

Title: **The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it**  
 Author:  
 Size: 61.38 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



**CINDI ROSS SCOPPE**  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
**THE STATE**

## *The deluge touched us all, even if we escaped the worst of it*

**T**HE RAINWATER pooled on my front sidewalk Sunday morning, just as it does every time we get a heavy rain. Two miles away, it swallowed up entire cars, collapsed buildings, flooded businesses and took at least one life.

A friend had to escape through a window as the raging storm water overtook his SUV. I had to drive slowly when I ventured out of the house Sunday afternoon.

My water went out, which presents all sorts of problems that you never think of until it happens — but which is a minor inconvenience compared with what so many of my neighbors down the street, across the Midlands and throughout South Carolina are enduring. I wasn't flooded out of my home, wasn't trapped in surging water, didn't have to be rescued by our amazing first responders or forced to seek shelter with friends or strangers. As so many were.

This is the story that has repeated across our state, as elevation and wind direction and even luck — did an earthen dam near your home or business breach, or remain intact? — determined the degree of damage. The storm that swamped South Carolina over the weekend was so massive that each of

us knows someone who is suffering. The storm was so massive that all of us were touched in some way, even if just by the inconvenience of having to keep the kids home from schools that are closed, or the prospect of

the state's dialogue being overtaken by its aftermath.

Most of us were spared the life-changing toll a storm of this magnitude can take. Is taking.

For this, I offer up my prayers of thanks. For those not so fortunate, I offer up my prayers of intercession.

As should we all.

And we all should offer up our assistance. We should check on our neighbors. We should reach out to those in need — even if we offer them nothing more than a friendly ear and opened arms. If we have time, we should volunteer to help the United Way or the Red Cross or other service organizations that are trying to help people survive from one day to the next and then start putting their lives back together. Money probably wouldn't hurt, if you want to send a check to the United Way or the Central Carolina Community Foundation. I'm sure Harvest Hope and the other food banks around the state would be happy to accept your monetary or food donations.

The worst may be over; it may

not be. Flooding will continue as rivers crest and overflow their banks from the mountains to the coast. More victims may be discovered as the flood waters recede and as rescuers and neighbors are able to venture into homes that were flooded. We have not yet begun to count the damage to private and public property, or to our infrastructure. More dams may breach, more bridges may collapse, more roads may disintegrate as the rain continues, as the rivers crest, as the traffic rolls back over water-weakened asphalt.

Our local and state leaders will be tested — are being tested — by the storm. There will be time to assess their performance. There will be time to consider what, if anything, we could have done differently to make this less devastating: Would better maintained bridges and roads have survived the storm? In Columbia, the same question can be asked of a water system whose funding has been diverted to frivolities. Would more conservative zoning have kept homes and businesses out of harm's way? Do we have, and enforce, adequate dam-safety regulations? Or was this deluge just too overwhelming for even the best public policy to make a difference?

For now, we can be grateful to

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the first responders who put their own lives at risk to save so many others over the weekend. Who are still out there, still saving lives. We can be grateful for the good Samaritans who added their assistance, not because it was their job but because it was their calling. We can be grateful to the public officials, from Gov. Nikki Haley and Adjutant General Bob Livingston to sheriffs and police chiefs and mayors and council members and city managers, who offered calm but firm warnings, who put in place curfews

and called on schools and businesses to close in order to, in Gov. Haley's words, "give us the space that we need" to begin to put the state back together.

And we can remember to practice patience.

The recovery will not be quick. Roads and bridges will take weeks or months to repair. Some homes and businesses will take longer — if they can even be salvaged. People who have been uprooted will not find normalcy soon, and the displacement will disrupt their entire lives, exacting a tremendous emotional toll. Those of us

who have been merely inconvenienced can quickly forget that we were fortunate, that the damage was tremendous, that the suffering continues and that there is so much work to be done, for individuals and for our communities.

Be kind. Be careful. Be helpful. And do unto others as you would have them do unto you. We are one family. Together, we will recover.

*Ms. Scoppe can be reached at [cscoppe@thestate.com](mailto:cscoppe@thestate.com) or at (803) 771-8571.*

**“**  
**THERE WILL BE TIME TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR LEADERS AND OUR POLICIES. FOR NOW, WE CAN BE GRATEFUL.**



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 Title: **Haley should have led on infrastructure**

Author:

Size: 7.13 square inch

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



### **Haley should have led on infrastructure**

Gov. Nikki Haley continues to lead from the rear, whether it's not taking a stand on the removal of the Confederate flag until she saw the winds of change coming or her refusal to accept federal Medicaid funds (anything related to Obama must be bad) or her refusal to address the crumbling infrastructure (lord forbid we raise gas tax by even 1 cent per gallon) that might knock her out of favor with the far right.

This state voted for her, and we got what we deserved. South Carolina should serve as an example to other states to address their infrastructure problems, as now we'll need federal funds after all.

- Tommy Trammell  
Columbia

Title: **SClawmakers weigh session on flood aid**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
 Size: 44.79 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



## THE BUZZ

# SC lawmakers weigh session on flood aid

BY ANDREW SHAIN  
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No one is willing yet to put a price tag on damages from last week's historic rainstorm in South Carolina. But some state lawmakers are talking about asking to reconvene the General Assembly to discuss paying for flood recovery.

State Reps. Rick Quinn, R-Lexington, and James Smith, D-Richland, say they have started putting together a plan to issue bonds to fix roads and use new tax revenue to help cover costs for people who don't have enough money to rebuild their homes.

"We're a long way from be-

ing out of the woods," Quinn said.

The General Assembly could meet in an emergency session before January to consider the plan once it is finalized, said Quinn and Smith, whose districts were hit hard by the storm.

Discussions are in the early stages, but the lawmakers said they hope to use \$500 million

to \$700 million in additional anticipated state tax revenue. Some of that money could be used for a Superstorm Sandy-style fund to provide money to homeowners when federal

disaster-relief and insurance payments don't cover the costs of their damages.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration pays a maximum of \$33,000 for disaster claims. In many cases, that won't be nearly enough to rebuild. A majority of people who lost homes in the storm did not have flood insurance, Smith said.

"Because of the nature of the disaster, we have found us in a place where we're going to need a plan to do more," he said. "It's the sensible, responsible thing to do. It's going to

be a greater cost to us if we don't help."

The state already has at least \$131.4 million in extra revenue for next year's budget, according to the S.C. Board of Economic Advisors.

But the state's tax revenues will take a hit because of the rainstorm and flooding that temporarily shut down Columbia and other parts of the state and disrupted Charleston.

The other part of the Smith-Quinn plan - borrowing money to fix and replace more than

**SEE BUZZ, 9A**

## FROM PAGE 3A

## BUZZ

500 damaged roads and bridges - also could meet some resistance.

Lawmakers have not been eager to borrow money recently.

Plans to issue up to \$500 million in bonds for college buildings, job-training centers, economic-development projects and state armories failed during the last session.

But that was before the once-in-a-1,000-year storm that dumped up to two feet of rain on parts of the state.

"If we can hand out money to Boeing (for economic incentives), we can lay out for people who are really hurting now," Quinn said.

Quinn and Smith don't have a dollar figure yet.

To help determine that, Quinn said lawmakers could reconvene to provide

money to Gov. Nikki Haley's office to complete damage assessments. Haley and the Legislature could use those assessments to draw up funding plans.

In an emergency session, lawmakers also could discuss budgeting more money to help with dam safety, Quinn said. In the storm, at least 20 neighborhood dams failed statewide, including more than a dozen in Richland County. Some of the dam breaks caused massive damage.

The state spent less than \$200,000 on dam safety in 2013. South Carolina has more than 2,400 regulated dams.

Authority to restart the legislative session lies with Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, and House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington.

More financial help for thousands of S.C. flood victims also could come from Congress, which approved \$60 billion in aid after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, said Friday he plans to seek additional federal money. More than 31,000 South Carolinians already have registered for financial help from FEMA.

During a stop in Charleston on Friday, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-North Charleston, said he also expects a relief plan to come out of Congress. Scott and six other Republicans in the state's congressional delegation voted against aid after Sandy.

For now, state and federal authorities are continuing to try to figure out how much repairing the state will cost.



Title: **FLOOD UPDATES**  
 Author:  
 Size: 52.54 square inch  
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## FLOOD UPDATES

**At THESTATE.COM:** Closures and cancellations, how to help, where to get your tetanus shot and a list of bottled water and water filling stations. Plus, see a story, photos and a video: Gov. Nikki Haley and her family volunteered Saturday at Harvest Hope.

### STATE FAIR

State health regulators are working with the management of the State Fair to ensure they have everything they need to open, Robert Yanity, of DHEC's office of media relations office, said Saturday.

The State Fair is set to open at noon Wednesday. In recent years, nearly a half-million visitors attended over 12 days.

Temporary food establishments, like other retail food establishments, can operate under a boil water advisory if they follow emergency guidance and procedures, Yanity said. He said if the fairgrounds didn't have access to city water, they would have to find another source.

### MORE OF I-95 CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley had no new word of road repairs Sat-

urday after the historic rain storm that struck the state a week ago. Assessments of damage continue, she said.

Almost 340 roads and bridges remain closed statewide. About one-third are in Richland County.

A 16-mile stretch in Clarendon County, from exit 119 near Manning to exit 135 near Turbeville, is shut down in both directions while bridge pilings are repaired. Thirteen miles, not 16, have been closed the past few days.

**SEE UPDATES, 7A**

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## UPDATES

### WETTEST OCTOBER

From 1 to 3 inches of rain fell in Richland County on Saturday. Creeks and dams were monitored, and minor flooding was reported. The water has started to recede, county officials said. The rain moved into Lexington County in the evening, with minor flooding expected.

Just before midday Saturday, this month became the wettest October on record in Columbia. And Saturday was only the 10th day of the month. Here's the rundown: 2015: 12.59 inches; 1959: 12.09 inches; 1990: 11.66 inches; 1964: 10.34 inches; 1985: 8.44 inches.

### HOSPITAL NEWS

The water at Palmetto Health Richland and Palmetto Health

Children's Hospital is drinkable, the hospital system said Saturday evening after tests confirmed their alternate water supply is clean.

The water supply, managed by the Army National Guard, will be in place until the city has removed the boil water advisory. The hospitals still are

using city-supplied water for non-patient-focused needs, such as air conditioning and certain equipment.

Friday night, Palmetto Health Baptist similarly replaced its water supply used for patient care. Water will be used without boiling after testing determines it is drinkable.

In northwest Richland County, the city of Columbia boil water advisory was lifted Saturday for Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge. Water will be tested for 24 hours before being used without boiling.

### MAN ARRESTED IN HIT-AND-RUN

A man accused of hitting an S.C. guardsman with his vehicle while leaving a Shop Road food bank on Friday has been arrested.

Charles Kauffman, 71, was charged with attempted murder and committing illegal acts during a state of emergency, according to the Richland County Sheriff's Department. He was a volunteer at Harvest Hope, where the incident took place, and had just ended his shift, Sheriff Leon Lott said in a morn-

ing news briefing.

Kauffman was arrested at his home, Lott said. The sheriff said the driver deliberately hit Bob Kuenzle, who was directing traffic during an emergency food-and-water distribution.

Kuenzle's injuries were not life-threatening, Lott said. He was treated at Dorn Medical Center, he said, and is resting at home.

### DEATH TOLL RISES

Gov. Nikki Haley said two more victims died in incidents related to the storm, bringing the statewide total to 19.

The state did not release details about the latest deaths.

### CURFEWS, LOOTING

Curfews continue from midnight through 6 a.m. in Richland County and the city of Columbia.

Meanwhile, the number of arrests for looting during an emergency is up to six. All have been in the South Beltline Boulevard area.

### IN RICHLAND COUNTY

**County shelters:** 100 people are in Richland County shelters.

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The county will be closing its shelters and moving the remaining people to two new locations: Temple Baptist Church, at 806 Universal Drive, and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, at 6952 St. Andrews Road.

**911 tally:** 1,295 total 911 calls for all agencies in the past 24

hours, as of mid-morning Saturday.

**Animals:** Report dead or sick animals at (803) 929-6000.

#### **IN COLUMBIA**

**Debris:** 677 tons of debris have been hauled away

**Policing help:** About 150 extra law enforcement officers

have pitched in from as far away as Oconee County, many assigned to water distribution locations. Seven agencies provided officers for security patrols.

**911 tally:** The number of calls for service dropped to 1,528 Friday, the lowest since flooding began on Sunday.

Title: **Authorities: Extra rain may slow receding river levels**  
 Author: BY DEANNA PAN dpan@postandcourier.com  
 Size: 51.61 square inch  
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



# Authorities: Extra rain may slow receding river levels

BY DEANNA PAN  
 dpan@postandcourier.com

Roughly an inch rainfall over the Lowcountry Saturday won't contribute to any additional significant flooding, but it may slow receding river levels, according to forecasters at the National Weather Service.

"Locally, we might have some streams that filled up this afternoon, but since it was such a quick-moving rain, it's not posing any substantial threats at this point," said meteorologist Carl Barnes of the Weather Service's Charleston office.

The majority of the Lowcountry received just under an inch of rainfall, he said, with some areas recording nearly 2 inches by the day's end.

Flood warnings are expected to remain in effect for Charleston and Dorchester counties until 2 p.m. Sunday, as the Edisto River — and the creeks and streams feeding into it — overflows. Summerville, Slands Bridge, Dorchester,

Hollywood and Ravenel will likely experience flooding, according to the Weather Service.

While flooding in the Charleston area has largely subsided as the water levels in

the Ashley River receded, communities along the Edisto and Santee are still soaked.

The Edisto at Givhans Ferry entered a major flood stage Thursday, cresting at 16.06 feet. The river inundated the entire plain between Canadys and Norman Landing, and is slowly receding. Barnes said the Edisto likely won't drop below major flood stage until sometime Tuesday morning.

"It will probably be a week or so before it drops below flood level," he added.

On the Santee River, "the worst is coming tonight,"

Barnes said Saturday. Forecasters expected the slowly rising Santee River at Jamestown, in a moderate flood stage Saturday, to swell to a major flood stage overnight or early Sunday at 22.4 feet, inundating numerous homes in the area.

At a news conference, Gov. Nikki Haley urged drivers to stay off the roads.

"And no sightseers on the water," she added.

Nineteen people have died so far in the aftermath of South Carolina's historic flood. Nearly 500 people are in shelters. Across the state, 336 roads are

closed, including 105 bridges. Twenty dams have burst with another 100 being monitored.

About 13 miles of Interstate 95, one of the East Coast's main highways linking Maine to Florida, remains closed, forcing long-distance travelers to take a 168-mile detour through Columbia.

There was no estimate when that stretch of interstate, which normally carries an average of 30,000 vehicles a day, could reopen.

The worst of the coastal area's flooding appeared to be over after the Black River crested overnight Saturday and water levels dropped 5 inches, Georgetown County spokeswoman Jackie Broach said. The nearby Waccamaw River crested Friday and began to recede.

Saturday's rainfall brought October's total precipitation in the state capital to 12.75 inches — breaking the previous record of 12 inches in 1959 — with 21 days left in the month, the National Weather Service said.

Columbia had gotten 1.25 inches of rain between midnight and mid-afternoon Saturday, Weather Service spokes-

man Al Moore said, with up to 2 inches in the western Piedmont. More showers were expected overnight, he said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved \$7 million in disaster assistance to flood victims, Haley said — a number she expects will grow.

Kim Stenson, the director of the S.C. Emergency Management Division, noted that rescue operations and extractions from homes "have slowed down significantly in last 24 hours."

"There is a day after today and a month from now, we will be better," Haley said. "We will get through this."

More rain is expected Sunday, with the day's forecast calling for mostly cloudy skies. A 40 percent chance of showers is expected during the day with a 20 percent chance of rain at night, heading into Monday.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Disaster aid

Storm victims can apply for FEMA disaster aid at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362.

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Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



PAUL ZOELLER/STAFF

**Members of the North Charleston Fire Department go door to door ensuring homes are safe to enter as families return to their homes Wednesday after waters receded in the Peppermill neighborhood.**

Title: **Suspended Dorchester County coroner to face GOP primary challenger**  
 Author:  
 Size: 102.61 square inch  
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



# Suspended Dorchester County coroner to face GOP primary challenger

**S**uspended Dorchester County Coroner **Chris Nisbet's** political future looks murky, and there's growing evidence he'll be challenged for re-election no matter what happens.

Former S.C. Highway Patrol trooper **Paul Brouthers** said last week that he plans to run for the office as a Republican.

Brouthers, of Summerville, served 28 years in the patrol, and is a licensed funeral director and embalmer. He said he was looking at running for the office long before Nisbet got

into trouble.

Nisbet, the coroner for the past two decades, was suspended from office earlier this month after he was indicted on a misconduct charge in a racially charged confrontation with a black neighbor in August. Nisbet, who is white, had been drinking when he chased down **Leroy Fulton**, the black neighbor he suspected of pointing a gun at a repo man. He cornered Fulton with his county SUV and pulled out a pistol, holding the man until Summerville police officers arrived.

Nisbet used racial epithets during the confrontation, a transcript of a 911 call revealed.

An executive order by Gov.

**Nikki Haley** said a grand jury had charged Nisbet, also a Republican, "for willingly and unlawfully breaching his duty of accountability to the public" and "for misusing his office to effect an unlawful arrest of a private citizen."

The suspension will remain in effect unless he is cleared of the charge. A special election could be held if Nisbet were to resign. Otherwise, filing for the seat opens in March.

## Massive GOP shindig in works

Local Republicans may have lost out on hosting a televised debate of the GOP presidential hopefuls to Greenville, but leaders from Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties are working on an alternative.

What's being envisioned is a joint fundraiser-dinner to be held Feb. 15 on Presidents Day — two days after the presidential debate in Greenville and five days before the South Carolina presidential primary — that would benefit all three county parties at once.

The target site is the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston, and all the Republican presidential primary candidates will be invited.

Charleston County GOP Chairman **Larry Kobrovsky** said the rally would be a move to return focus to the Lowcountry. "We were all disappointed to lose the debate to

Greenville, but this will be a great opportunity to see all of the candidates for one last time," he said.

The Charleston GOP is scheduled to discuss the event at its meeting Monday night.

## Bush may get some brotherly love

Political chatter is growing that former President **George W. Bush** may come out of retirement to campaign in South Carolina on behalf of his brother Jeb in the GOP White House race.

The Bush dynasty has mostly fared well among South Carolina Republicans in past elections and appearances, but **Jeb Bush's** poll numbers are lagging here to front-runner Donald Trump, and he isn't making inroads with some of the state's diehard activists.

Still, during an appearance in Mount Pleasant last month, the former Florida governor guaranteed he would win the S.C. GOP presidential primary Feb. 20, "take it to the bank."

**Jim Dyke**, one local Jeb Bush supporter, was roundabout to the prospects of seeing the ex-president appearing in the state soon.

"Jeb has a plan to cut taxes, school choice, (and) cut spending, so it's a high bar to create more excitement at a closing campaign rally," he said. "But Pres. G.W. Bush could do it."

## A South Carolina Speaker?

The shake-up in the race for the next U.S. Speaker of the House continues to ripple, and while there's growing evidence that Rep. and former vice presidential candidate **Paul Ryan** is in the lead, the behind-the-scenes jockeying isn't over.

The New York Times speculated about seven possible speaker candidates, including Ryan and outgoing Speaker **John Boehner**.

One was from South Carolina: Rep. **Trey Gowdy**, whose district includes Greenville and Spartanburg.

The paper summed him up like this: "Advantages: A seasoned, smooth-talking former prosecutor, Mr. Gowdy is well-liked by many of the conservatives who helped cause Mr. Boehner's ouster. Mr. Gowdy's profile has risen as he has led the House investigation into the Benghazi attack.

"Disadvantages: He is only in his third term and would be the least experienced speaker in modern history. He does not want the job, but he may be persuaded."

## First Charleston mayoral debate

Candidates in the Charleston mayoral race will have their first debate from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Sottile Theatre, 44 George St.,

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on the College of Charleston campus.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the event, which is sponsored by the college and ABC News 4.

Candidates will be asked to respond to questions on a range of topics from education to infrastructure and urban planning. The final half-hour of the debate is reserved for questions from the audience.

Dozens of forums have been held so far, but this marks the first debate among the six candidates: Ginny Deerin, William Dudley Gregorie, Toby Smith, Leon Stavrinakis, John Tecklenburg and Maurice Washington.

The event is part of the college's Bully Pulpit series, which encourages and facilitates political participa-

tion throughout the campus community by providing a platform for dialogue with our nation's leaders.

### **Presidential visits this week**

Former New York Gov. **George Pataki's planned town hall Friday** with U.S. Sen. **Tim Scott** in Bluffton has

been called off.

Compiled by reporter **Schuyler Kropf**.

### **\* Palmetto Politics**

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**Nisbet**

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## How your U.S. lawmakers voted

Y - Voted yes  
 N - Voted no  
 O - Did not vote

# SOUTH CAROLINA Tally

For the week ending Oct. 9

By Thomas Voting Reports, Inc.

	Rep. Mark Sanford, R-1	Rep. Joe Wilson, R-2	Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-3	Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-4	Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-5	Rep. James Clyburn, D-6	Rep. Tom Rice, R-7	Sen. Lindsey Graham, R	Sen. Tim Scott, R	
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				<p><b>Benghazi Probe:</b> The House voted, 240-183, to stand by its Select Committee on Benghazi despite comments by Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy that the GOP is using it to lower Democrat Hillary Clinton's presidential poll numbers. A yes vote opposed a Democratic bid to abolish the panel.</p>
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				<p><b>Planned Parenthood:</b> The House created, 242-184, a select committee to pursue GOP charges that Planned Parenthood has engaged in misconduct or illegality in performing abortions and supplying fetal tissue to medical research. A yes vote was to launch the panel. (H Res 461)</p>
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				<p><b>Grace Period For Lenders:</b> The House approved, 303-121, a four-month period in which home-mortgage lenders could not be faulted for violating a new consumer rule to simplify home-buying. Critics said the bill undercuts one's right to sue errant lenders. A yes vote backed HR 3192.</p>
N	N	N	N	N	Y	N				<p><b>Seniors, Military Personnel:</b> The House defeated, 185-240, an attempt by Democrats to exempt home-mortgage loans obtained by seniors, students, veterans and active-duty military personnel from the provisions of HR 3192 (above). A yes vote was to adopt the Democratic motion.</p>
					O	Y				<p><b>2016 Military Budget:</b> The Senate approved, 70-27, the conference report on a bill authorizing \$604.2 billion for the U.S. military in fiscal 2016. Democrats faulted the bill over its shift of \$38 billion in routine military spending to a war fund so as to evade sequester spending caps. (HR 1735)</p>
Y	O	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				<p><b>Gun Background Checks:</b> The House blocked, 244-183, a parliamentary tactic by Democrats to bring to the floor a bill now stranded in two committees that would expand criminal background checks on commercial gun sales. A yes vote was to keep the bill (HR 1217) off the House floor.</p>
O	O	Y	Y	Y	O	N				<p><b>Ending Oil-Export Ban:</b> The House voted, 261-159, to end a ban on the export of domestically drilled crude oil that was enacted in 1975 to secure American energy independence, but which foes say is outdated given rising oil production in the U.S. A yes vote was to send HR 702 to the Senate.</p>
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				<p><b>Drilling on Tribal Lands:</b> The House voted, 254-187, to clear the way for oil and gas drilling on Native American and Alaska Native lands by steps such as limiting court reviews of energy projects and waiving certain environmental rules. A yes vote was to send the bill (HR 538) to the Senate.</p>
					O	O				<p><b>Energy, Water Budget:</b> The Senate failed, 49-47, to reach 60 votes for advancing a bill to appropriate \$35.4 billion for energy, water and nuclear programs in fiscal 2016. A yes vote backed the bill over Democratic complaints that GOP leaders favor caps on domestic but not defense spending.</p>

**KEY VOTES AHEAD**  
 ■ Both chambers are in recess in the week of Oct. 12. The House schedule for the week of Oct. 19 is yet to be announced, while the Senate that week will take up a bill dealing with sanctuary cities and other areas of immigration enforcement.

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Title: **Santee Cooper casts a shadow on solar**  
 Author: BY HAMILTON DAVIS  
 Size: 57.97 square inch  
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



# Santee Cooper casts a shadow on solar

BY HAMILTON DAVIS

As the rest of South Carolina and the country move forward with increased solar power opportunities for home and business owners, Santee Cooper staff have proposed to snuff out rooftop solar as an option for their customers.

On Friday (Oct. 16) on Pawleys Island, the Santee Cooper Board of Directors will hold a public meeting regarding this staff proposal that would penalize home and business owners that invest in rooftop solar.

South Carolinians served by Duke Energy and SCE&G are having a different experience. Recent state legislation (Act 236) and a variety of utility programs are vastly expanding solar access for Duke Energy and SCE&G customers. Act 236 was unanimously passed by the state Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Nikki Haley in 2014.

In contrast to these private utilities, Santee Cooper, a public agency owned by the people of South Carolina, proposes to add new charges that will make solar prohibitively expensive.

The proposal is problematic in two major ways.

First, Santee Cooper wants to charge extra fees to those who reduce consumption by going solar. Under this proposal, customers that install solar panels would be required to pay fees that other customers don't pay. The flawed justification for these fees is that rooftop solar reduces the amount of electricity purchased from Santee Cooper, thus it claims a right to charge you for using less power. This is like fining customers who install energy efficient appliances in their homes or businesses.

Second, the proposal fails to account for the value of rooftop solar and would not fully credit customers for the solar power that they generate. Private utilities in South Carolina are now required to quantify the value of rooftop

solar through a comprehensive benefit-cost analysis and they fully credit solar power at the retail electricity rate. Santee Cooper has failed to conduct a comparable analysis, and this proposal significantly undervalues rooftop solar as a result.

Act 236 was adopted to ensure that South Carolina, a state with the country's 10th best solar resource, keeps pace with the rest of the nation. It was also intended to open the way for solar leasing, which allows customers to install solar panels without upfront costs and start saving money on electricity bills from day one. Leasing is a great way to quickly ramp up solar and make it available to a wide variety of customers.

By contrast, the Santee Cooper proposal would make solar leasing a non-starter for their customers.

Decisive board action in rejecting this proposal is particularly important given that Santee Cooper's rates are now going up to pay for new nuclear reactors that won't be producing power for another five years. Those reactors are significantly behind schedule, substantially over budget, and now estimated to cost over \$11 billion. Today's customers are paying for future power plants that may never even benefit them. But like energy efficiency, solar allows customers to reduce the impact of increasing rates on their monthly power bills. That is something to be encouraged, not punished. Reduced customer choice in the face of rising electricity rates is simply bad policy.

Ultimately, Santee Cooper's staff is flouting an approach to solar that Gov. Haley and the state Legislature have laid out for South Carolina. The Santee Cooper Board can and should reject this proposal, but they will need to hear from the public about why their customers should have the same access to solar as other utility customers across the state.

The board will hear public comments beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 at 41 St. Paul Place on Pawleys Island.

**Hamilton Davis** is the energy and climate director of the Coastal Conservation League.



Davis

Title: **Santee Cooper casts a shadow on solar**  
Author: BY HAMILTON DAVIS  
Size: 57.97 square inch  
Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



DAVID QUICK/FILE

**A worker for a local company installs a solar panel to the rooftop of a home in Mount Pleasant in August.**

Title: **Floods leave shared sense of memories lost**  
 Author: By JAY REEVES and JULIET LINDERMAN  
 Size: 80.44 square inch  
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



# Floods leave shared sense of memories lost

By JAY REEVES

and JULIET LINDERMAN

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gills Creek flows past the Columbia Ballet School, and, a few miles downstream, a shop where people can pawn car titles to pay monthly bills. It fills lakes ringed with stately, white-columned homes worth nearly \$1 million and snakes by a working-class apartment complex where locals say it's best to leave before dark.

Over the past week, as the water rose after days of unrelenting rain in the heart of South Carolina, the creek spilled misery and pain on rich and poor alike, robbing both of the things most precious to them.

The once-a-millennium storm and mammoth flood that rolled in on a Sunday have further tested a state that has endured a year filled with more than its fair share of trauma: Back in April, a day before Easter, a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black man in the back in North Charleston. In June, police said, a white man gunned down nine black church members in Charleston. The state was roiled for 23 more days before lawmakers removed the Confederate flag that had flown for 50 years outside the Statehouse.

Then, just as things calmed down, rains of biblical proportion began to fall.

Gills Creek spans 70 miles across Richland County and connects a network of lakes like a string of pearls. It is the

main artery of a watershed that includes more than 45,000 acres and 100 ponds and lakes on the eastern side of Columbia. Many of

the area's 140,000 residents live in spacious, ranch-style homes that surround more than a dozen of the largest lakes, all of them created by modest dams.

"We have no natural lakes in South Carolina. Every single one is man-made," said Derrec Becker, spokesman for the Emergency Management Division. "And when the water rises, it has to go somewhere."

At least 17 dams failed or were breached, and dozens more are still being monitored. Those breaches and failures, on lakes that feed into each other and into Gills Creek, caused a chain reaction downstream.

Stephen Marshall was swept away by the floodwaters Sunday morning while trying to reach his 85-year-old neighbor — later rescued by her son-in-law — and clung to a tree until a firefighter scooped him up.

By Thursday, Marshall had almost completely emptied his waterlogged belongings onto the lawn, where they were picked up by a garbage truck and hauled away.

Inside his den, the leather mask his father wore while umpiring high school baseball was saved, stashed on a shelf 6 inches from the 6-foot water line. His father, who died 15

years ago, had also given him a ball signed by Hank Aaron he'd snagged while working as a ticket-taker for the now defunct Greenwood Braves, and that too survived.

But Marshall's eyes welled up as he looked at binders and boxes full of baseball cards, sopping wet.

"It sounds trivial, but it's something I started as a kid. We collected baseball cards and I've had them since I was a child," Marshall said. "Stuff is stuff. A mattress, an HDTV, that means nothing to me. But it's the emotional attachment. Those memories. They're gone."

## RECOVERY CENTERS

Two disaster recovery centers are open in the Columbia area to help flood survivors who need money to pay rent and make essential home repairs.

The centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Richland Library Southeast in Columbia and Richland Library Eastover in Eastover.

## THEFT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

South Carolina law officers say they're making arrests to stave off opportunistic criminals taking advantage of the suffering left by the state's flooding emergency.

Police in Sumter say they're looking for a

48-year-old Lexington man who promised to do \$2,000 worth of repair work, cashed an upfront check and disappeared.

The Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott says looters who are caught will be charged with a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Lott says a curfew remained in effect for the entire Columbia area between midnight and 6 a.m. today.

## GET INVOLVED

The United Way of South Carolina is organizing volunteers willing to pitch in and help flooding victims clean debris and ruined possessions from their flooded homes.

Volunteers can register at [getconnected.uwasc.org/drm](http://getconnected.uwasc.org/drm).

## MORE RAIN

Thunder, lightning and a couple of inches of extra rain spread across storm-torn Columbia on Saturday. While smaller creeks were likely to swell again, the precipitation wasn't expected to add to the flooding of major rivers and lakes, Gov. Nikki Haley said.

The flooding has caused 20 dams to burst and nearly 100 more are being monitored to make sure they hold, Haley said.

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**STILL CAN'T MOVE**

About 13 miles of Interstate 95 remained closed, forcing long-distance travelers to take a 168-mile detour through Columbia.

There was no estimate when the stretch of interstate, which normally carries an average of 30,000 vehicles a day, could reopen. In the meantime, travelers who would normally drive 74 miles between Interstate 26 to Interstate 20 must take a 168-mile detour.



JASON LEE • The Sun News via AP

**Arthur Holmes and Carnell Linen row a boat Friday to get items from a flooded home in the Dunbar community of Georgetown. A week after the heavy rains first began, some South Carolina residents are still evacuating and others are stacking up sandbags for more possible flooding even as the nation's top security official prepares to inspect the damage firsthand.**

Title: **More rain a setback for wet state cleaning up flooding damage**  
 Author: Associated Press  
 Size: 37.82 square inch  
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



# More rain a setback for wet state cleaning up flooding damage

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Heavy rain returned to parts of South Carolina on Saturday as thousands continued digging out and cleaning up from last weekend's deluge that left behind disastrous flooding. Here's a look at developments Saturday in the still-evolving disaster:

## More rain

Thunder, lightning and a couple of inches of extra rain spread across storm-torn Columbia. While smaller creeks were likely to swell again, the precipitation wasn't expected to add to the flooding of major rivers and lakes, Gov. Nikki Haley said.

"It's an anthill compared to what we've been through," she said.

The flooding has caused 20 dams to burst and nearly 100 more are being monitored to make sure they hold, Haley said.

Saturday's rainfall brought October's total precipitation in the capital to 12.75 inches — breaking the previous record of 12 inches in 1959 — with 21 days left in the month, the National Weather Service said.

The city had gotten 1.25 inches of rain between midnight and mid-afternoon Saturday, weather service spokesman Al Moore said, with up to 2 inches in the western Piedmont. More showers were

expected overnight, he said.

## Time to move

Debra Prior left her home outside Georgetown with the help of an amphibious vehicle after the roads around her became impassable. She said it was hard to see her neighborhood emptying out.

"These are people that you have grown up with and they have been here for years. And we have never experienced anything like this in our life," she said.

The worst of the coastal area's flooding appeared to be over after the Black River crested overnight and water levels dropped 5 inches.

Georgetown County spokeswoman Jackie Broach said Saturday. The nearby Waccamaw River crested Friday and began to recede.

## Still can't move

About 13 miles of Interstate 95, one of the East Coast's main highways linking Maine to Florida, remained closed, forcing long-distance travelers to take a 168-mile detour through Columbia.

The problem is with about 18 small bridges over the Black and Pocotaligo rivers and surrounding swampland in Clarendon County, state Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said. A contractor was expected to start work

Saturday shoring up washed-out foundations under some of the bridges, Hall said.

There was no estimate when the stretch of interstate, which normally carries an average of 30,000 vehicles a day, could reopen. In the meantime, travelers who would normally drive 74 miles between Interstate 26 to Interstate 20 must take a 168-mile detour.

## Helping where they can

J.T. Pollack was one of more than 150 volunteers who spread across Columbia on Saturday to help those whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the storm. Pollack had been gutting waterlogged houses for two days to help restore hope to his community.

"My friends lost their cars, their homes were damaged. I've never been through anything like this," the 27-year-old volunteer with Operation Blessing said.

Pollack joined a dozen other volunteers at the home of an elderly couple whose home was engulfed in a foot of water.

Jan Hulbert, whose husband suffers from blood cancer, began to cry as she talked about the volunteers helping her dispose of the debris and sift through files, heirlooms and water-damaged belongings.

"They are so wonderful," she said.

Title: **Floods, rain expose S.C.'s flawed dam safety program**  
 Author: BY SAMMY FRETWELL AND JOHN MONK The (Columbia) State  
 Size: 129.89 square inch  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



## PUBLIC SAFETY

# Floods, rain expose S.C.'s flawed dam safety program

BY SAMMY FRETWELL  
AND JOHN MONK

The (Columbia) State

### COLUMBIA

Recent heavy rains and floods across South Carolina that broke multiple dams and destroyed hundreds — if not thousands — of homes have turned a spotlight on the state's dam safety program.

South Carolina has for years had one of the nation's weakest dam safety programs, consistently landing near the bottom of rankings in federal and state government reports.

In 2013, the state spent less than \$200,000 on its dam safety program, employing a handful of people devoted specifically to

inspecting and regulating the structures. That's roughly the same amount the state spent on the program in 2010, when a national report rated South Carolina 45<sup>th</sup> nationally in financial resources committed to dam safety.

Lori Spragens, executive director of the national Association of State Dam Safety Officials, said resources for inspecting the state's dams remain low in South Carolina. All told, South Carolina has 2,300 dams, most of them privately owned and made of earth.

"They could definitely

stand to have some legislators looking at their program and trying to provide some more money," Spragens said, noting that aggressive inspection programs spot problems in dams that could prevent failures. "It's a public safety issue. That's why it is so important."

Whether a more aggressive program could have prevented the seven dam breaks in Richland County and more across the state this past week is uncertain. But experts say more aggressive inspection and oversight programs improve the chances that dams can withstand heavy

rains like this past weekend's.

Failing dams were tragic this week for many Richland County residents. Hundreds of homes suffered major water damage or were destroyed, and several motorists were trapped below failing dams when their cars were swept away by raging

waters. Bridges on major thoroughfares such as the Devine Street corridor were closed.

Most of the destruction in Richland County occurred along an in-

**SEE SAFETY, 4D**

## FROM PAGE 1D

# SAFETY

terconnected network of some 200 ponds and lakes — each with its own dam — known as the Gills Creek watershed. The watershed meanders along some 70 miles, from the high ground around the Village at Sandhill shopping complex down a long slope to the Congaree River. It goes through the U.S. Army's Fort Jackson and the cities of Columbia, Forest Acres and Arcadia Lakes.

Until this week, many

people assumed that watery network was safe.

"We're going to have to reassess what is the new normal," said Erich Miarka, executive director of the Gills Creek Watershed Association. He predicted extreme weather events may cause more watershed problems if the county and state don't beef up dam safety standards. His group advocates for a cleaner and restored watershed.

Another problem the

storm underscored is the lack of a warning system to keep people off roads below dams and to evacuate residents when a dam's integrity is threatened.

"Water flows downhill — it's not rocket science," said Jim Knapp, a University of South Carolina earth sciences professor.

Knapp said he was puzzled that no warning system was in place to alert people to dam breakages. He lives in a Forest Drive

neighborhood adjacent to Gills Creek where it flows by Trenholm Plaza. He woke Sunday morning to see a river flowing across Forest Drive and was surprised that there had been no warning.

The Gills Creek dams were built over many decades, mostly by private developers. They are mostly owned and operated by homeowners' association. Some of the waterbasin's larger dams failed this week, officials

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said.

Richland County Emergency Services Director Michael Byrd said Tuesday afternoon that four dams broke Sunday and Monday: Cary Lake, Arcadia Lake, Upper Rockyford and Lower Rocky Ford. Later Tuesday, the dam at Lake Elizabeth broke. It lies just north of the Gills Creek watershed, an association spokeswoman said.

Several other dams were in danger of failing late Tuesday, including a shaky structure separating Spring Lake in Forest Acres from Forest Lake, officials said. State and county officials are monitoring those dams. Other dams that were in jeopardy Monday were Beaver Dam near Wildewood and Forest Lake, Byrd said.

However, Byrd said he was optimistic those dams would hold because lake levels were dropping.

Some of the dams that have failed are at highly visible lakes, which are lined with homes, many of them built in the 1950s and 1960s and purchased

by people attracted to waterfront property.

Meanwhile, a dam on Fort Jackson, Semmes Lake, also broke. A Fort Jackson spokesman said on-base damage was minimal: the loss of a stretch of one road and minor flood damage to a building. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will assess how to rebuild the dam. However, the spokesman also said Fort Jackson officials are studying whether the water from the Lake Semmes' breakage ended up in the low-lying King's Grant subdivision just outside the fort. An unknown number of homes were flooded in that neighborhood.

"We are looking at that," said Army spokesman Patrick Jones. "We do know that would be the logical path for the water to go."

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control said Tuesday it could not provide recent data about the dam safety program's budget and

staffing levels because of the ongoing crisis created by this past weekend's floods.

In 2013, the dam safety organization gave South Carolina a 47 percent rating in state compliance with the group's national model for dam safety. The national average was 76 percent, the organization said.

Lisa Jones, a former state flood plain manager and now a private consultant, said South Carolina's dam safety program needs improvement. She said the program is "underfunded and overworked."

Jones said many of the state's dams are aging structures that are "out-of-sight, out-of-mind."

Maintenance of dams through the years has often fallen on property owners' associations, whose leaders have changed hands. As a result, experts say those property owners officials don't always realize the responsibility that comes with maintaining their neighborhoods' dams.

Tuesday afternoon, Gov. Nikki Haley was asked at a news conference if she would press the General Assembly to devote more state resources to dam safety.

Haley said taking steps to reinforce dams is important. Improvements at the Lake Murray dam – a \$100-plus million venture to make it more earthquake proof and generally stronger – were a plus, she said. "That's a perfect example of what needed to happen, and we are glad it happened."

After disasters, the public and officials often come up with better ways of dealing with safety situations, she said. Currently, it's too early to be specific about additional safety measures because the state is dealing with the unfolding emergency. "Then there will be a time of, what do we do so that if this 1,000-year rain ever hits again that we are more than prepared, more than ready...our goal is to go back and absolutely say, 'What else can we do'"

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GERRY MELENDEZ [gmelendez@thestate.com](mailto:gmelendez@thestate.com)

Grady Adkins, Todd Chambers and Tom Teuber, president of the Upper Rockyford Lake Homeowners Association, survey the dam at Overcreek Road in Columbia on Tuesday.

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MATT WALSH mwash@thestate.com

Rockbridge Dam in Arcadia Lakes near Columbia.