

Title: **8 Days of Hope coming to help flood victims**
 Author: BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS Correspondent
 Size: 20.15 column inches
 Marion, SC Circulation: 3842



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BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS
 Correspondent

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According to the Eight Days of Hope Facebook page, the work done in South Carolina will be the national volunteer group's twelfth such blitz. Volunteers from 40 states and Canada are coming, the site said.

Some 200 homes were scheduled to be rebuilt from last Saturday to this Sunday in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties.

The homes are those damaged by the flooding of Black River in the two-county area in October 2015.

There should be more than 1,000 volunteers coming into the area for the reconstruction of homes, Singleton said.

He added that Williamsburg

County was among the hardest hit, with 681 houses destroyed.

Steve Tybor, director of the Eight Days group, was in the county earlier this year to plan the event and said he could see the need in the area.

Kevin Shwedo, appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to lead South Carolina recovery efforts, said it takes years to rebuild from disasters such as the one the state suffered.

"If it weren't for faith-based organizations, we would not be where we are today," Shwedo said at a press conference in July to kick off the volunteer effort. Black River United Way is among those helping Williamsburg County recover, Singleton said.

"Forty-four percent of the damage from the flooding and storms happened in Georgetown and Williamsburg County," said Lucy Woodhouse, CEO and president of the Black River United Way.

Title: **Hurricane Matthew rips through lee county**
 Author: By Gee Whetsel Editor Lee County Observer, Bishopville, SC
 Size: 155.93 column inches
 Bishopville, SC Circulation: 2525



Hurricane Matthew rips through Lee County

Downed trees and power lines litter roadways, neighborhoods

By Gee Whetsel
 Editor

Lee County Observer, Bishopville, SC

It certainly could have been worse but by all accounts, the devastation created by Hurricane Matthew throughout the state was bad enough.

Lee County Emergency Operations Center director Mike Bedenbaugh said the amount of damage caused by the hurricane this far inland was a little surprising.

Hundreds of huge oak, pine and pecan trees were blown over throughout the county.

"With last October's flood, it may have been that some of these trees hadn't fully

recovered and weren't strong enough to withstand all that sustained wind," Bedenbaugh said.

In Lee County on Monday afternoon, much of the town was still shut down; many homes and businesses still with power. Duke Energy Progress crews were working around the clock to restore electricity as soon as possible but many customers were being told it could be a week before the power comes back on.

For most of Monday, half of the city had lights while the

other half didn't. Time Warner was not operating, either, so businesses lucky enough to have lights didn't have internet access. Only essential city and county personnel were told to report to work.

Bedenbaugh said downed trees and power lines are the biggest problems the county now faces as the clean begins and will continue for weeks.

Hurricane Matthew hit Lee County around 4 a.m. Saturday morning after devastation areas of the coast, bringing

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MATTHEW Continued from Front

winds up to 45 mph, Bedenbaugh said.

"We got anywhere from 4.5 to almost 7 inches of rain off the hurricane, depending on where you are located in the county," he said.

Power outages started popping up beginning early Saturday morning as branches and many trees started toppling. "I'd say at one time Saturday, more than 90 percent of the county was without power,"

Bedenbaugh said. "This was easily the worst storm we've had since Hurricane Hugo 26 years ago."

Bedenbaugh said more than 20 people took advantage of the Red Cross sponsored shelter at Lee Central High School. "It was open for two nights--Friday and Saturday," he said. "We had some local folks who stayed there and some who came off the interstate."

Thankfully, no injuries were reported from the hurricane. "We did have some limbs go through some house's roofs and there were some vehicles that received damage from falling trees but no major injuries," Bedenbaugh said. "There are some roads in the Lynchburg area that are flooded still so we're urging caution."

On Wednesday, Lee County

emergency management staff met with county and city officials to discuss plans before Hurricane Matthew arrived.

Schools and city and county offices were closed Thursday and Friday after South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley ordered the mandatory evacuation of coastal areas of South Carolina beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday as Hurricane Matthew threatened to wreak havoc on the coast.

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Schools in much of the Midlands and the coast, including Florence, Darlington, Clarendon, Sumter and Lee counties were ordered closed Wednesday to make room for evacuees. Government offices

were also ordered to close to keep traffic off the roads, she said.

"This is not something we want to play with. If you don't get out in time you might be stuck," Haley said.

Cotton Festival canceled

Due to hurricane Matthew, organizers of the Cotton Festival, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 8, made the decision on Wednesday to cancel the event.

"Since we cannot re-schedule due to time restraints, we will be merging the event with Christmas on Main on December 10," said Lee County Chamber of Commerce Director Deanna Rollins.

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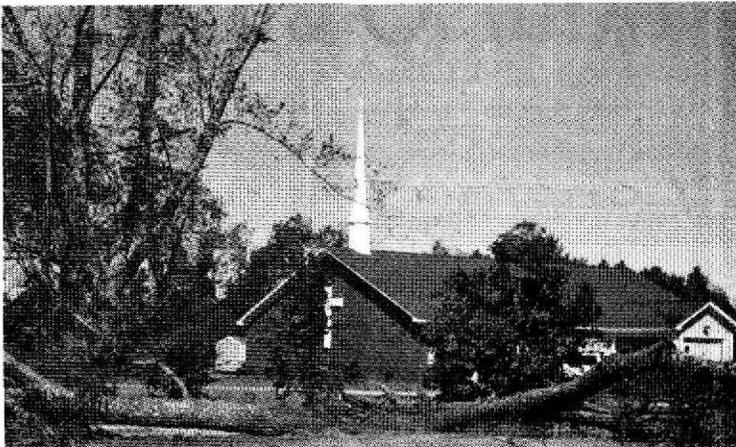


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PHOTOS BY GEE WHETSEL

Hurricane Matthew caused widespread damage when it blew through Lee County for most of the day Saturday, toppling trees and downing power lines. Above, a fallen tree on Harris Street pulled up a chunk of the sidewalk with it when it came down. Below, a tree goes down in the midst of 40-45 mph winds.



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Author: BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS Correspondent
Size: 21.23 column inches
Lake City, SC Circulation: 1747



8 Days of Hope coming to help flood victims

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Correspondent

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Title: **Mayor addresses emergency ordinances**
 Author: BY MONICA KREBER mkreber@journalscene.com
 Size: 39.06 column inches
 Summerville, SC Circulation: 5929



Mayor addresses emergency ordinances

BY MONICA KREBER
 mkreber@journalscene.com

While some Summerville Town Council members still believe declaring a state of emergency for the town was not necessary last week, the mayor said he thinks they need to work on an emergency ordinance for the town.

Mayor Wiley Johnson got some heat last week when he wanted to pass a

resolution declaring Summerville in a state of emergency because of Hurricane Matthew and grant the mayor 60 days worth of power to enforce things such as declare a curfew, suspend sales of alcoholic beverages or firearms, suspend non-emergency activities and prohibit public assemblies, to name a few.

Councilman Walter Bailey called this effort a "power grab" while Johnson wanted to carry out the emergency declaration, as the state and Dorchester County had already done so. Council took no action on the resolution.

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Mayor

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Johnson said he thinks the town does need ordinances for these types of emergency situations.

"In situations like we just went through you sort of got to plan for the worst but hope for the best," he said. "That's what I think what the town administrator and myself were trying to do. I can only speak for myself."

Johnson was looking at Mt. Pleasant's emergency ordinances, which authorize the mayor, during the existence of a proclaimed state of emergency, to prohibit or regulate the buying or selling of beer, wine or "intoxicating beverages;" to prohibit or regulate the possession off one's own premises of explosives, firearms, ammunition, or dangerous weapons of

any kind; and to establish hours during which a curfew shall be in effect, among other items, according to the online ordi-

nances.

"With the latest changes to the ordinances and the mayor's powers...brought a lot of...shortcomings to light that we really hadn't been considering or hadn't thought of," he said.

Bailey, however, said his thoughts had not changed.

"I think with the strong mayor powers that Mayor Johnson wanted had been given to him, it would actually have interfered with what was taking place," he said, referring to the operations under the town's departments. "Nobody on council has that level of expertise, including the mayor. I think if people belatedly jumped in and started taking charge of something that was already a very smooth operation in place, they couldn't have done anything but hurt the effort."

Bailey said they also did not need to declare a state of emer-

gency because Gov. Nikki Haley had already done so.

Looking at it as a whole, the damage from Hurricane Matthew to Summerville was very light, Johnson said.

"Anybody that had a tree fall on their house, they wouldn't think that's light, but it could've been a lot worse," he said.

There are a lot of trees and power lines down and Johnson said he was very pleased with SCE&G for working to restore power. "We still have people without power but lots of folks have gotten their power restored so that's a real blessing," he said.

Johnson said he thinks FEMA is going to be a partner in looking at the damage that was done.

"Hopefully they'll help us and we're trying to come up with plans going forward," he said.

Councilman Bob Jackson said he still does not think the declaration of an emergency was

necessary.

"I just don't think it would have helped aid us in doing anything," he said. "I think everything went fine and I think, as council, our job is to hire experts in their field and if we do that then we need to allow them to work in their field, because none of us are qualified to do what they do; they do it every day."

These experts Jackson referred to include the town administrator, the police chief, fire chief and road crews.

"All these guys are professionals at what they do and they need to make the decisions on what need to be done," he said.

Johnson is participating in a Chat with the Mayor at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Town Hall. Council has its regular monthly council meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday.

 Title: **Top SC GOP Leaders won't Dump Trump**

Author:

Size: 6.97 column inches

Columbia, SC Circulation: 36854



Top SC GOP Leaders Won't Dump Trump

Leading South Carolina Republicans are having to find creative ways to talk about — or not talk about — controversial GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump after an 11-year-old recording surfaced with the billionaire making reprehensible remarks about women. Gov. Nikki Haley says she's focused on dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey, who has been a Trump supporter, says he doesn't want to field questions about the candidate at all. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott says Trump is the "lesser of two evils," while U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy says Trump's comments about women are indefensible, but that Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton also has her own problems. Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, an early Trump supporter, says he's still behind the real estate tycoon "100 percent."

— *Chris Trainor*

Title: **Crashing in Columbia**
 Author: By Xavier Edwards, Jordan Lawrence, Eva Moore, Andy Sham and Chris Trainor
 Size: 343.17 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 36854



Crashing in Columbia

Hurricane Matthew, Coastal Evacuees Breeze Through Town

By **Xavier Edwards, Jordan Lawrence, Eva Moore, Andy Shain and Chris Trainor**

Columbia was a refuge last week. In a turn of events, South Carolina coastal residents streamed into the Capital City for the weekend as Hurricane Matthew rolled toward the Southeast last week. Usually it's the other way around, with Midlands folks heading to the beach seeking a diversion from the state's heated central core.

About 355,000 South Carolina residents — roughly equal to the population of Columbia, Charleston, Greenville and Spartanburg combined — fled the coast. Some of them ended up in Columbia, staying with friends and family or in one of the few available hotel rooms on a football weekend.

They strolled downtown, visited museums and hopped among bars.

Then Matthew arrived.

While the Category 1 hurricane raked the coast from Hilton Head to Myrtle Beach, everyone hunkered down in Columbia as the storm's outer edge brought record rainfall and wind gusts of 46 mph. Stores and attractions closed.

Thousands lost power. Hundreds of trees fell, some crushed homes while many blocked roadways. Gusts even blew down one of the palmettos that dot the South Carolina State House grounds.

After Matthew passed, some evacuees stayed in town long enough for the University of South Carolina game that was moved back a day to Sunday, the same day Gov. Nikki Haley and coastal county officials announced they could return home.

"You could tell many were here due to the hurricane and not because of the game," says Chad Elsey, whose Cantina 76 restaurant on Main Street drew huge crowds last week. "I felt many of the folks were happy to be out of town (even under these circumstances) and seemed to be enjoying a Columbia they may not often visit."

Here's how the influx of unexpected visitors shaped Columbia's arts and bar scene, hospitality industry and top sports event last week.

Matthew Mixes Up the Arts

Last week, as the Midlands prepared for Matthew's possible impact, the effect it would have on the city's arts and entertainment options was unclear. On the one hand, a huge influx of people due to coastal evacuations created the potential for greater crowds; on the other, the inclement weather threatened to keep people in their homes.

In the end, the weather created a mixed bag.

The monthly arts crawl First Thursday on Main felt a bump. Lee Snelgrove, executive director of the arts-trumpeting organization One Columbia and secretary of First Thursday's board of directors, speculates that last week's event "certainly exceeded" its expected regular attendance of 1,000 people.

The recurrent block party in Boyd Plaza sold out of beer "for the first time in a while," and the space in front of the Columbia Museum of Art was teeming with smiling, head-nodding faces as The Distributors swaggered through their sturdy rock 'n' roll. Zip codes collected at an information table represented visitors from the Charleston, Mt. Pleasant and Summerville areas.

Down Main Street at the Nickelodeon Theatre, Columbia's art-house cinema, the weather put a damper on a promising weekend, one that brought with it the opening of the hotly anticipated new film *Birth of a Nation*.

"We didn't have the attendance that we would normally have had," says Kristin Morris, the theatre's marketing manager. "We decided to cancel our matinee shows on Saturday to keep our staff and patrons safe and off the roads. We did, however, welcome a lot of out-of-town visitors to the theater on

Thursday and Friday, which is always great."

Museums boomed with schools staying out and evacuees coming in.

At the Columbia Museum of Art, deputy director Joelle Ryan-Cook notes that offering half-price admission on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday led to attendance spiking to three or four times the average.

On Friday, the South Carolina State Museum reported its busiest non-school group days in 17 months with a boost from coastal evacuees. The museum offered free admission to visitors who live in areas in the path

of Hurricane Matthew. Nearly two-thirds of the people coming through the doors Friday arrived from the coast, a museum spokesperson said.

Debbie Moore of Mount Pleasant walked out of the renovated textile mill Friday holding a Columbia visitor's guide. She and her husband, Ralph, made their second-ever visit

to the state's capital city Friday to escape the intense storm.

"We couldn't sleep last night with all the weather reports," Debbie says.

Ralph Moore said the couple was able to find an available Columbia hotel room online a day after some University of South Carolina football fans began changing plans when the Saturday game versus Georgia in Columbia moved to Sunday.

The couple said they enjoyed the museum, but they wanted to settle into their hotel and find out when they could return to Mount Pleasant.

"We look forward to getting some sleep," Debbie offers. "But we're a little scared of what we might find when we get home."

On Saturday as Matthew grazed over the Midlands, the storm outside did little to quell the crowd at Trustus Theatre, which had a few

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empty seats for Saturday night's performance of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Armed with props and a plethora of explicit zingers, they took full advantage of the notoriously debauched sci-fi/horror romp built for the audience to jeer and participate. During an opening scene set in a deluge, there were enough small water guns firing to make the front rows feel like it was actually misting rain.

"The atmosphere was electric even if opening night was pushed back a day because of the storm.

"Some folks transferred their reservation to another day, and we were able to fill those with walk-up patrons," Chad Henderson, the theater's artistic director, says. "Most of the empties were no-shows."

Storm Opened Seats at the Table

While uncertainty over the hurricane — not to mention the Gamecocks football game — may have dinged restaurant business a bit, the extra people in town had to go eat somewhere.

Ricky Mollohan, who runs three Midlands restaurants, said Saturday he'd seen a lot of coastal residents eating out at his restaurants.

"I would say that the crowd has been about 25 percent evacuees pretty much across the board," Mollohan told *Free Times*.

He says business was unsteady throughout the end of the week and weekend leading up to the hurricane — up some days, down others. Solstice, his restaurant in the Northeast, saw brisk business until the weekend. Cellar on Greene and Mr. Friendly's took a hit right after the hurricane evacuations were announced, and again as the storm swept over Columbia on Saturday.

In the Vista on Thursday and Friday, the sidewalks were thronged with people, and eateries appeared packed.

On Saturday, though, several restaurants announced closures due to power outages and stormy weather. The coffee shop Drip in Five Points — which seldom closes — shut down after losing electricity, and its sister location on Main Street closed early.

With School Out, Five Points Was In

With the University of South Carolina canceling classes for much of last week, the school's president issued a polite, yet firm warning to students with a little time on their hands.

"I am asking you to be smart, responsible and considerate during this time," USC

President Harris Pastides wrote to students. "The Midlands is winding down so that our first responders can provide much needed assistance in the Lowcountry. We can help them tremendously by not adding to their work load. Let's refrain from excess — there is no point in making a difficult situation worse. I am counting on you to represent Carolina in the best possible light."

The vibe around Five Points on Thursday was mellow at first.

Some places, like Group Therapy and Cover 3, were either empty or had a few people huddled around the bar. Others spots like Breakers and the back patio at Jake's were filled with patrons in button-up shirts and khaki shorts.

After Thursday turned into Friday, the crowd — eager to participate in that mad dash before the clock strikes 2 a.m. and bars close — picked up.

Many evacuees were glad to be away from the storm, though they worried about what awaited them.

"It's kind of slow right now, for the students to be out for three days," says Haze Sanders, 23. "As a University of South Carolina alum, I'm upset. I live on James Island. If there wasn't a football game, I probably would've stayed. ... I'm out here having fun, but I could literally go back to nothing."

Bottled Up And Booked Up

Even before Hurricane Matthew threatened the South Carolina coast, many Midlands hotels were already booked ahead of the USC-Georgia game, the Gamecocks' biggest home contest of the season.

USC did not announce plans to move the game to Sunday until late Thursday, but by then thousands of evacuees were looking for hotel rooms elsewhere in the state and in North Carolina because of slim pickings at area hotels.

Rick Patel, who owns seven Columbia hotels including the downtown Sheraton, says his Holiday Inn Express on Garners Ferry Road had a line out the door Tuesday evening, just hours after Haley first asked coastal residents to evacuate. It's one of the first Columbia hotels people encounter when driving up I-26 to I-77 from Charleston.

Rooms at many of his hotels had been reserved for months.

"We were already booked up because Georgia already took everything," he says.

The jockeying for rooms between football fans and evacuees became a bit of a stir as Haley became frustrated during news conferences about USC not moving the game.

As Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau director of communications Andrea Mensink noted, "If someone has an existing reservation, we can't cancel that just because they're not an evacuee."

After the game was moved, rooms opened up in Patel's hotels, but were quickly booked up again with evacuees, National Guard soldiers from other parts of the state and Red Cross workers.

"It was all full, even Sunday," Patel says. "There are hundreds still here."

Sunday's Other Religion

Wind gusts from Hurricane Matthew ripped away some of the lettering of "South Carolina Gamecocks" above the press box on the west side of Williams-Brice Stadium, but that was not why the game was not played on Saturday.

A subplot — both practical and political — during the week leading up to the arrival of the storm was whether or not the football game between USC and Georgia would take place in Columbia.

After several days of behind-the-scenes discussion, USC and Georgia officials agreed to hold the game on Sunday in Columbia, the first Sunday game at Williams-Brice since 1946.

While the on-field results likely disappointed South Carolina fans — the Gamecocks' anemic offense sputtered once again in a 28-14 loss to the Bulldogs — the Sunday matinee seemed to go well from a practical and logistical standpoint, with an announced crowd of just more than 77,000 showing up on a breezy, sun-drenched post-storm afternoon.

Still, there was a different feeling around the stadium ahead of the Sunday contest. The electric atmosphere that typically accompanies the run-up to the kickoff against Georgia — the Gamecocks' second biggest rival, after Clemson — was largely absent.

It was a later arriving crowd than normal, some of which was likely because of altered routines stemming from the rescheduling, while at least some in the deeply religious Palmetto State probably squeezed in early church services before rushing to the stadium.

Church is where Spartanburg's Gary Gibbs says he normally would have been on Sunday morning. But this week he was instead perched on the tailgate of his red pickup truck at the Olympia Learning Center on Bluff Road, enjoying food from Bojangles' before the ballgame.

"Yeah, I should have been at church, but I skipped church to come to the ballgame," Gibbs says. "My daddy is probably spinning in his grave right now."

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 Size: 343.17 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 36854

Gibbs, a retired schoolteacher, says he was worried the contest might be moved to another location. Gibbs says last season's LSU game — which shifted from Columbia to Baton Rouge because of the flood that rocked South Carolina — was in the front of his mind as the week wore on.

"I'm glad we decided to play it here and didn't have to go play it at the Georgia Dome or in Athens," Gibbs says. "I hate that it had to be on a Sunday. But I probably wouldn't have gone if they had moved it."

One of the key factors in rescheduling the game to Sunday was the availability of law enforcement for security and traffic control. Haley announced late last week she would not be dedicating any South Carolina Highway Patrol troopers to the game, as she said they were needed for hurricane-related assignments.

Instead, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott made extra deputies available to handle the ballgame. Lott, who has had a stormy political

relationship with Haley, received a ceremonial game ball at the South Carolina-Georgia game from USC Athletics Director Ray Tanner, as thanks for the assistance his deputies provided.

Lott relied on his 150 deputies along with 50 more from Calhoun, Kershaw and Newberry counties for what amounted to a smooth day despite orders allowing evacuees to return on Sunday.

"We didn't think that re-entry traffic was going to start until tomorrow [Monday] since most people realized it wasn't safe to go back to the coast yet," Lott said.

Dr. Lou Riccardi, a dentist from Americus, Georgia, and a Bulldogs fan, made his way to Columbia for the game, spending the night before in Augusta. He says he was glued to news reports about the hurricane and speculation about the ballgame in the days leading up to the showdown.

"We watched it every day and every night," Riccardi says. "For a while we thought the

game would be canceled or moved. ... I admire Gov. Haley immensely. I was very impressed with the way she handled everything. She was on top of it from the get-go. She let the University of South Carolina know, "You can play that game if you want to, but I'm not going to dispense any state people to help you."

Tanner stood by his decision to play despite the wishes of Haley.

"We didn't have a full house, but ... I was really pleased we were able to play," he said. "Looking back [Saturday] night, the weather did clear at 5 or 6 [about two hours before the game's 7:30 p.m. start time], but it didn't seem appropriate that we play a football game. So I was excited about waking up Sunday morning and having a beautiful day and playing football." ■

Post and Courier reporter Gavin Jackson contributed to this story.

Let us know what you think: Email.editor@free-times.com.

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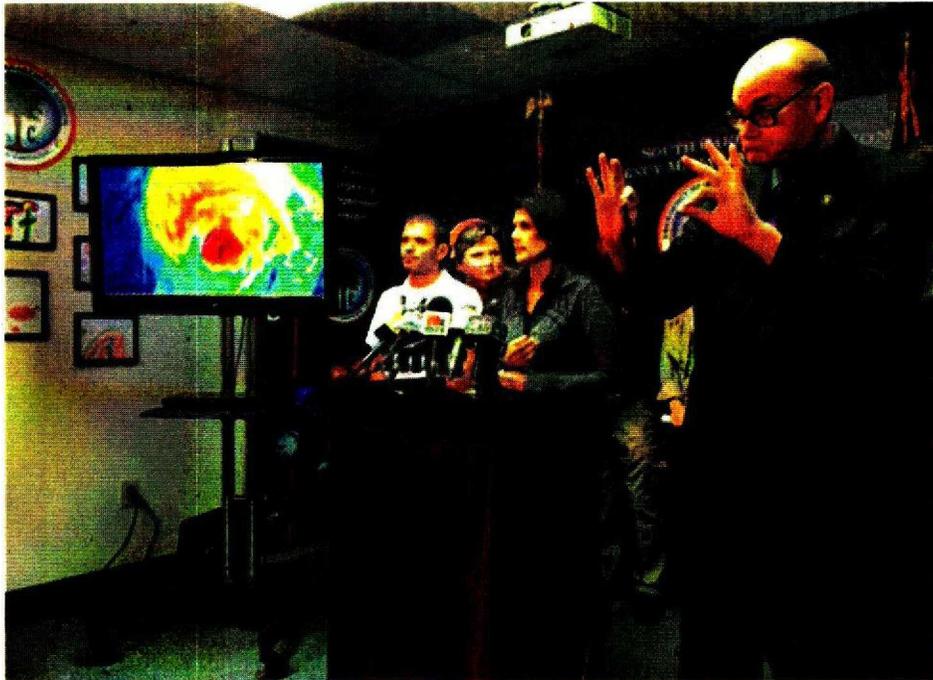
Trustus Theatre provided a preview of *The Rocky Horror Show* during First Thursday on Main in front of the Columbia Museum of Art, which drew a larger crowd last week with coastal evacuees. Photo by John Carlos

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Gov. Nikki Haley (at podium) updates reporters from the state emergency operations center Saturday while Hurricane Matthew barreled along the coastline. Photo by Andy Shain

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A crowd gathered at Jake's on Devine in Five Points on Thursday evening after the University of South Carolina canceled classes for the week.
Photo by John Carlos

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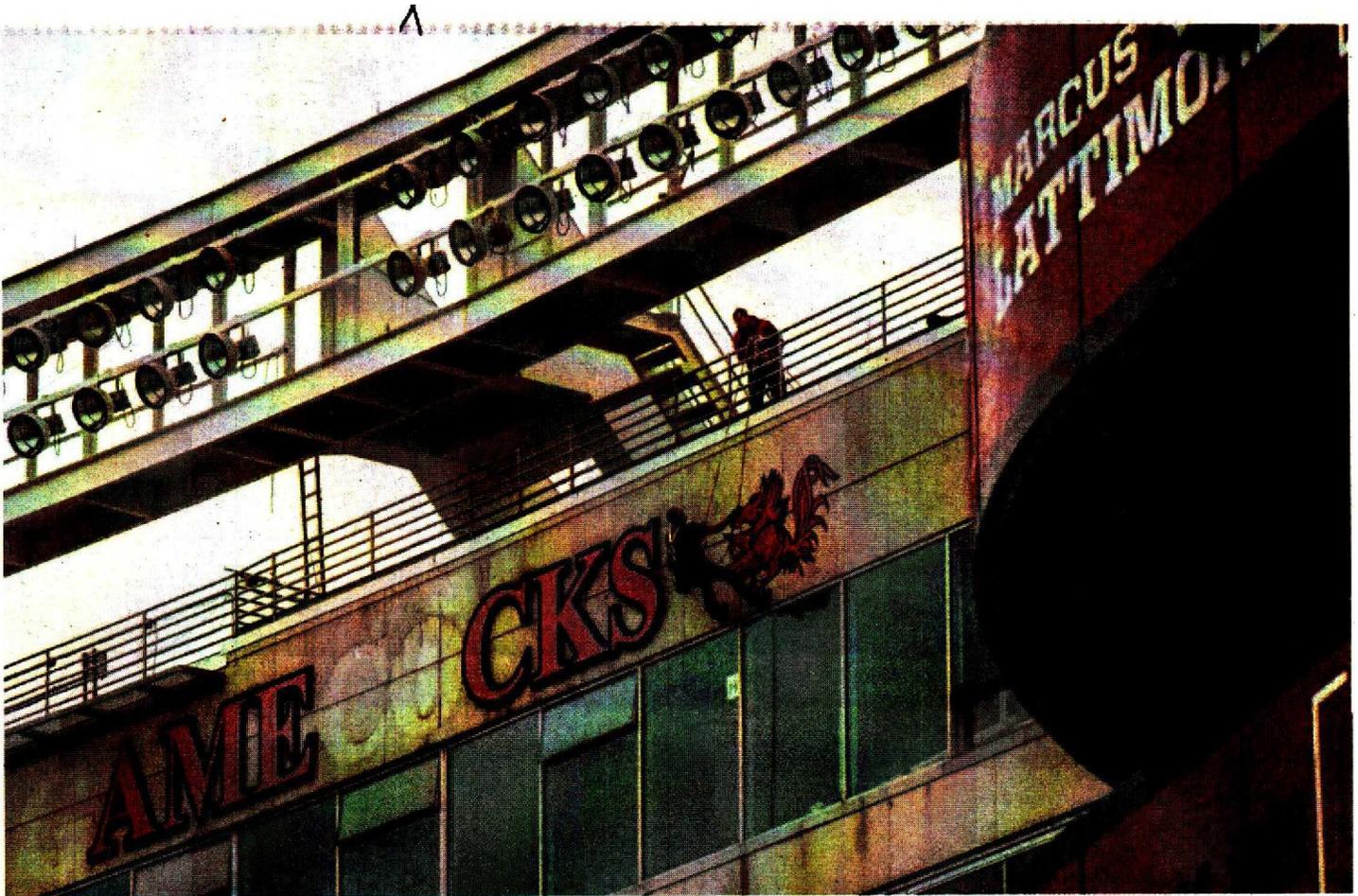
The Nickelodeon Theatre on Main Street had a message for the hurricane last week.
Photo by John Carlos

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Crews prepare to work on lettering damaged at William-Brice Stadium after Hurricane Matthew passed through Columbia on Saturday.
Photo by John Carlos

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USC Athletics Director Ray Tanner (left) hands a signed football to Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott during the game Sunday. Richland County deputies handled traffic control for the game with South Carolina state troopers assigned to assist in the storm. Credit: Jenny Dilworth

Title: **Proclamation may raise awareness of student's illness**
 Author: By ANNA BROWN
 Size: 142.6 column inches
 Union, SC Circulation: 0



Proclamation may raise awareness of student's illness

By ANNA BROWN

Jennie Allen says she is honored that Gov. Nikki Haley accepted her recommendation that October be proclaimed "Dysautonomia Awareness Month" in South Carolina and she hopes the designation will raise awareness about the disorder.

"Every time a proclamation goes out, somebody is seeing this," said Jennie, 16, who was diagnosed with Dysautonomia in May of 2015. "You never know when that is going to reach a doctor or a research assistant in a university. You never know who will see it and it might get the wheels turning in their head that they

want to look into it some more. They might have an idea that puts us one step closer to finding a cure and giving people their lives back."

The proclamation explains what Dysautonomia is - a group of medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system that controls involuntary body functions.

Increased awareness of Dysautonomia can lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment, the proclamation said, and important outcomes for those it affects.

Jennie, the daughter of Dean and Julie Allen, said

the proclamation is a victory.

"I wasn't expecting to get it," she said. "But every little thing that happens strings together to make something big. Hopefully we will have a cure one day and we can give people their lives back."

Dysautonomia is an umbrella term used to describe various medical conditions that cause a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system. The autonomic nerves control the "automatic" functions of the body that we do not consciously think about, such as heart rate, blood pressure, digestion,

dilation and constriction of the pupils of the eye, temperature control, and more. People living with various forms of Dysautonomia have trouble regulating these systems, which can result in light-headedness, fainting, unstable blood pressure, abnormal heart rates, malnutrition, and in severe cases, death.

According to Lauren Stiles, president of Dysautonomia International over 70 million people worldwide live with a form of Dysautonomia. There is no cure for any form of Dysautonomia at this time,

See ALLEN, Page 2

Allen

Continued from Page 1

but Dysautonomia International is funding research to develop better treatments, and hopefully someday a cure."

"Despite the high prevalence of autonomic nervous system disorders, many patients take years to get diagnosed due to a lack of awareness amongst the public and within the medical profession," said Dr. Paola Sandroni, Professor of Neurology at Mayo Clinic, who volunteers on Dysautonomia International's Medical Advisory Board.

Since its founding in 2012, Dysautonomia International, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been working to increase public awareness of Dysautonomia. The organization started the global Dysautonomia Awareness Month campaign that is celebrated annually during October. With the help of community members, Dysautonomia International organizes landmark lightings, 5K runs, fund raising galas, proclamations, social media campaigns and other awareness

activities.

'I couldn't get out of bed'

Jennie got sick on Jan. 25, 2015. It was the second half of her freshman year at Union County High School. She has been unable to return to school since then and is on homebound instruction.

"I couldn't get out of bed, I couldn't eat, I was nauseous all the time," she said.

Jennie's parents took her from doctor to doctor. That March it was determined that Jennie's gallbladder was only functioning 7 percent. It was removed.

"We thought that would be the end of everything and I would bounce back," Jennie said. "I went to school one day, right after spring break. It steam-rolled me. That was the end of that."

That May Jennie's primary physician told her she thought Jennie had a form of autonomic dysfunction. She referred Jennie to Pediatric Cardiology in Greenville. Tests confirmed Jennie's doctor was correct

but more specific findings were needed. After additional testing Jennie was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) related to her Dysautonomia. It is referred to as the "Grinch Syndrome" because deconditioning had caused Jennie's heart to shrink almost two sizes.

"The heart is a muscle so when you decondition, your heart deconditions just like every other muscle in your body," she said. "We kept trying different medications and they kept telling me, 'Exercise, exercise, exercise.' I was trying everything I could think of from walking to playing the fitness games on the Wii but it wasn't cutting it. I didn't have the energy or the ability to do it. In September of 2015 I started physical therapy. We were on the right track but it wasn't enough. In March of this year we went to Duke. They have a Pediatric POTS Clinic in their cardiology office in Raleigh."

Levine Protocol

Jennie said a nurse practitioner

Title: **Proclamation may raise awareness of student's illness**
 Author: By ANNA BROWN
 Size: 142.6 column inches
 Union, SC Circulation: 0

there has been a game changer.

"She put me on the Levine Protocol, (which includes reconditioning and strengthening the heart) designed by a doctor in Texas," she said.

Jennie's program includes exercising at Austin Rehab. She said she still has a long way to go.

"Every day is definitely a struggle," she said. "In Dysautonomia your autonomic nervous system doesn't function properly. The ANS is the part of your nervous system that controls all of your involuntarily bodily functions. Anything you don't have to tell your body to do for you is not regulated. My heart rate is not regulated, my blood pressure, digestion, it even goes down to your pupils. Mine don't dilate and constrict like a normal person's do. That leads to migraines. Most of the time I am nauseous, I don't have any energy. I am not able to go to school. Pretty much I am at home. Being a teenager and having to accept the fact that you may have to use a

wheelchair is hard. My doctor told me I had two choices. I could be wheelchair bound or I could do this protocol and fight."

Jennie said studies show one in 100 teenagers is diagnosed with POTS before they reach adulthood. There is an estimated one to three million Americans living with POTS, making it more common than Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease.

Life put on hold

One of Jennie's loves is competing in beauty pageants but the former "Miss Sims" and Miss South Carolina Teen local competitor has had to put that part of her life on hold for now. She said when she is able to compete again, Dysautonomia will definitely be her platform. She has an awareness page on Facebook, SALTED - Supporting and Loving Those Experiencing Dysautonomia. Her Instagram handle is "Salted SC." She has been working with Dysautonomia International and through this group she learned about proclamations such as the one the governor made.

"They gave me a sample of a proclamation request," she said. "I

went through and changed what I needed to change and sent it to Gov. Haley's office about two weeks ago."

On the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 27, Jennie received an email saying her proclamation idea had been accepted. A pdf file was attached. Friday she received an official copy in the mail.

"Awareness is really important," she said. "Dysautonomia is a chronic illness that doesn't have a cure. Right now everybody who has it is just managing symptoms - putting a Band Aid over everything and hoping it doesn't come off. There are a lot of wonderful research projects going on. It's hard to find pediatric doctors who are educated and know anything about POTS. That is where awareness comes into play - physician education. I have seen lots of doctors. I have even gotten up and walked out of doctor's offices because I was written off as a teenager who was lazy, who didn't want to go to school. I was told I was faking it. I had visible symptoms, they could tell something was wrong but they didn't want to address it. Once we got to Duke, she told me this was a problem they see every time they have a teen-ager come in. She said she had had patients come in that could not even sit up because they are pumped full of medications that have not helped at all, but have actually hindering them."

Jennie said she also hopes the attention she has called to her disorder will help others who, like her, who have conditions that cause them to be homebound students.

Homebound student

"Being a homebound student has not been easy," she said. "Thankfully I have had a wonderful homebound teacher - Denise Eubanks. She has always been like family. She has been more than just a teacher. She has been an advocate. She has fought to make sure I have a fair and equal education just like everyone else. Dr. Gibson, our new principal, has been wonderful to work with. Mrs. (Betsy) Trakas (principal last year at Union County High) was wonderful. I have had some wonderful teachers who have been more than under-

standing who have helped me continue to do my best. I have remained in the Top 10 of my class. I am in National Honor Society and I got my invitation a couple of weeks ago to the Interact Club. What happens to

you doesn't define what you can do.

It is a matter of putting your mind to it and saying, 'I can do it anyway.' That is one thing I want to show people. It doesn't matter what happens to you, you can still do what you want to do. You might have to

regroup and it might take a little longer, but you can still do it. If I had my choice, I would not have picked this for my life. I knew exactly what I wanted to do after high school and where I was headed and I was working that way. But I am not going to be able to do those things any more. I have had to switch gears."

College plans

Though she is a Clemson fan, Jennie said she thinks she will attend the University of South Carolina and double major in political science and criminal justice.

"I need an education," she said. "I plan to go to college one way or another - if I have to go lying down, I am going."

She would like one day to operate her own non-profit organization to help others who live with chronic illness.

"Thankfully we have physicians who are constantly doing new research projects and running trials for different programs and drugs," she said. "Hopefully one day we will have a cure. Chronic illness doesn't discriminate. It doesn't care what color you are or how much money you have. It can hit anybody. Dysautonomia usually affects young women between the ages of 12 and 40."

The root cause of Jennie's Dysautonomia might be an autoimmune issue that has yet to be discovered.

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"I got three stomach viruses back to back in the month of December 2014," she said. "They think that triggered my symptoms. Some people get it from concussions; some get it from spinal cord injuries, car accidents. Really, it is a guessing game of what causes people's issues. There is really no definitive cause for each person that would group a whole group together. One thing that really makes it difficult to treat Dysautonomia patients as a whole is every patient is different. Some might have two or three issues going. For me, as of right now, I have POTS specifically, with probably an auto immune issue going on but it's too early to find out anything

on that. There is a girl I know now in her early 20s who has POTS and Degenerative Disc Disease. Her spine at 19 was like someone who was 50. Usually with a form of Dysautonomia Who have two or three different things going on with it.

One day at a time

"I have missed out on a lot," she said. "I went from being active six days a week. I was a competitive dancer, I was in ROTC, I cheered for a little while, I did pageants. I went from being an active teenager to be stuck at home all the time. I have always been a perfectionist. I always had to have everything over the top. Go big or go home. Getting

sick, I have had to learn that sometimes I have to reel it back in. I have to stop, I have to let myself rest instead of constantly trying to go, go go, go. I have to reprioritize sometimes. I have to regroup. I take each day one day at a time and put one foot in front of the other."

Jennie has a favorite quote: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

"I want to leave a legacy behind," she said. "I want to change people's lives for the better. I want to leave people better than I found them. One thing I know for sure is that God is using my mountain to show other people it can be moved."



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Jennie Allen displays the proclamation she received from Gov. Nikki Haley designating October as "Dysautonomia Awareness Month." (Anna Brown photo)

Title: **Keeping tabs on economic incentives**
 Author:
 Size: 37.04 column inches
 Gaffney, SC Circulation: 8218



THEIR VIEW

Keeping tabs on economic incentives

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.

Mr. 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 Coordinating 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 proven 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.

— *The (Charleston) Post and Courier*

Title: **Cancellations piling up ahead of storm**
 Author: BVKENTMAHONEY kmahorey@hartsvilleemessenger.com
 Size: 52.85 column inches
 Hartsville, SC Circulation: 6303



Cancellations piling up ahead of storm

BY KENT MAHONEY

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The impending arrival of Hurricane Matthew has tossed a major monkey wrench into the list of scheduled events in and around Hartsville.

From school closings to entertainment-type events, the cancellations are stacking up faster than a stalled car on I-95 at rush hour.

Once Gov. Nikki Haley canceled schools for the majority of the week, any thought of Hartsville having a normal 2016 homecoming went right out

the window.

According to HHS athletic di-

rector Phyllis Griggs most of the activities have been rescheduled.

In concert with the state athletic officials, the high school football season has been extended one week.

"We have rescheduled the Lakewood game to Nov. 4," she said. "There will be no game this week and the rest of the schedule remains the same."

That means that a week from today, Hartsville will travel to Lugoff-Elgin and come back home on Oct. 21 for a game against Crestwood. Then the Red Foxes

will travel 13 miles down SC 151

to Darlington for the county rivalry game, and return home the last week.

Any additional activities that would need to be rescheduled will be announced at the schools.

Additional Hartsville-area cancellations include:

- » Thursday's Downtown Block Party with PaperWork
- » Thursday's Centennial Farmers Market in Centennial Park
- » Saturday's Hartsville Farmers Market

See **MATTHEW**, Page 3A

Darlington County opens shelter for coastal evacuees

DARLINGTON — Darlington County opened a shelter Thursday at Darlington Middle School, 150 Pinedale Drive, in Darlington.

This shelter will operate under Darlington County Emergency Management with the support of Darlington County School District, Department of Social Services, and the Pee Dee Chapter of the American Red Cross. Pets are not allowed at this shelter.

Those using the shelter should come prepared with identification, medications, change of clothes, cellphone and electronic device chargers, bedding, infant and baby supplies, and small toys and games to entertain children. Additionally, you may want to include spare batteries, foods for special dietary needs, and important legal documents.

The Darlington County EOC is continuing to monitor the weather and will make changes as needed.



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Matthew

From Page 1A

» Yam Jam in Darlington has been rescheduled to Oct. 28

» The Charlie Wilson concert has been rescheduled to Oct. 27

» Marlboro Academy in Bennettsville closed Friday only

» All activities and classes at Coker College

» GSSM Sip and Sup has been canceled

For a complete list of cancellations in and around the Pee Dee, please visit the website at SCNow.com.

As far as Hurricane Mat-

thew is concerned, not much has changed.

At the 2 p.m. Thursday National Weather service briefing, Matthew was still a Category 4 storm packing winds of 140 mph. It was located about 65 miles south-southeast of Freeport, Bahamas. It was working through the northwestern Bahamas.

It is responsible for 26 deaths, according to different news services.

Forward motion of the storm has increased to 14 mph, up from the 7 to 9

mph earlier in the track. It is moving to the northwest towards Florida.

There may be a continued strengthening in the Category 4 range depending on its location to land as it passes by Florida, but the storm is likely to weaken to a Category 1 or 2 as it passes the South Carolina coast before making a turn to the east.

The Darlington County area is expected to see three to five inches of rain, sustained winds around 25-30 mph, with gusts

around 40 mph. Falling tree limbs could take down power lines. Should that happen, citizens are urged to call their power provider and stay away from any downed lines.

The onset will likely begin around noon on Friday and continue through the overnight hours Saturday and into Sunday morning.

Residents are cautioned to not drive through water running over roadways as just six inches of water can begin to float a light-weight car downstream.