

From: Dodge, Christopher <Christopher.Dodge@fema.dhs.gov>

To: Dodge, ChristopherChristopher.Dodge@fema.dhs.gov

Date: 10/26/2015 8:25:23 AM

Subject: 10.26.15 Media Monitoring Morning Report for DR-4241-SC

Attachments: 102615 MM Report for DR-4241-SC.docx.dotx

FYSA-10.26.15 Media Monitoring Morning Report for DR-4241-SC

NEWS CLIPS

SOUTH CAROLINA-DR-4241

10/26/15

Morning

Issues:

- None.

Summary:

- New Disaster Recovery Centers opened in Georgetown.
- Claims of individual flood damage continue to increase in The T&D Region, reaching an estimated \$1.2 million through Friday. About 4,441 Orangeburg County residents have filed claims with the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**. The hardest-hit areas were in the eastern part of the county near Eutawville and Holly Hill.
- State road closures are down to 129 (Oct. 25) from a peak of 541 (Oct. 5) – a 76 percent decrease. Of the 93 road closures statewide, 53 are in Richland County, 11 in Lexington County
- Team South Carolina is in Manning today.
- More damage from king tides expected on the coast this week
- Haley's performance in "tumultuous" year has political observers speculating about her possibly rising to national level, such as a Cabinet position.
- Critics of state Infrastructure Bank, which pays for new roads, say it should be abolished because the flood shows more money needs to be spent on maintaining existing roads, rather than on building new ones.
- Flood effects over?:Charleston animal shelter adopts out all adoptable animals on Saturday.
- Chili and music events raised money for flood recovery over the weekend
- Columnists pitch the need to aid traumatized children and farmers suffering from the effects of the flood

Analysis:

- Coverage continued over the weekend about new DRCs opened, progress on opening roads and Haley's scheduling of a Team South Carolina in Manning today. There are more than 100 mentions of FEMA in today's clips.

Social Listening Analysis:

- **FEMA.** Conversations regarding **FEMA** and the flooding are minimal, with a decline in overall posts that may be due to a typical drop in activity over the weekend. There were a few [positive mentions](#) resulting from **FEMA Corps representation in the affected area.**
- **Community relief.** Residents and volunteer groups continued to [share updates](#) throughout the weekend of their work helping [muck and gut](#) homes. These posts made up the bulk of mentions of the flooding from the affected neighborhoods. Commentary on these posts was primarily positive, emphasizing [teamwork](#) and gratitude for those who are helping. Community pages on social media continue to share information about detailed recovery efforts aimed at [helping individual families](#) get back on their feet.

- **Road openings.** This morning, there has been a small increase conversations about progress [re-opening roads](#). There were a few positive posts [thanking SCDOT](#) for being ahead of schedule.
- **Fundraising.** Conversations about raising money for flood survivors were high, with local retailers promoting [sales benefitting flood relief](#) and local news stations covering flood relief events.

Floods

[New disaster recovery centers open in Georgetown County](#)

[Storm damage claims grow; some roads remain out](#)

[By the numbers: Latest from DOT on road closures](#)

[Statewide road/bridge closures down to 140; many to be long term repairs](#)

[Haley in Manning to help flood victims get assistance](#)

[Governor Haley heads to Manning to help flood victims get assistance](#)

[MORE at 6: Governor's flood response team in Kingstree today; Homecoming crash suspect to appear in court](#)

[‘King Tide’ could creating flooding, erosion issues on North Strand](#)

[Work targets Beaufort drainage, erosion issues](#)

[Gov. Haley praised for leadership amid tumultuous year](#)

[Floodwaters cause rise in mosquitoes](#)

[S.C. Realtors: Flooding to impact market](#)

[Florence road an example of cronyism, critics say](#)

[Northern Command software helps rescue efforts during South Carolina flooding](#)

[Drought then flood wipe out crops across South Carolina](#)

[OPINION: Help S.C. farmers in the long flood recovery effort ahead](#)

[McKenzie: Bury utility lines, plant shade trees to fight future flooding](#)

[OPINION: Fix roads before they get worse](#)

[Political profiteering from S.C. floods?](#)

[COLUMN--DeVenny, Hardway: Children need help to deal with trauma of the floods](#)

[The show must go on: Rhythm on the River concert rescheduled to benefit flood relief](#)

[Every animal adopted from Charleston Animal Society this weekend](#)

[Tree just barely misses house](#)

[Painting class to benefit flood victims](#)

[Harvest Hope team up with motorcycle clubs to aid in flood recovery](#)

[After the flood...](#)

[Lexington County Chili Cook Off brings community together after floods damage local businesses](#)

[South Carolina artist donating proceeds to S.C. flood victims](#)

[Pet adoptions free, discounted during Mega Match-a-Thon](#)

[SPCA: Dogs rescued from South Carolina flooding ready to adopt](#)

[Why Is This Happening? Unprecedented Flooding Has Hit The U.S. Within The Last 30 Days](#)

[TV/Radio Clips](#)

Floods

New disaster recovery centers open in Georgetown County

By Matt Gittins

[WBTW News 13 CBS Myrtle Beach](#), October 25, 2015

News release from office of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Two disaster recovery centers are open in Georgetown County to help South Carolina flood survivors. The centers – one in Andrews and the other in Georgetown – are open 8 AM to 7 PM seven days a week until further notice.

The new centers are located at Potato Bed Ferry Community Center, 531 Big Dam Swamp Drive in Andrews and Beck Recreation Center at 2030 Church St. in Georgetown.

They replace the center that closed on Friday at the Walmart parking lot at 1295 Frazier St. in Georgetown.

Representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, **Federal Emergency Management Agency**, U.S. Small Business Administration, and other agencies are at the centers to answer questions about disaster assistance and low-interest loans. They can also help survivors apply for aid.

It is not necessary to visit a center to register for and receive state/federal disaster assistance. If possible, survivors should register with **FEMA** before visiting a recovery center.

To register, go online any time to DisasterAssistance.gov or call the **FEMA** helpline at 800-621-3362. Help is available in most languages and phone lines are open 7 AM to 10 PM seven days a week until further notice.

Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585 to register. Those who use 711 or VRS (Video Relay Service) or require accommodations while visiting a center may call 800-621-3362. All disaster recovery centers are accessible and equipped with tools to accommodate disaster survivors who need disability-related communication aids.

Additional disaster recovery centers are open in affected South Carolina counties. For information call the **FEMA** helpline at 800-621-3362 or go online to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or <https://www.FEMA.gov/disaster/4241>.

Storm damage claims grow; some roads remain out

By GENE ZALESKI T&D Staff Writer

[Times and Democrat](#), Orangeburg, October 24, 2015

Disaster centers

Disaster recovery centers are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The locations are:

Orangeburg County YMCA at 2550 St. Matthews Road.

Holly Hill at 8423 Old State Road in the government complex.

Neeses Town Hall, 6357 Savannah Highway.

John Ford Community Center at 304 Agnes St. St. Matthews.

Claims of individual flood damage continue to increase in The T&D Region, reaching an estimated \$1.2 million through Friday.

About 4,441 Orangeburg County residents have filed claims with the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**. The hardest-hit areas were in the eastern part of the county near Eutawville and Holly Hill.

In Calhoun County, 359 residents have filed claims totaling \$40,000. Hardest hit were the Stumphole area of the county and along the low-lying areas of the Congaree River.

Ninety-four people in Bamberg County have filed claims. A total dollar amount was not released. The heaviest damage was in low-lying areas near the South Edisto River.

Calhoun County Emergency Services Director Bill Minikiewicz said individual claims continue to increase.

"There is a lot that has not been settled yet," Minkiewicz said. "It is changing every day."

FEMA spokesman William C. Lindsey said, "We want people to stay in touch with their recovery and if they have any questions to call or go to a disaster-recovery center where they can get immediate answers to their questions."

The maximum grant an individual can receive is \$33,000, he said.

"The main thing is that if they have any problems with a declaration and are not eligible, it is usually because something is not filled out," Lindsey said. "The SBA (Small Business Administration) packet is very crucial. We want people to fill out the whole packet so they know all their available resources."

Orangeburg County

In Orangeburg County, damage to roads, infrastructure and public buildings totals approximately \$365,000, which is above the required \$324,663 **FEMA** threshold for public disaster assistance.

FEMA will pay 75 percent of the cost and the county will be responsible for a 25 percent match.

Orangeburg County Emergency Services Director Billy Staley said the \$365,000 in public damage excludes municipalities.

"Most county roads are all up and running," Staley said Friday.

S.C. Highway 6 in the Eutawville area still had water covering the road and there were also reports of some flooding in the same area.

Flood damage in Orangeburg County included:

- Farnum Road drainage pipe and road blowout. Repair work is currently underway.
- Stacey Bridge Road drainage pipe and road blowout. Repair work is underway.
- Roof damage to a handful of county government buildings.

"They were primarily roof leaks," Staley said. "We are pursuing getting the repairs done."

Calhoun County

Public damage in Calhoun County totals \$372,751.

Damage included:

- About 300 feet of Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities' water pipe into the Cameron area was washed out at an estimated cost of \$93,000. Minikiewicz said the pipe has been temporarily repaired.

- The county's Department of Social Services and Department of Health and Environmental Control building sustained \$175,000 in damage. It will require the removal of carpets and sheet rock.

"That is in the works," Minikiewicz said, noting county building officials were talking about rushing through the mitigation because of mold in the building.

The St. Matthews sewage-treatment plant suffered between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in damage, including \$15,700 to the plant's pumps and wiring. The remaining portion includes fencing and sedimentation ponds.

Town officials are still waiting on a response from **FEMA** and an insurance adjuster on what kind of assistance is available.

- About \$74,751 for roads, labor, materials, fuel, equipment and equipment hours.

Minikiewicz said all roads in the county to his knowledge have been temporarily repaired.

As of Friday afternoon, Minikiewicz said the county has yet to hear whether it qualifies for **FEMA** assistance for public damage sustained during the flood.

The county needs to meet a \$53,000 threshold of public damage to receive a **FEMA** grant.

Bamberg County

In Bamberg County 40 roads and 84 homes were damaged. As of Friday, all roads are passable in the county, according to county emergency officials.

A total dollar amount related to public damage was also unavailable Friday.

The county would have to exceed \$55,085 in damage to qualify for public disaster assistance.

Road closures

There are three Orangeburg County state-maintained roads still closed.

They are:

- South Carolina Highway 6 from Garden Gate Road to 100 feet east of S-38-138. The road is expected to reopen by Oct. 31.

- Bonner Avenue from U.S. 15 to U.S. 301. The anticipated opening date is Nov. 26.

- Cleveland Street from Santee State Park to S-563. The road is closed due to a bridge collapse. The anticipated opening date is Nov. 26.

There are currently three Calhoun County state-maintained roads still closed because of road washout. The anticipated opening date for all three is after Nov. 26.

- Community Club Road -- from S.C. 6 to McCords Ferry Road.

- Tynah Road -- from S.C. 267 to S-72.

- Church Camp Road -- from S.C. 33 to Dwight Swamp Road.

There are no state maintained roads or dirt roads closed in Bamberg County.

Disaster-recovery centers

There are a number of disaster recovery centers open in The T&D Region. The centers are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The locations are:

Orangeburg County YMCA at 2550 St. Matthews Road.

Holly Hill at 8423 Old State Road in the government complex.

Neeses Town Hall, 6357 Savannah Highway.

John Ford Community Center at 304 Agnes St. St. Matthews.

It is not necessary to visit a center to register for and receive state and federal disaster assistance. If possible, survivors should register with **FEMA** before visiting a recovery center.

To register, go online to DisasterAssistance.gov or call the **FEMA** helpline at 800-621-3362. Help is available in most languages, and phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

By the numbers: Latest from DOT on road closures

The State (Columbia), Oct. 25, 2015

Highlights

Latest report from Sunday

The following summary update on the state of the transportation system since the Oct. 4 floods was released Sunday in a statement from S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Acting Secretary Christy Hall.

A complete copy is available at <http://www.scdot.org>

State road closures are down to 129 (Oct. 25) from a peak of 541 (Oct. 5) – a 76 percent decrease.

Of the 93 road closures statewide, 53 are in Richland County, 11 in Lexington County.
More than 425 SCDOT highway workers, about 67 crews, are staffing the recovery effort.
15 debris collection trucks and trailers are operating. More than 36,000 cubic yards of debris collected total.
There have been more than 3.5 million visits to the S.C. DOT Road Conditions web page since the floods.
All Interstate highways are open.
12 primary routes remain closed statewide.
The majority of the current closures are on the state's Secondary System.

Statewide road/bridge closures down to 140; many to be long term repairs

WCIV, ABC Charleston, Oct 25, 2015

CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) -- Seventy-six percent of roadways that were shut down during widespread flooding across the state earlier this month have reopened, state officials said Sunday.

South Carolina Department of Transportation officials say steady progress has left the state with 129 road closures as of Sunday, Oct. 25. Some roads that remain closed may be shut down until sometime after Nov. 26.

Officials said 425 highway workers in 67 teams are working on reopening the remaining roadways.

SCDOT officials said while the number of closed roads across the state is significantly lower, drivers are still encouraged to use caution and not attempt to drive around barricades.

Interstate I-95 is open in both directions. To see major routes open throughout the state, click here. Highway Patrol officials warn the integrity of some roadways has been compromised resulting in bridge collapses and roads being washed out.

FEMA has opened a recovery center in Holly Hill. Details here.

LOWCOUNTRY ROAD CLOSURES

Georgetown Co. from SCDOT 4 p.m. Sunday

Gapway Rd from Kent to the end of the dirt road (Est open by Oct 31)

Old Pee Dee Road from Hicks Dr. to Carvers Bay Rd. (Est open after Nov. 26)

Plantersville Rd from Jackson Village to Exodus Dr. (Est open by Oct 31)

Williamsburg Co. from SCDOT 7 a.m. Friday (Est open after Nov. 26)

Battery Park Road from Hemingway Hwy to Friendship Church Rd

Cade Road from S-504 (Bradley Bay Rd) to S-118 (Bartells Road)

Old Georgetown Road from Midway Road (S-45-84) to Bartells Road (S-45-118)

From Dorchester County Officials 2 p.m. Thurs (no update 8:30 Fri)

Sandridge Rd. in Dorchester between Grant Dr. and the Church @ 1069 Sandridge Rd is closed as of 10/17- pipe failure.

Dorchester County is operating a call center to provide information about road closures and other storm related issues to residents and property owners. The numbers for the call center are (843)-832-0393 and (843) 563-0393.

From Summerville town officials 1:30 p.m. Monday Oct 12 (no update 9 a.m. Fri Oct 23)

Reneau Blvd. - Closed/Under Repair

Old Trolley Road extension to Ladson Road (near Jessen Boat Landing) - Closed

Dorchester Rd. at Sawmill Branch Canal (near Old Trolley Rd.) - Partially Open/Under Repair

All other roads that were previously closed are now open.

Sidewalks

Parkwood Drive sidewalk - Under Repair

Old Trolley Road sidewalk at Iron Gate Subdivision - Under Repair

S. Gum Street near E. 6th South Street- Washed Out

Jessen Boat Landing: The boardwalk at Jessen Boat Landing & the ?Oakbrook? Rotary Centennial Walking Trail are closed until further notice for flood related repairs.

The SCDOT Call Center is also operational 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone: 855-GO-SCDOT (855-467-2368)

SCHOOL UPDATES

All Lowcountry school districts are operating on normal schedules.

Dorchester District Two officials said the early release day scheduled for Wednesday, October 28 will be full instructional days for students. Also, the teacher work day scheduled for Monday, October 19 will be an instructional day for students. District officials also announced three makeup days in 2016: Jan. 15, Feb. 15, and three dates still to be determined.

Dorchester County District 2 officials also said Givhans Alternative School near Summerville will remain closed after raw sewage and standing water were found inside. The 150 students who attend to the school will be relocated temporarily.

CCSD makeup days are Oct. 23, Nov. 3, March 25, and June 3.

BCSD makeup days will be Oct. 19, Jan. 4, and March 14.

OTHER CLOSURES

--Roper St. Francis facilities closed or relocating due to flooding:

•St. Luke's Family Practice located at 1435 Stuart Engals Blvd. in Mount Pleasant is permanently relocating due to structural damage caused by flooding. The practice will reopen Tuesday in Suite 110 of the Medical Office Building at Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital.

--Roper Hospital Diagnostics and ER - Northwoods, Roper St. Francis' emergency department in North Charleston, will be closed for the next several weeks. The facility closed after flood water damaged the facility's interior. Repairs soon will begin, and we will let you know when those are finished. The facility is located at 2233 Northwoods Blvd. Until then, the public can continue to receive emergency care at the following Roper St. Francis facilities, all of which are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital, 2095 Henry Tecklenburg Dr. in West Ashley
- Roper Hospital, 316 Calhoun St. in downtown Charleston
- Roper Hospital Diagnostics & ER - Berkeley, 730 Stoney Landing Road in Moncks Corner
- Mount Pleasant Hospital, 3500 N Hwy 17 in Mount Pleasant

CANCELED/POSTPONED EVENTS

--From Boone Hall officials: "The Boone Hall Pumpkin Patch will be open Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm and on Sunday from 11am-6pm. Boone Hall Fright Nights is South Carolina's largest haunted event and this event also will resume operations this Friday - Saturday - and Sunday at dark with four attractions. Advance tickets that were purchased online for dates when the event was closed due to the weather will be honored any night the event is open through October 31st. See event details and purchase advance tickets online at: <http://boonehallfrightnights.com/>"

--The Teachers Supply Closet Golf Tournament at Stono Ferry scheduled for Friday has been postponed to Nov. 20.

--The Goose Creek Fall Festival has been rescheduled to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31 on the grounds of the Municipal Center in Goose Creek.

Haley in Manning to help flood victims get assistance

[Associated Press](#), Oct 26, 2015

(Widely used)

MANNING, S.C. (AP) - Gov. Nikki Haley is in Clarendon County as part of an effort to help people impacted by historic flooding get assistance.

On Monday, the governor is spending some time in Manning at the Clarendon County Community Center.

At the Team South Carolina event, organizers say flood victims can find out what resources are available to families and businesses as South Carolina recovers from the flooding.

People can sign up for financial assistance, apply for disaster loans and learn about repairing and flood proofing their homes. They can also get information about mental health and other health care services from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Free tetanus shots and well water testing kits are also available.

Governor Haley heads to Manning to help flood victims get assistance

By Roshanda Pratt

[WLTX](#) 19 CBS Columbia, October 26, 2015

Manning, SC (WLTX)- Governor Nikki Haley is making a trip to Clarendon County as part of an effort to help people impacted by historic flooding get assistance.

Monday, the governor is spending the day in Manning at the Clarendon County Community Center.

The Team South Carolina event serves as a one stop where residents can find out about resources available to families and businesses.

Starting at noon Monday, Clarendon County residents can sign up for financial assistance, apply for disaster loans and learn about repairing and flood proofing their homes. They can also get information about mental health and other health care services from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Free tetanus shots and well water testing kits are also available.

The Team South Carolina event is Monday at the Clarendon County Community Center located at 7 Maple Street in Manning. That event is from noon until 4:00 p.m.

MORE at 6: Governor's flood response team in Kingstree today; Homecoming crash

suspect to appear in court

By Suzelle Santos

[WCSC](#), Charleston CBS, Oct 26, 2015 5:49 AM EDT

Here are some of the stories we're following this morning. Catch these and more on Live 5 News at 6 a.m.:

1. Woman faces 2nd-degree murder charges in Oklahoma crash

A 25-year-old woman accused of driving a car into a crowd of people at an Oklahoma State University homecoming parade over the weekend, killing four people and injuring dozens of others, is set to make her first court appearance. [More](#).

2. Governor Haley's response team to meet with people affected by flooding in Kingstree

Governor Nikki Haley's flood response team will be meeting with people whose homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed in the recent flooding. The event serves as a one-stop shop where people can find out about resources available to their families businesses. [More](#).

3. Chance of rain today - 40 percent

Coastal flood advisory in Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton and Jasper Counties until 9:00 a.m. Get more weather with Meteorologist Sagay Galindo at 6 a.m.

'King Tide' could creating flooding, erosion issues on North Strand

By wbtwlucaslalde

[WBTW](#), Myrtle Beach CBS, October 25, 2015

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (WBTW) – There is a chance for even more flooding in spots along the Grand Strand, as a so called 'King Tide' event has higher than normal tides forecast for the South Carolina Coast.

'King Tides' are the highest seasonal tides that occur each year, North Myrtle Beach expects to see tides up to two feet higher than usual.

When tides get this high, the threat of beach erosion increases, especially in spots where the beach has already been compromised by Tropical Storm Ana, Hurricane Joaquin, and record rainfall.

Higher than normal tides are expected from October 25th through October 31st, and beaches that have already seen plenty of erosion are set to see more.

"It's to the point where when high tide comes, everyone just packs up and goes plays cards," said Jennifer Mattocks.

Mattocks lives in a low lying street in Cherry Grove; beyond high tides and the threat of erosion some streets like hers are also at risk of flooding.

"Yay! (laughs) I mean we just did a great job cleaning up our room that always floods, we're losing the beach and we'll be back to do this again really soon," said Mattocks.

Rain or high winds can make flooding even worse, but tidal flooding can happen unexpectedly.

"The red moon tide surprised us, I didn't have any idea it was going to flood my yard but it did," said Al Shotwell.

Shotwell has lived in the city for more than 20 years and says he's seen more flooding this year, than he can remember in any other year.

"You can see up the road where the debris floated, all the way up there that mulch," pointing to a spot in the street 30 yards past his front steps.

He's seen some effects from all that tidal water on his property, but still counts himself lucky

"Well, it killed a lot of the plants but at least I don't have a swimming pool. A lot of the people across the pond got their pools treated with mulch."

Looking ahead, drivers should avoid traveling on flooded streets and sidewalks; and if barricades are erected, police ask drivers not to go past them.

A similar high tide scenario is also forecast to occur in late November, count on News13 to keep you covered.

Work targets Beaufort drainage, erosion issues

By Stephen Fastenau

[Hilton Head Island Packet](#), Oct. 25, 2015

In wake of recent high tides and minor flooding, several projects have popped up around the city of Beaufort to address those issues.

Some of the projects have already been completed while others are works in progress.

Three drainage issues have been identified at Lafayette, Hamar and Greene streets, city manager Bill Prokop said.

In the Mossy Oaks area, an embankment off of a pond on First Boulevard eroded and needed to be rebuilt, and a

shoulder of Battery Creek Road had to be repaired.

The S.C. Department of Transportation this week shored up a retention pond ditch that had eroded and threatened the asphalt of First Boulevard.

The city will work with the county and SCDOT to address downtown issues, Prokop said. Prokop said he doesn't yet know potential costs and specific problems. He said he would know more after meeting with city public works director Lamar Taylor, who has been out of town due to a death in the family.

Beaufort has hired a consulting firm to draw plans for the drainage work, Beaufort County environmental engineering director Eric Larson said. The county is waiting on an estimate from the city to determine what it might offer by way of sharing costs or labor, Larson said.

The tides from Battery Creek eventually eroded the large bank along First Boulevard, said Wendell Mulligan, Beaufort County's resident maintenance engineer for SCDOT. The ditch leads away from the nearby pond between Jane Way and Battery Creek Road.

A resident had placed a stake by the street to measure how much of the bank washed away and alerted DOT when it became serious, Mulligan said.

A backhoe and bulldozer has spread trucked-in dirt along the embankment. Large rock known as riprap was placed on the bank on top of fabric meant to keep the soil from washing away.

Mulligan said the large project is meant to be a permanent solution. He noted that the county was spared the worst of the rain event and that two crews from Beaufort County assisted efforts in Berkeley and Charleston counties.

Gov. Haley praised for leadership amid tumultuous year

By Gavin Jackson

[Charleston Post and Courier](#), Oct 24 2015

COLUMBIA – Gov. Nikki Haley has led the state through more tumult in the past six months than many leaders face in their entire careers: The shootings of nine Charleston churchgoers in June, the subsequent and successful charge to remove the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds in July and historic flooding that killed 19 this month.

It was a tumultuous year that raised the governor's political profile and has her on the short list for other national Republican offices.

A prominent critic of Haley's first term, Clemson University political science professor David Woodard, had only praise for the governor's second term — as did the people he's polling.

"I think she's just doing splendidly right now," Woodard said. "I've been asking about Nikki Haley and she is very popular among Republican voters. Now, I realize that's not the full electorate, in other words: if they're holding her responsible for any of these things, it's not apparent in their approval of her."

Research published by political science professors from Carnegie Mellon University and Boston University in 2011 found that voters affected by natural disasters "respond to powerful, random events as well as the actions that the politicians take in response."

"When the governor and president do respectively request and approve a disaster declaration, they typically nullify the negative effect of the damage and may often garner a reward," professors John T. Gasper and Andrew Reeves found. "The effect of a disaster declaration is much stronger for the governor than it is for the president."

Record-breaking rainfall across the state led to historic and deadly floods the first week of October. An emergency declaration requested by Haley on Oct. 2 was approved the next day by the federal government. Two days later in a rare move, Haley received verbal approval for a major disaster declaration, which was formally issued later in the day.

The disaster put Haley back in the spotlight.

"We're not going to stop until this final situation is taken care of," Haley assured the public on Oct. 6, following disastrous dam breaks, large quantities of water heading toward the Lowcountry and a rising death toll.

'Stepped out front'

As he watched the disaster unfold, Bob McAlister empathized with Haley and her team. He remembered sleeping in his office for a week during Hurricane Hugo when he was Gov. Carroll Campbell's deputy chief of staff and communications director.

Gov. Nikki Haley and Major Gen. Bob Livingston view flood damage from a helicopter in Columbia, Oct. 6. The historic flood is the latest challenge the governor has been faced with in this turbulent year.

"The worst thing a leader can do in a crisis is to be timid and not be aggressive," McAlister said. "The tipping point is when people are afraid and they don't know what's going to happen."

Hugo hit in September 1989, two years into Carroll's first term. McAlister, who now runs his own public relations shop, McAlister Communications in Columbia, has no doubt that the response helped secure a second term for Carroll.

"Carroll Campbell played a major role; he was an unproven commodity and there was a real partisan divide in

that the Legislature,” McAlister said. “We were in the minority. But Carroll, just like Gov. Haley, stepped out front and said: ‘We’re going to fix it and we’re going to be better than before’ and he proceeded to getting it done.”

Haley called for evacuations in several areas out of caution over the threat of rising river levels. While some areas saw that flooding, announcements to evacuate over flood worries in Georgetown or Jamestown along the swollen Santee River didn’t materialize — even as dams broke elsewhere with limited warning.

McAlister said it’s easy to criticize a decision, as many did Campbell’s early call to evacuate the coast.

“(Campbell said) ‘I’d rather take a risk saving lives than endangering them, and of course that turned out to be the right call,’” McAlister said. “Had Hugo not done the damage it did or veered off and gone somewhere else he would’ve been subject to severe criticism. But a leader in a crisis doesn’t worry about critics.”

College of Charleston political science professor Gibbs Knotts credits Haley’s success to several critical factors.

“It goes back to being able to take decisive action, putting a good team around her and being able to talk with the people on the ground and empathize with the folks,” Knotts said. “She can connect with people through ... television and social media.”

In this July 9 photo, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signs a bill into law as former South Carolina governors and officials look on, at the Statehouse in Columbia. The law enables the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds more than 50 years after the rebel banner was raised to protest the civil rights movement.

Haley, 43, said in her “New South” speech this September that she handles her own Instagram and Facebook accounts, the latter of which saw thousands of likes and positive comments on multiple posts throughout the disaster.

That speech at the National Press Club in Washington came amid much buzz over her as a potential presidential running mate.

“If a nominee asks me to sit down, of course I’ll talk to them, and I’ll go from there,” Haley said.

A cabinet post?

A more immediate and prominent role may be Haley as chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Haley has raised funds and worked for the RGA’s executive committee since 2011 has helped her gain more recognition as the country’s youngest, current governor and only **FEMale** Indian American. Time on the committee helped propel careers of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Current RGA vice chairwoman New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez could also snag the spot as Republicans are in need of attracting Latino voters, especially as the party tries to mitigate damage rendered to the voting block by candidates. VP and cabinet buzz also swirls around Martinez, a two-term governor, former district attorney and member of the committee since 2011.

The executive committee election will be decided by 31 Republican governors, at the annual conference on Nov. 19. The term would cover the critical span of the 2016 presidential election cycle.

The RGA chair position brings a lot of attention, S.C. GOP Chairman Matt Moore said. Haley’s proven her executive ability during the unprecedented year of tragedies.

“It’s about being a confident, skilled governor, which she is, and presenting a very positive vision for where the Republican Party is going, and she’s doing that as well,” Moore said. “She has not been afraid to speak on not only the party’s direction, but when presidential candidates step out of line.”

He added her work with the RGA can’t be underestimated either.

“I know she did a good job at helping the RGA fundraise and as a top surrogate for them,” Moore said about Haley. “They’d be wise to put her talents to work.”

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, served with Haley when he was RGA chairman, attended her inauguration this year and reached out to her in support during the recent flooding.

Christie, who is running for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, did not comment on Haley’s most recent tragedy, but spoke highly of her when he backed her on removing the Confederate battle flag.

“Governor Haley has demonstrated what it means to be a leader during extremely difficult and tragic times for her state and our country,” Christie said in a June 23 statement.

Sandy caused \$39 billion in damages to New Jersey in October 2012 and became a defining moment of Christie’s legacy, just as many see the events of 2015 will define Haley’s.

“Strong people need strong leaders and strong leaders need strong people,” McAlister said. “And in these three crises South Carolina had both.”

Nationally syndicated columnist Jack Kelly recently wrote a column titled “Inexperience isn’t a liability” in which he named his “dream cabinet” should a Republican Party win.

“Fortunately, there are many qualified people on a deep Republican bench to fill them,” Kelly wrote. “I’m thinking in particular of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who has drawn well-deserved praise for how she’s handled

the Charleston church shooting, the Confederate flag flap and the recent flooding.”

Many observers didn’t speculate on Haley’s next move. Woodard would be surprised by a vice presidential selection, and suggested, like Knotts, that a cabinet post would fit.

“I think it’s about figuring out what she’s going to do next in life,” Knotts said. “Whether she wants to wade into the national political environment, but getting the amount of media coverage and being able to handle things, those are the types of things people can remember you for.”

Floodwaters cause rise in mosquitoes

By Elizabeth Townsend

[Myrtle Beach Sun News/Myrtle Beach Online](#)

Oct. 25, 2015

Highlights

Mosquito population booming because of historic flooding

County officials battling bugs by investigating and spraying by trucks and planes

Upcoming cooler temperatures should ebb growth

Blood-thirsty villains are terrorizing Horry County this Halloween season.

As the Waccamaw River drops, the mosquito population is rising in malicious swarms, feeding and feasting on human and animal flesh.

Mosquito season begins in spring and usually tappers off in October or around the first frost, but recent historic flooding and warm temperatures intertwined to create the perfect breeding ground for the bugs to boom.

“Our mosquito season was very good this year because of the drought until the flood came,” Horry County spokeswoman Lisa Bourcier said.

Before the flood, county officials had almost no mosquito complaints. Now numerous calls about the pests are coming in, Bourcier said.

“All the rain we’ve had just provided the perfect habitat for them,” said Tom Garigen, Horry County Stormwater Department manager.

Garigen said officials are using their full force to deal with all the bugs.

Cooler temperatures early last week aided Horry County’s mosquito control team by slowing hatching, but the delay didn’t last as the weather warmed up and mosquitoes multiplied.

“It’s all weather-driven. Whatever Mother Nature throws at us, we have to take it on and deal with it,” James Brock, Horry County Mosquito Control Program manager, said of mosquito season.

Brock and his team investigate areas around Horry County as complaints come in, and he looks at landing rates to determine which areas need treatment.

Brock said he counted 20 to 25 mosquitoes landing on him per minute in the Lee’s Landing area on Thursday.

“If I’ve got 20 or 25 on me that I can see, just imagine how many are on my back that I can’t see,” Brock said.

He goes into infested areas, sets a timer for one minute, and serves himself up as lunch to gauge the severity of a mosquito problem in any particular area.

Ground spraying is warranted for landing rate counts of five mosquitoes or more a minute and aerial spray is needed for landing rate counts of 10 or more, officials said.

Brock usually tries to investigate each complaint that comes in on the mosquito control program’s hotline, but lately he’s been getting around 60 to 70 calls a day. He had 26 calls in July and 24 calls in August, which are usually peak months in mosquito season.

“The phone is ringing off the hook,” he said.

Once the record rainfall stopped earlier this month, the calls slowly trickled in, but then the hotline erupted with complaints around the time the river crested Oct. 8, and it hasn’t stopped ringing since.

The county has been combating the pesky plague by investigating the complaints daily then sending trucks or planes to spray at dusk.

“We’re looking at mosquito hot spots and taking them on as we need to,” Brock said.

Brock tries to group all the calls from the hotline together, then he investigates the areas to determine what measures should be taken.

Brock and his team have trucks with chemical spray misting behind them, providing merciful relief to humans and animals, but deadly venom to mosquitoes. The team has been fanning out to neighborhoods all over Horry County including Conway, Murrells Inlet, Briarcliffe Acres and Carolina Forest.

“The chemicals used for mosquito control spraying are approved by the EPA and pose minimal risk to humans or animals,” Bourcier said.

Aerial spraying has also happened in the Wampee Swamp community and Little River.

“It’s a contact kill,” Brock said of the chemical’s effectiveness against adult mosquitoes.

Brock’s team sprayed last week and will spray again in seven to 10 days and then they’ll spray more as needed as more batches pop up, Brock said. In May, the control team went out and treated many known problem areas with 180-day larvicide.

He’s also targeting football fields and other recreational parks.

“When you get a few thousand people grouped together at events, it’s a big buffet for mosquitoes,” Brock said.

Mosquitoes are hatching now and the population is expected to peak sometime early next week. Thousands can breed in just a few short inches of water, Brock said.

He’s hoping the upcoming cooler weather will slow down the population as his team continues abating the pests.

Residents can help combat these blood-thirsty bugs by getting rid of any standing stagnant water in their yards.

“Anything that holds water in your yard should be tipped over and dumped out,” he said.

That means summertime kiddie pools, birdbaths, or anything that’s collected water could be swarming with mosquito larva and should go.

He also suggested residents keep screens on their windows to keep them from getting inside.

Other mosquito control tips: wear long sleeves and pants, wear light-colored clothing and use insect repellent, Brock said.

He recommended that residents treat their dogs and cats for heartworm because mosquito bites can lead to heartworm issues. Pets should also not be left outside for long in the early morning and late afternoon, which are prime feeding times.

Livestock owners are also advised to get each animal a Triple-E vaccine, which costs \$12 to \$20, Brock said.

In the meantime, the county will continue battling the swarms by spraying until the cold weather eliminates the rest.

Georgetown County has seen its share of the pests as well, and its Mosquito Control Division has sprayed in East Bay, Willowbank, Country Club Estates, Indigo Apartments, Whites Creek, Greentown, Brick Chimney Road, and the west end of the city of Georgetown, and other areas, according to Jackie Broach, Georgetown County spokeswoman.

After significant rainfall, the Mosquito Control Division usually checks dredge spoil sites to determine the development stage of any mosquito larvae to head off the problem early. However, after the record rainfall, water levels were too high for inspectors to access the spoils sites, and inspections had to wait for water to recede, Broach said.

“We’re all in the same boat together. It’s no worse here [Horry County] than it is in Georgetown and other areas. We’re all battling the same enemy, and we try to work together when we can,” Brock said.

At least 61 species of mosquitoes exist in South Carolina, and 3,200 species of mosquitoes are present worldwide, according to information on the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control website.

Mosquitoes in South Carolina may carry West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis, DHEC officials said.

“Mosquitoes find us through the carbon dioxide we breathe out, lactic acid and other components in our sweat, scents such as perfume, hair spray and deodorant, and dark-colored clothing. Some kinds of mosquitoes bite at any time of the day, especially in the shade, while others bite at dawn, dusk, twilight or night,” DHEC officials said on the website.

Tips for Mosquito Control

- Wear light-colored clothing

- Wear long sleeves and pants

- Use insect repellent

- Dump or drain any areas of standing water on property

- Make sure pets are treated for heartworms and livestock have Triple-E vaccination

Numbers for Mosquito Control Programs for residents to report issues

Horry County 843-381-8000

Georgetown County 843-545-3615

S.C. Realtors: Flooding to impact market

[Times and Democrat](#), Orangeburg, Oct. 25, 2015

COLUMBIA -- South Carolina Realtors are expecting flooding to impact results for October.

“September proved to be a good month for real estate in South Carolina. However, the recent flooding coupled with the newly implemented closing rules we expect that next month’s numbers will look quite different,” S.C. Realtors CEO Nick Kremydas said.

According to September reports, there are 5 percent more new listings across South Carolina totaling 8,622. Pending sales decreased 3 percent to 5,203, and there is 5 percent less inventory to choose from with 38,368 homes on

the market.

Prices moved higher as median sales price was up 7 percent to \$174,460. Homes sold faster throughout September with most on the market for 99 days. Months supply of inventory was down almost 17 percent to six months.

In the Southern Midlands Region, which includes Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg counties:

Sales for September were down 10 percent and are down for the year by 1.7 percent.

The median price for homes sold was up 8.4 percent in September and is up by 10.3 percent for the year.

Average days on the market for September were down 1.6 percent and are up 19 percent for the year to 223.

Florence road an example of cronyism, critics say

By Cassie Cope

[The State](#) (Columbia), Oct. 24, 2015

Pamplico Highway will be widened to five lanes from two for 24 miles

State Infrastructure Bank paying nearly 70 percent of cost of Florence County projects

Critics say bank is politically controlled and should be abolished

FLORENCE--The traffic on Pamplico Highway was so light on a Tuesday in August that two conservation activists could lie down in the middle of the two-lane highway during rush hour for about a minute before a vehicle appeared.

But the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank wants to widen 24 miles of the highway to five lanes.

The busiest stretch of the highway carried 9,000 vehicles a day, on average, in 2014. In contrast, the busiest stretch of Richland County's three-lane Hardscrabble Road carried more than twice that number of vehicles – 23,900 a day.

"It's safe to take a nap in the middle of the road."

Dana Beach, S.C. Coastal Conservation League

"It's safe to take a nap in the middle of the road," activist Dana Beach said of Pamplico Highway. The Florence County road does not have enough traffic to justify spending the estimated \$144.4 million in state and local money that it will cost to widen it, he said.

So why widen it?

Politics, say critics of the state Infrastructure Bank, including Beach, who is head of the S.C. Coastal Conservation League, often critical of development.

Critics long have complained the Infrastructure Bank's state-financed, road-building efforts are driven by Statehouse clout, not the state's road needs.

The recent flooding that devastated roads and bridges across South Carolina only increases the need to reform or abolish the Infrastructure Bank, making maintenance a priority over the bank's construction of new roads, says state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort.

But Infrastructure Bank supporters say the money slated for widening the Pamplico Highway will be well spent.

"The (Infrastructure Bank) has really been good for improving the roads, (and) increasing the capacity of the highways in South Carolina," said Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence.

'Failure of the system'

The part of Pamplico Highway that is set to be widened looks like most rural two-lane roads in South Carolina.

At least 13 churches line the highway. Farms, houses and cow pastures spread out along the road, its pavement graying with cracks zig-zagging through it. Hannah-Pamplico Elementary/Middle School and Hannah-Pamplico High School – combined enrollment, 1,132 – sit along the road.

Today, like many other S.C. highways, part of Pamplico Highway is closed due to a washout from the flooding that hit the state three weeks ago. That washout is not expected to be repaired until after Thanksgiving.

In the future, however, congestion is expected to worsen on the portion of the Pamplico Highway that is closest to the city of Florence.

Traffic on that six-mile stretch of highway, also called S.C. 51, has a stable flow now, the state Transportation Department says. But traffic is expected to increase to an unstable flow, the department's second-worst category for congestion, by 2030.

Already, during rush hours, traffic is horrible, said Leatherman, whose district includes the highway. "It's bumper to bumper."

Leatherman added the highway also is a major school bus route and used for evacuations during hurricanes, although the road is not listed as an evacuation route by the Transportation Department.

Widening the highway also would help attract "future economic development opportunities" to the area, the Transportation Department said in a study.

Nancy Cave – like Beach, a staffer with the S.C. Conservation League – said that rationale is common in South Carolina: Build roads, and then businesses then will come to an area. But, too often, “the road sits there and no business comes.”

Beach agrees.

“It’s more of an example of the dysfunction and the failure of the system at a general level to allocate transportation dollars rationally.”

Dana Beach, S.C. Coastal Conservation League

“It’s more of an example of the dysfunction and the failure of the system at a general level to allocate transportation dollars rationally,” Beach said.

State bank footing most of Florence bill

The Pamplico Highway widening project was approved by Florence County voters in 2006, when they OK’d a penny-on-the-dollar local sales tax for six road projects.

The Infrastructure Bank committed to paying up to \$340 million for the six projects. Up to \$148 million will come from the Florence sales tax, according to an August update from the state Transportation Department.

That’s more than a 2-to-1 match in state to local dollars.

That means state taxpayers are footing the majority of the bill for roads that benefit only a few motorists in one lightly traveled portion of the state, says Beach.

Since its founding in 1997, the Infrastructure Bank has spent \$3.6 billion on roads.

Almost a third of that money – \$1.1 billion – has gone to the Charleston and Lowcountry areas, including money to extend Interstate 526, which Beach and the Conservation League strongly oppose.

Critics say Charleston projects benefited because the board that governs the Infrastructure Bank was controlled by the appointees of elected officials from the Holy City – then-Gov. Mark Sanford, then-Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell and then-House Speaker Bobby Harrell – for much of its history.

In 2005, Florence’s Leatherman was appointed by McConnell to the board that oversees the Infrastructure Bank. That year, the board approved the initial funding for the Florence County road projects.

Beach said Leatherman – today, arguably the state’s most powerful politician as head of the Senate and chairman of the Senate’s budget-writing Finance Committee – uses the Infrastructure Bank “as his own personal slush fund.”

Leatherman says the highways in the Florence County roads package justify state spending because they are state highways.

The Senate leader said Florence County residents also should be lauded for agreeing to tax themselves, via the local-option sales tax, as part of their bid to attract state money from the Infrastructure Bank. Residents The citizens of more counties should do the same, he said. added.

Should bank be abolished?

The Infrastructure Bank, which issues bonds to pay for roads, was created to help pay for the Ravenel Bridge in Charleston. It is charged with helping local governments pay for projects that cost more than \$100 million.

Former state Transportation Department Secretary Buck Limehouse said the Infrastructure Bank was his brainchild. His son, state Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, introduced legislation to create the bank.

“We built projects that we never would have had enough money to do and we’re using those projects now as we pay for them,” Buck Limehouse said, adding that the bank allows the state to benefit by selling bonds at today’s low interest rates.

“We built projects that we never would have had enough money to do and we’re using those projects now as we pay for them.”

Buck Limehouse, former Transportation Department head

However, opponents say the Infrastructure Bank should needs to be abolished, to remove removing politics from decisions about roads.

This month’s flooding will increase the public pressure on lawmakers to repair the state’s roads and bridges, said Sen. Davis, who blocked a plan to raise taxes to pay for road repairs earlier this year, saying additional money was not needed because of state surpluses.

“It’s a different thing entirely when you’ve got a fire hose of water turned onto the Midlands and Lowcountry in South Carolina, and you actually see these roads and bridges crumbling,” said Davis.

Davis endorses getting rid of the Infrastructure Bank or making it accountable to the governor, saying the bank’s focus on building new roads – rather than maintenance – is wrongheaded.

The seven-member board that governs the Infrastructure Bank also is controlled by too few politicians, Davis said, noting the speaker of the S.C. House and Senate president pro tempore name four of the bank board’s seven members.

(Leatherman, the Senate president pro tem, appointed himself as one member of the board. He said he did so because he always has had an interest in the state's highway system.)

State government "should never have that kind of money being allocated and spent with that much control given to two individuals," said Davis, referring to Leatherman and S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, who appoint a majority of the bank board's seven members.

The result of that control is that road projects are selected on the basis of political influence, not need, critics say.

The Infrastructure Bank highlights "the manipulation of vast amounts of state dollars by powerful politicians," Beach said.

But bank board member Joe Taylor of Columbia said that belief is a misconception. /He said the/ The board reacts to applications for roads money, not political clout.

"A lot of people think we go out and pick projects," said Taylor, a former S.C. Commerce secretary. "We, typically, react to local governments who apply."

Taylor said politics may have been at play in the past, but he has not seen it since he joined the board in 2013.

Infrastructure Bank opponent Beach isn't buying that.

Pamplico Highway "is the most glaring example of the abuse in the system and the corruption in the system," he said.

Where does the money go?

Where the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank has spent money, by region, since its start in 1997 through May 2015:

Lowcountry and Charleston areas: \$1.2 billion

Upstate: \$752 million

Horry County area: \$618 million

Midlands: \$465.6 million

Florence County: \$340 million

York County: \$176.8 million

Other projects across the state, including guard rails and bridges: \$48 million

Total: \$3.6 billion

SOURCE: S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank

S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board

The board is made up of seven members who decide how to spend money on state road projects

Gov. Nikki Haley's appointees

Vincent Graham of Charleston, chairman of the bank board, was appointed last month, replacing Don Leonard, who had been on the board since 2003. Graham is president of the I'On Group in Mount Pleasant, a real estate company. Graham graduated from the University of Virginia, where he studied economics.

Ernest Duncan of Aiken, a board member since 2004. Duncan first was appointed by former Gov. Mark Sanford. He is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and chief executive officer of ELD Sustainment Group, a defense contracting group. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from S.C. State University.

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas' appointees

Max Metcalf of Greenville, a board member since 2003, first was appointed by then-House Speaker David Wilkins, R-Greenville. Metcalf is manager of communications for BMW. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from Clemson University. He also oversaw intergovernmental relations/transportation under the late Gov. Carroll Campbell.

Chip Limehouse of Charleston, a board member since 2007 and S.C. House representative, introduced the legislation to create the Infrastructure Bank and first was appointed to its board by then-Speaker Bobby Harrell. Limehouse is a commercial real estate broker and executive with Limehouse Properties.

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman's appointees

Hugh Leatherman, the Florence Republican and Senate leader, first was appointed to the board by then-Senate leader Glenn McConnell of Charleston in 2005. Leatherman reappointed himself when he took over leadership of the Senate in 2014, citing his interest in the state's road needs. He earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from N.C. State University.

Joe Taylor of Columbia first was appointed in 2014. Taylor is the former head of the S.C. Department of Commerce. Now a private investor, Taylor said he brings geographic diversity to the board because he is its only member from the Midlands.

Ex-officio member

Jim Rozier of Berkeley County, chairman of the S.C. Department of Transportation. Rozier formerly was a

Berkeley County supervisor and chairman of that County Council for 16 years. He attended Clemson University.

The S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank

What is it? The S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank is a state entity that issues bonds to borrow money to help finance road projects that cost more than \$100 million. The bank was created in 1997 and is governed by a seven-member board.

How much does it spend? The Infrastructure Bank's budget, approved by the General Assembly, has grown from \$80 million in 1998-99 fiscal year to \$225 million in the state's current fiscal year, which started July 1. The bank says it spent \$76 million in 1998-99 and \$123 million in 2014-15, which ended June 30.

Where does the money come from? Money for the Infrastructure Bank comes from truck registration fees, motor vehicle registration fees, one penny of the state's 16.75-cent-a-gallon gas tax, \$50 million transferred from the Transportation Department and a portion of the electric power tax.

Northern Command software helps rescue efforts during South Carolina flooding

By Tom Roeder

[Colorado Springs Gazette](#), October 25, 2015

Software from U.S. Northern Command scored another success this month by helping authorities keep track of rescue efforts during record flooding in South Carolina.

It's the latest in a long list of accomplishments for the command's SAGE program, which gives civilian first responders access to real-time tracking for people and vehicles similar to what the military uses in combat.

"It has become an invaluable tool," said the command's Steve Mazurek, who runs a small shop to continue development of the software in the basement of Northern Command's headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base.

Work has continued on the Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise system for a decade. The Web-based program uses GPS tracking devices for civilian and military forces and shows their location on a map similar to Google Earth.

"It also completely opens up the sharing of information," Mazurek said.

Information sharing has posed problems for Northern Command, which provides Defense Department disaster support to civilian authorities. Military communications systems are generally built to protect classified data, not share information with civilians.

But a big part of the Northern Command mission involves helping civilians deal with fires, floods and hurricanes, where communications are crucial. To bridge the gap, SAGE uses a civilian website and hand-held trackers that the command ships to disaster scenes. The military has tracking devices, so the key is creating a site that shows the military data and the civilian data in the same place.

"It's so much easier to comprehend something if you're looking at it," said Dave "Mac" McKinley, a Northern Command program manager whose responsibilities include SAGE.

By tracking people and machines at a disaster site, leaders can better provide aid and rush to deal with a crisis. The system can also be used to share reports and other disaster data to give leaders a single place to seek information.

Mazurek said Northern Command is focused on getting SAGE up and running quickly when disaster strikes.

"We maintain a crisis response kit," he said. "When we get requests, we send equipment and personnel."

With 8,000 website users, SAGE is in common use at disaster command centers. The next step is getting more information to first responders in the field. The command is developing a system that pushes disaster data including real-time tracking to the cellphones of first responders.

"We are moving into a much more mobile environment," Mazurek said.

Drought then flood wipe out crops across South Carolina

By Tim Rausch, Business Editor

[Augusta \(Ga.\) Chronicle](#), Oct. 24, 2015

A double whammy hit South Carolina farmers this year. Before the hurricane rain flooded large swaths of the state, a doozy of a drought wiped out row crops.

Clemson University Extension was writing in September about 35 counties declared a disaster area because of the extreme dry conditions. (South Carolina has 46 counties.)

Stephen Slice is an economics lecturer for the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina and just retired from the Farm Service Agency. He said it would not surprise him if the impact of the flood, washing out crops or preventing farmers from harvesting them, topped \$100 million.

"The majority of row crops in South Carolina are grown east of Interstate 20, and this is where most of the flooding occurred," he said.

The farmers in Aiken and Edgefield counties had drought to contend with, but not flooding, too.

“I would like to also add that the economic impact of the summer heat and drought and the flooding is going to hurt a lot of auxiliary businesses in the agricultural sector,” Slice said. “Suppliers of agricultural inputs – seed, fertilizer, chemicals, equipment – are going to lose a lot of income this year and may go out of business. That would mean a loss of jobs in the affected rural areas.”

OPINION: Help S.C. farmers in the long flood recovery effort ahead

By George Askew and Thomas Dobbins

[Post and Courier](#), Charleston, Oct. 26, 2015

Once a year we as a state pause to celebrate an often-overlooked but deeply historic and important industry — agriculture.

The South Carolina State Fair traces to 1839 with the organization of the State Agricultural Society of South Carolina. The long-standing celebration closed yesterday. But this year many farmers, 4H’rs and FFA members who carried their crops and livestock to Columbia for pride, prizes and scholarships returned home to farms devastated by a scorching summer drought followed by once-in-a-lifetime floods.

While we have all seen images of ruined crops, drowned farm equipment, frightened livestock and damaged farm-to-market roads, we must remember that for many of our farmers the troubles will continue long after the water recedes and the news cameras have moved on. Farm buildings, roads and other infrastructure have been destroyed. Fields remain saturated and impassable for harvesting equipment. Crops are susceptible to disease, mold and rot. Many fields won’t be harvested at all. In others, yields will be minimal. Many farmers may remember the year 2015 as not just a bad year, but as the year in which they lost everything.

Early, conservative estimates put the loss at more than \$300 million to the agriculture sector and \$65 million to the forestry industry. These industries are vital to South Carolina’s future and our society’s food supply. Together, agriculture and forestry account for \$41.7 billion in economic output and 212,000 jobs. No other industry boasts those numbers, which increased 23 percent over just a six-year period.

But there’s more at stake than economic impact. In so many ways, our farming communities are the backbone of a state that prides itself on faith, family and its connection to the land. These communities are filled with hardworking families who operate businesses on small margins often disrupted by droughts and floods and diseases and insects. As these families attempt to patch their livelihoods back together, we must be prepared to give them a hand up.

We are moved by the many Clemson Extension Agents, emergency first responders, and construction and utility crews who put aside their own concerns for family and property to help farmers save livestock, assess damage and plot recovery.

As the state’s primary land-grant university, Clemson University is committed to teaching, research and outreach. Now more than ever, those three pillars of the land-grant system are needed to help this vital and historic industry recover.

The continued success of the agriculture and forestry industry relies on teams of talented scientists driving advances in plant genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, microbiology, nutrition, packaging science, precision agriculture, agricultural education, environmental toxicology, wildlife and fisheries biology, silviculture and so many others. New and expanded programs in agribusiness, entrepreneurship and precision agriculture will give farmers even more tools to be profitable and sustainable.

We are thankful that the S.C. General Assembly supports programs that we believe will help the farming community get back on its feet, and for the partnerships we have forged with the S.C. Department of Agriculture, S.C. Forestry Commission, S.C. Farm Bureau, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service — partnerships that help build the state’s agriculture and forestry industry.

South Carolina’s agriculture industry is a resilient one, as witnessed by the 146th edition of the South Carolina State Fair. While our farm families will pick themselves up, dust themselves off and face this tough row to hoe with typical Palmetto State pride, we must be prepared to help them regain their footing, and we ask that everyone keep our South Carolina farmers in their hearts and minds long after the fair lights dim and the floodwaters recede.

George Askew is vice president of Clemson University Public Service and Agriculture and dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. Thomas Dobbins is director of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service.

McKenzie: Bury utility lines, plant shade trees to fight future flooding

Letter to the editor

[The State](#) (Columbia), Oct. 24, 2015

Goal should be to prevent next flood, not prepare for it

Trees reduce stormwater runoff, reducing risk of floods

Burying utility lines makes room for more large trees

Columbia, SC -- The Oct. 10 article about lessons our state could learn from Nashville's flood recovery included the suggestion that utility lines not be buried, because buried lines are more susceptible to flooding. While I question whether that's good advice outside of coastal areas, there's an even larger problem, and trap, in that suggestion: Our goal should not be to prepare for the next flood, but to prevent it.

Placing utilities underground allows us to line our streets with shade trees, rather than small trees or no trees. The U.S. Forest Service found that New York's street trees reduce stormwater runoff by 890.6 million gallons annually, producing a \$35.6 million reduction in stormwater management costs. The National Tree Benefit Calculator says one mature oak will intercept more than 5,000 gallons of stormwater a year; an understory tree such as a crepe myrtle intercepts far less.

The telephone poles that line the streets of Richland County intercept nothing. Rainwater hits the ground and runs to a stormwater drain, where it is carried to the nearest creek. This is part of the problem.

What Columbia can learn from Nashville's 2010 flood

The transportation penny is generating millions of dollars for our roads. Those roads being widened — which requires resetting the poles and restringing lines — would be better lined with trees than utility poles. As the city and county repair and grow, we must make it a priority, part of our culture, to bury lines and plant shade trees.

This will help reduce the likelihood of flooding. It will clean the air, reduce water pollution, provide shade, increase economic development and enhance our quality of life by beautifying the Midlands.

Many people have sacrificed a great deal over the past few weeks in acts of pure unselfishness to help their neighbors. This sense of community should be carried on as we look to improve the Midlands to the benefit of our children and the children of our friends and neighbors. Investing in our infrastructure, especially infrastructure that improves our quality of life, should be part of this sacrifice.

Jack McKenzie

Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission

Columbia

OPINION: Fix roads before they get worse

By Bill Ross

[Charleston Post and Courier](#), Oct 25 2015

Citizens and public infrastructure across South Carolina have suffered unprecedented damages from the historic storm this month. Neglected maintenance and erosion have combined to create a real crisis. Once damage assessments are made, we will be able to identify the pre-existing long-term funding needs, as well as the additional costs of flood repair.

Before the historic floods, our infrastructure system was already in a state of disrepair. In the most recent Multimodal Transportation Plan, the state Department of Transportation estimated that it needed \$70.5 billion through 2040 to maintain and improve the state's transportation system. However, it will have only \$27.6 billion in revenues to meet that need.

That is nearly a \$43 billion shortfall in funds needed for highway, bridge and transit systems over the next 25 years — a deficit of roughly \$1.5 billion a year. To make matters worse, Congress has the power to fund these shortfalls but is sitting on their hands, watching the situation grow worse.

New analysis from two national reports sheds light on a comprehensive picture of the impact of deteriorating urban pavement has on S.C. drivers — the Trip "Bumpy Roads Ahead: America's Roughest Rides and Strategies to Make our Roads Smoother" report released in July and the INRIX/Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) 2015 Urban Mobility Scorecard.

Both reports found that drivers in our state's major urban areas are significantly impacted — in vehicle operating costs and congestion delays — by South Carolina's deteriorating urban roads. Additionally, the INRIX/TTI report found that urban areas of all sizes are experiencing challenges similar to those seen in the early 2000s — increases in population and jobs, and therefore increases in congestion.

Roads and bridges that are deficient, congested or lack desirable safety features cost South Carolina motorists a total of \$3 billion statewide annually due to higher vehicle operating costs, crashes and congestion-related delays. This enormous figure breaks down to between \$1,300 and more than \$1,500 per driver in our state's major urban areas every single year.

While the dramatic increase in South Carolina's population in recent years — an astounding 39 percent since 1990 — has been good for our economy, the lack of investment in our state's transportation needs is having the opposite effect.

Traffic congestion resulting in part from underfunded transportation networks leads to billions of gallons of

wasted fuel and extra time in the car, which adds up to \$160 billion in lost work time and delayed delivery costs.

The most immediate funding opportunity is at the federal level — while the U.S. Senate has passed a six-year transportation bill to fund the nation's highways, bridges and public transit systems, the U.S. House of Representatives has not acted on a long-term solution. Our House members have an opportunity to make a real difference for the people of South Carolina by simply passing a long-term bill.

Bill Ross is the Executive Director of the South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads (SCFOR).

Political profiteering from S.C. floods?

by Ron Aiken

[The Nerve](#) (webiste) Oct. 26, 2015

Disgraced Councilman, Failed Haley Appointee Plotted \$1M Scheme

With both Richland and Lexington Counties conservatively reporting approximately \$10 million each in damages related to historic flooding earlier this month, questions surrounding cleanup and relief efforts have taken a predictably political turn with predictably uneven results.

Two former Army command-level officers and Gov. Nikki Haley cabinet appointees have emerged in the past week as eager to play a role, though one of those roles controversially was scrapped once details came to light.

On Oct. 19, Haley appointed Kevin Shwedo to lead "Team South Carolina" as the governor's point person for disaster-relief efforts, coordinating state and federal responses. Shwedo, a former Colonel and Deputy Commander at Fort Jackson, had been serving as Haley's director of the Department of Motor Vehicles since 2011.

The move, Haley said, won't cost taxpayers a dime of his yearly salary of \$123,969, and Shwedo's chief of staff John Laganelli will fill in as acting director for as long as Haley believes she needs Shwedo. Haley also issued an executive order last week allowing state workers to be paid for time missed from work due to flooding.

Those moves drew widespread praise, unlike a development a day later involving another former Fort Jackson commander and failed Haley appointee whom, it would appear, contrived with a county council member to turn the flood into a money-making opportunity.

In partnership with Richland County Council member Kelvin Washington, former Maj. Gen. Abraham Turner's political consulting firm, AT Consulting, got a private hearing from council for a \$1 million no-bid contract -- and a potential \$194,000 payday for Turner himself -- to help "coordinate" floor-relief efforts in the Lower Richland community, The State newspaper first reported last week.

In a copy of the proposal obtained by The Nerve, the period of the contract was retroactive from Oct. 14 through March 15 of next year. The \$1 million contract would not be used to purchase any relief supplies whatsoever. Instead, the money was to be used to fund salaries and expenses relating to "personnel manning for LROC (Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Operations Officer (3), Administrative Personnel (8), Logistics Managers (3), Media Representative (1))."

Those personnel would then "coordinate, store and deliver disaster relief goods and resources (minus monetary contributions) to citizens in rural areas of Richland County, South Carolina."

Besides salaries, the contract also calls for the county to:

1. Provide Sheriff Substation located vicinity Lower Richland High School to be utilized as Lower Richland Operations Center (LROC)
2. Provide desk, chairs, tables for LROC set-up and operation
3. Provide IT equipment (telephone, desktop computers) for LROC operations
4. Provide transport assets for travel throughout districts 10 and 11.

As executive director, Turner would be paid \$90 an hour for 2,160 hours (\$194,400) of work. A to-be-named deputy director would make \$60/hr (\$129,600), three operations officers would make \$86,400 each and three logistics officers and a "media representative" would make \$43,200 for five months of work. An additional eight part-time "administrative specialists" would make \$21,600. The agreeent also stipulates that county pay for staff's food and lodging for the duration of the contract. The only "deliverable" items the firm lists as going to Richland County citizens are "contributed items (minus monetary contributions)."

A monthly fee of \$5,000 also is assed for "transportation," \$2,000 for "billeting and" \$1,000 each for "supplies," "insurance" and "legal."

In news reports from earlier this month, Washington told reporters it was he who "enlisted" Turner in mid-October to establish and run a makeshift "Lower Richland Operations Center" out of a warehouse at 1601 Shop Road, the location Washington recommended the county fund in the proposal.

After a lengthy consideration in executive session on Tuesday, Oct. 20 in which sources tell The Nerve that Washington fought for the proposal vigorously, including yelling and swearing at other members, county council chose to take no vote on approving the bid once it returned to regular session.

When contacted Friday about county flood-relief efforts, Richland County public information officer Beverly Harris said council had no relief role to play beyond directing people to established federal aid agencies and trusted charities. She said she knew of only one council member who had been involved in organizing donations for flood relief – Kelvin Washington.

An Oct. 16 news report on WLTX lists Washington as the organizer of a “donation drive” run out of the “Lower Richland Operations Center” on Shop Road. Disaster-relief stations opened by state and federal officials for the Lower Richland community include the Temple of Faith Bible Way Church and Lower Richland High School.

For public watchdog organizations like Common Cause and executive director John Crangle, the appearance of impropriety and profiteering is impossible to ignore.

“This looks like one of the most obvious rip-off schemes I’ve seen,” Crangle said. “This is an example of what can go on at a governmental level, not to mention just a local charity level.

“It’s hard to believe this incredibly expensive bill in advance for six months of relief work at a huge salary and with a no bid-contract is even possible, and yet it’s my understanding that it was fought very hard for.

“It’s obvious that **FEMA** and state government and private charities were already handling those activities, so it looked to be redundant and a raid on the treasury. Thank goodness it was seen for what it was and media attention killed it.”

Turner’s controversial two-year term as Haley’s choice to run the Department of Education and Workforce ended with his resignation in February 2013 a day after pointed questions from legislators about why his agency closed one-on-one services in 17 rural counties while giving raises totaling nearly \$440,000 to dozens of employees and a highly critical 100-page audit from the Legislative Audit Council.

Immediately following his resignation from DEW in 2013, Turner worked for three months for South Carolina State University – his alma mater – earning \$29,000 to help coordinate efforts to make the school more friendly to veterans.

AT Consulting Group lists as its address 2601 Read Street, which is the same as Benedict College’s Business Development Center. On the BDC’s website, the center’s stated goal is to “increase business development and provide entrepreneurial opportunities for low- to moderate-income persons.”

AT Consulting Group’s website, which includes the slogan, “No Angles... Just Results,” was established in 2014 and while advertising itself as providing “professional speakers for all occasions and forums” lists only Turner as a contact. A Secretary of State filing for AT Consulting lists Turner as the registered agent with an establishment date of July 12, 2013. Under “testimonials,” it says “Content to Come.”

Contacted Sunday at the number listed on AT’s website, Turner declined to comment on the proposal, saying “I don’t wish to get tied into newspaper articles.”

Both Turner and Shwedo serve on the Board of Directors for Haley’s Original Six Foundation.

Washington was an employee of the Department of Transportation before leaving in 2012 after he and then-fellow DOT and Richland County Council member Norm Jackson were accused of violating the Hatch Act, which The Nerve wrote about in 2011 and which bans state employees from serving on partisan, publicly elected bodies if their duties are connected to projects funded with federal money.

Washington then went to work for South Carolina State, his alma mater, in their transportation center before leaving to be a business consultant. He is the son-in-law of former longtime Richland County Councilwoman Bernice Scott. He currently owes \$75,100 to the S.C. Ethics Commission and has been publicly reprimanded by that body.

Several local fundraising efforts already have been a success, including an impromptu “Dinner on the (Gervais Street) Bridge” organized by entrepreneur and community activist Emile DeFelice that raised approximately \$50,000.

The creator of the Soda City Market and an experienced event organizer, DeFelice said the key to the financial integrity of any event is third-party verification of money collection and distribution.

“You have to have an agreed-upon cash security plan,” DeFelice said. “Never let the cash and the inventory be in a single person’s hands or overseen by one person or group.

“Lock the money down, secure it and verify it in a trustworthy manner that’s transparent and fair. I’d be wary of any efforts that didn’t have that kind of accountability.”

Locally and statewide, those seeking disaster recovery are urged to contact the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** first. **FEMA** has 23 offices statewide and already has approved more than \$49.7 million in direct aid to 16,229 individuals, with an additional \$6.3 million of public assistance grants obligated.

A message to Washington left on Sunday was not returned as of press time.

Reach Aiken at ron@thenerve.org or call 803-254-4411. Follow him on Twitter @RonAiken and @TheNerveSC.

COLUMN--DeVenny, Hardway: Children need help to deal with trauma of the floods

By Susan DeVenny and Anna Hardway, Guest Columnists

[The State](#) (Columbia), Oct. 26, 2015

Emotional toll of disasters stays with children long after recovery is completed

Schools, child-care centers have key roles to play helping children recover

SC First Steps & Save the Children are working to reopen child-care centers, teach providers how to help children

COLUMBIA, SC -- South Carolina's floods took a tragic toll on the Palmetto State, with the loss of lives, homes and businesses, and still untold damage to roads and infrastructure. It is clear that we have a lengthy recovery ahead.

Evidence suggests that the toll the floods took on the young children may linger long after more visible repairs have been made. Of special concern to us are the hundreds of families and children forced from their homes, many of whom will require long-term, alternative accommodations, after seeing their houses and apartment buildings completely destroyed.

Schools have reopened, but this is a mixed blessing for many displaced families who found temporary shelter at schools in the immediate aftermath of the storms. These families are being moved to alternate locations, causing further upheaval in their lives. In addition, child-care centers, on which many working families and their children depend, have been damaged, and some have not yet re-opened, creating hardship for their teachers and the families they serve.

THERE IS A PRESSING NEED TO HELP SCHOOLS AND CHILD-CARE CENTERS ASSIST CHILDREN SUCH AS ANTANIQUE SO THEY CAN EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS AND WORK THROUGH THE TRAUMA THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED.

Make no mistake about it: South Carolina's worst flooding in centuries will have a lasting impact on many of its children and families. Recent studies of children impacted by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 show that such emergencies can have negative impacts on children years after the waters have subsided.

Consider 8-year-old Antanique, who expressed concern for her 6-year-old sister, Kaleis, after the floods. "My sister, she was shaking, shaking," Antanique recalled. "I almost fell in the water because it was coming into the house. I'm glad it didn't come upstairs."

Such memories do not fade quickly. There is a pressing need to help schools and child-care centers assist children such as Antanique so they can express their feelings and work through the trauma they have experienced.

That's why Save the Children and First Steps are working with strong local partners to assess the long-term needs of displaced families and children. Among our partners are the Department of Social Services, the American Red Cross, schools districts including those in Clarendon and Orangeburg counties, faith-based groups such as Christ Central Ministries and local elected leaders such as Columbia City Councilman Cameron Runyan.

HOW TO FIND ASSISTANCE AFTER FLOODING

We are focusing on two key goals:

Re-opening and re-equipping child-care centers. As it has done in many other U.S. disasters, Save the Children has joined forces with a statewide partner with a strong local infrastructure in First Steps. Our collaborative partnership will enable us to help child-care centers so that they can reopen as quickly as possible. In collaboration with the S.C. Department of Social Services, we are completing assessments of damage to these centers — each essential to helping children resume their normal lives and deal with any trauma they may have suffered. Child-care centers are also essential to parents, who can take comfort in knowing their children are safe and cared for as they return to work and rebuild their lives.

Providing training for child-care centers. Both of our organizations provide training and technical assistance to those who serve the youngest and neediest. Save the Children is seeking funding to help provide support for much-needed social-emotional training for South Carolina's child-care teachers. Proven programs that have helped in the wake of the Oklahoma tornadoes and other disasters are available, and First Steps is ready to help deploy these programs.

Together, we plan to make the well-being of every child and family impacted by the floods a top priority. We hope the recovery we have seen so far will continue to reach the most vulnerable among us.

Ms. DeVenny is director of S.C. First Steps to School Readiness, and Ms. Hardway is Save the Children's emergency response team leader in South Carolina. Contact them at sdevenny@scfirststeps.org or ahardway@savechildren.org.

The show must go on: Rhythm on the River concert rescheduled to benefit flood relief

By Ali O'Hara

[Columbia Daily](#), October 26, 2015

Bands and food vendors donated their time and proceeds to Sunday's first ever Rhythm on the River benefit concert for flood relief.

The severe flood damage to the Riverwalk and the Riverwalk Ampitheatre in West Columbia initially caused Greater Cayce West Columbia Chamber officials to cancel the final concert of the season, but they did not give up that

easy.

"We didn't want to end the season like that," said Gregg Pinner, president of the chamber.

The chamber teamed up with officials from Guignard Brick Works who offered up a free location for the concert just down the road.

"Then we got support from the city and all the bands started coming out of the woodwork to help us out and put on this event," Pinner said.

The event included eight bands and several local food vendors. It was a free event, but guests were encouraged to donate money toward flood relief efforts. Money raised will go to Central Carolina Community Foundation.

"It's an honor system but we have people walking around collecting money and someone just handed me \$120," Pinner explained.

Allen Taylor was serving drinks at the event, but was able to sit and enjoy some music with his wife Holly and their son Rivers. All proceeds from Taylor's company will go to the foundation for flood relief.

"We go to all the Rhythm on the River concerts and wanted to come to this one especially," Taylor said. "It's an effort to give back and we were happy to help."

FEMA officials walked around and encouraged people to register for help if they were affected by the flood.

"We have given out \$49 million to the 22 counties that needed assistance," said **FEMA** spokesman Carl Henderson.

FEMA can help with temporary housing, home repairs and property damage. Henderson wants people to be aware of scammers and said to always check for official **FEMA** identification.

Every animal adopted from Charleston Animal Society this weekend

By Lisa Weismann

[WCSC](#), CBS Charleston, Oct 25, 2015

It will likely be a quiet night at the Charleston Animal Society, free from most barks and meows.

Every "adoptable" animal was adopted this past weekend, leaving a shelter full of empty cages. Charleston Animal Society spokesperson Kay Hyman said several other animals remain at the shelter that are not able to be adopted yet.

Hyman said more than 200 animals were rescued in a three-day span, including dogs, cats and rabbits. She said this is only the second time in more than 20 years that the shelter has been cleared of all adoptable animals.

Earlier this month, the Charleston Animal Society accepted additional animals from neighboring shelters that were affected by historic flooding. Also, the Charleston Animal Society was closed for four days because of the flooding, which prevented the adoption of many animals.

Tree just barely misses house

Storm topples 200-year-old willow oak

By Charles Warner

[Union Daily Times](#), October 25th, 2015

SANTUC — The storm system that brought flooding to large areas of South Carolina didn't wreak too much havoc in Union County but did result in a close call for a local couple when a tree that had stood for two centuries was toppled and just barely missed their house in Santuc.

At the beginning of this month, the convergence of a large continental low over the eastern US and Hurricane Joaquin over the Atlantic Ocean caused extensive flooding in the Coastal and Midlands areas of South Carolina including Charleston and Columbia. In addition to the flooding, the heavy rainfall and winds toppled trees and caused power outages.

While parts of Union County received as much as eight inches of rain, the county was spared the worst ravages of the storm.

Like the rest of the county, Buddy and Gene Smith were for the most part spared the worst of the storm's damage, but did experience a close call when the storm caused a tree next to their house at 838 Santuc Drive to fall, just barely missing the building. The house, which is also known as Seven Springs Plantation and was built circa 1810, was not damaged despite the tree landing alongside it.

"We got a call from our overseer Saturday afternoon (Oct. 3) that the tree had fallen," Buddy said in an interview with The Union Daily Times. "We were out of town at the time."

Buddy said the tree fell that day "during the brunt of the rain and wind gusts."

The tree, which stood next to the house, fell parallel to the house, missing it. Had it fell over onto the house it could have caused a great deal of damage to the building and possibly destroyed it.

"The tree is probably at least 200 years old," Buddy said. "It is a willow oak. It is over 16 feet in circumference

and probably 85-90 feet tall. Some of its limbs are so massive they are larger than some trees. It missed the house fortunately.”

While it missed the house, another structure on the property was not so fortunate.

“It fell to the west side of the house and clobbered a building that used to be smokehouse,” Buddy said. “The limbs have significantly damaged the old smokehouse.”

Also damaged when the tree fell was an ornamental pool, a metal bench, and flower garden, and some smaller trees were felled.

Buddy said that it took quite some time to clear the tree away, a process that he said was not completed until this past Friday.

Painting class to benefit flood victims

By Leah Holloway

[WACH Fox 57](#), Columbia, October 25th 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WACH)- get out your canvas and your brushes because it's time to paint, and all for a good cause.

Wine & Design hosted a painting class where proceeds benefit those impacted by the flood. The theme for the painting is SC strong.

It gave people the chance to bring out their inner artist while giving back to members of the community.

"This painting represents the strength of our state, so we are encouraging people to come and celebrate the strength of our state while helping others in need in a fun way", says owner Ashyle Wilkerson.

Wine & Design plans to have a class once every week they can continue to give back to those impacted by the flood.

Harvest Hope team up with motorcycle clubs to aid in flood recovery

By Matthew Stevens

[WACH Fox 57](#), Columbia, October 23, 2015

COLUMBIA, SC (WACH) - Bikers from across the Midlands will be giving back to those affected by the historic flooding.

Several motorcycle clubs and dealerships have teamed up with Harvest Hope in this effort.

A fundraising ride will take place Saturday, October 31.

However, donations are being accepted at numerous locations prior to the ride. Donations that the group is looking for include food, water, toiletries and monetary.

Locations taking donations before the Halloween ride are: Carolina Honda, Harley Haven, Columbia Powersports, Thunder Tower, Jacks Custom Cycles.

All proceeds go to Harvest Hope.

After the flood...

By William Schertz, Senior Reporter

[Tire Business](#), Oct. 26, 2015

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Hurricane Joaquin blew through South Carolina earlier this month, leaving its mark in the form of unprecedented rain, flooding and potentially billions of dollars in damage to countless businesses including tire dealerships and auto service shops.

“I’ve never seen just plain old rain water do such destruction,” said Todd Brantley, owner of Columbia-based Professional Tire & Radiator. “It’s just unreal the way it cuts a cave under a road. I’ve never seen roads break apart like this.”

Mr. Brantley told Tire Business his dealership was “very blessed” not to be directly damaged by flooding in the area.

“We hear the stories of the guy down the street, the neighborhood over there, my friend across town, that type of thing, but my three technicians, my counterman, myself and my father were all just blessed to be above the water level at its highest,” he said. “We didn’t get any real serious damage. Some people lost absolutely everything.”

That’s not to say his business wasn’t impacted. The deluge forced him to close down on Oct. 5, and police barricades limited road access to his business for the remainder of the week.

Mr. Brantley suggested that week during a North Carolina Business Association meeting the idea of moving the barricades closer to the damaged roads, which would make it easier for customers to come back.

“Everybody at the table wanted to talk about getting the barricades moved or letting people get access to their business,” he said. “Nobody there had been flooded out.”

Other dealers weren't so lucky.

Columbia-based tire wholesaler Mid State Tire Distributors Inc. lost between eight and 10 delivery trucks and suffered flood-related damages at its headquarters in Columbia, according to owner Donald Lane.

"We had two feet of water in our offices," he said. "We lost our computers. Everything in our offices basically was ruined."

The firm also lost a number of supplies, including TPMS-related equipment. Mr. Lane could not provide a dollar estimate for the total damage at Tire Business press time, but he estimated the firm lost about 80 percent of its average Columbia business during the week of the flooding.

Mid State Tire, which Mr. Lane founded in October 1984, moved its operations into the Columbia warehouse in 2001. The company was in the process of relocating to a new location, also in Columbia, when the flooding happened.

"We were able to get into the warehouse on Monday (Oct. 5) and the guys who work for me jumped in and they got the majority of that warehouse moved by the following Monday," Mr. Lane said.

Mid State Tire also operates a second distribution warehouse in Greenville, S.C.

Mr. Lane added that most of the major damage in the area was to roads and bridges and he was unaware if any of his customers had incurred damage in the flooding.

Several tire makers made a point to get involved in recovery efforts. Continental Tire the Americas L.L.C. and Michelin North America Inc., both based in South Carolina, made contributions.

Conti donated \$115,000 to the American Red Cross to be used in recovery efforts following the catastrophic flooding. The donations—which comprise \$15,000 from Continental Tire the Americas and \$100,000 from parent firm Continental A.G.—will serve to help residents in the area who were impacted, the tire maker said.

"We appreciate the generosity of businesses like Continental, whose financial support for the relief operation enables the Red Cross to help communities affected by the widespread flooding across South Carolina," said Louise Welch Williams, regional Red Cross CEO for Palmetto South Carolina.

Conti employs about 1,300 at three facilities in the state. The tire maker said it was fortunate enough to remain unaffected by the flooding, but many of its employees and their families were impacted in the Sumter, S.C., area.

According to Conti, the town of Sumter received 20 inches of rain in 48 hours. Due to the inundation of the water and sewage system, Sumter was placed under a boil water advisory for several days, as well as a nightly curfew, the company added.

Immediately following the flooding, employees from the Fort Mill headquarters location for Continental Tire delivered more than 16,000 water bottles to their colleagues at the Sumter facility.

"It is incredibly important that we help each other during difficult circumstances," said Jochen Etzel, CEO of Continental Tire the Americas. "The time and resources our employees have dedicated to helping one another during this time shows a great sense of pride in South Carolina and our Continental family."

Michelin donated another \$100,000 to the American Red Cross in support of flood-relief efforts.

"Because of the hard work and dedication of the people who live and work across South Carolina, Michelin has become one of the largest private employers in the state," said Michelin Chairman and President Pete Selleck. "Like so many others in the midlands and the low country, the lives of Michelin families have been uprooted by the recent floods."

Though its Akron headquarters is far from the flooding and devastation, Goodyear also assisted in the South Carolina recovery efforts through its company-owned Tire & Service Network commercial stores, using them as clean drinking water centers for residents after the severe flooding left thousands of people in the area without drinkable water.

According to a spokesperson for the tire maker, each store stocked about six pallets worth of bottled water to give away.

Lexington County Chili Cook Off brings community together after floods damage local businesses

By Ali O'Hara

[Columbia Daily](#), October 25, 2015

From sweet to spicy and everything in between, the first ever Lexington County Chili Cook Off was hosted by the Old Mill Brew Pub Saturday at the Lexington County Baseball Stadium.

John Clinger is the owner of the Old Mill Brew Pub and his business took a hard hit during the historical flood, but was able to open back up for business last Thursday.

"The community really came together for us and it would have been really easy to cancel this event, too easy," Clinger said. "But it was important for us to give back to them."

Guests had 11 chilies to taste from nine different cooks. They could drop a coin in a jar to vote for their favorite.

"I don't actually even love chili, but I tried all of them," Angela Marklin said.

Marklin is a member of Iron Mary's Crossfit Gym, which is also located in the Lexington Old Mill area and experienced some water damage during the floods.

"We came because all of us over there are just one big family," Marklin said.

The owner of Iron Mary's Crossfit was a contestant in the chili cook off.

"I use three different meats, it's a little sweet, a little hot, no beans and I let it cook for at least 14 hours," Donald Kidwell described.

Kidwell and Clinger are good friends and both business owners experienced a lot of damage during the floods, but both businesses saw how the community came together to help re-build and clean up the Old Mill area.

"We are all about supporting each other. We were all affected by the flood and we just want to help out," Kidwell said.

His chili has a secret ingredient that kept tasters guessing. A group of eight judges graded each chili in several different categories; color, aroma, consistency, taste and aftertaste.

The winners of the judged chili were Grammy's Chili in first place, Carolina Wings Chili in second and Roger That Chili taking third. The Good Samaritan Award was given to Watershed Fellowship, the Showmanship Award was given to Holy Moly Chili and the People's Choice went to Carolina Wings.

The proceeds from the event will be given to Lexington Interfaith Community Services, a food bank in Lexington County.

South Carolina artist donating proceeds to S.C. flood victims

By Stephanie Turner

[Aiken Standard](#), Oct 25 2015

DENMARK — South Carolina artist Jim Harrison is donating proceeds from three of his prints to South Carolina's flood victims.

"Our hearts go out to all of the folks in the Palmetto state who have been impacted in so many ways by the devastating rains and historic flooding that have hit South Carolina over the past week," said Harrison in a release. "I love this state and have painted several of its beautiful and powerful rivers over the years."

The unframed prints are "The Congaree River," "The Edisto River" and "The Rapids" and are \$25 each.

The fundraiser will last until Saturday, with the proceeds given to flood victims through the American Red Cross of the Palmetto SC Region.

Prints can be purchased online or at the Jim Harrison Gallery, One South Main St., Denmark.

For more information, visit www.jimharrison.com or call 800-793-5796.

Pet adoptions free, discounted during Mega Match-a-Thon

[WCIV](#) Charleston ABC, Oct 25, 2015

CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) -- The annual ASPCA Mega-match-a-thon is on as several animal shelters across the Lowcountry are still recovering from the massive floods that soaked South Carolina.

The event is scheduled to run through October 26.

Charleston Animal Society is just one of 16 animal shelters across the country taking part in the community adoption event, offering free adoptions on all animals and staying open for extended hours, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

"During the third annual ASPCA Mega Match-a-thon last October, 4,865 dogs and cats found homes in just one weekend," said Julie Morris, senior vice president of community outreach for the ASPCA.

The Berkeley County SPCA may be seeing the worst of it. The facility is currently at 230 percent of capacity.

"Our shelter normally houses approximately 100 dogs and probably 60 to 80 cats. At this particular point in time we are almost at the 300 mark," said Doc Williams SPCA director Marcia Atkinson.

Atkinson says while other animal shelters may turn pets away when they're full, Doc Williams doesn't, and because of that they are struggling to keep up with the number of dogs and cats being dropped off.

"It's a never-ending cycle. For every one we send out, three more come in," said employee Keith Flowers.

Atkinson says they have taken in 80 animals in just two days. For people who cannot adopt, she says donations can be made on the group's website.

In Summerville, the Francis R. Willis SPCA (136 Four Paws Lane) will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. All pit bull breeds and kittens will be available for a reduced price. The shelter had no choice but to close its doors to the public during the weekdays because of damage to their building.

"The adoptions, since we aren't open to the public, they're not happening on a daily basis like they normally would. So, the only way we are seeing adoptions is when we have an event like what we're having this weekend," says

Rachel Nisbet, Vice President of SPCA.

In Georgetown, the St. Frances Animal Center is located at 125 North Ridge Street. They can be reached at (843) 546-0780 or by visiting their website, www.sfanimals.org.

Ravenel's Feline Freedom Coalition tries to put a dent in the feral cat community by capturing feral cats, spaying/neutering, then releasing them back into their colonies. They also find homes for kittens who have been socialized. Learn more at their website, www.felinefreedom.com.

The Hallie Hill Sanctuary in Hollywood cares for abandoned, abused, or neglected animals by providing a home with food, medical care, shelter and love. Learn more at their website, www.halliehill.com or visit them on Facebook.

"These area shelters and sanctuaries were hit hard by the floods," said Charleston Animal Society CEO Joe Elmore. "Many potential adopting families are no longer able to rescue animals leaving these animal organizations in a dire situation. We need families to make room for one more and give these animals a home. If you absolutely cannot adopt, please contribute to these organizations."

SPCA: Dogs rescued from South Carolina flooding ready to adopt

By Matthew McClellan

[WRIC](#), ABC, Richmond, Va., October 25, 2015

Similar story on [WTVR](#), Richmond

RICHMOND, Va (WRIC) – Nearly two dozen dogs are now ready for adoption after a Richmond SPCA team rescued them from South Carolina shelters affected by flooding after Hurricane Joaquin. According to SPCA workers, the animals could not be more excited to go home their new families.

On October 13, a team from SPCA brought back 23 dogs after relentless rains in South Carolina separated pets from their families, overcrowding shelters in affected areas. According to SPCA workers, the relief effort was more than just making more room in South Carolina animal shelters- they said it was a life-saving rescue.

"In order to make space it's likely these animals would've been euthanized if there had not been a way to get them out to safety," said Robin Starr, chief executive officer.

At the close of its 2015 fiscal year, the Richmond SPCA reports that it has placed 3,646 dogs and cats in adoptive homes, bringing the total lives saved through adoption since becoming no-kill in 2002 to 40,599.

To learn how you can adopt one of these animals click [here](#).

Why Is This Happening? Unprecedented Flooding Has Hit The U.S. Within The Last 30 Days

By Michael Snyder

Real Independent News and Film, Oct 26, 2015

<http://rinf.com/alt-news/editorials/why-is-this-happening-unprecedented-flooding-has-hit-the-u-s-within-the-last-30-days/>

What's your thoughts?

(RINF) – Over the past 30 days, major floods have hit the east coast, the west coast and now the middle part of the country. So why is this happening? Why is the U.S. being hit by so many catastrophic weather events all of a sudden? During the past month flooding has caused billions of dollars in damage, and in many areas the clean up is going to take well into next year. Some pundits are blaming El Nino, but others are pointing to other potential reasons for why this may be happening. Let's start by taking a look at some of the biggest flood events that have happened over the past 30 days...

Hurricane Joaquin never made landfall on the east coast, but moisture from the storm had a tremendous impact – particularly in South Carolina. In fact, the governor of the state said that the region had not seen that type of rain "in a thousand years"...

"We haven't had this level of rain in the low-country in a thousand years — that's how big this is," said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Days of record rainfall and catastrophic flooding left at least seventeen people dead in South Carolina and two dead in North Carolina, Oct. 6, 2015. Thirteen dams have failed.

It would be very difficult to overstate the amount of damage that was caused by this storm. Some officials are estimating that the total amount of economic damage done "will probably be in the billions of dollars"...

The rains may have stopped in South Carolina, but the danger and the work to rebuild are far from over.

"I believe that things will get worse before they get better," Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin told reporters Monday.

"Eventually the floods will abate, but then we have to assess the damage, and I anticipate that damage will probably be in the billions of dollars, and we're going to have to work to rebuild. Some peoples' lives as they know them will never be the same," he said.

Of course this is far from the only destructive flooding event that we have seen in recent weeks.

Out in California they have been getting hit with disaster after disaster. First, the wildfire season came very close to setting a national record this year, and it was particularly bad out west. The following comes from USA Today...

The amount of land burned by wildfires in the U.S. this year has surpassed 9 million acres, according to data released Thursday by the National Interagency Fire Center.

This is only the fourth time on record the country has reached the 9 million-acre mark, center spokesman Randall Eardley said in an e-mail. The area burned is roughly equivalent to the size of New Jersey and Connecticut combined.

All of the top years for acres burned have occurred since 2000, Eardley said. The worst year occurred in 2006, with 9.8 million acres. In 2007 and 2012, 9.3 million acres were burned, he said. If another 800,000 acres are burned this year, an all-time record would be set.

I have a feeling that when the final numbers are all in and tallied that 2015 will end up setting an all-time record for wildfires.

But after a really dry, hot summer, southern California got surprised by a deluge of heavy rain this month and the results were absolutely catastrophic. The following comes from Fox News...

A flood of mud and debris triggered by heavy rainfall in Southern California rushed onto streets and highways Thursday, stranding hundreds in their cars and closing a major interstate.

Nearly 40 miles of Interstate 5 north in Los Angeles were still closed Friday afternoon after heavy rainfall sent mud, debris and even boulders streaming into the north-south running freeway, according to the California Department of Transportation.

Some people, stuck in up to 5 feet of mud, were forced to camp overnight in their vehicles, according to NBC Los Angeles. Pictures on social media showed some cars submerged in debris up to the windshields.

Authorities are still digging people out from this mess several days later. In fact, the dead body of one man was just pulled out of a van that had been encased in several feet of mud...

Southern California fire crews discovered a man's body Tuesday inside a van that had been buried under several feet of mud after a flash flood overran a road near Los Angeles last week.

And just over this past weekend, the middle part of the country has had to deal with tremendous flooding as well. Hurricane Patricia turned out to be the world's strongest hurricane since at least 1970, and the remnants of this storm are hitting the state of Texas quite hard.

The small town of Powell, Texas got 20 inches of rain in just 30 hours, and a Union Pacific train that was running nearby was derailed by the heavy flood waters...

A Union Pacific freight train carrying cement derailed in Navarro County after a creek overflowed, washing out the tracks. Locomotives and rail cars were pushed on their sides, and a two-person crew was forced to swim to safety.

Repair teams cleared the derailed cars by Sunday morning, but they were not expected to be righted for several hours and a locomotive was not seen being moved until later in the day, Union Pacific spokesman Jeff DeGraff said on Sunday afternoon.

All of this has happened within the past 30 days.

So is there a reason why all of these events have happened?

Of course some people say that it is just a coincidence that all of these storms have hit us in such close proximity.

Others are pointing to the extremely strong El Nino that has developed. Here is an excerpt from a recent Bloomberg report...

It has choked Singapore with smoke, triggered Pacific typhoons and left Vietnamese coffee growers staring nervously at dwindling reservoirs. In Africa, cocoa farmers are blaming it for bad harvests, and in the Americas, it has Argentines bracing for lower milk production and Californians believing that rain will finally, mercifully fall.

El Nino is back and in a big way.

Its effects are just beginning in much of the world — for the most part, it hasn't really reached North America — and yet it's already shaping up potentially as one of the three strongest El Nino patterns since record-keeping began in 1950. It will dominate weather's many twists and turns through the end of this year and well into next. And it's causing gyrations in everything from the price of Colombian coffee to the fate of cold-water fish.

That certainly doesn't sound promising for the months ahead.

But some climate "experts" are really playing down the impact of El Nino. Instead, they are attempting to convince us that what we are witnessing is simply the result of "man-made climate change", and they are using this as an opportunity to promote their agenda.

And there are yet others that see a spiritual dimension to all of this. In fact, there are some out there that believe that all of this flooding could be a sign that the judgment of God on America has begun.

So what do you think?

Do you believe that there is a reason why the U.S. is experiencing so much flooding lately?
Please feel free to share what you think by posting a comment below...
Michael runs the The Economic Collapse blog.

TV/Radio Clips

Media Alert From TVEyes Media Monitoring Suite



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 07:35:34

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... lot of money is going to cost us to get the house back to normal. >> FEMA rep activities say you should take advantage of relief centers. go ahead and reach out. >>> the red cross will provide ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WMBF (NBC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 07:35:42

WMBF News Today - Saturday (News)

... it has contacted the county to take a look at it. this weekend FEMA will have representatives in timmonsville to help anyone out with flooding related claims. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 08:00:30

News 13 Saturday Morning (News)

... this morning on news13...some homeowners are being denied for funding by FEMA after they watched the floods take over their house. find out this no answer may not be the final decision ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 08:05:22

News 13 Saturday Morning (News)

... but a number of people around here... got denied. FEMA representative mike wade says residents who applied and got their denial letter can appeal. he says if you don't understand ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/24/2015 09:01:19

NBC 26 Today (News)

... from the heavy flooding earlier this month. the county met FEMA requirements with 568-thousand dollars in assessed damages. that doesn't include another 500- ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 09:02:45

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... could be more help. >>reporter: she applied for FEMA. they know it is available , but she want ware they are providing relief for mortgages and credit card months for 12 ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

10/24/2015 09:03:37

WIS News 10 Saturday (News)

... manning high school from 5 p-m until 7. representatives from FEMA, the small business administrative, county government and the red cross will be there to ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 09:03:55

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... your address will show if you in a federal diaster area. FEMA occurred you to visit a diaster location because there may be help you don't know about yet. >>> flood victims can get free ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/24/2015 09:31:52

NBC 26 Today (News)

... the latest on aiken county's quest for FEMA funds to help pay for the impacts of flood damage. the breakdown on that topic after the break. stay with us. it's another beautiful start to ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/24/2015 09:35:34

NBC 26 Today (News)

... thousand dollars from breached dams and broken roads. FEMA now deeming aiken county eligible for it's public assistance program. "we were elated and relieved actually because it looked like ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 09:56:30

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... lot of money is going to cost us to get the house back to normal. >> FEMA representatives say you should take advantage of the FEMA centers because they may have relief you are not aware of >>> let's get a last look at the ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WOKV-AM (Radio) - Jacksonville, FL

10/24/2015 16:49:26

... great and things as your physician about if you're concerned about it if you have a FEMA history and the nephew of no new film history that might be a good thing to do you get to get some of the screening tools and seek and find out the ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

10/24/2015 18:05:42

WIS News 10 at 6:00 (News)

... if you were affected by the floods, you should register with FEMA. and you could also qualify for a sba loan. go to wistv.com and click on the big red 10, ...



(click thumbnail to play)

Federal Emergency Management Agency on WLTX - COL (CBS) - Columbia, SC

10/24/2015 23:05:57

News 19 @ 11 (News)

... she is waiting to see how much the Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay, before knowing what the state will dish out.flood recovery is expected to cost more than the damage done by hurricane ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WMBF (NBC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/24/2015 23:09:58

WMBF News at 11 (News)

... piced up by a low pressure system. this weekend FEMA will have representatives in timmons ville to help anyone out with flooding related claims. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/24/2015 23:20:10

NBC 26 News at 11 (News)

... estimate is in. right now, she's unsure how much the state or FEMA will pay for the recovery because their still assessing damage.the governor says she ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/24/2015 23:26:26

NBC 26 News at 11 (News)

... damage estimate is in. right now, she's unsure how much the state or FEMA will pay for the recovery because their still assessing damage.the governor says she ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

10/25/2015 08:36:08

OnPoint (Other)

... \$40,000 for personal property. >> this is in addition to what FEMA might do. >> that is correct. so understanding what FEMA does , FEMA makes sure your home is safe and sanitary. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/25/2015 09:04:15

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... >> we are here with chery brown, she will talk about the updates of FEMA. you said one of the most important things to get out are there are new locations and set up points. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/25/2015 09:05:27

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... so the only way to apply for assistance is to apply with FEMA, not applying for national flood insurance program does not register you for disaster assistance. there is a difference between ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/25/2015 09:06:43

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... >> for state-wide over 65,000 households have applied for assistance with FEMA. there has been over \$47 million approved state wide, just since october the 5th. the money has been dispersed. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/25/2015 09:35:25

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... eligible to apply. the first stepis always to register with FEMA. we need a FEMA registration number if you are a homeowner or renter. >> good do know. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/25/2015 09:36:26

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... >> thank you so much for being with us, we appreciate it, and remember FEMA, small business, this is all something you can get help with. if you need to register, go ahead and do so. ...



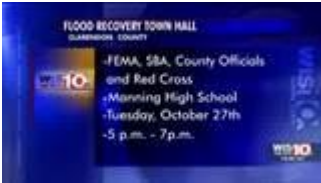
(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/25/2015 10:07:18

WIS News 10 Sunday (News)

... if you were affected by the floods, you should register with FEMA. and you could also qualify for a sba loan. go to wistv.com and click on the big red 10, ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WIS - COL \(NBC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/25/2015 10:40:45

WIS News 10 Sunday (News)

... manning high school from 5 p-m until 7. representatives from FEMA, the small business administrative, county government and the red cross will be there to answer questions and help residents ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WCIV-CHS \(ABC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/25/2015 11:23:18

Full Measure With Sharyl Attkisson (News)

... sharyl: they and many other families receive temporary financial help from FEMA, but they were frustrated to learn they would not get as much long-term help as they expected to rebuild from the FEMA-backed ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WLTX - COL \(CBS\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/25/2015 18:07:09

News 19 @ 6 (News)

... following the flood. there will also be help and disaster assistance from FEMA for newberry county residents. on monday and tuesday october 26th and 27th FEMA representatives will meet with ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WCSC-CHS \(CBS\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/25/2015 18:07:28

Live 5 News at 6 (News)

... also happening today...two new FEMA disaster recovery centers opened this afternoon in berkeley county. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WTAT-CHS \(FOX\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/25/2015 22:05:51

News at 10 (News)

... the number is - 855-go-s-c-dot. two new FEMA disaster recovery centers opened today in berkeley county. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WLTX - COL \(CBS\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/25/2015 23:07:31

News 19 @ 11 (News)

... following the flood. there will also be help and disaster assistance from FEMA for newberry county residents. on monday and tuesday october 26th and 27th FEMA representatives will meet with ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGA-ATL (FOX) - Atlanta, GA

10/26/2015 01:16:09

FOX5 News @ 10:00 (News)

... wreaked havoc on the state, there is new legislation with FEMA's accountability. her new bill, the flood insurance transparent will require quicker claims review processes. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WLTX - COL (CBS) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 04:33:27

News 19 @ 4:30am (News)

... following the there will also be help and disaster assistance from FEMA for newberry county residents. today and tomorrow FEMA representatives will meet with flood victims at the newberry ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/26/2015 05:04:11

NBC 26 Today (News)

... from the heavy flooding earlier this month. the county met FEMA requirements with 568-thousand dollars in assessed damages. that does not include another 500-thousand with the south ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 05:05:53

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... manning high school from five p-m until seven. representatives from FEMA, the small business administration, county government and the red cross will be there to answer ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WCIV-CHS (ABC) - Charleston, SC

10/26/2015 05:06:01

Good Morning Charleston (News)

... live in downtown charleston-rob mallia-gmc tessa) today FEMA will open a mobile disaster recovery center in berkeley county. you can register and submit ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WCBD-CHS (NBC) - Charleston, SC

10/26/2015 05:06:24

News 2 Today (News)

... wreck road. some of the things you can do is apply with FEMA and get it started with FEMA, you can apply with the small business administration for a possible disaster loan. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WLTX - COL (CBS) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 05:06:52

News 19 @ 5am (News)

... following the flood. there will also be help and disaster assistance from FEMA for newberry county residents. today and tomorrow FEMA representatives will meet with flood victims at the newberry ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WOLO- COL (ABC) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 05:08:20

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... seat-belt. the road to recovery continues after the historic flooding. FEMA will be helping those still in need of assistance out in newberry today. FEMA officials are asking you come ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WCBD-CHS \(NBC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/26/2015 05:27:07

News 2 Today (News)

... >>> up on news 2 today. >> i am raymond owen, live in goose creek at an FEMA disaster center, i will tell you what you can do here. coming up. we need to disrupt the old ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WOLO- COL \(ABC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/26/2015 05:27:08

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... proud to "rise above the waters". representatives from FEMA were on hand to assist any flood victims in attendance. the concert was free...but guests were encouraged to give ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WAGT \(NBC\) - Augusta, GA](#)

10/26/2015 05:36:02

NBC 26 Today (News)

... thousand dollars from breached dams and broken roads. FEMA now deeming aiken county eligible for it's public assistance program. "we were elated and relieved actually because it looked like ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WCBD-CHS \(NBC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/26/2015 05:36:21

News 2 Today (News)

... me that's a hard deadline if you don't apply them, you will not get assistance from FEMA relate to the flood >> even if ru not a small business or homeowner or a renter, you can qualify some of ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WOLO- COL \(ABC\) - Columbia, SC](#)

10/26/2015 05:37:26

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... seat-belt. the road to recovery continues after the historic flooding. FEMA will be helping those still in need of assistance out in newberry today. FEMA officials are asking you come ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WBTW \(CBS\) - Myrtle Beach, SC](#)

10/26/2015 05:37:36

News 13 Early Morning (News)

... risk hugo's costliest disaster streak. haley talked about how FEMA and the state are planning to deal with the damage assessments. haley said ..quote.. "we're ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA. on WHNS \(FOX\) - Greenville, SC](#)

10/26/2015 05:44:45

Morning News @ 5 (News)

... chris taylor park k-9 cemetery. the public is invited. FEMA will be helping out flood victims in newberry county today. today.FEMA representatives say this is your chance to apply for aid to help cover the cost ...



(click thumbnail to play)

[FEMA on WCBD-CHS \(NBC\) - Charleston, SC](#)

10/26/2015 05:50:02

News 2 Today (News)

... here and our now being encouraged to open up a claim with FEMA. >> a brand new disaster location is opened. that's where we find ouray monday in goose creek this ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/26/2015 06:03:59

NBC 26 Today (News)

... from the heavy flooding earlier this month. the county met FEMA requirements with 568-thousand dollars in assessed damages. that does not include another 500-thousand with the south ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:05:16

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... school from five p-m until seven. representatives from FEMA, the small business administration, county government and the red cross will be there to ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WCBD-CHS (NBC) - Charleston, SC

10/26/2015 06:06:24

News 2 Today (News)

... among those killed, the youngest victim, two years old. >>> a new FEMA disaster center will be opening in goose creek this morning. raymond owen is live with more details on what people could ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WCIV-CHS (ABC) - Charleston, SC

10/26/2015 06:06:40

Good Morning Charleston (News)

... going a bit through fast through that area this morning. >>> FEMA will be opening a mobile disaster center. you can file for loans. it opens up at 8. governor nikki haley called ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WMBF (NBC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/26/2015 06:07:40

WMBF News Today at 6 AM (News)

... checking the health of the incoming cats and dogs. he says FEMA will be coming in soon to assist with finding homes for the animals. amanda hayes, it's stressful and it's harder because you're here ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WCBD-CHS (NBC) - Charleston, SC

10/26/2015 06:07:41

News 2 Today (News)

... information about what you can do to apply and/if you maybe eligible for FEMA assistance. >> i am raymond owen, news 2. >> news 2 today is just getting started. >> christmas came early for one ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WOLO- COL (ABC) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:08:07

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... continues after the historic flooding. FEMA will be helping those still in need of assistance in newberry today. FEMA officials are asking you come out if you have not applied ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WLTX - COL (CBS) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:10:06

News 19 @ 6am (News)

... >> if they didn't quite qualify for federal assistance from FEMA the need will be great this upcoming holiday season. if you need that help don't wait until the last moment. go ahead and sign up for that ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:20:32

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... >>> it's been three weeks since the state's deadly flooding. FEMA and other recovery agencies are helping and many people have questions. ken is here to help this morning. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

Federal Emergency Management Agency on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:21:35

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... whole again. we are the Federal Emergency Management Agency. i want to drive that message home because there is that misconception that FEMA is here to take care of everybody with ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:23:06

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... there an agent that goes out to assess? >> we have FEMA contractors that come out and there is an appointment made, by the way. when they call to register, a legal contractor comes out and ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:24:35

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... by case basis. i could have a neighbor who says, FEMA did this, but how come they didn't do it for me? >> everybody's case is different. that's a good point because ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WOLO- COL (ABC) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:28:56

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... musicians played loud and proud to "rise above the waters." representatives from FEMA were on hand to assist any flood victims in attendance. >> we're moving quickly butler are always those people who have ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA. on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/26/2015 06:35:07

NBC 26 Today (News)

... thousand dollars from breached dams and broken roads. FEMA now deeming aiken county eligible for it's public assistance program. "we were elated and relieved actually because it looked like ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/26/2015 06:37:09

News 13 This Morning (News)

... risk hugo's costliest disaster streak. haley talked about how FEMA and the state are planning to deal with the damage assessments. haley said ..quote.. "we're ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WOLO- COL (ABC) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:39:08

Good Morning Columbia (Other)

... >> eric: the road to recovery is continuing. FEMA will be helping those still in need of assistance in newberry today. FEMA officials are asking you come out if you have not applied ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WHNS (FOX) - Greenville, SC

10/26/2015 06:44:12

Morning News @ 6 (News)

... chris taylor park k-9 cemetery. the public is invited. FEMA will be helping out flood victims in newberry county today. today.FEMA representatives say this is your chance to apply for aid to help cover the cost ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WCBD-CHS (NBC) - Charleston, SC

10/26/2015 06:50:34

News 2 Today (News)

... wreck road. what you can do here is apply to kind of begin the FEMA process. you can get your number started and also apply for a small business administration loan. ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WPDE (ABC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/26/2015 06:52:56

Good Morning Carolinas (News)

... spot as the team continues to recover. government agencies like FEMA and d -- be there to answer questions you may have about property damage. she plans on holding a team ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WACH - COL (FOX) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:53:25

WACH Fox Good Day (News)

... recovery centers where we have staff that are there along with FEMA staff. >> two in one. >> that's right. and also the sba has a number of centers targeted ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WLTX - COL (CBS) - Columbia, SC

10/26/2015 06:56:40

News 19 @ 6am (News)

... floodwaters. >>> there will be help and disaster assistance from FEMA for newberry residents today and tomorrow. representatives will be meeting with flood victims tomorrow ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WMBF (NBC) - Myrtle Beach, SC

10/26/2015 06:58:16

WMBF News Today at 6:30 AM (News)

... today people in florence and williamsburg counties can get help registering for FEMA, disaster loans, apply for any assistance available to them. again that's today from ten until two at the williamsburg ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WHNS (FOX) - Greenville, SC

10/26/2015 07:26:04

Morning News @ 7 (News)

... and i'm cody alcorn.first at four cleaning up in greenwood. we go door to door with FEMA as they spread the word about disaster relief from the historic flooding.and fox carolina investigates a new ...



(click thumbnail to play)

FEMA on WAGT (NBC) - Augusta, GA

10/26/2015 07:27:16

Today (News)

... stemming from the heavy flooding earlier this month. the county met FEMA requirements with 568-thousand dollars in assessed damages. that does not include another 500-thousand with the south ...

Thank you,

Christopher Dodge

Resource Support

DR-4241-SC

BB (202)805-6828

Christopher.Dodge@fema.dhs.gov