

Title: **Aid from FEMA OK'd for individuals**
 Author: From staff reports
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Aid from FEMA OK'd for individuals

From staff reports

FLORENCE – Individuals who sustained recent storm damage in Florence County and three other Pee Dee counties now are eligible for federal assistance.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, individuals in Darlington, Dillon and Williamsburg counties also can ask for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, officials in S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced Monday night.

Individuals in 11 other counties also qualify for assistance. Those counties are Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Lee and Sumter.

They join Marion and Orangeburg counties, which qualified for individual assistance last week.

Assistance can include money for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary homes, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help survivors recover from the effects of the disaster.

Survivors can register online at DisasterAssis-

tance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362. Disaster assistance applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing should call 800-462-7585 (TTY); those who use Video Relay Service can call 800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days per week until further notice.

The FEMA public assistance program is a reimbursement grant program. Typically, the federal share is 75 percent and the state or local governments pay the remaining 25 percent,

whereas eligible private nonprofit groups are responsible for the full 25 percent.

Last week Florence County was declared a disaster zone by President Barack Obama, but until Monday evening, it had not yet been approved for individual aid from FEMA.

"Damage assessment teams were here last week to get preliminary totals, so right now we just have to wait," said Andrew Golden, a spokesman for the Florence County Emergency Management Division.

Golden said the process

includes FEMA representatives assessing the county's damage and getting that information to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, who will send it to the president for approval.

At last check, Florence County officials said at least 29 homes were destroyed during Hurricane Matthew, 64 suffered major damage and 768 suffered minor damage. That total is more than \$12 million in damages.

Golden said that number will increase as more assessments are made.

"Those numbers were still going up, and we're not sure where it will stop," he said. "There still are flooded areas that haven't been assessed, because there's no way to access them because of flooding. As soon as we can access those areas, we'll continue to fill the numbers in."

Florence is one of 13 counties declared by President Obama as a disaster area for assistance to public service agencies. This means county and municipal governments will be eligible for federal assistance.

Morning News reporter Joshua Lloyd contributed to this report.

Title: **Carolina Canners, Inc. expanding Chesterfield County operations**
 Author:
 Size: 42.00 column inches
 Cheraw, SC Circulation: 6000



Carolina Canners, Inc. expanding Chesterfield County operations

COLUMBIA--An independent Pepsi bottler and production cooperative, Carolina Canners, Inc., is expanding its Chesterfield County operations. The \$45 million capital investment is expected to generate 40 new jobs.

Operating in Cheraw, since 1968, Carolina Canners has expanded its South Carolina operations multiple times over the last 40 years. The facility specializes in bottle injection molding and features two bottle-filling production lines, two can-filling production lines and a fountain syrup production line. The company also serves as a joint purchasing agent for many of the region's other bottlers.

Located at 300 Highway 1 South in Cheraw, Carolina Canners' facility will be expanded by 45,000 square feet. Additionally, the company will be adding new, state-of-the-art equipment capable of hot-fill. The new hot-fill line will be used primarily to produce the Pepsi-Lipton Tea Partnership's fast-growing Pure Leaf, a premium iced tea brewed from real tea leaves.

Hiring for the new positions will begin in the second quarter of 2017, and those interested in joining the Carolina Canners team should visit the SC Works website.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has approved job development credits related to this project.

"We are excited to move forward with this investment, which represents a true partnership between Carolina Canners and PepsiCo. For 48 years, the City of Cheraw, Chesterfield County and the State of South Carolina have provided a great business climate for us to operate and compete in, and we look forward to continuing this positive relationship for many years to come." –

Carolina Canners CEO Jeff Stevens

"We are very humbled and proud to be able to make this announcement. This event would not have been possible without many people at Carolina Canners, the Pepsi-Lipton Tea Partnership, Governor Nikki Haley and her staff, the S.C. Department of Commerce,

Chesterfield County, the Town of Cheraw, the Department of Transportation, several utility companies and numerous others. This is proof of what can happen when there is a collaborative effort on the part of business and government, as well as a progressive and pro-business climate like there is here in the great State of South Carolina. We hope that this is just the beginning of many future ventures for Carolina Canners and for our affiliates." – Carolina Canners Board President Mark Avent

"Pure Leaf is one of the fastest-selling products in our portfolio – so fast it's been hard to keep it on the shelf. As supply has struggled to meet demand, this groundbreaking is a saving grace for Pure Leaf and genuine iced tea lovers in the Southeast. It's the quintessential win-win scenario: a win for the State of South Carolina, a win for local trade customers and consumers and a win for our expanding alliance with CCI." – Pepsi-Lipton Tea Partnership Vice President and General Manager Emily Silver

"Carolina Canners is a perfect example of one of South Carolina's very own that continues to find success here, and we couldn't be more proud that they have once again decided to expand operations in our state. The 40 new jobs this investment means for Chesterfield County will make a real difference in the lives of South Carolinians, and that's a reason to celebrate throughout the state." – Gov. Nikki Haley

"This new expansion adds to the success of South Carolina's agribusiness industry. I congratulate Carolina Canners on their continued investment and look forward to watching them produce a new line of products right here in the Palmetto State." – Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt

"Carolina Canners is and always has been an asset to our community and its citizens. Chesterfield County thanks Carolina Canners for their confidence in our workforce, and we appreciate their continued investment and support." – Chesterfield County Economic Development Board Director Kim Burch

Title: **Newton wants your vote Nov. 8**

Author:

Size: 33.17 column inches

Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



Newton wants your vote Nov. 8

It has almost been a year now since I decided to run for the State House District 45 seat. Running for the S.C. House has been one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences of my life. Getting out to talk with people about their dreams and aspirations for Lancaster County and South Carolina is something I will always cherish and it's something I look forward to doing more of should you elect me as your next state representative.

Better roads

Like you, I look at our crumbling road system and cannot understand why our politicians in Columbia are unable to come up with a permanent solution. Like many of you, I am tired of hearing the excuses that the answers were too difficult to pass. Poor roads and bridges hurt economic development and cost lives – two things politicians should never take lightly. Politics should never get in the way of adopting a common-sense road plan.

Work force and higher education

In order to have a skilled and properly trained work force for our modern economy and create local job growth, we must continue to invest in our technical colleges, as well as our two- and four-year institutions.

The University of South Carolina

GUEST COLUMN



Brandon Newton is the Republican candidate for the S.C. House District 45 seat.

Lancaster has historically been underfunded by our state government. While it has roughly double the number of students of USC Sumter, another satellite USC campus, USCL receives just under a million dollars less than Sumter in the state budget. A student in Lancaster is worth the same as a student in Sumter. I want to go to Columbia to finish the job and provide a fairer funding mechanism for USCL.

Other nearby colleges such as Winthrop University and York Technical College will also be on my radar screen to ensure they receive the resources needed to deliver the quality education students need and help build our local economy.

Reforming state government

Like many of you, I look at our state government and see a system that is out of date and unable to prop-

erly function. Our governor lacks the proper administrative control over the executive branch. Too many state agencies are run by boards and commissions elected by our General Assembly, which makes them answerable to no one.

Our governor should have the power to run the executive branch like a business. The legislative branch should not run every aspect of state government. The recent leadership role taken by Gov. Nikki Haley in the Hurricane Matthew evacuations shows what a single chief executive leading can achieve when given the tools and authority to get things done. I want to go to Columbia to break the monopoly of power that our Legislature has on state government from these boards and commissions to finally reforming the selection of judges in South Carolina.

These issues are important to our community and they deserve action. That's why I am asking for your support on Election Day. With your support and your vote in November (or sooner if you're voting absentee), I am ready to do my part in the State House to make a difference.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me any time at brandon@newtonforhouse.com or (803) 320-9615.

Title: **Newton: Here's my agenda**

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Size: 39.21 column inches

Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



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Guest column



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