve Shelton,

Palmetto Health's medical director for emergency management. The hospitals were not accepting

critical care patients transferred from other medical centers. The hospitals were limiting their surgery schedules to emergency procedures and have limited outpatient procedures.

The Columbia Fire Department and other local fire agencies have had trucks lined up outside Palmetto Health's downtown hospitals con-

tinuously since midnight Monday, Shelton said, shuttling in water to allow the hospitals to continue to chill their HVAC systems and cool medical equipment. Providence Hospital on Forest Drive also was receiving water from fire officials.

Gov. Nikki Haley on Monday praised the Columbia firefighters as "heroes" for their overnight efforts to transport

**SEE HOSPITAL, 7A**

**FROM PAGE 3A**

## HOSPITALS

bulk water to hospitals that were without.

The hospitals have been under the same indefinite boil-water advisories as all of Columbia's water customers.

The story was different in Lexington County.

"We're good," said Jennifer Wilson, a spokeswoman for Lexington Medical Center. Water at its main campus on Sunset Boulevard did not have to be boiled, and despite some employees being unable to come to work

because of dangerous conditions at home or on their commutes, the hospital was adequately staffed, she said. On Monday afternoon, about 320 of the hospital's 414 in-patient beds were filled, which was only slightly higher than the recent average, Wilson said.

Restricted water availability posed a problem for area kidney dialysis patients, whose treatments require water. Providence Hospital was not providing dialysis treatments Mon-

day, spokeswoman Kelly Perritt said, but Lexington Medical Center and the Palmetto Health Hospitals were, for in-patients.

Dialysis is a life-sustaining procedure for kidney-failure patients.

Some outpatient dialysis clinics in the downtown area have been redirecting their patients to treatment locations outside of downtown, said Sug Kaiser, the South Carolina regional vice president for American Renal Associates, which has two downtown

treatment centers and one in northeast Columbia.

Providence's Forest Drive facility was without running water for the early part of the day Monday but continued to carry out essential patient activities, Perritt said. Its orthopedic care facility in northeast Columbia did not lose water.

Elective procedures at Providence have been canceled, Perritt said.

*Reach Ellis at (803) 771-8307.*

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TRACY GLANTZ [tglantz@thestate.com](mailto:tglantz@thestate.com)

Firefighters siphon water from a holding tank at Palmetto Health Baptist in Columbia.



Title: **Flood worries rising**  
Author: BY ANDREW KNAPP aknapp@postandcourier.com  
Size: 217.0 square inch  
Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289

**SOUTH CAROLINA FLOODING**

# Flood worries rising

Obama OKs federal funding for 8 counties  
11 dead, 100s rescued;  
long cleanup ahead  
More than 500 state roads, bridges closed

BY ANDREW KNAPP  
aknapp@postandcourier.com

A flood unlike any other in South Carolina history has killed 11 people and left scores homeless, but as Lowcountry rivers and creeks rose Monday, the threat was far from over.

Gov. Nikki Haley said after speaking with the president that she had asked the federal government to declare disaster areas of 11 counties, including the tri-county area that saw more than

26 inches of rainfall in spots during a four-day span. Late Monday, President Barack Obama approved eight counties, including Charleston and Dorchester, for federal funding.

The move speeds the flow of money to help displaced homeowners and local agencies scrambling to clear roads and keep the peace.

"We haven't seen this level of rain in the Lowcountry in 1,000 years," she

said. "That's how big this is. That's what South Carolina is dealing with."

Even as the rain stopped Monday, people continued to flee their waterlogged homes. More than 900 were staying at shelters statewide. Nearly 40,000 were left without running water. Schools were closed again in a

Please see **WORRIES**, Page A8

## Flood worries rising in S.C.

**WORRIES**, from A1

wide swath of the state, including Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties.

Since late last week, four people have been killed in traffic accidents blamed on the rain.

Seven more drowned — at least five of them after their vehicles were swamped with floodwater, state officials said. In one episode, a state transportation worker's truck was swept off Garners Ferry Road near Columbia as he su-

pervised other workers there. His body was found later, still inside.

From Columbia to Charleston, rescuers in boats and helicopters have carried hundreds of people from their homes and plucked them from rooftops. About 1,300 National Guardsmen were deployed, performing 25 rescues from the air, and another 7,000 were on alert. State wildlife officers have rescued 150 statewide.

Their task could grow.

In the days ahead, rainwater will flow from the Upstate and the Midlands and filter into the Lowcountry's rivers and streams. The rushing water on Monday already had started to eat away at roads and bridges in Berkeley and Dorchester counties.

"This is not over," Haley said. "Just because the rain stops does not mean that we are out of the woods."

**'Not ready to go'**

By the time the clouds started to part Monday, a weather observer in Mount Pleasant's Park West community had measured 26.88 inches of rainfall since Thursday.

It was the largest total reported in South Carolina by the National Weather Service. But the town's storm-water system diverted the runoff to ponds, rivers and creeks, limiting flooding in the town.

But the threat that will linger through this week could be

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 Author: BY ANDREW KNAPP aknapp@postandcourier.com  
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hard to stop.

Nelson and Brenda Shields watched the water build from their riverfront home, where they have lived for 39 years.

Over four days of steady rain, they saw the Ashley River creep into their Ashborough neighborhood off Dorchester Road. Firefighters helped evacuate their community. About 30 people left in boats.

Their home on Lakeview Drive had weathered countless storms and the biggest of all to have hit Charleston: Hurricane Hugo in 1989. They had never seen the river rise like this.

The water started seeping into the couple's sunroom Sunday. Nelson Shields tried in vain to pump it out.

But the water kept rising.

Outside, a wrought iron fence disappeared under murky brown water. Their backyard became a raging river.

The carpet in their sunken den started feeling like a wet sponge. The pair moved furniture to higher parts of the house.

Rescuers docked at their home early Monday. But they stayed.

Nelson Shields' wife stood and watched in silence from the front porch as he ascended in wading boots to the one front

step still above water.

"They're telling us to get out," Nelson said. "I'm not ready to go. They'll have to tie me up and drag me."

### 'Long' recovery

While the threat continued to build in some places, Haley said the state's focus was shifting to recovering and assessing just how much damage was done.

About 381 state roads and 127 bridges remained closed. The structural integrity of the roads and bridges will be checked or repaired, an effort that could take weeks. About 1,000 law officers and 1,000 Transportation Department personnel were working statewide on that task.

"It's not going to happen quickly," Haley said. "This is going to be a long process. ... It's not going to be convenient."

The governor said her verbal request for a disaster declaration in counties affected by the flooding would hasten the paperwork procedures for getting the aid. Later, authorities in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties will assess the damage in their areas and send reports to Haley.

If South Carolina lands such

a designation, the state can get federal money for clean-up and repairs, said Cathy Haynes, chief of operations for Charleston County Emergency Management. The state would be responsible for dividing that money among the counties.

"The whole state is ground zero," Haynes said.

Charleston County officials remained at the highest alert level as the water in low-lying areas slowly receded. But much remains uncertain about rising river levels.

Haynes said local officials were working with hydrology agencies in Columbia to keep updated on the flow of floodwater from there to the Lowcountry.

"How much? We don't know. When? We don't know," she said. "But we are keeping an eye on that."

Sawmill Branch creek, which runs through the heart of Summerville, already has overflowed its banks in several locations.

Residents in the Twin Lakes neighborhood in Knightsville and the Crestwood community off S.C. Highway 165 also saw serious flooding. Dorchester County Emergency Manage-

ment Director Mario Formisano said.

Voluntary evacuations took place over the weekend in the Ladson neighborhood of Tranquil Acres and the Evergreen neighborhood off Bacons Bridge Road.

Some residents reported seeing alligators swimming and snakes slithering through the water.

Formisano feared, though, that the worst may come later, especially in rural areas along the Edisto River. During the weekend, the county sent emergency alerts to homeowners within a mile of the river, warning them to prepare to leave if necessary.

Of particular concern are the residents who rent homes near the Edisto and might not be accustomed to how quickly the river could rise.

"Don't get complacent," Formisano said. "People in general can help us out by listening when we tell them to go or to stay out of a road."

**Diane Knich, Paul Bowers, Gavin Jackson, Brenda Rindge and Prentiss Findlay** contributed to this report. Reach **Andrew Knapp** at (843) 937-5414 or twitter.com/offlede.

Title: **Flood worries rising**  
Author: BY ANDREW KNAPP aknapp@postandcourier.com  
Size: 217.0 square inch  
Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289

### Inside



BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

**Jewel Daniel carries a neighbor's child as residents of Lake-view Drive in the Ashborough neighborhood in Summerville leave their flooded homes Monday.**

- Floodwaters rise with misery in Summerville, **A3**
- Map details a flood for the history books, **A5**
- Damage leaves roofers scrambling in Lowcountry, **B1**
- Rain to affect trees for weeks, years to come, **A4**
- Price-gouging law protects storm victims, **B1**
- High schools try to reschedule canceled games, **C1**

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MIC SMITH/AP

A man makes his way through floodwaters Monday in the parking lot of The Citadel Beach Club on Isle of Palms.

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ALEX HOLT/STAFF

**Johnathan Jenkins watches as two vehicles push their luck with the flood waters Monday on Spruill Avenue.**



GERRY BROOME/AP

**Hunter Baker surveys flood damage to his neighborhood near the Black Creek following heavy rains in Florence on Monday. Flooding continues throughout the state following record rainfall amounts over the past several days.**

Title: **Death toll rises, roads remain closed**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
 Size: 80.44 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



## Death toll rises, roads remain closed

BY ANDREW SHAIN  
 ashain@thestate.com

As rains that caused the worst flood in Columbia in more than a century ended Monday, thousands of people in the Midlands lacked water and power, dozens of roads remained impassible and the death toll continued to rise.

At least five people, ranging in age from 24 to 78, died in vehicles found in flooded Columbia-area streets since Sunday, Richland County Coroner Gary Watts said.

Two of the victims were found Monday morning

near Lake Katherine on Shady Lane and on Teague Road, near Sun View Lake. The other three victims were found Sunday on Sunset Drive in north Columbia, near the intersection of Devine Street and Rosewood

Drive, and near Eastover on Garners Ferry Road.

Water levels on Gills Creek and the Congaree River, which spiked Sunday as more than a foot of

**SEE FLOOD, 6A**

FROM PAGE 1A

## FLOOD

rain fell, remained above flood stage Monday. The rainfall Sunday set a 128-year record for Columbia, according to the National Weather Service.

Rising water that breached dams contributed to the flooding Sunday in some areas, including in Forest Acres.

A third dam broke in Forest Acres Monday as rising water burst the Overcreek Bridge dam. A evacuation of nearby residents was underway late Monday afternoon.

The slowly receding water is hampering recovery efforts.

Authorities across Richland County said they would need several days to search homes and cars for people as the flood waters recede.

"We're preparing for at least 10 days (of recovery) and that's probably low," Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said. "We have a lot of damage to our roads, to our infrastruc-

ture."

To aid the state's recovery after the historic storm, Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday she asked federal officials for a major emergency declaration that would provide housing assistance to people displaced by flooding and money to local governments for debris removal, emergency protection and repairs.

Haley and President Barack Obama declared states of emergency in South Carolina last week.

The governor spoke with the president Monday morning. She said he expressed his thoughts and prayers for the state.

The S.C. coast received the most rain from the slow-moving storm that struck Thursday. But the Midlands took a wallop Sunday.

Areas around Forest Acres, Eastover, Gaston and Hopkins remained inundated Monday.

Columbia and Richland

authorities have conducted hundreds of recoveries and rescues since the storm blanketed the Columbia area. The Richland County Sheriff's office received more than 2,400 calls for help from Sunday morning to Monday morning.

Roads remain an issue.

Statewide, nearly 400 roads and more than 150 bridges were closed because of the flooding conditions, according to the S.C. Emergency Management Division.

Nearly 170 roads in Richland and Lexington counties were closed Monday.

Traffic in the Midlands was very light Monday with the exception of Interstate 77, S.C. Department of Public Safety director Leroy Smith said.

That interstate is being used as a detour for traffic diverted off I-95, portions of which are closed.

A portion of Interstate 26 remained closed in

Lexington County because of the high water levels in the Saluda River.

Water outages and potential contamination worried some city residents.

The city of Columbia does not know how many residents do not have water.

Water was restored for some residents but city officials said they could lose service again. City officials said they are dealing with about a dozen water line breaks.

City officials asked residents to boil water for at least one minute before drinking it or cooking with it.

Staff writers John Monk, Cassie Cope and Clif LeBlanc contributed.

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A caravan of dump trucks arrives in Columbia on Monday afternoon.



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Water recedes from a house along Lakeshore road in Forest Acres.

Title: **Obama approves federal funding for S.C. counties**  
 Author: BY MELISSA BOUGHTON mboughton@postandcourier.com  
 Size: 27.74 square inch  
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



# Obama approves federal funding for S.C. counties

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON  
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Residents and business owners affected by flooding in eight counties across the state can now apply for federal aid.

President Barack Obama on Monday declared part of the state a disaster area and ordered federal funding to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms and flooding since Thursday and continuing, according to a statement from the White House.

The action makes federal funds available to affected people in Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland and Williamsburg counties. It's possible there could be more funding as FEMA continues surveying damage in other areas.

Governor Nikki Haley said the declaration was "an extremely important first step" in the state's recovery.

"We have now entered the

largest recovery program our nation offers in an almost unprecedented timeframe," she said. "What this allows us to do is to assess the damage of this storm in every single county and continue to add to the list of those eligible for this support — a list we know will grow."

She said recovery won't be easy, but that the state would get through it together.

"The people of South Carolina have my commitment: at the end of this process every county and every person will have access to every resource we can get them," Haley said.

Federal assistance includes grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property loss and other programs to help residents and business owners recover from the disaster, according to a news release.

Federal money also is available to eligible state and local

governments and certain private nonprofits on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work in Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter and Williamsburg counties.

Statewide hazard mitigation measures also have access to cost-sharing funds.

Residents and business owners who suffered losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance Tuesday by registering online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired.

The toll-free numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Reach **Melissa Boughton**  
 at 937-5594 or at [Twitter.com/mboughtonPC](https://twitter.com/mboughtonPC).