

Title: **Sandy Run Chit-Chat**

Author:

Size: 43.24 column inches

St. Matthews, SC Circulation: 2170



Sandy Run Chit-Chat

By Jean Franck Lucas

Hello Out There,

I hope that everyone has recovered in their own way from Hurricane Matthew and everyone is doing their own things as usual.

Hurricane Matthew has been "calling the shots" like the Mud Run at the John Culler Farm that was cancelled.

He did not keep the congregation and friends of Oak Grove United Methodist Church from enjoying a great Homecoming last Sunday afternoon, a wonderful sermon "Taking Our Spiritual Temperature" by Rev. Cindy Saylor of Swansea UMC followed by a great cook out that was enjoyed by a large crowd of worshippers.

Thanks to Miss Stasha Hensley for the special clarinet solos.

Congratulations to Marvin and Betsy Hayden of West Columbia who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 24, 2016, at their home. May this nice couple celebrate many more of the same.

The Sandy Run Community Club will meet at the Sandy Run Community Center Thursday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m. and the program will be a U.S. Flag burning. Everyone is invited to attend.

Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church and its pastor Rev. Robbie Hall are planning an enjoyable day of worship and good food for its Homecoming Sunday, October 23, at 11:00 a.m.

The Swansea Community UMM Golf Tournament will be at

Hidden Valley Country Club Saturday, October 29, at 8:00 a.m. (registration). Proceeds will benefit The UMM's "Helping Families at Christmas" ministry. For information call Sammy Fogle at 568-3483.

Thanks to our S.C. Governor Nikki Haley on sharing the updates of recovery of Hurricane Matthew; also to law enforcement, the National Guard, and many other helpers who have been busy bringing us back to safety and living our happy lives again.

It will be a long road to recovery — many prayers help from anyone and everyone and will make us all show love for one another and living our lives to the fullest.

Remember the S.C. State Fair - \$10 admission. Pay one price voucher for unlimited rides - \$30 (weekends \$35). Free entry for retired active military and dependents with current ID as well as children 5 and under (with paying adults).

This is the 147th year continuing the tradition of providing fall fun rides, games, animal show exhibits, and delicious foods — just what you ordered.

Lynyrd Skynyrd and *Alabama* are among the featured performers.

Parking in the Fairgrounds parking lot is \$5 (cash only). Eighteen year olds may be asked to show a valid driver's license for

proof of age to be admitted without a parent after 6:00 p.m. Those 18 and older without a valid driver's license and not accompanied by a parent will not be admitted after 6:00 p.m.

There will be a University of South Carolina home football game during the Fair this year. The Gamecocks host UMass Saturday, October 22. Everyone with game tickets will be admitted free before kickoff (no reserved parking in the Fairgrounds parking lot). The Fair runs through October 23.

Thanksgiving will be here in a few weeks. The first Thanksgiving meal gobbled down in 1621 probably featured goose or venison as the main dish along with shellfish such as clams, mussels, and lobster which were plentiful.

The traditional turkey will be served in many homes along with the homemade dressing plus all of the tasty side dishes and tempting desserts.

We all like a good meal, especially everything cooked from scratch — afterwards with a "full tummy" you are sleepy. Take a little nap (before or after), say a Thanksgiving prayer, and count your many blessings along with your special neighbors.

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Sylvia Rick-enbaker Crider, a very nice and sweet lady that will be missed by her family and many friends.

Title: **Price gouging statute in effect**
Author: Region Report
Size: 16.58 column inches
Cheraw, SC Circulation: 8748



Price gouging statute in effect

Region Report

When Gov. Nikki Haley issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency prior to hurricane Matthew's arrival in South Carolina, S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the price gouging statute was in effect.

"Pursuant to state law, price gouging constitutes a criminal violation and an unfair trade practice," said Wilson. "I urge citizens to remain vigilant and notify my office immediately if you believe you have witnessed or are aware of price

gouging. Please email any examples or documentation to pricegouging@scag.gov; tweet photos or examples tagging @SCPriceGouging; or call (803) 737-3953 if you have witnessed a likely violation."

The price gouging law (SC 39-5-145) is a general prohibition of unconscionable prices during times of disaster. It is in effect for 15 days after the announcement was made Oct. 4. Price gougers can be charged for excessive pricing, a misdemeanor offense punishable with a \$1,000 fine and/or 30 days in jail.

Title: **Matthew brought out the best of Barnwell County and South Carolina**

Author:

Size: 60.60 column inches

Barnwell, SC Circulation: 6702



Matthew brought out the best of Barnwell County and South Carolina

Overall, Barnwell County weathered Hurricane Matthew pretty well.

This is due in large part to the preparation, patience and generosity displayed by so many folks in our area. There are definitely a lot of thank-yous that need to go around.

We believe S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley should be commended for issuing the evacuation orders for an estimated 500,000 residents along our state's coast days before Matthew made landfall. She pleaded with folks during multiple news conferences to evacuate in advance of the hurricane. While only about 355,000 of coastal residents heeded Haley's warning, her decision for a mass evacuation of the coast no doubt saved lives. Her emergency operations team implemented a plan that worked almost flawlessly to get people evacuated - fast and efficiently.

Lives were also saved due to many folks listening to emergency management and law enforcement officials who encouraged residents to stay off the roads before, during and after the storm came through. While there are many downed trees and thousands of residents lost power, there were no lives lost in Barnwell County because of the storm.

While Gov. Haley and other state officials played a role, Barnwell County Emergency Management Director Roger Riley along with the Emergency Operation Center team and volunteers should be credited with monitoring local conditions as they operated the EOC around the clock. It was a team effort. We also appreciate their open line of communication as they answered questions from the public and kept *The People-Sentinel* and other media informed so we, in turn, could keep



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the public updated.

Even as high winds and rain were rolling into Barnwell County, a number of folks worked out in the elements to keep the public safe, especially by clearing roads of downed trees and power lines. As most of us were safe inside our homes, a group of men and women were away from their families putting their lives at risk. This group includes Sheriff Ed Carroll and his staff, the three police departments and other local law enforcement officers, S.C. Department of Transportation, firefighters, EMS, utility workers and the S.C. National Guard.

Though they weren't out in the elements, we also must thank the team of 911 dispatchers who provided a vital lifeline during this disaster. You don't see them, but they are the ones who are always there on the other end of the phone in times of need. They worked non-stop during the storm to alert officials of downed trees and other unsafe conditions.

We also want to thank the volunteers who worked at the emergency shelter located at Barnwell Elementary to help the evacuees. This includes folks from the Department of Social Services, Axis 1 Center, the American Red Cross, S.C. Disaster Relief and local law enforcement.

While the folks mentioned above worked to keep so many people safe during the storm, we also want to thank the people who displayed so many acts of kindness and compassion. There's a phrase that says something about bad times bring out the best in people. We believe that is true, especially here in Barnwell County.

This was especially evident at the emergency shelter as Barnwell County welcomed the evacuees as part of the community for the few days they were here. After hearing evacuees needed meals, a number of families, churches, organizations and individuals brought a feast of sweets and other treats. Food was also taken to first responders, area nursing homes to help evacuees there, emergency management officials and many others. People also donated cots, air mattresses, toiletry items, board games and many other items to help the evacuees feel more at home.

We also saw people volunteer to walk evacuated dogs staying at the Friends for Life Foster and Adoption Center, answer phone calls at the emergency operations center, provide activities for residents at nursing homes, create rest areas for evacuees, offer freezer space to people who lost power, and offer places to worship for churches that were without power.

It would be impossible to name each person or group that has responded to help after Hurricane Matthew because there were so many folks who lent a hand.

So, we say "thank you" to each person who played a role in successfully making it through Hurricane Matthew - no matter how small or large a part you played.

We survived the storm and now must help our fellow South Carolinians in the long road to recovery.

Together, we can make a bigger difference than we can alone.

Bless you, all.

Title: Coastal evacuees take shelter in Barnwell Co.
 Author: JONATHAN VICKERY Managing Editor jonathan.vickery@morris.com
 Size: 63.55 column inches
 Barnwell, SC Circulation: 6702



Coastal evacuees take shelter in Barnwell Co.

JONATHAN VICKERY
 Managing Editor
 jonathan.vickery@morris.com

Thousands of evacuees poured through Barnwell County last week after Gov. Nikki Haley pleaded with coastal residents to move inland before Hurricane Matthew struck.

With several of the state's Hurricane Evacuation Routes crossing through Barnwell County, many of the estimated 355,000 coastal evacuees came through Barnwell, Allendale and surrounding counties. While most passed through as they navigated evacuation routes, including the one on Highway 278, some took shelter in Barnwell with family and friends, at local hotels or at the Red Cross emergency shelter set up at Barnwell Elementary School.

"We're here if people need to come," said Susan Jerkins, who works for the Department of Social Services' Barnwell office. DSS, the American Red Cross and Axis 1 Center of Barnwell helped operate the shelter.

Paul and Maureen Moore of Beaufort along with a

friend were the first three to seek shelter at Barnwell Elementary. They left Beaufort early on Wednesday, Oct. 5 and arrived in Barnwell well before the shelter officially opened at 3 p.m.

"We wanted to beat the crowd. The traffic wasn't too bad," said Paul of how there were stretches of their journey where there were no other cars in sight.

"You don't want to be the last duck in line," said Maureen Moore. While this was her husband's first hurricane experience, Maureen experienced hurricanes when she lived in Florida.

While they only took a few essentials, such as clothes and medicines, Paul Moore said, "We've put everything in God's hands. Our house and possessions are material things, but you can't replace human life."

The trio decided to heed the governor's plea to evacuate after talking with a law enforcement friend who

expressed concern over the impending storm and told the Moores they needed to get out. The Moores live in a mobile home that is located between the ocean and river. Maureen said Tropical Storm Hermine, which was less powerful than Hurricane Matthew, lifted up part of their house last month.

"We had a strategy meeting last night and decided where to go," said Paul.

They chose Barnwell because it is close to the recommended 100-mile minimum limit recommended for evacuees. They preferred to stay in a small town to avoid the crowds of a larger city. They found Barnwell on the evacuation map in their phone book.

Over the coming days before the hurricane hit, the number of people staying at the shelter increased as more people evacuated. At its peak, 80 people were staying there. A majority of those were evacuees, although a few were Barnwell County residents who came either after losing power

or to seek a safer place to stay, according to Barnwell County Emergency Management Director Roger Riley.

The shelter lost power during the storm, but the school's backup generator kicked in to power some lights and the coolers. Riley said the backup generator is one reason the school was selected to be a shelter.

Barnwell residents Steve and Lynn Burn opened up their home to a Beaufort couple with a three-year-old child after meeting the young family at the shelter on Friday, Oct. 7. The Burns and other members were at the shelter delivering lasagna and other food for the evacuees to eat for lunch.

"It truly was a blessing for them to come to the house," said Lynn Burn.

The family has since returned to Beaufort, although there was no power, many trees down and water on some roads. Lynn Burn, who remains in touch with the family, said it took them four hours to return home — twice the normal time to make the trip.

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Laura McKenzie/Publisher

DSS workers (at right) bring in donated bottled water to the emergency shelter (above) at Barnwell Elementary School to benefit the evacuees.

Title: **Matthew leaves its mark**
 Author: LAURA J. MCKENZIE Publisher laura.mckenzie@morris.com
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Matthew leaves its mark

LAURA J. MCKENZIE

Publisher

laura.mckenzie@morris.com

Everyone in Barnwell County has a storm story from Hurricane Matthew as it impacted every single resident in some way.

Luckily, most of the impact from the storm was the result of power outages and downed trees as winds and rain pummeled the area in the early morning hours of Saturday, Oct. 8.

According to Emergency Management Director Roger Riley, the peak wind gust of 45 miles per hour was recorded around 5:50 a.m. Saturday at the Barnwell County Airport. "There may have been stronger winds elsewhere but that's the one we have."

Matthew had already devastated Haiti as a Category 4 storm, then raked the Florida and Georgia coasts before wreaking havoc on South Carolina's coastline as a Category 2 hurricane, then on to the North Carolina coastline before finally heading out to sea.

Damage from wind and rain extended well into the eastern half of South Carolina.

Approximately 5.8 inches of rain fell between Friday and Saturday

in Barnwell County, Riley said.

At the peak of the storm, said Riley, there were 80 people sheltered at Barnwell Elementary School which served as the official American Red Cross shelter in Barnwell County.

Allendale County opened two shelters – one at Allendale Elementary and the other at Fairfax Elementary, according to Allendale EMD Gidget Stanley-Banks.

Over 7,300 customers lost power in Barnwell County as a result of the storm. "The final number may be higher," said Riley on Monday.

According to SCE&G and Edisto Electric websites, nearly all of Allendale County was without power with major restoration occurring on Sunday afternoon and into Monday.

Barnwell County public schools closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday ahead of the storm. Students returned to classes on Monday after a two-hour delay to finalize assessments of bus routes.

Jefferson Davis Academy stu-

dents attended classes throughout the week but had Friday and Monday off. Their homecoming was scheduled for Friday but was postponed until Monday, Oct. 10.

Allendale County schools are "closed until further notice", according to the Allendale County School Superintendent Leila Williams. A post on their Facebook page Sunday stated, "Students, parents, and staff of ACS: As a

result of the impacts of Hurricane Matthew, Allendale County Schools will be closed until further notice. Currently, Allendale Elementary is being used as an emergency shelter for evacuees from other counties. Many facilities and homes throughout the county are without electricity and water. Many roads are also unsafe for travel. We will keep you updated as conditions improve."

Evacuation

While pre-storm preparations

See MATTHEW, 8A

Matthew: Hurricane leaves its mark on South Carolina, Barnwell County

began as early as Monday, Oct. 3, activity began in earnest on Wednesday, Oct. 5 as evacuation of South Carolina's coastal areas were ordered by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Thousands of people were routed through Barnwell and Allendale counties as the coastal communities were ordered to evacuate.

Riley said the state's pre-planning was key to getting people to safe havens. "Statewide, the evacuation

went above and beyond anything we could have dreamed of," said Riley. "The coordination was so good it was unbelievable."

He said the state's plan "worked flawlessly" as local law enforcement, the South Carolina Highway Patrol and South Carolina National Guard worked together. "It took 30-some hours and it taxed everyone's resources but traffic flowed."

Evacuation routes were given priority to traffic, alternate routes barricaded to keep drivers in a constant flow and key points along the route were manned to keep people from going around barricades.

Then it was time to "hunker down".

During the storm

The rain moved in Friday morning and gusts of wind gave little idea of what was to come.

By nightfall, the weather

began to deteriorate but still didn't seem as bad as some storms.

But, by 2 a.m. Saturday, howling wind awakened many from fitful sleep and continued to thrash through trees and around homes until daylight. People heard "thumps" in the darkness but had to wait until morning to see if the sounds were caused by limbs falling or whole trees keeled over, their roots no longer able to claw into water-sodden

FROM PAGE 1A

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soil.

Those in the EOC monitored the situation.

SCDOT, Linesmen, firefighters, EMS and law enforcement continued to work in the storm until a brief time near dawn when it became too dangerous and they were ordered back to station.

But, as soon as the winds began to die down, they were out at it again.

The aftermath

Barnwell County was mostly impacted with power outages and downed trees.

Businesses in Barnwell were up and running Saturday morning. By Sunday evening, many county-wide had power restored.

Riley credited the Emergency Operations Center team as well as all the paid

personnel and volunteers for having "the smoothest event I've seen in my career". He said "having everyone here in the Emergency Operations Center was critical. Everyone worked together extremely well" to overcome challenges, said Riley.

"There is no way to heap enough praise on everyone who pitched in and helped," he said.

There were challenges, though.

"We had some hiccups. Initially there weren't enough Red Cross volunteers to open the shelter and at the EOC. The Barnwell County Department of Social Services stepped up - there are not enough words to say how much they did," said Riley.

With fire and law enforcement, "all I had to do was ask and it got done," said

Riley.

Firefighters, the sheriff and deputies not only assisted with traffic but also cleared roadways even at the height of the storm. "There came a point when we ordered all the firefighters and EMS back to station because it was too dangerous. Even then, Sheriff Ed Carroll and others were still out there with chainsaws, cutting away debris," said Riley.

Sheriff Carroll said, "Thank you to everyone who helped others during the storm. I appreciate all who listened to the warnings and took advice from the governor to evacuate. Thanks to my staff who worked extra hours clearing roads, working the shelter, monitoring and working traffic control points. Thank you to the citizens and organizations that kept us going with food and support during this storm."

He said he was "very proud of my staff from the dispatchers to the road units to the chain saw gang - it was a great team effort."

He said local residents "were very patient" during the evacuation process.

The sheriff said all local and state law enforcement agencies "came together and worked well. If there was an issue, then we came together. We did what we had to do to get it done."

While Barnwell County sustained some damage, Sheriff Carroll said this area was very lucky compared to other areas of the state. "It reminds us of how blessed we are."

Barnwell County Fire Co-

ordinator Timbo Williams said there were no structure fires as a result of the storm. "Mostly, it was power lines arcing when trees fell."

He said all the firefighters, most of whom are volunteers, worked tirelessly before, during and after the storm to clear roadways and assist other departments.

One firefighter with the Hilda Fire Department was injured when he slipped and fell from the fire truck, said Williams. He was treated and released from an Augusta, Ga. hospital. "He's okay," said Williams on Monday.

That was the only injury reported to the EOC, said Riley.

Local firefighters were praised for their assistance with nursing home patients who were evacuated to Blackville and Wiliston nursing facilities. They responded during the evacuation on Friday and then again to help get the patients back on buses on Monday to return them to nursing facilities in the Charleston area.

Recovery

The state and the county is now in a "recovery" mode as roads continue to be cleared and power restored along the coast. Damage assessment teams are determining the extent of Hurricane Matthew's impact.

"I am meeting with representatives from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) on Tuesday, Oct. 11 to go over those assessments," said Riley.

He said he feels confident that Barnwell County will qualify for public

assistance funding which could repay the county for costs incurred as a result of the storm, such as manpower, overtime, equipment, fuel, shelter costs and more.

FEMA will also be determining if the county will also qualify for individual assistance to help individuals with losses. One factor in that calculation will be damage to Barnwell High School's gymnasium roof which sustained a "very rough estimate" of "a half-million dollars".

Either way, determining whether the county qualifies will not be a quick process, said Riley. "We just wrapped up Ice Storm Pax" which occurred in February 2014.

Riley said he does not expect extremely heavy traffic locally from evacuees returning to their homes along South Carolina's coast as well as Georgia and Florida.

"People will be going back at their own pace," he said.

Statewide, recovery efforts are ongoing as people return home to determine how their residences and vacation homes fared. Some areas, such as Hilton Head Island, remained closed as of Monday. Local officials there will determine when those areas will be reopened.

"This is the frustrating part," said Gov. Haley. "It's going to take time."

South Carolinians are being warned to be wary of scammers and have patience as the road to recovery begins.

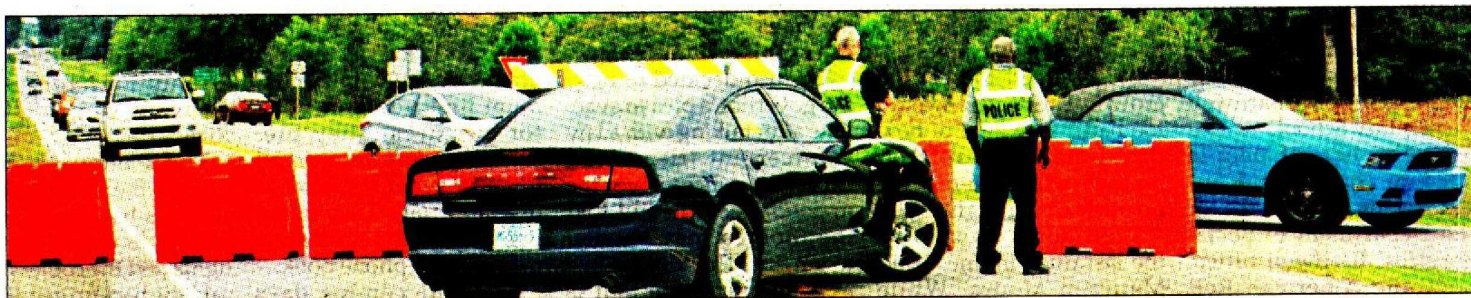
Matthew has left his mark.

Title: **Matthew leaves its mark**

Author: LAURA J. MCKENZIE Publisher laura.mckenzie@morris.com

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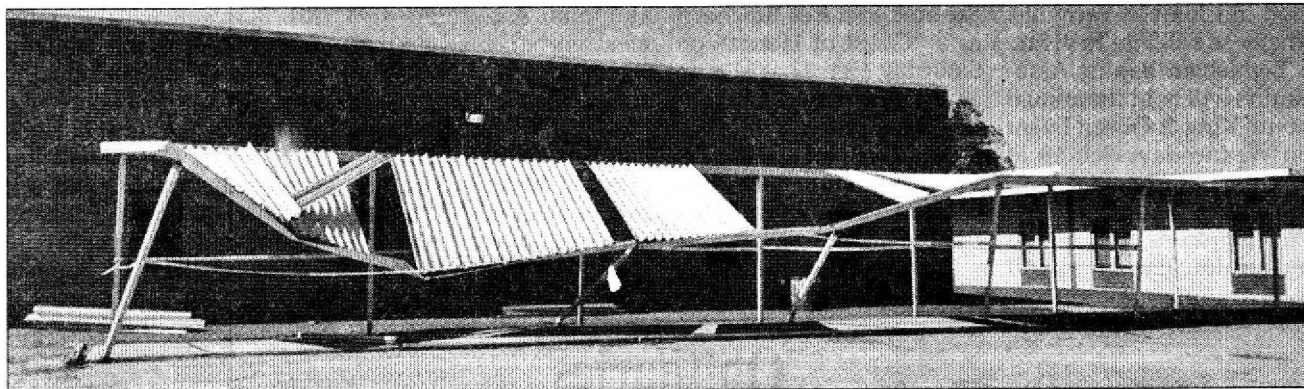


Jonathan Vickery/Managing Editor

A barricade manned by Barnwell police officers cuts off Highway 3 so evacuees will follow the evacuation route down Highway 278.



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Contributed Photos

While major damage was avoided in Barnwell County, Hurricane Matthew left its mark, including by messing up awnings and the gym roof at Barnwell High School (above) and toppling many trees, including the one below in the front yard of a home on Marlboro Avenue in the city of Barnwell.

Title: **S.C. The new Economy**
 Author: By PHIL NOBLE
 Size: 59.67 column inches
 Chester, SC Circulation: 6700



The new S.C. Economy

By PHIL NOBLE

I'm convinced that there is a New South Carolina being born. This New South Carolina is a very different state from our traditional past and it holds great promise for us and our children for generations to come if, and it's a big if, if we are smart enough and bold enough to seize this unique opportunity.

We can create a New South Carolina that can be globally competitive in the 21st Century and benefit all South Carolinians.

The question is will we?

Last week's column in this space focused on the people of this New South Carolina. It was sparked by a special issue of *Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People* that included four South Carolinians: Sen. Clementa Graham, Jennifer Pinckney, wife of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney; Gov. Nikki Haley and comedian, writer and TV star Aziz Ansari. Graham and Pinckney both have deep South Carolina roots and represent 'traditional' South Carolina – black and white. Haley and Ansari are 'new' South Carolinians – both first generation children of Indian immigrants, smart, media savvy and driven to succeed in a new more culturally diverse environment.

And just as these people represent a New South Carolina, so too is our economy going through dramatic changes – we now have an economy that would have been unrecognizable to most South Carolinians less than

a generation ago.

Today, there are three big changes that have/are transforming our state's economy: foreign investment, digital innovation and new economic leadership.

First the foreign investment. South Carolina leads the nation in per capita direct foreign investment. There are over 1,200 international business facilities in our state – more than there are public schools. We are now home to major global companies such as BWW, Volvo, Daimler Benz, Michelin, Haier, Giti Tire and countless others. This foreign investment in South Carolina employs more people per capita than in any state in the country.

Where once the biggest impact on our economy was the change in cotton prices on the commodity exchanges in Memphis or Chicago; today, it's the fluctuations on the global currency exchanges in Hong Kong and London – and the rising demand for consumer imports by China

and India.

The second big economic change is the impact of the digital economy. One simple statistic: in Charleston alone, there are over 300 digital businesses and the growth rate of these new digital companies is 26-percent faster than the national average. The average wage in these new digital businesses is nearly three times that of the traditional tourism and hospitality industry.

This new digital economy demands smart people, with high levels of creativity, gender and cultural diversity and a worldview unbounded by state or even national boundaries. This is not traditional South Carolina.

The third big change is in the demographics of our economic leadership. One astute observer recently noted that a few years ago the state's economic leadership was essentially the 10 whitest men in the 10 biggest corner offices on the top floor of the 10 tallest buildings in the state. And, when these men decided what they thought ought to be done, they called in the (white male) governor and the legislative leaders and told them what to do ...

and they largely did it.

Now, our state's economic leadership is found in 250-plus low rise office parks; there are lots of women, people of color and folks who did not go to USC or Clemson. They look different, think different and are different – and this is a good thing.

The huge challenge we face in the New South Carolina is: 1) providing our people with the skills they need to be competitive in this new global economy and 2) overcoming the provincial political leadership that is holding back the changes required to be competitive.

In a recent conversation with one of our state's top economic development leaders, he estimated that as many as 80-percent of the new jobs being created by the new global businesses locating in our state are being filled by people who move to our state – simply because there are not enough skilled South Carolinians to do these jobs.

Think about that for a moment – more than 80-per-

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NOBLE

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cent of these new jobs are beyond the current skill levels of South Carolinians...and it's only going to get worse as the trend toward increasingly tech-based jobs escalates.

And the other great barrier is our current political leadership that simply does not realize – or does not care – about making the changes that need to be made to make our state competitive.

If one were to devise a legislative agenda to stifle economic progress it would be: 1) neglect education so our people won't have the job skills required, 2) ignore our crumbling roads and other infrastructure so that SC businesses were placed at a

competitive disadvantage and 3) perpetuate a corrupt political system based on personal greed and special interest lobbyists – instead of a common agenda based on doing what needs to be done to make our economy competitive.

The struggle of the old and the new – this pretty much describes the economy in South Carolina today.

The birth of 'the new' is often – if not usually – difficult and painful.

Our transition to a New Economy and a New South Carolina is no different.

Phil Noble has a technology company in Charleston and writes a weekly column for the S.C. Press Association.

Title: **State declared a disaster area**

Author: From staff reports

Size: 26.19 column inches

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State declared a disaster area

From staff reports

The images of flooded roads and battered buildings should make it obvious, but South Carolina has officially been declared a disaster area.

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

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

On Oct. 10, Governor Haley formally requested a disaster declaration from the White House for Beaufort, Berkeley, Char-

leston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg counties. Her request followed an assessment of damages by representatives of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, affected electric co-operatives, and local and municipal governments.

As emergency managers assess the damage

See DISASTER, Page 2-A

DISASTER

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caused by Hurricane Matthew, FEMA could determine that additional counties are eligible to receive federal assistance.

Under the Public Assistance Program, state and affected local governments are eligible to apply for federal funding to pay 75 percent of the approved costs for debris removal and emergency services related to the storm. The division of the remaining

25 percent will be determined later.

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

potential projects are eligible.

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

Chester County did receive some rain and wind on Saturday from the farthest reaches of the hurricane's outskirts, but was spared any damage.

Title: **Locals find storm relief in neighborhood bar**
 Author: BY FRANKIE MANSFIELD fmansfield@moultrienews.com
 Size: 88.19 column inches
 Sullivan's Island, SC Circulation: 28225



Locals find storm relief in neighborhood bar

BY FRANKIE MANSFIELD

fmansfield@moultrienews.com

The kerosene lantern hanging by a nail above the counter glows just bright enough for the bartender to tally the handwritten tabs.

Bluegrass music flows from an iPod that's wired to a small, battery-operated speaker serenading the crowd of 40 or so that tightly hugs the bar, two deep in most places.

Twelve hours prior, Hurricane Matthew whirled through the Lowcountry. It flooded roads and shut down power throughout Mount Pleasant. The Southern, a local bar nestled in a shopping center around the corner from Shem Creek, was one of the first to open its doors in the evacuated town.

Many walked their way down Coleman Boulevard from the Old Village. Some

drove on the desolate roads. It's mostly stubborn locals who rode out the storm in their homes even after Gov. Nikki Haley urged them to leave. For a lot of them, this union at the local watering hole is the first sense of relief they've felt in days.

"What do you have?" a tall blonde woman, probably in her early 30s, calls out to Mike the bartender. Mike swims his hand through the melting ice in the Igloo cooler that's propped below the now-defunct beer well. Selection is limited this evening. There's a slim beer list, mostly domestic, but plenty of liquor too.

"Bud Light?" she asks. "I'll take four. And two shots of Rumpke Minze."

A few hours ago, Mike got a call from

his uncle, Perry. Despite not having power, Perry was thinking about opening The Southern, and he needed a bartender. An hour later, Mike and Perry were behind the bar using pencils marks on a roll of receipt paper to keep tabs. It'd have to be cash only. Single dollar bills were coveted and paying your tab with enough of them could earn you a shot on the house.

"It's just nice to see some other people for a change," says an older white-haired man named Hank as he scratches through his long, tangled beard with one hand while rubbing the head of his yellow lab, Charlie, with his other. Hank's lived in the same one-story house a few blocks away in the Old Village nearly his

See **RELIEF**, page 10A

Relief at local watering hole

RELIEF from page 1A

entire life. The same white house with the blue storm shutters he was holed up in this weekend was the one he and his family weathered Hurricane Hugo in back in 1989.

"This is the first time I've been out of my house in a couple days," he lets out. "I was getting stir crazy I guess. It just feels good to be out and around some other people."

It's that sense of community that The Southern is providing. The air conditioning isn't on; the fans aren't even swirling. The counter's a little sticky. It's hard to see clearly from one end of the bar to the other. The selection is limited and maybe a little warmer than usual. But everyone in the congregation appears cheerful. Everyone

in there has at least one thing in common. They're the ones who stayed and survived the storm while others fled. And now they're the first ones to venture back out to reclaim the town.

"I guess we're just the dumb ones," Hank says half chuckling. "I wasn't ever going anywhere. Here I am..." He stops mid-sentence to greet a familiar face as she enters the bar. "Hey," he shouts out to his new company. "We made it."

A pair of college buddies orders a couple of vodka and Red Bulls and quickly confirm Sprite will suffice if there isn't any Red Bull. There's no Red Bull, and without compression in the soda gun, there's no Sprite either. Today, it'll have to be two cups of ice half-filled with vodka, which the pair

quickly dilutes with a bottle of fruit punch Gatorade.

"It's on me tonight," Mike assures. The two leave with satisfied smiles headed toward the door that's illuminating the front of the drab bar with the dwindling evening light.

A woman appears in their place, disheveled in an oversized rain jacket as she plops her purse down on the counter and reaches over to ask a special request. Her name's Elizabeth, but her friends call her Liz. Her first experience in a hurricane has clearly taken a toll on the Michigan transplant. Her front yard's flooded, but it's nothing like the lake in her backyard. Her 43rd birthday is in a few hours and this bar is one of the only chances she'll have to buy a bottle of wine on this side of town. Mike pulls a bottle of chardonnay from

below the counter. It's worth \$25; he offers it to her for \$15.

"Where's this from?" Liz asks as she scans the label. "Oh, it doesn't matter."

"Neighbors helping neighbors," she chirps as she unfolds wads of cash from her purse. She irons out two \$5 bills as a tip. "Thank goodness y'all are here."

The relief is unfortunately fleeting. Eventually, the bar will run out of beer and the ice will melt inside the coolers. The iPod battery will die and the music will fall silent. Those inside will be cast back off into the night to return to their dark homes awaiting the return of electricity.

But everyone is leaving better off than they arrived, rejuvenated by a few hours in a local bar with a community that's once again weathered the storm and come out mostly unscathed.

Title: **Locals find storm relief in neighborhood bar**
Author: BY FRANKIE MANSFIELD fmansfield@moultrienews.com
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FRANKIE MANSFIELD/STAFF

Locals fied into The Southern on Coleman Boulevard just hours after the worst effects of Hurricane Matthew subsided.



FRANKIE MANSFIELD/STAFF

Mike, along with his uncle, Perry, tended bar in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

Title: **A little down, not out**
 Author: BY JAKE LUCAS news@moultrienews.com
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A little down, not out

Officials say Matthew left East Cooper mostly unscathed

BY JAKE LUCAS

news@moultrienews.com

Last Friday morning, as Hurricane Matthew churned along the Florida coastline headed toward South Carolina, Governor Nikki Haley made a final plea for evacuation that included a message singling out some of East Cooper's most vulnerable communities.

"Our barrier islands. It's the

biggest concern we have right now," she said. "We need people to move."

Early accounts suggest most residents

took the warning to heart.

"The place was pretty quiet leading up to the hurricane, so that to me says that the vast majority of people did leave," said Sullivan's Island Mayor Pat O'Neil.

Isle of Palms Mayor Dick Cronin echoed that feeling. He said he would be surprised if 5 percent of that island's residents stuck around for

the storm.

See **STORM**, page 7A

Gallery

To see more photos from this story, as well as others, visit our online gallery at moultrienews.com/photos

Officials say hurricane left East Cooper mostly unscathed

STORM from page 1A

For those who did, Matthew was merciful. Saturday morning, the storm's eyewall was just offshore of Charleston, blowing winds just strong enough at 75 miles per hour to make it a Category 1 hurricane, and made landfall near McClellanville late in the morning. On Sullivan's Island the peak wind gust measured by the National Weather Service was 66 miles per hour at 8:46 a.m. In Mount Pleasant, it was 55 miles per hour at 10:35 a.m. On Isle of Palms, Cronin measured 9.9 inches of rainfall.

The storm's surge did not totally spare the islands. On Sullivan's Island, it crept in at beach paths at Stations 9 and 10 and at the eastern end of the island closer to Breach Inlet. It also came in from the marsh at several points on the back side of the island, and O'Neil said some people with ground-level living units faced flooding.

"If you're the person with

the ground floor apartment and you took half a foot of water, that's not minor."

The rising water, wind and waves also lashed the dunes on both islands, taking a toll on the natural protections for beachfront property. Near Breach Inlet on Sullivan's Island, it pushed sand toward homes and onto the road.

On Isle of Palms, "From a beach standpoint, we lost dune structure all along the island," said Mayor Dick Cronin. The dunes on the western end of the island were left particularly weak, and the houses behind them vulnerable.

"The structures were not threatened with this storm, but the primary dune has been breached, and if there's another storm within a short duration, those properties could see sea water right at their front doors," he said.

Way down at the far east end of the island in Wild Dunes, homes and condominium buildings that had already deployed emergency measures to keep the surf

away from foundations saw water pass under the homes and under the foundation of the condos, though Cronin said they are structurally fine.

Both Sullivan's Island and Isle of Palms hosted the State National Guard on Sunday to have the beach damage evaluated to eventually get help repairing them. The Guard is doing the same in other communities affected by the storm, though, so how soon that help will come depends on where they end up in line.

During that same Friday morning press conference,

Governor Haley also called out Daniel Island by name, warning residents there who had not yet evacuated that the storm surge could be devastating in that community, too.

In the end, Charleston City Councilman Gary White, who lives on and represents Daniel Island, said he has yet to hear of water inundating any homes on the island.

"All things considered, I think the island fared pretty

well," he said. "I was very anxious about the flooding."

He said the island was likely helped by the storm hitting at low tide, as well as the fact that it is a new development with good drainage.

"The island really does drain very very well, so even when we do have water standing, within 24 hours it will be gone," he said.

The island also has buried power lines, so he had yet to hear of anyone who'd lost power either.

In Mount Pleasant, by Mayor Linda Page's account, there was not much to report by Monday. Around town, there was tree damage, damage to roofs and some flooding issues, "but all in all, the town did great."

She said parts of the Old Village and Shem Creek were experienced the surge, and flood-prone areas took on water, but staff worked to keep drainage ditches clear and take care of debris.

On both islands, a few trees knocked out service power lines that run from the poles

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 Author: BY JAKE LUCAS news@moultrilenews.com
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on the street to individual houses, leaving those households without power, but the islands' distribution lines were spared.

In fact, Cronin said while the storm raged, he checked the traffic camera trained on the Isle of Palms Connector, and the feed was live.

"You could see the rain blowing sideways, and you

could tell by the reflection on the signs that the light was changing," so he knew power had not been lost island-wide, he said.

One common thread among the communities was praise for city and town staff, who quickly got to work surveying damage and getting the communities back up and running.

"For the most part, most

everything was returned to normal by late (Sunday)," Cronin said.

By Monday morning, some volunteers from the Isle of Palms fire department had gone to Edisto Island to help recovery efforts there.

The islands did limit access to residents only Saturday and then to residents and business owners Sunday,

but that restriction had been lifted by Monday.

As people return home and begin the work of cleaning up, Page urged them to be careful with chainsaws and tools they're not familiar with as well as not to over-exert themselves.

"People need to be very cautious with recovery. More accidents happen after storms than during storms."



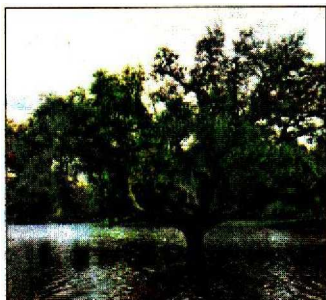
JAKE LUCAS/STAFF

Residents took out golf carts to survey the damage in the Old Village Saturday, where a fallen tree peeled up two pieces of sidewalk and crashed into a white picket fence. There were trees down and minor flooding throughout Mount Pleasant. Some were without power as well.

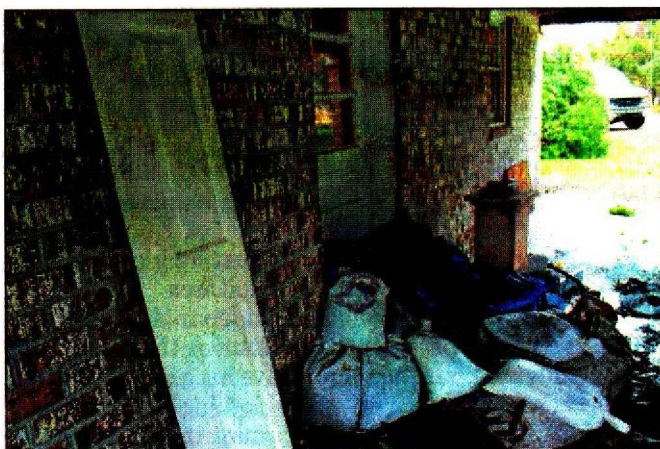
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**SULLY WITTE/STAFF**

This port-o-john was tied to a tree to prevent it from flying into Shem Creek. It did land on its side, but thankfully not in the water. And no, it was not occupied at the time.

**FRANKIE MANSFIELD/STAFF**

Low spots throughout Mount Pleasant flooded after the storm.

**SULLY WITTE/STAFF**

Dozens of sandbags in front of a door on Sullivan's Island were of little help in holding back the flood waters.

Title: **The Post and Courier of Charleston on economic incentives in the state**

Author:

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SC Editorial Roundup

The Post and Courier of Charleston on economic incentives in the state

Economic development has been a major achievement of Gov. Nikki Haley's administration. By waging an aggressive campaign for prospects, the governor and her Commerce Department have been able to attract new businesses to South Carolina and new employment opportunities for its citizens.

But the effort, which typically involves tax breaks and incentives, doesn't always work out. That's to be expected. Economic development takes place in a highly competitive environment among the states.

The case involving the payment of \$1.2 million in state incentive funds to a Navin Xavier, a Malaysian businessman who promised to redevelop a closed factory in job-hungry Marion, is something else, though.

Xavier is being held in custody by federal officials pending an arraignment on fraud charges. He faces charges in what federal officials describe as a \$29 million Ponzi scheme.

Federal authorities allege that some of the money came from the taxpayers of South Carolina, was sent to banks in other countries and also supported the businessman's lavish lifestyle.

As far as South Carolina is concerned, the question is whether the necessary due diligence was done. The payment of state funds was made by the S.C. Economic Coor-

inating Council, an arm of the Commerce Department.

So far, neither the governor's office nor Commerce officials have been very forthcoming about the matter. In comments to our reporter, department spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell declined to specify whether the agency is changing the way it vets prospective recipients of state incentive money, saying only that "the department is always looking for ways to improve its systems and processes."

That's not an adequate response. And the matter can't be excused by the numerous economic development successes that the state has enjoyed, or the many instances where incentives have proved effective. Anytime there is state funding involved, there has to be accountability.

The state inspector general has been involved in the investigation, and the state should expect his findings to be made public at some point.

Otherwise, the Legislative Audit Council should be called in to give the matter a thorough review, and eventually a public airing. The LAC has performed audits related to successful economic development initiatives, such as BMW and Boeing in the past. It could try its hand at one that failed in the worst way.

Lawmakers should be interested in what went wrong with the state's supposed investment. An LAC review could suggest safeguards for the future. And in doing so it could prevent the sad experience of Marion, when the hopes of a new factory and hundreds of new jobs were dashed.

Incentives are an important part of the state's economic development efforts. South Carolina has to be prepared to meet the competitive level of other states that are also in the race for new industry and new jobs.

And the nature of that campaign requires a degree of secrecy. This case suggests the need for greater scrutiny and, finally, more public accountability for one that really got away.

The administration is always happy to boast of its achievements in the economic development realm. It should be willing to acknowledge the occasional failure as well. In this instance, the public deserves an explanation.