

Title: **Huntington to reopen Oct. 28**
 Author: BY EILEEN KEITHLY ekeithly@southstrandnews.com
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Huntington to reopen Oct. 28

BY EILEEN KEITHLY
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Following Hurricane Matthew, Huntington Beach State Park personnel have been removing debris and repairing minor damage throughout the park in anticipation of the park's reopening Oct. 28.

State Park officials said HBSP was closed when Gov. Nikki Haley issued a Zone A evacuation Oct. 6, and the park has remained closed for damage assessment and repairs.

"Everyone was safely removed from the park after the governor issued her evacuation order," South Carolina State Park Director of Corporate Communications Dawn Dawson-House said. "There was some beach erosion along the jetties, and we are having to shore up

the causeway because it was impassable. We had quite a bit of debris along the beach, as well as throughout the park, and we also had to make a few minor repairs."

HBSP Manager Brenda Magers said the majority of the damage within in the park occurred when the salt marsh overflowed at the causeway, causing erosion under the road and on the causeway sidewalks.

"The situation and the damage at the causeway is the reason we are closed," Magers said.

"When we evacuated the park, we took chain saws with us and we were prepared to cut our way back in, and that's exactly what

happened. ...

"We are going to repair the areas along the sides of the causeway, as well as pump concrete slurry underneath the pavement to help stabilize the road."

Magers pointed out that the rice trunks which control the flow of water back and forth from Mullet Pond were not damaged during the hurricane.

Like many areas along the coast, Magers said the number of downed trees in and around the park was staggering, but she credits the park's staff with cleaning up and removing the debris and downed trees in a skilled and speedy manner.

"We have a huge pile of beach steps and decking that was blown down to our beach area

from the beaches on Pawleys Island and Litchfield," Magers said. "We are fortunate to have a very highly skilled park staff that got in here and have been

working hard to reopen the park to the public."

Magers said the beach erosion caused by Hurricane Matthew at HBSP is nowhere near as devastating as it appears to be at the state parks at Edisto Beach in Charleston County and Huntington Island in Beaufort County.

"We are a natural environment, so the dunes on our beach fall in a different category than dunes that are built up in front of beach homes to protect the

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Park to reopen Oct. 28

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property," Magers said. "For now, we are going to let nature takes it course and see how things build back up."

Damage to the north end of the park, Magers said, centered on the north beach access boardwalk.

"When we arrived to assess the damage on the north end, we found the walkway floating, and what wasn't floating looked like a roller coaster," Magers said. "We removed the entire walkway, but visitors will still have access to the beach by walking on the sand until we rebuild

something there."

State park officials reported 15 parks suffered damage and closed after sustaining damage from Hurricane Matthew. The coastal parks, officials said, were hit hardest. Edisto Beach and Hunting Island state parks suffered the greatest damage and will remain closed for several months.

Officials said Myrtle Beach State Park is slated to reopen at the end of October, but no specific date has been set.

Magers said park personnel have been working diligently to reopen the park in time for the Atalaya Fall Festival and Haunted Castle.

"People are looking forward to attending the event that will take place the Friday and Saturday night before Halloween," Magers said. "We fully anticipate being open on the 28th, in plenty of time for visitors to attend and enjoy the event at Atalaya."

Magers said park volunteers have plenty of new surprises on hand for this year's event.

"We will be building the event around a Pirates of the Caribbean theme this year," Magers said. "While our park staff has been out trying to secure the property, our volunteers

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have been hard at work in the castle making sure our Halloween event is the best and most enjoyable event to date."

Magers said the family-friendly fall festival includes: carnival games, crafts, an outdoor movie, toasted marshmallows, a bonfire, ghost stories and two kid-friendly haunted houses in the Atalaya Castle: Big Scare for the older kids and Little Scare, which is designed specifically for younger children who aren't ready to be frightened just yet.

For admission information and event pricing, call 843-237-4440 or visit HuntingtonBeach@scprt.com

Visitors with pending reservations at any South Carolina state park should contact the call center at 1-866-345-7275 for assistance.

"When we arrived to assess the damage on the north

end, we found the walkway floating, and what wasn't floating looked like a roller coaster. We removed the entire walkway, but visitors will still have access to the beach by walking on the sand until we rebuild something there."

Brenda Magers, park manager



EILEEN KEITHLY/SOUTH STRAND NEWS

Hurricane Matthew dumped sections of stairways and decks from Pawleys Island and Litchfield beaches along the shoreline at HBSP.

Title: Reports of contractor Abuse Could Boost Effort to Make DDSN a cabinet Agency
 Author: By Al Dozier
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Reports of Contractor Abuse Could Boost Effort to Make DDSN a Cabinet Agency

By Al Dozier

The idea has been around the State House for years: Make the state's Department of Disabilities and Special Needs more accountable by putting the department in a cabinet position under the governor's office.

But the idea could see new attention after a series of reports about staff arrests, lawsuits and allegations of abuse and neglect by a contractor for the agency.

DDSN serves some 20,000 vulnerable adults who suffer severe intellectual disabilities, autism, and traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries.

According to reports published in recent months by *The Greenville News*, one of the largest care providers for DDSN clients, S.C. Mentor Inc., had struggled with reports of abuse and neglect by staff.

The idea of making DDSN a cabinet agency dates back at least to Gov. Mark Sanford, who made that recommendation in 2009 after a critical audit. The director of the agency and some commissioners were removed from the agency at the time.

The calls for more reforms will likely get a lot of discussion during the next legislative session.

Sen. John Scott, a Richland Democrat, plans to prefile a bill in December that calls for placing the agency in a cabinet position under the governor's office.

He says it's a necessary step to improve a troubled department "that serves the most vulnerable population in the state."

"There are all kinds of problems," Scott says of the agency. His proposal "will give the governor oversight."

It's not the first time Scott has sought changes in the agency.

Last year, Scott filed a bill with Sen. Kevin Bryant, a Republican from Anderson, to place the agency in the state Department of Health and Human Services, but that legislation did not make it out of committee.

He later filed a bill to place the agency in the governor's cabinet, with the director appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

That bill also did not make it out of committee.

This time, Scott thinks he's got a lot of support that is likely to include the chairman of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, Republican Sen. Harvey Peeler of Cherokee.

While the move to redo the agency is getting a lot of talk, there is some uncertainty about making it part of the cabinet. According to several officials familiar with the history of the agency, its current leaders appear to be addressing many of the problems.

After the allegations surfaced, state Inspector General Patrick Maley conducted his own review of the records of providers and is recommending the state's disabilities agency change the way it audits them. He said Mentor, which has a nearly \$20 million contract with the state, has had new-client admissions frozen three times since 2010 by DDSN because of continued problems. That includes a freeze in March.

Bill Danielson, chairman of the commission that now oversees DDSN, says the recent freeze shows the state agency is addressing the problems.

"We are doing what we are supposed to be doing," he says. "We've effected major changes."

Danielson says the commission even considered moving all of the Mentor clients to one of the other care providers, but none of them could accommodate that many people.

He says top supervisors have been changed as the agency seeks to remedy the problems. He says the key issue involves making sure providers are properly dealing with "behavior" problems.

Maley said in his report he did not find systemic abuse at Mentor.

"The data clearly shows Mentor has satisfactory facilities with an appropriate business model to provide care for consumers," he said in the report. "However, its weaknesses seemed to be in the consumer training and development areas."

When asked if Gov. Nikki Haley supported putting the agency in a cabinet position, press secretary Chaney Adams issued this one-sentence response: "The governor believes more accountability would be a good thing for DDSN."

Gloria Prevost, the executive director of Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, the state's largest advocacy group for the disabled, says she is pleased the Inspector General looked into the problems and made recommendations for changes.

But she is not ready to call for placing the DDSN in the cabinet.

Prevost says it often does help for local agencies that have to deal collaboratively with other state agencies to function in a cabinet position. But so far she's not convinced that is a necessary step for the DDSN.

Sen. John Courson, a Richland Republican who is a member of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, said he is not ready to commit to the change, either, but will listen to the arguments. Courson says such a dramatic move will require jumping a lot of hurdles in the legislature.

Rep. Nathan Ballentine, another Richland Republican, has not yet decided on the best course of action but expects a thorough review by a House panel.

"As chairman of the House Oversight subcommittee that will investigate the agency in the weeks and months ahead, I'd like to hear all upcoming testimony and dive deep into the day-to-day operations before I make an informed decision on what's best for our citizens," Ballentine says.

Title: **State turns to recovery work after Hurricane Matthew**
 Author:
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State turns to recovery work after Hurricane Matthew

COLUMBIA (AP) — Two weeks after Hurricane Matthew made landfall as it brushed by the South Carolina coast, recovery work is starting.

The storm's effects are still evident in some areas: The Waccamaw River remains in major flood stage, swamping dozens of homes and businesses near Conway, after setting a record crest of 17.9 feet earlier this week.

The Little Pee Dee River is in major flood at Galivants Ferry, but is dropping fast.

The power is back on, downed trees and other debris are being swiftly removed and money and supplies are being collected for rebuilding and recovery.

The transportation department said Friday that 68 roads and 16 bridges are still closed because of the storm.

DAMAGE

If the floods of 2015 are any indication, it could be months before any statewide damage numbers are announced. Gov. Nikki Haley, an accountant before going into politics, does not like releasing any preliminary figures. "In my own experience and observation, I know that throwing out numbers is very dangerous because the numbers could go up and the numbers could go

down," she said Monday at a news conference on the disaster.

The massive floods of 2015, which covered a wider area of the state, without the coastal wind damage that happened with Matthew, caused about \$2 billion in damage, according to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

Some places have already made their assessments. Florence County had 59 homes and 32 businesses destroyed, 133 homes that suffered major damage and about 2,100 with minor damage, costing about \$52 million, according to the

county Emergency Management Division.

RECOVERY

Federal aid is available in 21 of South Carolina's 46 counties and more may be coming. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering help to nearly all counties to the south and east of Columbia.

The governor is also beginning another round of fundraising for the One SC Fund, which fixed 1,500 homes and provided \$2 million in addition to the federal aid received after the 2015 floods.

POWER

At the storm's height in South Carolina on Oct. 8, about 850,000 customers were without power. Early this week, the lights had been turned back on for nearly everyone.

The South Carolina Electric Cooperatives — a network of smaller utilities across the state — fixed 300,000 outages. That was double the outages from the 2014 ice storm, spokesman Mark Quinn said.

For Duke Energy, Hurricane Matthew marked the fifth-largest number of outages the utility has ever dealt with in South Carolina and North Carolina. Only ice storms in 2002 and 2005 caused more people to lose their electricity.

BEACHES

The beaches in southern South Carolina took the biggest hit from Matthew.

Hilton Head Island put on hold a nourishment project pumping sand back onto 8 miles of its beaches as Hurricane Matthew approached.

The state parks at Hunting Island and Edisto Beach both suffered significant damage and won't reopen until at least early next year.

Title: **Election reform laws may keep pretrial detainees from voting**
 Author: BY JIM HILLEY jim@theitem.com
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Election reform laws may keep pretrial detainees from voting

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

A provision of the state's voting laws could lead to inmates in pretrial detention at Sumter-Lee Detention Center being disenfranchised from having their ballots cast in the Nov. 8 General Election, says a local voting rights advocate. This is despite the fact the South Carolina Constitution guarantees pretrial detainees not on parole, probation or guilty of a felony the right to vote, according to Dr. Brenda Williams.

Williams, a retired physician, is known locally and nationally for her efforts to secure voting rights for disenfranchised voters. As a founder of a nonprofit corporation, The Family Unit Inc., she has spent decades helping inmates obtain ballot access.

"One of the things we do is register people who are disenfranchised, who have been historically disenfranchised

and anyone else who wants to register — African Americans, Asian American, Latino Americans, European Americans — anyone who wants to vote who is eligible, we help to register them."

She wrote a letter to the South Carolina Election Commission because some voters in detention she had personally registered could not be found in the voter database, Williams said.

"I was having problems pulling up some absentee voting applications for several of the inmates," Williams said. "The websites said these voters had no active voter registration information on file."

"How could that be," she wondered.

"They (the detainees) filled out the voter registration forms and I took them in and filed them personally or mailed

them personally," she said.

She received a letter in re-

turn informing her that she could no longer be an authorized representative for the inmates because she is not a relative, as defined in the state's election laws. The provision is part of voter reform laws which were passed by the Republican-dominated General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Nikki Haley before the 2012 election. That legislation also instituted voter ID requirements.

"The state says the individuals who want to get help with absentee voting must get help from their family members," Williams said.

Apparently the provision has not been enforced until this year.

"That is unrealistic, that is unfair, that is unconstitutional," she said.

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Former State Sen. Phil Leventis said the law may also disenfranchise elderly voters.

"What about people who have no family," he asked. "I know a woman who is over 100 years old and she's living with members of a church."

Leventis said such rules

may make sense to the lawmakers who pass them because they have never had to worry about having family come by to help them.

"It really needs to be looked at carefully," he said.

Leventis said such laws were passed to solve problems that never existed and are now cre-

ating problems themselves.

Chris Whitmore, director of public information and training for the state election commission, said they have had many conversations with Williams.

He said detainees do not meet the definition of a person who may vote absentee. He



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also said they have told Williams she can have detainees fill out a paper requesting the absentee ballot and mail it in. The ballot will then be mailed to the detainee, he said.

Whitmore said the commission has investigated Williams' complaints regarding specific detainees and has found them to be ineligible to vote because of prior felony convictions, but he was unsure if Williams was complaining in reference to those same cases.

He said that Williams and the Family Unit could no longer be authorized representatives for inmates and could not assist inmates in filling out or returning ballots.

When asked if he thought the law was simple and transparent, he said it is transparent because it is freely avail-

able to the public.

"Simple is relative," he said. South Carolina Rep. Murrell

Smith, R-Sumter, said he has scheduled a meeting with Williams to discuss her concerns.

"I have been contacted by the Election Commission. She has apparently been in contact with them, and they said they are not going to amend their position and that will be their position for this election," Smith said.

"I will be happy to meet with her and discuss what we need to amend," he said.

Williams said she has also scheduled a meeting with state Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter, but complained about a lack of response from other elected officials other than McElveen and Smith.

Williams said many of the

people who are incarcerated come from families who are indigent.

"They can barely keep their heads above water," she said. "The last thing on their minds is to go pick up an absentee ballot and take it to their family members in jail. Plus, family members are not allowed to enter into the restricted areas of the jail."

Williams said if voters are disenfranchised it will likely end up in court.

"If Nov. 8 comes and these individuals are not allowed to vote, we are going to have to take this to court," she said. "The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund has some attorneys coming from New York to help us out with this situation."

"I didn't call them, they called me," she added.

Title: **Sen. Scott faces 3 challengers**
 Author: Gregory A. Summers gsummers@thelancasternews.com
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Sen. Scott faces 3 challengers

Gregory A. Summers

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Thirty-four seats in the U.S. Senate are up for grabs Nov. 8, and Republicans, including South Carolina's Tim Scott, hold 24 of them.

While many political observers say Scott is safe, he faces three challengers Nov. 8.

They include Democrat Thomas Dixon, Dr. Bill Bledsoe of the Constitution and Libertarian parties, and Michael Scarborough of the American Party.

Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffman believes the popular incumbent will win another term.

Scott, he said, has a very high approval rating, low disapproval rating, is running in a Republican-leaning state, and is facing opponents who are not well known.

"He's safe," Huffman said.

Thomas Dixon, a community advocate and co-founder of People United to Take Back Our Community in North Charleston. Dixon is also pastor at Summerville Christian Fellowship.

Dixon grew up in the Southside projects of Chicago. He was drinking and using drugs by age 14 and fought through decades of drug abuse that ended with eight months in the Dorchester County Jail and two years in state prison.

Dixon left prison a Christian and put his fractured family back together. Both of his children are college graduates and these days, his goals are trying to repair the damage done through 30 years of poor choices.

Dixon said in a Youtube video that we, as a people, must stand up and do what's right on behalf of others.

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Thomas Dixon

Scott's most serious challenger is

Senate

>>FROM 1

Dixon said he has no aspirations to be a lifelong politician, but to be the voice of all South Carolinians in Washington, to champion social-justice issues and to better society for all.

"Unlike others, I've been in the streets where gun violence has overwhelmed mothers, and I've held them in my arms and cried with them.... I get up every day in order to help."

Bill Bledsoe

A Second Amendment

advocate, Bledsoe is a Spartanburg veterinarian. He came through Lancaster in August and staged a "long-gun rally" in front of the historic courthouse on Main Street. A handful of people attended.

Bledsoe is clearly frustrated by what he sees as a federal government awash in corruption, where elected officials place themselves above the laws they make.

Politicians, he said in a release, must be held accountable and not violate

the civil rights guaranteed to every American in the U.S. Constitution.

Bledsoe is also genuinely frustrated with the country's willingness to borrow money.

According to the end of the latest federal budget, the United States is \$19.4 trillion in debt. Elected officials, he said, must be required to balance the budget.

"We're broke," he said.

Michael Scarborough

A native of Bishopville, Mike Scarborough is the eldest of three sons in a military family. A 1996 honor graduate from Richland Northeast High School, HE studied computer science at Georgia Tech and has worked in information technology for 15 years. He lives in Richland County.

Scarborough admits that he is not a politician, but someone who loves South Carolina and its people. On his website, Scarborough said he believes elected officials

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should be a voice for people, not political pawns.

He said it's no secret that government is broken, but by working together, "free of D.C. party bosses," it can be fixed.

"It's vital that we elect representatives who are focused on addressing the needs of our nation, more so than playing the endless political back-and-forth," he said.

Tim Scott

Scott, 51, is a former member of the U.S. House and was appointed to the

Senate by Gov. Nikki Haley in 2013 when Jim DeMint resigned. Scott was elected to the remaining two years of DeMint's term in 2014 and is now seeking his first full term.

Scott was raised in poverty by a single parent and is an evangelical Christian. He is the only black Republican in the U.S. Senate.

Scott attended Presbyterian College from 1983 to 1984 on a partial football scholarship. He graduated from Charleston Southern University in

1988 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Scott served one term in the S.C. House of Representatives and eight years on the Charleston County Council. Scott owns an Allstate Insurance agency, is a co-owner of Pathway Real Estate Group and works as a financial adviser.

He traces his successes to his mother, Frances, and a conservative mentor, John Moniz, a white Chick-fil-A franchise owner whom Scott befriended as a teenager.

In a recent speech from the Senate floor, Scott said while racial problems exist, so do solutions. He said the nation must have some painful, thoughtful conversations, but he remains hopeful because he has personally experienced the power of a state that has been transformed.

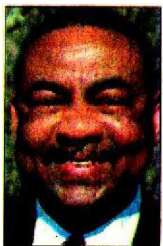
"In the heart of the South in the home of the Civil War, in a majority-white district, voters elected the grandson of a man who picked cotton," Scott said.



Scott



Bledsoe



Dixon

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**Scarborough**

Title: **The new South Carolina: Part 2 - the economy**
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The new South Carolina: Part 2 – the economy

This is the second of a three-part series on how new demographics, economic and political trends are rapidly changing South Carolina.

I'm convinced that there is a New South Carolina being born. This New South Carolina is a very different state from our traditional past and it holds great promise for us and our children for generations to come if -- and it's a big if -- we are smart enough and bold enough to seize this unique opportunity.

We can create a New South Carolina that can be globally competitive in the 21st Century and benefit all South Carolinians. The question is will we?

Last week's column in this space focused on the people of this New South Carolina. It was sparked by a special issue of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People that included four South Carolinians: Sen. Lindsay Graham, Jennifer Pinckney, wife of Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Gov. Nikki Haley and comedian, writer and TV star Aziz Ansari. Graham

and Pinckney both have deep South Carolina roots and represent 'traditional' South Carolina -- black and white. Haley and Ansari are 'new' South Carolinians -- both first generation children of Indian immigrants, smart, media savvy and driven to succeed in a new more culturally diverse environment.

And just as these people represent a New South Carolina, so too is our economy going through dramatic changes -- we now have an economy that would have been unrecognizable to most South Carolinians less than a generation ago.

Today, there are three big changes that have/are transforming our state's economy: foreign investment, digital innovation and new economic leadership.

First the foreign investment. South Carolina leads the nation in per capita direct foreign investment. There are over 1,200 international business facilities in our state -- more than there are public schools. We are

now home to major global companies such as BMW, Volvo, Daimler Benz, Michelin, Haier, Giti Tire and countless others. This foreign investment in South Carolina employs more people per capita than in any state in the country.

Where once the biggest impact on our economy was the change in cotton prices on the commodity exchanges in Memphis or Chicago; today, it's the fluctuations on the global currency exchanges in Hong Kong and London -- and the rising demand for consumer imports by China and India.

The second big economic change is the impact of the digital economy. One simple statistic: in Charleston

alone there are over 300 digital businesses and the growth rate of these new digital companies is 26 percent faster than the national average. The average wage in these new digital businesses is nearly

three times that of the traditional tourism and hospitality industry.

This new digital economy demands smart people with high levels of creativity, gender and cultural diversity and a world view unbounded by state or national boundaries. This is not traditional South Carolina.

The third big change is in the demographics of our economic leadership. One astute observer recently noted that a few years ago the state's economic leadership was essentially the ten whitest men in the ten biggest corner offices on the top floor of the ten tallest buildings in the state. And when these men decided what they thought ought to be done they called in the (white male) governor and the legislative leaders and told them what to do -- and they largely did it.

Now, our state's economic leadership is found in 250+ low rise office parks; there are lots of women, people of color and folks who did not go to USC or Clemson. They look different, think

different and are different -- and this is a good thing.

The huge challenge we face

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in the New South Carolina is: 1) providing our people with the skills they need to be competitive in this new global economy and 2) overcoming the provincial political leadership that is holding back the changes required to be competitive.

In a recent conversation with one of our state's top economic development leaders, he estimated that as many as 80 percent of the new jobs being created by the new global businesses locating in our state are being filled by people who move to our state – simply because there are not enough skilled South Carolinians to do these jobs.

Think about that for a moment – more than 80 percent of these new jobs are beyond the current skill

levels of South Carolinians and it's only going to get worse as the trend toward increasingly tech based jobs escalates. The other great barrier is our current political leadership that simply does not realize – or

does not care – about making the changes that need to be made to make our state competitive.

If one were to devise a legislative agenda to stifle economic progress it would be: 1) neglect education so our people won't have the job skills required, 2) ignore our crumbling roads and other infrastructure so that S.C. businesses were placed at a competitive disadvantage and 3) perpetuate a corrupt political system based on personal greed and special

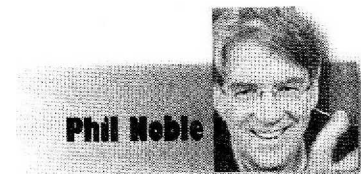
interest lobbyists – instead of a common agenda based on doing what needs to be done to make our economy competitive.

The struggle of the old and the new – this pretty much describes the economy in South Carolina today.

The birth of 'the new' is often – if not usually – difficult and painful.

Our transition to a New Economy and a New South Carolina is no different.

(Phil Noble has a technology company in Charleston and writes a weekly column for the S.C. Press Association)



Title: **NMB welcomes sunshine, visitors after hurricane**
 Author: By Abbie Linnerud
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NMB welcomes sunshine, visitors after hurricane

By Abbie Linnerud

The skies and seas of North Myrtle Beach are once again calm as the coastal community welcomes visitors to return to its popular beaches.

Late last week residents and visitors of the Carolina coast were evacuated due to the potential affects of Hurricane Matthew. Three days after the hurricane hit the Carolinas, the city is open for business

once again.

City

Continued from page 1

Commerce Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Her leadership and the collaboration of so many of our government officials and volunteers, including the city of North Myrtle Beach, is commendable. And now that the storms have passed us, it's our job to make sure that people know it is safe to return and enjoy the warm weather and fun in

Visitors are encouraged to reference the SCDOT and NC-DOT websites for more information on major highways and routes into North Myrtle Beach. Once in North Myrtle Beach, visitors will find that a majority of the city's roads and highways are clear and easily passable. Individuals should also call their accommodations in advance of

their planned vacation to en-

sure fully operational status.

"We're pleased that Gov. Nikki Haley took the precautions she did with an evacuation in order to keep our residents and visitors safe during last week's hurricane threat," said George DuRant, vice president of Tourism Development at the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of

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our beach community. We look forward to welcoming those visitors back."

Visitors and locals returning to the North Myrtle Beach community can look forward to upcoming community events, including the Endless Summer Festival, returning for its annual celebration on Oct. 29. The relaxing atmosphere, beautiful weather and friendly

residents of the seaside town draw visitors to the destination year after year during its fall travel season.

For more information about the coastal beach communities and an updated events listing, visit the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, CVB's website www.ExploreNorthMyrtleBeach.com.

Title: **South Carolina To IShakeOut For Earthquake Awareness Week**
Author:
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South Carolina To #ShakeOut For Earthquake Awareness Week

Governor Nikki Haley has proclaimed Earthquake Awareness Week for 2016 be observed October 16-22 in South Carolina. The S.C. Emergency Management Division encourages everyone to take this opportunity to learn about our state's seismic fault system and how best to prepare for earthquakes. A highlight of the week will be the Great Southeast ShakeOut on Thursday, October 20 at 10:20 in the morning. The theme for this year's state Earthquake Awareness Week is "AFTERSHOCK:130" which will highlight the 130th anniversary of the 1886 Summerville/Charleston earthquake.

Registration on the Southeast ShakeOut site is an important part

of this event. The Great ShakeOut is open to everyone in South Carolina. To register, go to www.shakeout.org/southeast. Be sure to include the total number of people taking part in the drill with you. More than 1.9 million participants total from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C., have registered so far.

The South Carolina Earthquake Guide is available statewide via the Senior P.R.E.P. section at every Walgreens store in the state. The S.C. Earthquake Guide is the first publication that details South Carolina-specific information on what citizens should do before, during and after a major earthquake.

Title: **Dillon County Council Passes Ordinance To Aid Citizens, Towns With Debris Removal**
 Author:
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Dillon County Council Passes Ordinance To Aid Citizens, Towns With Debris Removal

The Dillon County Council passed the following emergency ordinance to aid citizens and towns with debris removal.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF DEBRIS AND OTHER STORM RELIEF

WHEREAS, Governor Nikki Haley has declared a State of Emergency in Dillon County and surrounding areas due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew, and

WHEREAS, the Dillon County Council finds that it is necessary to provide County resources, equipment, and personnel for the purpose of debris cleanup and other storm relief efforts, and

WHEREAS, the Dillon County Council further finds that such services are necessary to maintain the public health and safety of the citizens of Dillon County, and

WHEREAS, the Dillon County Council also finds that it is necessary to waive solid waste fees for all Dillon County residents and municipalities at the Dillon County Landfill for yard debris and C&D materials in order to promote the quick and efficient cleanup of storm related debris.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED:

1) That the Dillon County Administrator or his designee is authorized and directed to use County equipment and personnel for cleanup of debris or other storm relief in the unincorporated areas of Dillon County as the County Administrator deems necessary.

2) That the Dillon County Administrator is authorized and directed to assist the municipalities of Dillon County in their cleanup efforts if they request such assistance.

3) That the Dillon County Administrator shall prioritize such relief efforts based on the need and the availability of resources.

4) That no action taken in carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance shall be performed in a manner that violates orders by Judge Paul M. Burch filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Dillon County in Case # 91-CP-17-274 and 2010-CP-17-187.

5) That all solid waste fees for yard debris and C&D materials at the Dillon County Landfill are hereby waived for all Dillon County residents and municipalities during the effective dates of this Emergency Ordinance.

6) That this emergency ordinance shall take effect on October 11, 2016, and shall terminate thirty (30) days from this date or upon the termination of the State of Emergency as determined by Governor Haley.

Title: **Students lose holidays to make up for storm**
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Students lose holidays to make up for storm

BY CHARLES SWENSON
 COASTAL OBSERVER

Students will lose a scheduled holiday tomorrow as Georgetown County schools begin making up eight days lost to Hurricane Matthew. They will also be in school for half a day on Veterans Day.

"We thought that was a viable choice," Doug Jenkins, the district's director of human resources, said. The district has a calendar committee that developed the makeup plan. It wanted to avoid holding class the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, a popular travel day.

Jan. 12 and 13, which were teacher work days, will be the other makeup days.

The state requires districts to make up three days within the semester in which they were lost. It allows districts to waive three days and the state can waive another three days. Georgetown County is waiting to see what the state does on waivers.

"I'm hesitant to do anything more right now," Superintendent Randy Dozier said. "Other districts are well beyond 10 days."

Last year, the district missed seven days of class

due to record flooding in the western part of the county and other weather-related causes. It made up some of the time by extending school hours on a series of Tuesdays. That wasn't popular, Dozier said.

He also noted that two of the days missed this month were due to Gov. Nikki Haley's evacuation order, which was later delayed. "I'm not being critical," he added.

Most of the district's schools had roof leaks during the storm, said Alan Walters, the district safety director. A pine fell on a roof at Waccamaw Middle School.

Waccamaw Intermediate provided housing for about 25 deputies who were assigned to the area during the storm. Some residents also showed up looking for a safe place to stay, Dozier said. Some whose homes had lost power went to Waccamaw High to charge their cellphones. He's now considering installing generators at some schools. "It would be nice to have something open in each area," he said.

Flooding that continued this week in the Waccamaw River raised concerns about the school boat that transports students from

Sandy Island. The pontoon boat was moved to Reserve Harbor Marina during the storm.

"The boat is fine," Assistant Superintendent Celeste Pringle said. "We're bringing the children in."

Only a short portion of the trip involved crossing the river, where the current is moving faster because of stormwater flowing from North Carolina. The captain, Timothy Tucker, is adjusting for that, Pringle said.

The storm also delayed an inspection of construction at Coastal Montessori Charter School by the state Office of School Facilities. That shouldn't delay the scheduled opening next month, said Rob Horvath, who chairs the charter school board.

The charter school plans to move from Waccamaw Middle to its new facility off Highway 17 between Hagley and Allston Plantation over the Veterans Day weekend.