

Title: **Reports: Gowdy in running for attorney general**
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Reports: Gowdy in running for attorney general

AMANDA COYNE
 THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Twenty years ago, U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy was a federal prosecutor sharing a desk in a windowless basement office. Today, he could be under consideration for the position of U.S. attorney general.

Gowdy, who currently represents most of Greenville and Spartanburg counties in the U.S. House of Representatives, is on President-elect Donald Trump's short list for the country's top prosecutor, according to multiple reports.

Others thought to be under consideration include Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, has said he is also being considered for the position.

Gowdy is currently focused on his work in the House, said press secretary Amanda Gonzalez. The Republican caucus, of which Gowdy is a member, will soon begin doling out committee chairmanships and assignments for the coming legislative session. The Spartanburg Republican was just re-elected to his fourth term in Congress.

Gowdy shot to national notoriety in recent years for his questioning of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about terrorist attacks on an American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, where his experience as a prosecutor shone through. Gowdy was a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina for six

years, followed by 10 years as the 7th Circuit Solicitor in Spartanburg County.

Gowdy took on a wide range of cases in those years in the courtroom. While with the U.S. Attorney's office, Gowdy prosecuted federal narcotics, child pornography and robbery cases, including that of convicted robber and carjacker J. Mark Allen, who was featured on the TV program "America's Most Wanted." As solicitor, Gowdy expanded the circuit's drug court and created a Violence Against Women Task Force and Criminal Domestic Violence court.

Greenville attorney Beattie Ashmore shared that desk in the basement office with Gowdy when they were both federal prosecutors. As speculation swirled Thursday, Ashmore praised his former colleague as "one of the most talented prosecutors I've ever worked with."

"He's a very hard worker. You can see his command of the facts during the Benghazi hearings. He's fair, he's hard working, he's very smart," Ashmore said. "He's one haircut away from a perfect candidate for the attorney general spot."

Gowdy is one of three South Carolina politicians reportedly under consideration for a position within the Trump Administration. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told the *Post and Courier* Wednesday that he was being consid-

ered for attorney general and that Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for multiple cabinet positions, including secretary of state. Haley met with Trump on Thursday, but little information about that meeting has been released by representatives for Trump or Haley.

David Woodard, a Clemson political science professor and longtime Republican political consultant, said of the three Palmetto State politicians being discussed, Gowdy has the "best resume" for a cabinet position.

"If you wanted somebody who could prosecute, it seems to me that Trey has a great resume and a lot of credibility as the chair of the Benghazi committee," said Woodard, who has worked with Gowdy in the past.

Ashmore said he did not know any more about Gowdy's potential for the role than what had already been reported in the media. but that Gowdy's work through the years had put him in a strong position.

"Trey is a humble, modest guy. Did he sit around the office and say 'I want to be attorney general of the United States?' No," Ashmore said. "But he has continued to work hard and evolve and place himself into contention. That's just from good, honest hard work over the years. That's from hard work as a prosecutor, solicitor and as a congressman."

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Trump could shake up SC

A Haley appointment would help McMaster

AMANDA COYNE

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

The appointment of Gov. Nikki Haley or another South Carolina politician to President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet could have a serious impact on the state.

Haley met Thursday with Trump in New York. The governor's office did not say what the pair discussed, but Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has said Haley is under consideration for multiple Cabinet positions, including secretary of state.

If Haley were to join the Trump Administration, McMaster would assume the governorship, a position he has publicly considered running for in 2018. That could mean an advantageous position for McMaster, giving him experience with the job before campaigning begins. Two candidates — House Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope and former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill — have already publicly

stated their intention to run for the Republican gubernatorial

nomination, and multiple others are openly entertaining the idea.

"If he were to do this, he would have two years of experience," said David Woodard, a Clemson University political science professor and Republican political consultant. "But experience has never been a problem for Henry because he has a lot of it. He would be at an advantage when it comes to time and money."

See HALEY, Page 4A

Haley

Continued from Page 3A

McMaster is a former state attorney general and state Republican Party chairman. He was also an early endorser of Trump, supporting him during the crucial South Carolina primary. He has remained close with Trump throughout the campaign.

Wednesday, he told the *Post and Courier* that he is also under consideration for U.S. attorney general.

If McMaster is selected for a Cabinet position and Haley is not, Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman would become lieutenant governor. If both Haley and McMaster join the Trump administration, the 85-year-old state senator would become governor, according to South Carolina's gubernatorial line of succession. Leatherman was unavailable

for comment Thursday, but state Senate spokesman Michael Ulmer said there were too many hypotheticals to speculate about Leatherman assuming the governorship.

If any South Carolina politician takes a cabinet position, the state stands to benefit, Woodard said.

"It raises the visibility and importance of South Carolina and raises the importance of

the primary most especially," Woodard said. "We really benefit if that happens."

State Republican Party Chairman Matt Moore also said a South Carolina presence in Trump's cabinet would be good for the state, increasing the potential for investment and economic development opportunities.

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NATHAN GRAY/CONTRIBUTOR

**GOP Gov. Nikki Haley is being
considered for Cabinet positions.**

Title: Trump team explores hiring son-in-law

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POLITICS

Trump team explores hiring son-in-law

BY JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
AND MAGGIE HABERMAN

New York Times

WASHINGTON

Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of President-elect Donald Trump, has consulted with lawyers about the possibility of joining the new administration, a move that could run afoul of federal nepotism laws and would all but certainly invite legal challenges.

Kushner, 35, had been planning to return to his private businesses after Election Day. But on the morning after Trump won, he began discussing a role in the White House, according to two people briefed on his discussions, who requested anonymity to describe his thinking.

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TRANSITION

gence Agency, has advised Trump on national security issues for months. As national security adviser, he would work in the White House and have frequent access to the president. The post does

Trump is urging him to join, according to one of the people briefed, a sentiment shared by Stephen K. Bannon, the chief strategist for the White House, and Reince Priebus, who was named chief of staff.

Kushner has consulted with at least one lawyer and believes that by forgoing a salary and putting his investment fund, his real estate holdings and his newspaper, The New York Observer, into a blind trust, he would not be bound by federal nepotism rules, according to one of the people briefed.

Still, it is not clear that such an arrangement would be legal. Under federal statute, the president cannot accept voluntary services that are not permitted by law, and a separate statute

bars public officials from employing family members in any capacity.

Talking to Romney: CNN reported late Thursday that Trump will meet this weekend with one of his fiercest critics: 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney, a discussion that could include the position of secretary of state.

Offer to Flynn: Trump offered former military intelligence chief Michael Flynn the job of national security adviser as he began to build out his national security team Thursday, according to a senior Trump official.

Flynn, who served as the director of the Defense Intelli-

SEE TRANSITION, 7A

not require Senate confirmation.

The official wouldn't say whether Flynn had accepted the job, according to The Associated Press.

Meeting with head of state: Trump's transition

pivoted on Thursday, trying to leave behind the disarray of its first week for an accelerated schedule of official meetings, including Trump's first face-to-face meeting with a world leader, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of

Japan. That meeting was scheduled for late Thursday.

Trump's aides have dismissed reports that the transition was in flux. They said that the news media and disgruntled

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people were stoking negative accounts, and that the wholesale shake-up of the transition leadership ranks – including the ouster of Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey – reflected a drive by Vice President-elect Mike Pence to rid the operation of lobbyists.

Who might be in: Trump, who has continued to work out of his office in Trump Tower, was scheduled to receive a stream of visitors on Thursday, including Henry A. Kissinger, a former secretary of state; Gov. Nikki R. Haley of South Carolina, who has emerged as a candidate for secretary of state; Adm. Michael S. Rogers, director of the National Security Agency and the top officer at the military's Cyber Command; and Gen. Jack Keane, a former vice chief of staff of the Army who has been a longtime informal adviser to Hillary

Clinton.

Some of these visitors, like Haley, are candidates for Cabinet posts. Others, like Kissinger, were invited to give the president-elect counsel. During Trump's meeting with Kissinger, who led the State Department under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, the two discussed relations with China, Russia, Iran and the European Union, The Associated Press reported.

Keane, who has advised Republicans as well as Democrats, was an early proponent of President George W. Bush's troop surge in Iraq. He has called for more aggressive U.S. military action to counter the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Who's out: Newt Gingrich said Thursday he will not serve in the Trump administration in any official role, McClatchy reported.

The former House

speaker and presidential candidate had been mentioned frequently as a potential top member of the new government, possibly as secretary of defense, state or health and human services.

But he ended that speculation in an interview with McClatchy. "I will not be in the Cabinet," Gingrich, 73, said. "I intend to be focused on strategic planning."

He did not say whether the decision not to be in the new government was his or Trump's.

Question marks: The frenzy of speculation about marquee Cabinet posts continued, with Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, seen as a leading contender to take over the Department of Homeland Security. But Trump's staff appeared to be working on a more methodical sched-

ule of interviewing candidates.

Still, the confusion of the first few days has left a mark. The State Department, for example, has had no role in planning for Trump's meeting with Abe.

Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor who is on a shortlist for secretary of state, is grappling with questions about his web of business ties, including to foreign states like Qatar, and the millions of dollars he was paid for speeches.

Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, who is being considered for attorney general or defense secretary, has been criticized for racially tinged comments he made as a federal prosecutor in Alabama decades ago. Those comments helped capsize his nomination by President Ronald Reagan to be a federal district judge.



Kushner

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ANDREW HARNIK AP

Vice President-elect Mike Pence meets with House
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on Thursday.

Title: **Daufuskie Island loses a strong spirit**
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COMMUNITY GIANT

Daufuskie Island loses a strong spirit

BY DAVID LAUDERDALE
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Dave Hutton was a child of Daufuskie Island.

He knew it all – driving golf carts at age 7, rafting through freshwater wetlands, hiking out to hummocks to camp overnight, diving off the pilings at the county dock, the two-room schoolhouse on an island with no bridge and the 6:30 a.m. boat to Hilton Head Island for high school.

He also was a man of Daufuskie – standing 6 feet 8 inches and north of 400 pounds, with a rumbling voice from behind the beard, a booming laugh from beneath the long hair, and the laid-back, jovial lifestyle with his pickup truck and Daisy the dog.

When islanders gathered at the county dock on Thursday, Oct. 6, as Hurricane Matthew was obviously headed to hit them, it was natural that Hutton took charge. Everyone told where they'd be and said they'd check on each other after the storm.

They'd already made national news by defying the governor's evacuation order. She was going to send a posse to get them, like "Gunsmoke" by the sea. But they were branded the "Daufuskie 100," like renegades, and they laid low.

They weren't really renegades, and Hutton proved it.

He had been elected to the Daufuskie Island Council, which tries to bridge the wide and choppy waters between islanders themselves, and between Daufuskie and the county seat.

When dawn broke on Saturday, Oct. 8, word was that everyone survived the hurricane. But trees were down everywhere, and there was no electricity. Winds were still stiff when Hutton and company started sawing their way out of the mess. They cut trees and pushed them out of the way for the next four days, 12 hours a day.

Then Hutton took his annual hunting trip with buddies to Montana.

And on Nov. 4, Daufuskie was still reeling from the hurricane when it heard that Hutton would not be coming home. He died out there of heart problems. He was only 27.

Deborah Smith, a fellow member of the Daufuskie Island Council, said, "Dave was a giant on Daufuskie, and it is impossible to overstate his importance to our island's community. Dave didn't just live on Daufuskie –

SEE LAUDERDALE, 7A

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FROM PAGE 1A

LAUDERDALE

he was Daufuskie.”

‘BY EXAMPLE’

Hutton came by his Daufuskie bona fides naturally.

He’s one of three boys born to Chris and Martha Hutton, all raised on Daufuskie. Chris was a child of Tybee Island who came to Daufuskie to build the Melrose dock. Bud Bates introduced him to Martha, who had come south to be in a friend’s wedding and never left. Her friends were sailing the world and stopped on Hilton Head because it’s where they ran out of money. Chris and Martha would soon have their own wedding – a dock party at Harbour Town.

Dave Hutton was a student of Catherine Campbell in Daufuskie’s little grade school. He came along long after Pat Conroy made it famous with his book, “The Water is Wide.” He came after teachers Jim and Carol Alberto had moved to Hilton Head but was warmly welcomed by Jim Alberto as his homeroom

teacher at Hilton Head Island Middle School.

Hutton became a line-man for the Hilton Head Island High School Seahawks, getting home from school at 9 p.m. after practices. He won a writing award in middle school. He was one of the first kids to hit a baseball slap out of Crossings Park. And at Hilton Head High, he was elected Homecoming King.

He was a people person but also independent. Between a couple of stints in college, he traveled alone with a backpack, touring Costa Rica by bus or studying the Mayan ruins on the Yucatan Peninsula.

As a toddler, he had insisted his mother give the change to charity whenever they got to a fast-food drive-thru window. He learned about public service from his father, a founder of the volunteer fire department.

“He led by example,” said writer Roger Pinckney XI of Daufuskie. “I never heard him say a bad thing about anyone, and on this political island

that’s hard to say.”

‘HIS LAST GIFT’

Hutton liked to read history but kept an eye on the future.

And when he was elected to the island council, he read the entire planning document adopted by Beaufort County.

“He was really stepping up on the council,” said islander Wendy Nelthorpe. “He was fair, and he loved Daufuskie. He cared about the island. He was a valuable voice for the people of the historic district.”

His father, who also died young just two years ago, had helped create Daufuskie’s community preservation plan. Dave Hutton shared the dream that Daufuskie would not be ruined by future development.

Everyone knew Dave Hutton was ill last summer.

In June, he fell off his backhoe. He thought some of that pain came from a cracked rib, but it was discovered to be many blood clots on his lungs, his mother said.

In September, they found an old blood clot near his heart. He was going to get it tended to in January.

After a week in Montana, he awoke not feeling well. He died en route to a hospital, his mother said.

“He lived every day like it was his last,” Martha Hutton said. “He had no regrets.”

Daufuskie Islanders found solace telling stories about Hutton on Facebook.

Nelthorpe circulated a photo she took of him last summer. He was teaching a new generation of Daufuskie kids the art of dock diving.

“He ramrodded the initial (hurricane) recovery, his last gift to the island he loved,” Pinckney wrote. “His spirit was strong, but his heart was weak.”

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DEBORAH SMITH Submitted

Dave Hutton's truck with his dog Daisy on board was a familiar sight on Daufuskie Island.

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WENDY NELTHORPE Submitted

Dave Hutton is shown at the county dock on Daufuskie Island last summer, helping a new generation refine the art of dock diving.



Title: **Matthew's key lessons: Re-entry and information**

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Matthew's key lessons: Re-entry and information

The Editorial Board

Hurricane Matthew was in many ways a great dry run on what to do — and what not to do — when a hurricane hits Beaufort County.

The good news is that everyone passed the major test. No lives were lost when the Category 2 hurricane left significant damage here overnight on Oct. 7-8.

Clearly, we benefited from decades of disaster and recovery planning by local governments, property owners' associations and utilities. But this was the first time that a lot of that planning has actually been put to the test, and from that we can learn a lot for next time.

From the office of Gov. Nikki Haley to the local level, we aced the evacuation. It's been a long time since we had to evacuate, and hard lessons learned in 1999 for Hurricane Floyd made life much better for everyone this time.

Since the beginnings of emergency planning in this county, the focus in the public's eyes has been on evacuation. When, where and how to get out has been hammered into the public, and rightfully so. For Hurricane Matthew, the public and the many agencies involved did a great job.

We now know it helped to leave early. And that translates into more days away from home, and more time in motels and restaurants, meaning more expense. The public must get used to that, and make personal and business plans accordingly. That is now required as the coastline has boomed from rural outpost to population center.

Matthew gave us something completely new to chew on. Re-entry was an issue for the first time, and we have a lot to learn.

Start with communication. When the state says it's

clear to come home, and the county says it is not, we have a major problem.

And the whole issue of setting up blockades at the county line needs to be revisited.

But, we all must honestly accept that there will be no perfect, painless way for re-entry after a hurricane hits.

If the sheriff knows that residents absolutely cannot get back on the barrier islands, and should not be returning to many other areas because they would over-tax the basic water and sewer services, what is the sheriff to do other than be the bad guy?

Again, there's no perfect solution. Some streets were being cleared literally minutes before the public was allowed back onto Hilton Head, for example. And some POAs urged a later re-entry. But this hurricane, and recent history after storms elsewhere, shows that people will all but riot to get back home. Utilities, POAs and local governments have to strike a balance, which they seemed to have done. They should never underestimate the hurricane-like force of a public lined up on the streets to get home. And they must remember that a lot of people cannot afford evacuations.

One key solution to the angst is improved communication.

This was our first Facebook hurricane, and it showed. The general public was way out ahead of many authorities in pumping out information — and often misinformation — at the speed of life. More online updates by more agencies is needed.

As we examine today the things that went right and things that could be improved, we are overwhelmed by how well it worked and how much recovery took place in such a short period of time. That is the result of years of meticulous planning, neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, and lessons learned in previous evacuations.

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WHAT WORKED WELL

Matthew evac gets high marks, thanks to lessons from past

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN

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Hurricane evacuations in Beaufort County's past brought traffic nightmares.

Drivers took more than four hours to travel the 35 miles from Hilton Head Island to Hardeeville during Hurricane Hugo in 1989, The Island Packet reported. In Hurricane Floyd in 1999, some evacuees were stuck more than nine hours getting from Beaufort County to Columbia.

But the evacuation for Hurricane Matthew was different.

Local traffic was so light by the mandatory evacuation that lane reversals planned to fix those backups were quickly removed. Roads were already clear.

The operation received praise from experts who say state and local leaders improved on past problems clearing the coast.

One of those experts is Susan Cutter, director of the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina. Cutter worked on a study of failures during the state's Hurricane Floyd evacuation.

FROM PAGE 1A

EVACUATION

evacuate at once.

The governor's process was staggered, allowing heavily populated areas in the southern part of the state, such as Charleston and Beaufort counties, to evacuate before more inland and northern areas.

Haley has also been praised for her communi-

uation and is conducting a survey on evacuation behavior during Matthew.

"Without a doubt this was handled much better," Cutter said.

Here's why:

EVACUATION ORDER WAS EARLY AND CLEAR

Gov. Nikki Haley announced

the evacuation on Tuesday, Oct. 4, while Hurricane Matthew was still more than 1,000 miles and four days away.

The Republican governor said the early announcement was, in part, to avoid the traffic debacles of Hurricane Floyd.

Then-Gov. Jim Hodges was criticized for not making the call soon enough to ease traffic flow, with trips taking as long as 15 hours to get from Charleston to Columbia during the evacuation, The Island Packet reported at the time.

Hodges, a Democrat, waited

until about a day and a half before Floyd was predicted to hit the state to make the call, and confused residents by first calling for a voluntary evacuation, only to change the order to a mandatory evacuation hours later, according to Cutter's study.

The sequencing of the call led a majority of 520,000-plus evacuees in the state to leave within the same six-hour period as motorists from Florida and Georgia were being funneled north on South Carolina roads, Cutter's study showed.

Better weather-forecasting technology and more effective planning contributed to Haley's ability to call the evacuation much earlier, Cutter said.

Haley also took advantage of a new evacuation zone system that distinguishes higher-risk areas so the entire coast doesn't

SEE EVACUATION, 18A

cation during the evacuation. On most days, she held two news conferences, flanked by experts from essential departments.

"Gov. Haley did a good job of calibrating the situation and providing clear and honest information," said state Sen. Tom Davis,

R-Beaufort, who served as a chief of staff to former Republican Gov. Mark Sanford. "I think it lent her credibility. She established a connection between her and the people."

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Modern communication

tools also made the evacuation more efficient.

In the Floyd evacuation, a lack of adaptability in motorists' routes contributed to gridlock, according to Cutter's study. For example, drivers continued to travel on U.S. 17 along South Carolina's coast when there were a

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number of clear back routes available.

The prevalence of GPS is a "game-changer" helping solve those problems, Cutter said. The technology can guide drivers to the fastest alternative routes, predict estimated arrival times and help people plan when to evacuate.

Other apps and websites also helped in the evacuation. For example, Haley recommended websites such as Expedia and Airbnb to help evacuees find hotel rooms before they left home, eliminating another layer of stress for them.

Social media also spread the evacuation messages quicker than traditional media could in the past, convincing some residents to leave after they learned from their friends that outgoing traffic was light, said Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling.

BETTER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic management for evacuations is also much better than it was in 1999.

In South Carolina, the large agencies involved in an evacuation regularly practice evacuation drills

and have updated plans to curb problems seen in past storms.

For example, the state began using lane reversals in high-traffic areas and blocked exits that are known choke-points in the first days of the evacuation, such as the exit from Interstate 95 onto Interstate 26 to Columbia, according to the S.C. Department of Transportation.

In Beaufort County, lane reversals were set up for Hurricane Matthew on U.S. 278 on Hilton Head Island and U.S. 21 in Beaufort, though light traffic made them unnecessary.

"All the way through the evacuation we never had to put law enforcement in intersections because we just didn't have a traffic problem," Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner said.

But some, including Hilton Head Island Town Manager Steve Riley, contend lane reversals are still good to have at-the-ready for future storms.

"If it had been tourist season, we would have needed the extra lane," Riley said. "Because it was not peak season, it was a

smoother process than we ever would've expected."

MOST LOCALS LEFT EARLY

Most evacuees from Beaufort County also helped by obeying officials' calls to leave early.

There is not yet an estimate for the number of those who evacuated locally, but statewide traffic counts showed about 350,000 vehicles evacuated the South Carolina coast, according to the S.C. Emergency Management Division.

About 1.1 million people live on the state's coast in total.

In Beaufort County, traffic counters show that most local evacuees followed officials' advice and left early.

The busiest times for people to evacuate were between 7 and 10 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, and between 6 and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, before the evacuation order went into effect Oct. 5 at 3 p.m., according to counters from the state Department of Transportation.

However, there were some areas where evacuation rates concerned emergency management

officials, including parts of Bluffton and unincorporated northern Beaufort County, Tanner said.

"I don't understand those people that stayed, and there were more here than I would have liked," said Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka. "But we did everything we could to tell them they needed to leave, that they were putting our people at risk."

On the barrier islands – the most at-risk areas in the county – emergency management officials were generally pleased with the evacuation rate.

On Fripp Island, for example, law enforcement knew of only four people left during the storm; and on Hilton Head Island, there appeared to be a small percentage of people who stayed, Tanner said.

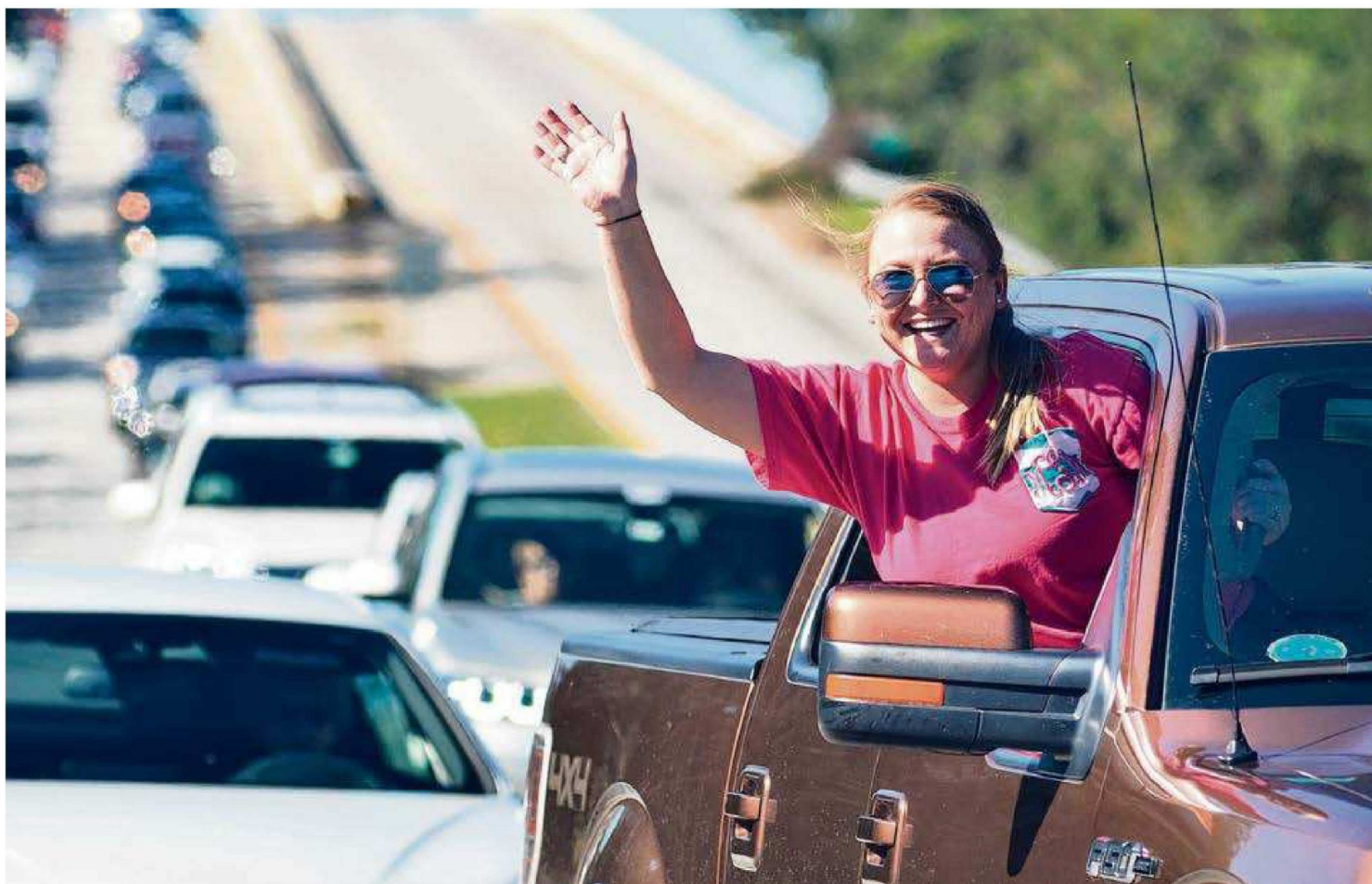
That might have helped the county avoid the most serious losses during Matthew, Tanner said.

"No one died as a result of this storm," he said. "With the amount of damage we had, that is amazing."

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LESSONS FROM HURRICANE MATTHEW



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An exuberant woman waves from her truck as she returns to Hilton Head Island on Oct. 11 after the Hurricane Matthew evacuation ended.

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DREW MARTIN Staff photo

S.C. DOT workers close an eastbound lane on U.S. 278 using pylons as the recently completed Bluffton Parkway flyover looms over the barren highway. The pylons were part of the state's plan to reverse an eastbound lane to ease congestion for those leaving Hilton Head Island.



Staff photo

During the Hurricane Floyd evacuation on Sept. 14, 1999, brothers Tyler, left, and Brock McHenry, of Alliance, Ohio, played football in the median of William Hilton Parkway.

Title: **Big ideas for early childhood born in SC**
 Author: JAMIE MOON AND LINDA BREES GUEST COLUMNISTS
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Big ideas for early childhood born in SC

**JAMIE MOON
AND LINDA
BREES**
 GUEST
COLUMNISTS

The nation's fastest growing and most groundbreaking early childhood organization is based in Greenville — and after five years it's having a major impact

for children and families in South Carolina.

The Institute for Child Success, or ICS, is helping shape the dialogue across sectors such as education, health and tax policy for how best to secure the future for America's children.

With support from our founding organizations, the Children's Hospital of the Greenville Health System and the United Way of Greenville County, ICS is involved in all kinds of projects aimed at serving children and families better.

This is a major step for South Carolina, a state we love to call home but that often lags most of the country in measures of education and children's health. But we're finally making some progress.

The most visible project ICS has helped accomplish for our state: convening a group of leaders to build a \$30 million expansion of the proven Nurse-Family Partnership program, which provides nurses to work with low-income, first-time parents in their homes in all but a handful of South Carolina's 46 counties. By using Pay for Success, a public-private financing strategy, Gov. Nikki Haley's administration is working with other state lead-

ers to help many vulnerable families without breaking the bank.

This year, our state reached its highest national ranking on the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2016 *KIDS COUNT* 50-state report card on children's well-being, up one spot to 41st overall. We need to be ranked higher, of course, but teen births in our state have dropped substantially, high school dropout rates have improved markedly, and more children now have health insurance.

There's still much to do. South Carolina ranked 43rd in *KIDS COUNT* for education, a majority of our young children still aren't in preschool, and child poverty is rising.

In that light, projects that we're helping to lead, both in the Upstate and across the United States, are continuing to make a difference for children and families:

» ICS's new report, *Head Start in the South*, examines this federal program for children across the region and guides states and localities on how to improve services for children and families.

» The ICS Leadership for America's Young Children program is developing a new generation of thoughtful, cross-sector leaders. In October, we gathered with 30 leaders in Charleston for the insightful Race, Justice and the Young Child leadership seminar.

» ICS is working with Spartanburg leaders to help the city become one of the best places to raise a child, despite high poverty in some neighborhoods. We're working with the Spar-

tanburg Northside Initiative to develop an early learning center that will help to improve the health and preparation for school for hundreds of children.

» We published research showing the economic impact of pre-K programs in Los Angeles County as major program cuts loomed.

» Back in the summer, we convened the third annual national conference of states and local governments using Pay for Success to expand early childhood services.

» We hosted the first Early Learning Summit in Austin, Texas, joining 13,000 others at SXSWedu Conference & Festival last year.

» ICS will host a first-of-its-kind national ideas festival and conference on early childhood issues, called Small Talks, next year in Washington, D.C. We'll hold many local events in conjunction with this innovative national event.

» We published a report with partner organizations examining the most recent national data on Hispanic child population growth and its implications.

We also recently convened nearly 300 leaders in Charlotte for the fourth annual ICS Early Childhood Research Symposium. A federal health official at the conference called the Carolinas "the hub of innovation" nationally for early childhood work.

We couldn't agree more. *Linda Brees is the board chair and a co-founder, and Jamie Moon is the president and CEO, of the Institute for Child Success, a national nonprofit organization based in Greenville.*

Title: **Big ideas for early childhood born in SC**
Author: JAMIE MOON AND LINDA BREES GUEST COLUMNISTS
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POLITICS

As parties look to 2020 race, is S.C.'s Tim Scott in the mix?

BY MATTHEW SCHOFIELD
 mschofield@mcclatchydc.com

WASHINGTON

There are cloak-room style whispers in Washington these days that South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott is being thought of as a Republican Plan B in case the yet to be formed Trump administration doesn't find its footing.

Scott's office dismisses the talk as idle chit-chat, though admits they've been hearing such questions. But it's now been a full week since the last presidential election ended. Washington being Washington, it's time to get the rumors going for the 2020 election. There are experts and insiders who think this one makes a bit of sense.

"This was an, um, unusual election," said Julian Zelizer, an author and public affairs expert who's a professor at Princeton



ANDREW HARNIK AP

Sen. Tim Scott, a Republican from South Carolina, just won an election to keep his current job in the U.S. Senate.

University. "It makes sense that there would be a Plan B, and one that would be antithetical to Plan A.

"It's important to remember, though, that Plan B is always predicated on things that haven't happened, while Plan A is still in effect. Right now for Republicans, the reality is that it's Plan Trump."

Of course, the rumor that Scott is preparing, and being encouraged to prepare, himself for the

presidency follows another similar rumor: As Gov. Nikki Haley is reaching her term-limit in the state capitol in 2018, the junior senator from South Carolina could return to snaffle up the seat.

The rumor goes like this: Senator Scott will return to South Carolina to run for governor in 2018. U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy will join him on the ticket as his lieutenant governor. They would be expected to win, handily.

Then, if needed, Gov. Scott would launch a presidential bid from a position of considerable strength in 2020.

The thinking is that there is a reason for Scott to consider giving up the security of the six years to which he was just elected in the U.S. Senate. That reason goes beyond the notion floated, that he's always wanted to be governor.

Instead, the reason: He needs executive experience to complete the perfect resume for a presidential bid. Ask about this in the halls of Congress these days and people give you knowing looks and nods and respond, "That's what we're hearing..."

Zelizer said that this early in a rumor season, it's tough to know whether anything makes sense.

"But the demographic issues facing the Republican Party that were talked about for this election are real," he said. The nation's minority populations are growing, he pointed out, and Republicans will need some way to appeal to a bigger tent at some point.

Title: **Storm cleanup raises possibility of tax increase**
 Author: BY LUCASHIGH lhigh@islandpacket.com
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BEAUFORT COUNTY

Storm cleanup raises possibility of tax increase

■ Preliminary estimates indicate the Hurricane Matthew recovery effort will cost Beaufort County roughly \$17.5 million, but that figure is likely to grow, officials say. Despite an expectation that FEMA will pick up some of that tab, county leaders anticipate using about \$10 million of the county's roughly \$26 million reserve fund to pay for storm cleanup.

BY LUCAS HIGH

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Hurricane Matthew cleanup costs are expected to take a big bite out of Beaufort County's cash reserves and could ultimately lead to a property tax increase.

Preliminary figures estimate the recovery effort will cost the county roughly \$17.5 million.

But that number is "very, very estimated" and expected

to grow significantly, county chief financial officer Alicia Holland said earlier this week.

Debris removal makes up the majority of the cleanup costs at \$10 million.

However, that figure includes only public roads. Once the cost of cleaning up roadways in private and gated communities

— which the county has pledged to assist in — is tabulated, that \$10 million estimate is likely to double, deputy county administrator Josh Gruber said.

County leaders estimate \$3 million will be spent paying public employees for storm-related work, and another \$3 million will be needed to repair roughly 65 government structures and facilities damaged in the hurricane.

Miscellaneous costs such as additional mosquito control operations and contingency funds are estimated at \$1.5 million.

The county has spent more than \$100,000 on extra mosquito control chemicals alone, Holland said.

County leaders expect at least 75 percent of the cleanup costs to eventually be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The state could also step in and help with the balance left after the FEMA reimbursement. This happened after last year's historic flooding in the Midlands.

County administrator Gary Kubic has suggested that the County Council make a formal

leaders and others to weigh in on what went well and what could have gone better. Lessons emerged that may better prepare us for the next hurricane.

“

**THERE WILL BE A
DRAWDOWN ON THE
RESERVE FUND —
I'M GUESSING ABOUT
\$10 MILLION OR SO.**

*Beaufort County
Councilman Jerry Stewart*

SEE CLEANUP, 8A

Coming Sunday

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew's destruction in Beaufort County, we asked local

FROM PAGE 1A

CLEANUP

request to Gov. Nikki Haley "that the (county's) local match be supplemented" with state funds.

But even in the the best-

case scenario, local leaders expect the county to be left with a sizable tab.

The county has roughly \$26.6 million in cash re-

serves that can be used for storm-recovery costs.

"There will be a drawdown on the reserve fund — I'm guessing about \$10

million or so," Councilman Jerry Stewart said.

"As we get closer to (developing a new fiscal

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year budget), we are going to have an issue about what to do in respect to the reserve fund," he said.

"Are we going to try to bring (the reserves) back up?" he asked rhetorically.

Gruber said it may be possible to issue bonds to replenish the reserves, but

that likely would lead to property tax increase to pay down the new debt.

To complicate matters further, if the County Council is especially proactive and moves quickly to replenish reserves, it could "give (the

state) maybe an out from having to make hard decisions" about ponying up for the local match required by FEMA, he said.

Regardless, county leaders agree that replenishing the reserve is something that can't be ignored for long. That cash cushion

might be needed sooner rather than later.

"Starting around June next year, we are going to be entering hurricane season again," Gruber said.

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Storm debris continues to pile up at the Honey Horn collection site. Beaufort County estimates its cleanup costs at more than \$17 million.

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Sen. Scott already at center of rumor mill

Potential 2018, 2020 campaigns the talk

MATTHEW SCHOFIELD

THE STATE

WASHINGTON - There are cloak-room style whispers in Washington these days that South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott is being thought of as a Republican Plan B in case the yet to be formed Trump administration doesn't find its footing.

Scott's office dismisses the talk as idle chit-chat, though admits they've been hearing such questions. But it's now been a full week since the last presidential election ended. Washington being Washington, it's time to get the rumors going for the 2020 election. There are experts and insiders who think this one makes a bit of sense.

"This was an, um, unusual election," said Julian Zelizer, an author and public affairs expert who's a professor at Princeton University. "It makes sense that there would be a Plan B, and one that would be antithetical to Plan A."

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haven't happened, while Plan A is still in effect. Right now for Republicans, the reality is that it's Plan Trump."

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The thinking is that there is a reason for Scott to consider giving up the security of the six years to which he was just elected in the U.S. Senate. That reason goes beyond the notion floated, that he's always wanted to be

governor.

Instead, the reason: He needs executive experience to complete the perfect resume for a presidential bid. Ask about this in the

See SCOTT, Page 6A

"There are real doubts about whether the Donald Trump magic of 2016 is repeatable."

SCOTT HUFFMON
 WINTHROP POLL DIRECTOR

Scott

Continued from Page 3A

halls of Congress these days and people give you knowing looks and nods and respond, "That's what we're hearing..."

Zelizer said that this early in a rumor season, it's tough to know whether anything makes sense.

"But the demographic issues facing the Republican Party that were talked about for this election are real," he said. The nation's minority populations are growing, he pointed out, and Republicans will need some way to appeal to a bigger

tent at some point.

In this sense, Winthrop Poll Director Scott Huffmon said the Scott rumor works in a connect-the-dots sort of way. If the Trump administration implodes, Republicans are going to want the sorts of things Scott brings to the table.

He's African-American, and the growing concerns revolving around the racial divide in the brutal campaign appear to have reopened. He's conservative, appealing to both tea party and traditional Republicans. He's extremely popular in a Southern state. And,

if he left the Senate to govern South Carolina, he would have experience in the two places that are most likely to lead to the White House.

"He's worth thinking about," Huffmon said. "There are real doubts about whether the Donald Trump magic of 2016 is repeatable. The party needs a Plan B, and a popular-in-the-South, African-American conservative with experience both in the U.S. Senate and executive experience would be a very good plan B."

On the other hand, Huff-

mon reminds that even if Scott has presidential ambitions, and there is no indication on that either way, he has another factor in his favor. The senator is fairly young. He's 51. That means when the 2020 election rolls around, he will be 55. If Trump succeeds in claiming a second term, the party could look to Scott in 2024 knowing that he'd still be only 59 when he entered the White House.

As Huffmon said, time is on his side.

As is his popularity in his home state. In this just-

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passed election, he collected six of every 10 votes, Huffmon said. The main challenger, Democrat Thomas Dixon, collected just shy of 38 percent of the vote, and Huffmon said a decent percent of those were straight ballot votes for Democrats.

"He's solid at 60 percent," he said. "He's well liked."

Huffmon added that if the rumor about Scott running for governor is correct,

he would redefine the race. "He would enter the race at a substantial advantage over anyone else I can think of," he said.

On the lieutenant governor side of the rumor, in which South Carolina Republican congressman Gowdy also leaves Washington, Gowdy's office emphasized his focus on current congressional work.

Gowdy spokeswoman Amanda Gonzalez said that "Rep. Gowdy is currently

focused on continuing his work in the House through his various Committee assignments as well as a robust legislative agenda, which begins immediately."

Gonzalez did say: "He does believe Senator Scott is a unique kind of leader and he looks forward to seeing what the future holds for him."

Of course, for his part, Scott is having none of this, at least right now. He's just completed a successful

campaign. He hasn't yet served a single day of the new term. He is in no mood at the moment to kick off another campaign cycle.

Asked for comment, Michele P. Exner, press secretary for the senator, replied in an email: "Absolutely no decisions have been made regarding the governor's race. He is solely focused on the first 100 days of the Trump administration and working to bring opportunity to all Americans."



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C. just won an election to keep his current job in the U.S. Senate, but he's already being talked about for two new jobs.