

Title: **Gilliard advocating for more services, housing for homeless**
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Gilliard advocating for more services, housing for homeless

BY DIANE KNICH

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Angela Malave used to bring in enough money panhandling to pay for a cheap motel room.

But a new city ordinance has banned roadside begging from the most lucrative spots, so she no longer can afford it. Now she sleeps in a tent in an encampment with other homeless people on upper Meeting Street.

Malave said she doesn't drink or use drugs, but she has some mental health issues that make it difficult for her to stay at a shelter. So for now, the only option available to her is "a tent and the ground," she said. "I'm homeless and I'm in immediate need."

State Rep. Wendell Gilliard, D-Charleston, has sent a letter to Gov. Nikki Haley asking her to declare a state of emergency for homelessness in South Carolina. He's pushing for the state to help provide more money for services for the homeless, and more affordable housing. At a meeting he called earlier this week for advocates for the homeless, he said Haley hadn't yet responded. A call to Haley's office for comment was not im-

mediately returned.

Gilliard said he decided to push the issue now because soon the weather will turn cold, and because he is seeing more "tent cities," where clusters of homeless people are living in tents, in wooded areas or near roadsides. "We have a problem here in South Carolina," he said. "We can't stand idly by."

Anthony Haro, executive director of the Lowcountry Homeless Coalition, said his group, which covers seven counties, doesn't think there's been an increase in the number of homeless people. In 2013, representatives counted 733 people living on the streets, most of them in Charleston County. Early this year, they counted 606.

But, Haro said, he thinks the homeless have become more visible. Several churches and groups that serve low-income people in recent years have been giving out tents to people who live on the street, he said. People see more tents and assume there

are more homeless people, he said, but that might not be true.

Haro said the answer to homelessness is to make housing available. A past trend was to encourage people to get help with alcohol and drug addiction or mental health problems before helping them find permanent housing, he said. But people overcome those challenges more quickly if they have a safe, affordable place to live, he said.

He also said that the area needs not only affordable housing but "zero-income housing" as well. Some people simply won't ever be able to generate an income, he said, but they still need a place to live.

He thinks state and local governments could address the need for more housing by requiring developers to include affordable housing in their plans before allowing them to move forward.

He understands that housing is expensive, he said, but so is homelessness. For instance, he

said, six chronically homeless people in Charleston County accrued \$5.8 million in hospital charges over a recent three-year period.

Lisa Doctor, director of Family-to-Family, which helps low-income people with food, housing and other concerns, said she's aware of at least four tent cities in the area. Her group accepts donations of tents which it distributes to people in need. And members will bring food to people living in tents when they can. "Most people are not robbers, drug addicts or gang-bangers," she said. "They just fell on hard times."

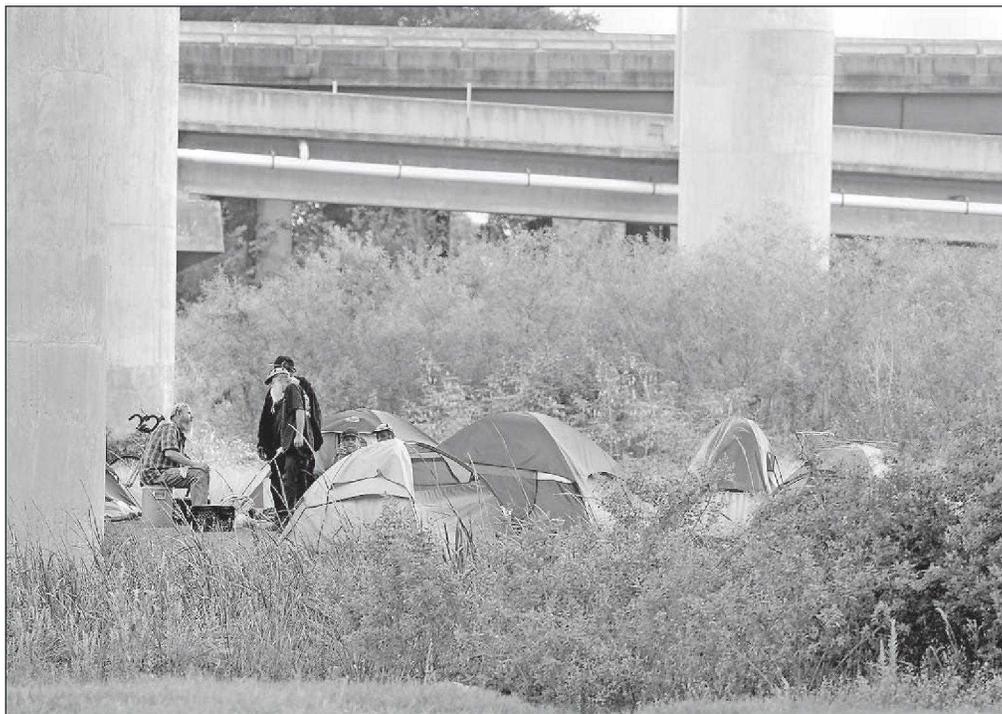
Reach **Diane Knich** at (843) 937-5491 or on Twitter @dianeknich.

Poll

Should a state of emergency be declared for homelessness in South Carolina? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.



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BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

Homeless people have set up a tent city near upper Meeting Street and the ramp onto Interstate 26.



Title: **Region's commercial real estate forecast rosy**
 Author: BY WARREN L. WISE wwise@postandcourier.com
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Region's commercial real estate forecast rosy

BY WARREN L. WISE
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From new industries and new stores to more office buildings, the Charleston region's commercial real estate market professionals see even sunnier days ahead.

"Overall, we see a bright future for commercial real estate in the tri-county area," said Norman Brody, director of commercial development for WestRock, formerly MeadWestvaco, during an outlook event Thursday hosted by the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors.

Professionals from three major commercial real estate sectors — retail, office and industrial — hailed the current expansion of the Lowcountry's economy as a boon to the region that should continue for some time and possibly be somewhat shielded by the automotive sector's expansion during the next downturn.

Retail

The vacancy rate for available properties is down to 5.1 percent, well below the 10 percent mark that signals a healthy market and the need for new construction.

It's the lowest rate among several major metropolitan areas in South Carolina and North Carolina, said Jeff Yurfest of The Shopping Center Group, a national leasing firm with an office in Charleston.

Downtown Charleston, even with its pricey annual rental rates averaging nearly \$43 per square foot on King Street and other prime loca-

tions, has the least amount of available space at less than 3.5 percent. The rest of the region ranges from about \$12 a foot in North Charleston and Summerville to just under \$19 in Mount Pleasant.

"Retail along Upper King will see the most drastic change," Yurfest said, pointing to big developments

in the works, including an eight-story hotel next to Marion Square and Courier Square, a mixed-use residential and commercial project being built by the owner of The Post and Courier at Meeting and Columbus streets. He also pointed to the recent completion of the Midtown hotel project at Spring and King.

Throughout the region, numerous national retailers have announced or opened new stores

Please see **ROSY**, Page E2

Commercial market data

Retail vacancy

2010	2015
9.7%	5.1%

Office vacancy

2010	2015
15%	7%

Industrial vacancy

2010	2015
10.3%	6.7%

— Charleston commercial real estate professionals, Post and Courier archives

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Commercial real estate outlook

ROSY from Page E1

recently. From West Elm in Charleston to Nordstrom Rack in Mount Pleasant to Field & Stream in North Charleston to Earth Fare, BJ's Warehouse and Cabela's in Summerville, the region is attracting new, high-profile merchants looking to capitalize on the region's growing number of rooftops.

The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce estimates 43 new residents a day move to the Lowcountry, many of them lured by expansions at Boeing Co., Daimler and Volvo Cars, the latter two each building \$500 million auto manufacturing plants.

With retailers expanding and vacancy declining, several new centers are in the early stages of development, Yurfest said.

He pointed to WestEdge on the Charleston peninsula's upper West Side near Lockwood Drive; Ingleside Plantation in North Charleston, where the future Bass Pro Shop is slated to set up shop; WestRock's Nexton development near Summerville; and Cainhoy north of Daniel Island, among others.

"It's a real exciting time to be in retail real estate," Yurfest said.

Office

On the office side, panelist Jeremy Willits of the commercial real estate firm Avison Young was equally bullish.

"We are at the beginning of a significant period of expansion over the next three to five to 10 years," he said. "The scale is unlike anything we have seen in our beloved city."

Willits alluded to several new office developments on the peninsula. He also said the "NoMo" area on the upper peninsula is poised for rapid growth because of available land and a city policy allowing taller buildings.

Even so, he added, "We are not developing enough office space to keep up."

While 130,000 square feet of new office space is being proposed for Mount Pleasant, it won't meet the demand as the vacancy rate tightens to 5 percent.

Summerville will see a need for more office space as well, as suppliers and spin-off industries follow manufacturers such as Volvo to the town's outer perimeter, he said.

Willits cautioned the region's popularity with industries and investors comes with challenges. In some cases, rates for space in top-shelf office buildings are as

much as \$6 higher on a square foot basis in Charleston compared to Atlanta, Charlotte and Raleigh, Willits said.

Rental rates have risen from about \$22 per square foot in 2009 to more than \$26 in 2015. For the best spaces, known as "Class A" in the industry, it's better than \$31.

Willits pointed to the anti-development movement, especially in Mount Pleasant along Coleman Boulevard, as an impediment to the need for more commercial space.

"We have to reconsider far greater density with our reluctance to live among it," he said.

Willits predicted more office development inside Interstate 526 along with rising rental rates, but not as fast as more product comes on the market.

Industry

On the industrial front, Derek Mathis of WestRock said suppliers should trickle into the market to support Daimler and Volvo, and the multiplier effect of that would add spin-off jobs throughout the region. The vacancy rate of 6.8 percent nearly mirrors the national average.

He said vacancy is down and construction and rental rates are

on the rise throughout the region in an expanding economy.

Container volume at the Port of Charleston is up 14 percent this year, and the Panama Canal expansion could bode well for the region as 10 percent of the cargo from East Asia shifts from the West Coast to East Coast ports, Mathis said.

He called that significant since 40 percent of all containers to the U.S. come from the Far East.

Mathis said companies find the Charleston area attractive because of its port, business climate, economic incentives and labor pool.

He said one of the biggest threats to the region's economy is traffic congestion.

"Our political leadership has to do something about this," he said.

An economic slowdown is not out of the question at some point, Mathis said.

"Charleston could be a little insulated from the downturn," he said. "The automotive sector will be a huge driver for us."

Mathis called Charleston's economic development boom "our time in the Southeast."

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FILE/PAUL ZOELLER/STAFF

Daimler's decision to build a \$500 million auto manufacturing plant in North Charleston earlier this year is among the reasons commercial real estate professionals project rosier times ahead for the Lowcountry's economy. In March, Volker Mornhinweg, head of Mercedes-Benz Vans, and Gov. Nikki Haley unveiled plans for the new plant that will manufacture the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter line of vans in Palmetto Commerce Park.



FILE/AP

Lex Kerssemakers, CEO of Volvo Cars North America, helped kick off construction of a \$500 million auto plant in Berkeley County. The factory has been cited by the commercial real estate industry as one reason the local economy is projected to perform well.



Title: Weather doesn't dampen Tiger fans
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Weather doesn't dampen Tiger fans

Clemson Notes

BY ANDREW MILLER
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CLEMSON — Despite dire predictions of heavy rain and flooding across South Carolina leading up to Saturday night's game between Clemson and Notre Dame, there were few, if any, weather-related issues for fans before or during the game.

A steady rain that did get heavier as the game progressed didn't dampen the spirits of the sellout crowd at Death Valley on Saturday night.

Because of the 8:22 p.m. start time, pre-game traffic was not an issue and only a couple of grass parking lots were closed to the public.

"Besides a couple of our grass lots being closed, we didn't have any issues because of the weather," said Clemson Joe Galbraith, Clemson's director of athletic communications.

South Carolina governor Nikki Haley warned fans during the week to expect "very slow" traffic in the Clemson area and "if you don't have to go, don't go. The game is on TV."

Haley's warning didn't deter fans from making the trip for the nationally televised game. Despite the weather, there were

very few empty seats for the game.

Watson knee just fine

If there was any doubt about the health of Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson, they were answered on the first play from scrimmage.

Watson, who tore the ACL in his right knee late last season, burst over the left side of the Clemson line and ran 38 yards down to the Notre Dame 26 on the Tigers' first offensive play.

The 38-yard gain was the longest of Watson's career. Watson's previous long run was a 17-yard gain against N.C. State.

Watson later scored on a 21-yard run in the third quarter.

Irish struggle with noise

Leading up to the game, several Notre Dame players, including quarterback DeShon Kizer, and head coach Brian Kelly felt they could handle the noise and hostile environment of Clemson's Death Valley.

Although Kizer did not play against Florida State last year, he did make the trip to Talla-

hassee, Fla.

Kizer said he had never "heard anything so loud in my life" as Doak Campbell Stadium.

Kizer and the Irish offensive players had plenty of issues with the crowd noise of the sellout crowd at Death Valley.

The Irish offense had two false starts, a delay of game penalty, and had to call time out because they couldn't call an audible because of the noise.

The crowd noise got just above the 115-decibel mark in the third quarter after Watson's 21-yard TD run.

Slow start for Irish

Coming into Saturday night's game, Notre Dame had been a fast-starting team all season.

The Irish had outscored their opponents, 47-6, in the first quarter this season.

Clemson scored on its first two possessions and limited the Irish to a field goal and just 50 yards of total offense on 17 plays, including only 22 rushing yards on 10 attempts.

Lakip makes an impact

Clemson kicker Ammon Lakip hadn't played in a game all season and made the most of

his return to the lineup against Notre Dame.

Lakip was suspended for three games by head coach Dabo Swinney over the summer when he was charged with possession of cocaine. The case is still pending.

Lakip, who kicks off for the Tigers, made a key play to start the second half when his hit on Notre Dame returner C.J. Sanders caused a fumble that Clemson recovered.

Lakip's helmet hit Sanders, and Clemson's C.J. Fuller recovered the ball at the Irish 29. Three plays later Watson scored on a 21-yard run to give the Tigers a 21-3 lead.

Alexander hobbled

Clemson sophomore Mackensie Alexander suffered a right ankle injury in the third quarter, and jogged under his own power to the locker room, though he was wincing heavily as he did so.

Alexander was in a highly touted individual matchup with Notre Dame receiver Will Fuller, and before Alexander departed, Fuller had one reception for 14 yards.

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GWINN DAVIS / FOR THE POST AND COURIER

Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson scrambles for a first down against Notre Dame on Saturday night.

Title: **Road needs finally forcing progress toward state gas-tax hike**
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Road needs finally forcing progress toward state gas-tax hike

BY RON BRINSON

State Senate President Pro Tempore and Chairman of the Finance Committee Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, promises road funding proposals with higher fuel taxes will be at the top of the calendar when the Legislature begins work in January.

"This will be first on the Senate calendar and it is first on the list of priorities for our state," says Leatherman. "We simply can't ignore this any longer."

Polls show that most South Carolina motorists agree.



Brinson

So do most businesses, large and small, who see road conditions and especially traffic congestion on interstate highways and major arterial roads as a growing "hidden cost" for our state's economy.

Individual motorists are now understanding the "taxes" of bad roads and growing congestion. A recent survey concluded that the average Greater Charleston driver pays about \$100 a month in congestion costs, repairs related to potholes and higher insurance premiums indexed to higher accident rates with injuries and death.

For two decades or more, the curiously simplistic "no new taxes" agenda thwarted additional funding for our state's road system. But now the incidental costs of bad roads are simply hard-to-

ignore realities and a reason for the sharpening public support for better funding formulas for better roads.

Even Gov. Nikki Haley altered her "no new taxes" opposition to road funding last year — to a no new "net" taxes position. In the governor's view, increased fuel tax revenues must be offset with decreases in state income tax rates. But that prompts the "hidden tax" argument in spades.

Raising the state's motor vehicle user fee from its 1987 level means drivers using the highway system would pay more — including the 35 percent of all fuel purchasers who reside in other states.

But decreasing income tax rates would lower revenues for the general fund and portend higher tuition rates and lower expenditures for public

safety, health care and social services. The argument that higher growth rates would offset such general fund impacts is trapped by the reality that state agencies already depend on higher revenue growth rates.

A growing group of legislators is recognizing what one called "the back-dooring of the general fund just to rationalize increasing what is clearly a 'user' fee."

Leatherman's position is to the point: "With the fuel tax, users pay for the roads. Taking from the general fund is a subsidy and a questionable policy that has and will lead to higher tuitions and lower funding for many other programs."

The House passed a road funding package last

May that included a modest income tax reduction. The Senate promptly substituted its version that would substantially increase the projected fuel tax revenues and increase other fees. The Senate bill eliminated the House-proposed income tax reductions. That will be the starting point for floor debate in January, because Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, was a one-man wrecking ball as he successfully filibustered the House bill last Spring. But now Davis is making the rounds with industry and business groups, declaring that he is now looking for a compromise.

We might conclude that the urgency of highway system modernization finally is registering.

Let's hope so. For a state so heralded for its business-friendly environment and attractive qualities of life, South Carolina has in practice ignored the proposition of a highway system befitting its ambitions. It has failed to back up its talk in support of the global marketplace and of its citizens, relegating the highway system to a dizzying 30-year tangle of political dogma and feckless rhetoric.

A symposium Monday in Columbia could provide some insights as to where this debate is headed. The S.C. Fix Our Roads coalition's program features a series of panel presentations, including a discussion of how other states are addressing road funding challenges.

But the main event will be a grouping of legislators sharing their views on what needs to happen. Rep. Gary Simrill, R-York, who last year

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chaired the ad hoc committee that developed the House road funding and reform package, will update his panel's work. Rep. Phyllis Henderson, R-Greenville, chair of the House DOT Oversight Committee, will report on DOT reform issues.

Chairman Leatherman and Sen. Davis will represent the Senate.

So we will soon enough have some idea of changing positions and the 2016 prospects for meaningful solutions to the road funding crisis.

But the overarching question for all South Carolinians and every business in our state's economy is whether Gov. Haley and legislators will act — or again kick this critical public policy issue into another silly pothole of political posturing.

The answer should be shaped by this certainty: We need a better road system, not adherence to specious dogmatic agendas and tolerance of all these now-documented hidden "taxes." The larger goal is an assurance that the next generation of South Carolinians will have a highway system befitting their ambitions for social and economic development.

Ron Brinson, a former associate editor of this newspaper, served as president/CEO of the American Association of Port Authorities from 1979-86 and president/CEO of the Port of New Orleans from 1986-2002. A North Charleston City Councilman, he is running unopposed for re-election. He can be reached at rbrin1013@gmail.com.

Title: **Scott playing role in GOP race**
 Author: By MEG KINNARD The Associated Press
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Scott playing role in GOP race

By MEG KINNARD
 The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — More than 2,000 voters, from college students to those of retirement age, packed a Columbia theater recently to see for themselves what it's like to experience businessman Donald Trump up close and personal.

The GOP presidential hopeful got an enthusiastic response when he walked on stage, energizing the crowd and cracking jokes about his opponents, the Obama administration and Washington elite.

But the concert hall also erupted when U.S. Sen. Tim Scott addressed the crowd, amping up the voters and sounding more like a fiery preacher than the soft-spoken politician many have come to know.

"I see a whole lot of Trump

CROWD FAVORITE

Tim Scott has a high approval rating among South Carolina voters — 83 percent, according to a Winthrop University poll in April. With his national profile also on the rise since 2012, when the newly minted congressman had a prime-time speaking slot at the Republican National Convention, a political expert says candidates only benefit by being associated with him.



Scott

out there!" Scott yelled to the audience, bending down and turning his ear toward the roaring crowd. "We're going to have a good night tonight!"

The event, one of more than a dozen town hall meetings Scott has orchestrated with GOP candidates vying for the party's presidential nomination, officially serves to help both Scott and South Caro-

lina's voters decide whom to support. But with South Carolina's other U.S. senator already seeking the nation's highest office, the meetings also serve as a way to elevate Scott's own profile.

The Senate's only black Republican, Scott has commanded attention in his own deliberate, subtle way. He's served in the U.S. Senate since 2013, when, just af-

ter his election to a second U.S. House term, he was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley following the resignation of Jim DeMint.

In a state accustomed to senators like Strom Thurmond and Fritz Hollings serving decades in office, Scott has since been working to introduce himself to voters and bone up on issues in which he's had little experience, such as foreign policy and trade.

He's also been continually running for his own reelection. In 2014, Scott was elected to the remaining two years of DeMint's term, becoming the first black to win a statewide race in South Carolina since the Reconstruction era. Next year, he's on the ballot again, seeking a full, six-year term in a state where around 70 percent of registered voters are white.

Title: **Domestic violence ranking a grim reminder**
 Author: BECKY CALLAHAM, JANE LEWIS-RAYMOND AND ROB RHODES
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Domestic violence ranking a grim reminder

GUEST COLUMN

**BECKY CALLAHAM,
 JANE LEWIS-RAYMOND
 AND ROB RHODES**

South Carolina earned well-deserved praise earlier this year by enacting new laws aimed at stemming the tide of domestic violence against women, but a new ranking serves as a grim reminder there's so much left to be done to keep women safe in our state.

The state again ranks No. 1 in deadly violence against women — for the fourth time since the national Violence Policy Center began publishing the ranking 18 years ago. South Carolina ranked No. 2 last year and has been in the top 10 annually. Greenville County, sadly, has the highest incidence of domestic violence in South Carolina.

While Gov. Nikki Haley signed the Domestic Violence Bill into law in June to improve protections for victims and stiffen penalties for offenders and she has created the Domestic Violence Task Force, which is making dozens of

recommendations designed to improve victim services and make the system more victim-friendly, more can be done outside of Columbia.

To achieve the ultimate goal of ending the cycle of domestic violence, we need to work together to change the culture that has allowed violence against women to persist for so long. The good news is that this can happen, and a new effort is already un-

der way here in Greenville that illustrates the power of community partnerships.

On Aug. 13, 77 middle and high school counselors and administrators learned how to recognize and respond to signs of teen dating violence, all thanks to a partnership between Safe Harbor, Piedmont Natural Gas and Greenville County School District.

This training was part of the “Train the Trainer” pilot program funded by a grant from Piedmont.

Since then, this initial group has trained 265 teachers, and Greenville County Schools Superintendent Burke Royster has set a goal of having all faculty trained by the end of the school year.

The results have been positive, with many teachers learning for the first time about available resources such as

Safe Harbor’s Relationship Education Project (REP) program, which teaches students about healthy relationships. Since the training started, nine new Greenville County schools have brought REP programs to their students.

As one teacher put it: “The training is a great resource for the community and for young people.”

These community-level education and outreach efforts targeting youth are critical to breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

Replacing a culture of shameful complacency and silence with a culture of awareness and accountability requires an all-in effort from Gov. Haley and every conscientious adult in South Carolina.

One recommendation of the program would require state professional licensing boards to incorporate domestic violence training into their licensing procedures. Many professionals in health care and other occupations come into contact with victims, but most are not trained to help.

Think of the difference we could make if every teacher and school counselor — and thousands of licensed professionals — knew how to recognize and respond to signs of domestic violence with appropriate action.

All adults have a vital role to play in this culture shift. Parents must talk to their teenagers, their teenagers’ friends, and their friends’ teenagers — and have an open dialogue about healthy relationships. Never underestimate the value of having that conversation or your ability to impact the next generation. Victims often will seek a safe ear in a trusting adult.

So much more must be done to make South Carolina a place where women are safe. It’s a job we all need to own.

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Becky Callaham is executive director of Safe Harbor, a Greenville-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing domestic violence and helping victims. Jane Lewis-Raymond is senior vice president and chief legal, compliance and external relations officer of Piedmont Natural Gas. Rob Rhodes is director of school counseling services for Greenville County School District.



Title: **Flooding begins as rainramps up**
Author: BY ELIZABETH TOWNSEND AND CLAIRE BYUN etownsend@thesunnews.com, cbyun@thesunnews.com
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Flooding begins as rain ramps up

Hurricane Joaquin less of threat as storm likely stays out to sea, but rain from Joaquin still expected Sunday

Horry County opens emergency operations center, shelter for residents

BY ELIZABETH TOWNSEND AND CLAIRE BYUN

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Heavy rain flooded roads Friday evening and played havoc with weekend event schedules along the Grand Strand – and even more rain is on its way.

Though the Grand Strand will likely escape the storm threats from Hurricane Joaquin, the area will still get drenched this weekend with between 5 and 8 inches of rain from other pressure systems.

“The ground is already saturated in many locations. The potential for heavy rainfall, regardless if Joaquin stays off the coast is high. As a result, some areas may see life-threatening flooding develop through Sunday,” said Steve Pfaff, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C.

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch Friday through Monday morning for portions of northeast South Carolina and southeast North Carolina.

But some parts of the Grand Strand had all the rain they could take by Friday evening, with several roads flooded and shut down at

times, including Highway 57 at S.C. 9, Kings Road,

U.S. 17 northbound and Lake Arrowhead Road, according to the S.C. Highway Patrol.

Roads in and around North Myrtle Beach also were experi-

SEE JOAQUIN, 9A

FROM PAGE 1A

JOAQUIN

encing some flooding Friday evening, according to Pat Dowling, city spokesman. When roads flood, public works places high water signs, barricades where necessary, and police monitor as well, he said.

Some streets in Cherry Grove also were flooded;

that area has some of the lowest points in the city, Dowling said.

Officials warned motorists not to drive through any standing water as it could be deeper than it appears.

Pfaff said the Grand Strand will see rounds of heavy rainfall that could

total up to 2 inches per hour. He said as heavy patches of a rain swath over the area quickly drop those hazardous amounts, there will be breaks in the storm allowing the rain to taper off at times.

Officials predict rainfall totals to be around 5 to 8

inches, but Pfaff said some areas could easily see 10 to 15 inches through the weekend.

“The biggest threats to our area are the potential for flash floods and dangerous maritime conditions. All low-lying areas, areas prone to flooding, and communi-

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ties along the Waccamaw River should use extra caution and prepare for potential flooding," Horry County spokeswoman Lisa Bourcier said in a release Friday.

Pfaff said road washouts, river flooding, downed trees, power outages, and coastal flooding are all likely scenarios throughout the weekend.

Tropical storm-force wind probabilities have diminished, but forecasters said coastal areas in northeast South Carolina and southeast North Carolina could still get wind gusts of 30 to 35 miles per hour on the beaches.

Weather officials said the area could see a bit of a lull in the rain Saturday afternoon, but more rain will sweep across the area Sunday.

Pfaff said the rain Friday and Saturday is not from Hurricane Joaquin, but from moisture from pressure systems in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic

Ocean combining.

"We haven't really even tapped into Joaquin's moisture yet, but Sunday we will probably be connected to Joaquin," Pfaff said.

Even though Joaquin will likely be out to sea as it passes the Carolina coasts Sunday, moisture from the storm will still add to already-drenched areas.

Officials said Hurricane Joaquin has maintained its category 4 status and will most likely move northeast, taking it farther out to sea instead of turning toward the east coast as some earlier models showed.

On Friday, the storm was moving north from the Bahamas and was expected to move northwest then shift northeast, heading farther from coastal areas, weather officials said.

"Regardless of Joaquin's eventual track, periods of very heavy rainfall is expected to impact the area beginning through the weekend," Pfaff said.

Officials began preparing for the storm's impacts

Thursday, and Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency for South Carolina at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, which enables agencies to "better coordinate resources jointly and respond to requests for state assistance from county emergency managers," according to a release.

Emergency preparedness officials in Horry and Georgetown counties moved into OPCON 4 levels Thursday, meaning the counties are closely monitoring conditions, speaking with state and weather officials, and reviewing all operational plans.

Horry and Georgetown County officials said the areas will remain at OPCON 4 until Monday morning, and they are urging the public to be watchful for possible flooding throughout the weekend.

Residents in low-lying areas and along rivers

should take flood precautions, officials said. Even those not in areas prone to flooding should move plants inside so they don't get over saturated and move or cover outdoor furniture that can't handle heavy amounts of water, officials said.

County and city officials in the area all said they are continuing to monitor the storm closely.

Myrtle Beach spokesman Mark Kruea said people are tempted to go to the beaches and look at the water when storms are happening, but getting in the ocean is not a good idea because of rip currents.

"The combination of increasing wave action and water runoff may lead to beach erosion, and rip currents will also become elevated beginning this afternoon," Bourcier said Friday afternoon.

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Title: **Flooding begins as rainramps up**

Author: BY ELIZABETH TOWNSEND AND CLAIRE BYUN etownsend@thesunnews.com, cbyun@thesunnews.com

Size: 142.29 square inch

Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



JASON LEE jlee@thesunnews.com

Zack Johnson, Ethan Moore, and Dylan Dolittle, North Myrtle Beach High School students, wade down Ocean Boulevard near 14th Avenue South in North Myrtle Beach.



JANET BLACKMON MORGAN jblackmon@thesunnews.com

5 TO 8 INCHES

Rain expected along the Grand Strand this weekend

The beach shows signs of erosion in Garden City Beach on Friday.

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Mike Miller of Boone, N.C., laughs after his motorcycle makes it through the flood on Atlantic Avenue in Garden City Beach on Friday.

Title: **State emergency officials and power companies on alert**
 Author: From Staff Reports
 Size: 65.1 square inch
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



State emergency officials and power companies on alert

From Staff Reports

The state's emergency management hub is operating around the clock, preparing to send help to communities dealing with flash flooding and heavy rains.

Late Thursday, Gov. Nikki Haley declared a state of emergency in preparation for expected flooding and other impacts from Hurricane Joaquin and another storm over the Palmetto State.

The Management Divi-

sion, located in Pine Ridge, southwest of Columbia, will be staffed 24 hours a day until the severe weather passes. The agency is the state's command center, where state and federal agencies coordinate responses to severe weather incidents and disasters.

The governor urged residents in vulnerable areas to "review their plans." Residents and visitors should monitor the storm through news media and state agencies

online.

"We have already had one death associated with flooding in the Upstate," agency director Kim Stenson said Friday. "The heaviest rainfall is still to come."

— JAMIE SELF

NATIONAL GUARD PREPARED TO RESPOND

The S.C. National

SEE ALERT, 7A

FROM PAGE 3A

ALERT

Guard is working closely with the Emergency Management Division, sharing information about preparations and weather advisories, according to public affairs officer Lt. Col. Cindi King.

As of midday Friday, no Guard assets have been requested, King said.

"However, we are prepared to provide whatever assets are needed," she said. "Most important would be Army aviation helicopters and debris removal."

Among the assets available are: Bridging capabilities, a helicopter aquatic rescue team, airborne search and rescue, security and evacuation support, airborne transport and water purification.

In addition, a warning order has been issued to all Guard members to be

aware of the situation, and "those that have assets to be on standby," she said.

— JEFF WILKINSON

ELECTRIC UTILITIES ON CALL

SCE&G is in full preparation mode for whatever weather-related problems Hurricane Joaquin might present to customers, the utility said Friday.

Some power outages had already been reported on James Island, where saturated ground caused a tree to fall Thursday, knocking out power. Service was restored, said Ginny Jones, SCANA spokeswoman.

Extra equipment is ready to handle problems if outages occur, and extra personnel are also on standby, Jones said.

Floods don't necessarily cause power outages -

high winds are a more likely culprit - but the hurricane is an added factor to an already busy weather cycle, Jones said.

SCE&G is in touch with other utilities in the Southeast and is prepared to have more people come in to the area if needed, or to send SCE&G personnel to other areas that need help, Jones said.

The utility activated its Saluda Hydro plant on Lake Murray to lower the water level in preparation for the expected rainfall, Jones said.

The goal is to keep the water level under 360 feet. The company serves approximately 695,000 electric customers in South Carolina and approximately 1.3 million natural gas customers in South Carolina, North

Carolina and Georgia.

Duke Energy

The Charlotte utility is ready to respond, depending on what develops over the next few days, according to Ryan Mosier, Duke Energy spokesman in South Carolina. Duke Energy has utility customers in six states in the Southeast and Midwest, and serves 730,000 electric customers in South Carolina in the Upstate and Pee Dee regions.

Santee Cooper

The utility is in a heightened state of awareness, making sure all trucks are fully fueled and fully stocked with materials needed in the event of an outage or other circumstances, said Susan Mungo, Santee Cooper spokeswoman in Myrtle Beach.

The Myrtle Beach area

Title: **State emergency officials and power companies on alert**
Author: From Staff Reports
Size: 65.1 square inch
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

is not expected to take a direct hit from Hurricane Joaquin, but because the ground there is so saturated, falling trees could

bring down power lines and cause power outages. Santee Cooper serves 173,627 retail customers in Berkeley, Horry and

Georgetown counties. The company also supplies electricity to the state's 20 electric cooperatives, along with Bamberg,

Georgetown and Saluda counties.

— RODDIE BURRIS



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Staffers at the SC Emergency Management Division prepare Friday for the high rainfall and flooding forecast for South Carolina this weekend.

Title: **Flags lowered to honor slain officer**

Author:

Size: 6.66 square inch

Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Flags lowered to honor slain officer

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has ordered flags on state property to be flown at half-staff to honor the police officer who was shot and killed at a suburban mall. Haley also asked Friday that flags across the state be lowered today in memory of Forest Acres officer Greg Alia. His funeral is today in Columbia. The 32-year-old officer was fatally shot after responding to a report of a suspicious person at Richland Mall. Alia was a seven-year veteran of his small police force, a new father and a lifelong resident of the Columbia area. The State Law Enforcement Division has charged 34-year-old Jarvis Hall with murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. — AP

Title: **Much more rain to come for the Upstate**
 Author: STAFF REPORTS
 Size: 38.90 square inch
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Much more rain to come for the Upstate

Most of state on flash flood watch into Monday

STAFF REPORTS

South Carolina emergency preparedness officials stepped up the state of readiness on Friday as flood warnings extended across the state in anticipation of historic and potentially deadly rainfall amounts over the weekend.

Friday afternoon South Carolina emergency preparedness officials raised the operational condition to Level 3, meaning a disaster or emergency situation was likely. Gov. Nikki Haley had declared a state of emergency on Thursday in preparation for the impact of Hurricane Joaquin and another storm moving

slowly over the state.

Rain fell across the Upstate throughout the day and into the night on Friday with the forecast for continued precipitation through the weekend and into Monday.

The National Weather Service office in Greer scaled back earlier forecasts but continued to warn of occasional heavy rains Friday night and through the day Saturday resulting in significant flooding along creeks and streams. They predicted rainfall amounts of five to 10 inches or more across the region between Friday and Sunday.

The Upstate and most of South Carolina continued under a flash flood watch until 8 a.m. Monday. With rainfall totals expected to reach double digits, the weekend is expected to turn into a "historic and potentially life-threatening rainfall event," according to the National Weather Service.

Heavy rain and the potential for flash flooding canceled or postponed weekend events across the region. Among them: Greer's Oktoberfest, canceled

See RAIN, Page 4A

Rain

Continued from Page 1A

for the first time in its 10-year history, and Spartanburg's FestiFall. Among the rescheduled events was Fountain Inn's Aunt Het festival, which was postponed to Saturday, Oct. 10.

You can find a full list of events affected on GreenvilleOnline.com.

As of Friday evening, Greenville was expecting as much as 9.41 inches of rain through Monday morning. Spartanburg could get as much as 8.83 inches and Clemson 9.33 inches.

A wind advisory also went into effect for the Upstate until 8 p.m. Sunday, raising fears of downed trees and power lines due to the ground saturated by rain.

Friday morning, the weather service issued a flood warning for the Saluda Riv-

er at West Pelzer, affecting Anderson and Greenville counties, as well as the Saluda River near Greenville, affecting Greenville and Pickens counties.

The Saluda River levels near Greenville north of Old Easley Road measured 4.29 feet at 5:45 p.m. Friday, and was projected to hit 12.7 feet by Sunday morning, or more than three feet above flood stage, according to the weather service.

Brushy Creek near Old Spartanburg Road measured 3.44 feet Friday morning before falling below 2 feet Friday evening, well below a flood stage of 10 feet.

The rain is blamed on a slowly moving upper level low pressure system hovering over the Southeast that was interacting with tropical moisture from Hurricane Joaquin off the Atlantic

Coast. The latest tracking for Joaquin projected the storm will stay offshore as it moves north.

Though not expected to make landfall in the United States, forecasters warned that the risk to lives and property remained high and state officials up the Atlantic seaboard were taking no chances. In addition to South Carolina, states of emergency were declared in Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina and Maryland.

Saturday's forecast called for rain before 3 p.m. in Greenville followed by showers, heavy at times, with a total of three to four inches. Another inch or two is expected to fall Saturday night, followed by more rain on Sunday.

The first dry day in the forecast for Greenville is on Tuesday when it's expected to be mostly sunny with highs near 76.