

Title: **Matthew closer to U.S. coast**
 Author: J.D. Gallop, Elizabeth LaFleur and John Bacon USA TODAY NETWORK
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Matthew marching closer to U.S. coast

Hundreds of thousands evacuate homes as menacing storm approaches the Southeast

J.D. Gallop, Elizabeth LaFleur and John Bacon

USA TODAY NETWORK

MELBOURNE, FLA. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated Wednesday in Florida and South Carolina as Hurricane Matthew roared closer to the U.S. after leaving a path of destruction across Haiti.

Tropical storm conditions were expected to reach parts of the Florida coast by early Thursday, intensifying to hurricane conditions in some areas later that day, the National Hurricane Center warned. Matthew had top sustained winds of 120 mph, a Category 3 hurricane on the

Saffir-Simpson scale, Wednesday and could strengthen in coming days, the center said.

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina declared states of emergency ahead of the most powerful storm to rock the Atlantic basin since Hurricane Felix killed more than 100 people, most in Nicaragua, in 2007.

"Residents and visitors should take evacuation orders seriously," Federal Emergency Management Agency chief W. Craig Fugate said. "This is a major hurricane that has

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 2B**

SCHOOLS, OFFICES SHUT; SHELTERS OPEN DOORS

► **CONTINUED FROM 1B**

the potential to cause significant harm to life and property."

At least 11 deaths have been attributed to the powerful storm as it has marched across the Caribbean this week. Wednesday evening the storm was about 405 miles southeast of West Palm Beach, Fla. It was moving to the northwest at 12 mph.

The hurricane center placed the entire east coast of Florida under some kind of hurricane or tropical storm warning or watch. A watch was also issued for the Georgia

coast. A warning means storm conditions are expected within 36 hours; a watch means the conditions are possible within 48 hours.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott activated 500 National Guard members, with 6,000 ready to assist. Schools and government offices along the coast shut down as the region braced for Matthew's fury.

Cheryl Kazmarek is not in an evacuation area of Brevard County in central Florida — so far. She said she is ready to ride out the storm in her shuttered Rockledge home with her whole-house generator.

And she expects to show up for work Thursday at the Home Depot here. "It's crazy at the store, non-stop," she said. "People are asking for generators, for plywood, for wingnuts for the plywood. It's all gone."

Walt Disney World Resort, about 60 miles west of Merritt Island, was operating under "normal conditions" on Wednesday but said on its website it was monitoring the storm. Scott said tourists and residents should evacuate vulnerable areas.

"If you made a decision not to leave, we cannot send someone to risk their lives to save yours," Scott

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said. "We can rebuild a home, we can rebuild a business, we cannot rebuild your life."

In South Carolina, Interstate 26 near the coast was turned into a one-way street — west only — when authorities began halting traffic headed toward the storm. Traffic heading toward safety was heavy, and Gov. Nikki Haley urged resident to stock up on gasoline before stations closed.

Bottled water, generators and batteries were among hurricane-preparedness items that were in short supply.

At the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston, people hoping to be evacuated to Greenville began filing in after noon Wednesday.

Reynaldo Acosta, a resident of John's Island, arrived in a motorized wheelchair with his two caged dogs. His said his chief concern was a loss of electricity.

"I lived through three different hurricanes in Florida," he said. "Mostly it's the after effects, the power outages."

Essence Wright, 40, of Charleston, said she remembers seeing a dumpster tossed through her home's window when Hugo came through in 1989.

"I'd rather be safe," she said. "I don't want to drown."

Gallop reports for Florida Today; LaFleur for The Greenville (S.C.) News; Bacon for USA TODAY. Contributing: Rick Neale, Florida Today; Donna Isbell Walker and Tim Smith, The Greenville,

(S.C.) News



NOTE Projection as of 8 p.m. ET

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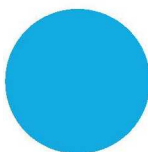
RAMON ESPINOSA, AP

A woman cries amid the rubble of her home, destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, in the Cuban city of Baracoa on Wednesday.

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LEAH VOSS, TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPER

Tanner and Debbie Hrobak of Port St. Lucie, Fla., install storm shutters at Billy Bones Bait-N-Tackle.

Title: **District 4 plans therapy dogs, counseling for first day**
 Author: FRANCES PARRISH FRANCES.PARRISH@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM
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District 4 plans therapy dogs, counseling for first day

FRANCES PARRISH

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The physical marks left on Townville Elementary School by teen shooter Jesse Osborne last week have been erased. Anderson School District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery and staff members spent Sunday cleaning classrooms and washing students' lunchboxes that were abandoned when they were evacuated the school last Wednesday afternoon.

They hung up backpacks in

Counseling

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ing a superhero saving Townville every night.

Getting back into the routine

Counselors and local pastors talked with teachers as they returned to the school Monday and Tuesday. The teachers learned from mental health counselors about how to answer questions students may have today and prepared their lesson plans for the week.

When answering a student's question, it's important to respond in a factual way without revealing information that is not age appropriate, said Kevin Hoyle, executive director of the Anderson, Oconee, Pickens Mental Health Center.

After being out of school for five days, Avery said in a Facebook post, it will be difficult for some parents and children to return to school.

To support the school on the first day back for students, Avery is asking students and staff throughout the district to be Townville Strong, referring to a hashtag that grew on social media in response to the shooting, and wear red and black, which are the school's colors.

Avery said she hopes to provide students with as normal a day as possible, but some things will be different.

Two of the classrooms that were near the playground were relocated to another part of the school. One of

the classroom and put desks back in order. Parts of the school were repainted, and landscaping was fixed. The playground fence, dented by the truck that Osborne drove to the school, was repaired.

The school is ready for students to return today. But the community's emotional scars from the shooting will take more time to heal.

the rooms had been used a place to give first aid to the injured students and teacher. The other classroom contained students who were walking out onto the playground at the time of the shooting.

This morning, parents can go through the typical car line, or they can eat breakfast with their children. There will be mental health counselors for parents or students in the media center from 7 a.m. until they are no longer needed.

As parents drop their children off, they will see two Anderson County Sheriff's Office deputies at the school for the rest of the week to help ease security concerns.

"We want them (children) to feel safe, but we don't want the additional presence to scare them," Avery said. "We are trying to find that balance."

Students who ride the bus can expect to see some Townville Elementary staff members riding with them to school on the first day back.

"That idea came from the staff," Avery said. "They wanted to be there for the kids."

Also, 16 therapy dogs will visit the classrooms with a counselor to provide an opportunity for students to talk about last Wednesday. After a visit from the dogs, class is expected to continue on as normal, which includes recess Thursday and Friday.

"It's important to maintain routine," Hoyle said. "It helps them get back to their life, so they may not be obsessing about anxiety."

Avery asked all schools in Pendleton-based District 4 to participate Wednesday in superhero day in honor of Jacob Hall, who died from injuries he sustained in the shooting.

At 1:42 p.m. Wednesday, all the schools in the district had a moment of silence to honor the 6-year-old who dreamed of be-

See COUNSELING, Page 5A

In regards to teacher support, Avery has arranged for extra substitute teachers to cover for classes in case teachers feel overwhelmed.

Moving forward

The district has created a webpage, townvillestrong.com, to raise money for a new, relocated playground after several community members expressed interest in building one.

Avery said the idea is to turn the old playground into a tranquility park with benches and landscaping. One of the benches would be dedicated to Jacob.

"There is a feeling that we want to do something in the beauty of life," Avery said.

Avery said local residents have volunteered to help build the playground.

Since last Wednesday, Avery said she has had support from all over the upstate including Gov. Nikki Haley and those involved in the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting in 2012.

"Nobody ever wants to experience an active shooter," Avery said. "But what I've observed is so much goodness, support and help to Townville Elementary with the healing process. I am amazed, I'm humbled; I'm appreciative because of the outpouring of support."

While Townville heals, the district has technical details to work out in the near future.

The day of the shooting, Townville

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Elementary School did not have a school resource officer, but Avery said she is working with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office to get a permanent officer at the school. Since the school was closed for more than three days, Avery said she has to get legislators involved to help waive the missed school days because of state law requirements for the number of school days required. Sen. Kevin Bryant is leading the efforts to help waive the school days whether it will be done by local legislature or through the state Legislature. "We are going to do all we can to help," Bryant said.

Follow Frances Parrish on Twitter @frances_AIM



KATIE MCLEAN/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Volunteers wait to give balloons to community members to release in celebration of Jacob Hall's life following a prayer service Sunday.

Title: **We must forgive, mourners at Jacob Hall service told**

Author: NIKIE MAYO NIKIE.MAYO@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM AND KIRK BROWN KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

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We must forgive, mourners at Jacob Hall service told

NIKIE MAYO

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As more than 1,500 mourners gathered Wednesday for the funeral of Townville Elementary School student Jacob Hall, they heard the same message again and again: We must forgive.

Jacob, 6, was mortally wounded Sept. 28 when a shooter opened fire on the school playground. Jacob died Saturday, surrounded by family and wrapped in a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles blanket.

"I can't make sense of it; I cannot," said Tim Marcengill, associate pastor of

Oakdale Baptist Church in Townville. "In 30 years of ministry, this is the most difficult thing that I have ever experienced with a family, a church, a community and even the world."

Marcengill choked up when he said that no word in the English language adequately describes a parent losing a child.

"This isn't supposed to happen," he said.

Jacob, who was born prematurely,

battled asthma and an eye problem for his whole short life. But each night before he went to bed, he told his parents that his alter ego, an imagined superhero named Cat Boy, was going to save Townville while everyone else slept.

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INSIDE

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Forgive

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His funeral Wednesday featured dozens of superhero balloons. Hundreds showed up in costumes. Marcengill said Jacob loved and forgave in superhero fashion. Marcengill said Jacob's mother, Renae Hall, told him Jacob shared something with her days before he died.

"He said: 'Mama, Jesus loves everyone. Even those people who do bad things.'"

David Blizzard, the senior pastor at Oakdale Baptist Church, told the congregation that people in Townville can be like the congregation of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. Families there have expressed forgiveness toward an accused gunman who killed nine people at the church.

"Certainly, we have the same Jesus that Mother Emanuel has," Blizzard said. "And we can forgive if we choose to."

John Buckland, who was dressed as Batman, gave the crowd a challenge. Buckland drove from West Virginia in his Batmobile.

"Take what you have learned from Jacob," he said. "Let it make you a better husband, a better father, a better brother, a better sister, a better everything."

Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott were among those who attended Jacob's funeral. Some pews were also set aside for teachers from Townville Elementary School and firefighters from Townville.

Volunteer firefighter Jamie Brock, who is credited with stopping the gunman, walked in with the Hall family and was seated with them. Jacob's service ended with the congregation singing "Jesus Loves Me."

Many people at Jacob's funeral said Townville has a lot of healing left to do. Larry Stancil, a deacon at Oakdale Baptist Church, said the shootings are the hardest things his congregation has ever had to endure.

"We're fine until we have to talk about it," Stancil said as his eyes filled with tears. "This is so hard for so many people."

Townville resident Sherri Oubre has known Jacob's mother since she

was a teenager.

"She's a loving person," she said. "It is going to be a long road for the family."

Outside the church, a small group gathered and held a sign that read: "Jesus, protect our children from gun violence."

A teenager, 14-year-old Jesse Osborne of Townville, is accused in the school shooting, in which a first-grade teacher and two other students were also hurt. Osborne is accused of killing his father, 47-year-old Jeffrey Osborne, before going to the school.

Before the shootings, Townville was best known for its annual tractor festival.

"We can't go back to the old normal," Blizzard said. "We've got a new normal. But the good news is we can set the pace."

Blizzard said it is up to the church and the community to make sure Townville is not defined by the event.

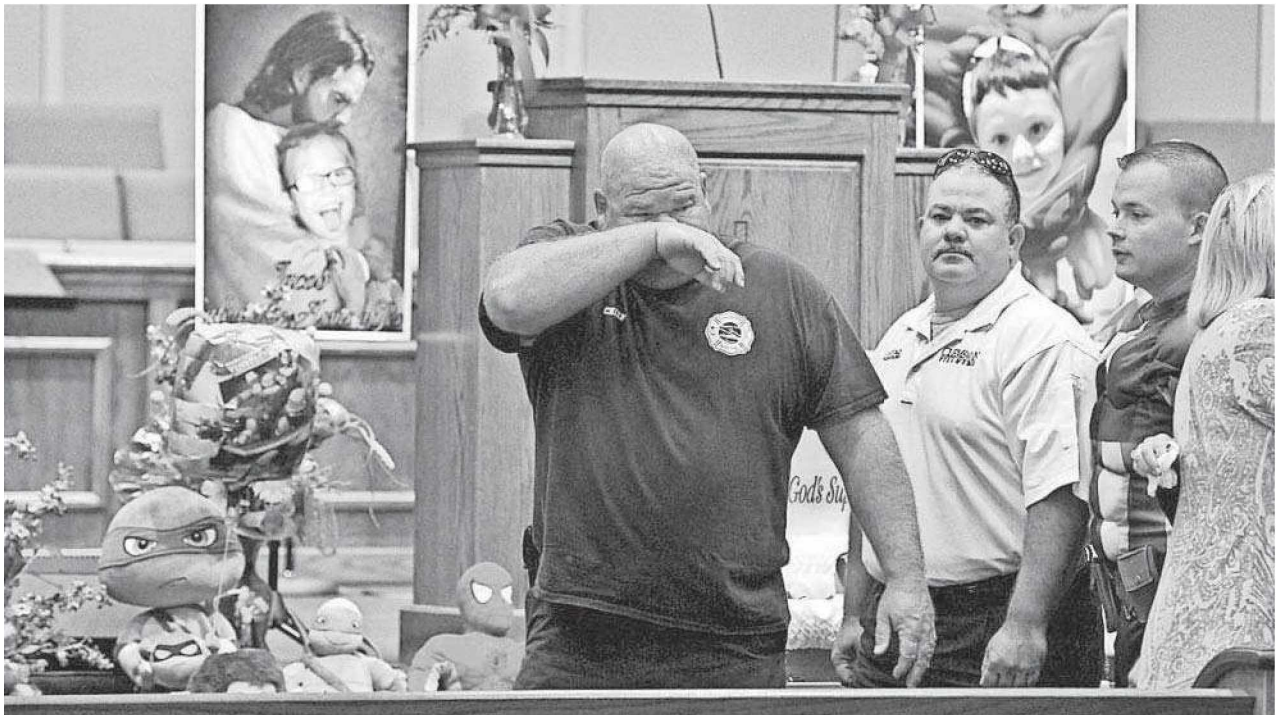
"Evil and darkness had come to Townville last week, especially to the school," he said. "But this week, in this place, I want to tell you there is grace and faith and hope and love that will win in the end."

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KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Kim Lewis, left, of Calhoun Falls, and Connie Kelley of Anderson, look at displays inside Oakdale Baptist Church before the funeral for Jacob Hall this morning.



KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Townville Fire Chief Billy McAdams wipes away tears after viewing Jacob's casket.

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KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL

**John Buckland, dressed as Batman,
bows his head during the visitation.**

Title: **Matthew track leaves forecasters guessing**

Author: ELIZABETH LAFLEUR AND TIM SMITH THE GREENVILLE NEWS TONYA MAXWELL ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

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Matthew track leaves forecasters guessing

ELIZABETH LAFLEUR AND TIM SMITH

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

TONYA MAXWELL

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

Roughly 250,000 residents and tourists fled the Lowcountry by Wednesday evening ahead of an approaching storm with a projected track that baffled residents, forecasters and state officials. At least as many more are expected to evacuate Thursday.

Westbound traffic flowed smoothly on both sides of Interstate 26 as evacuees headed out of

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Forecast

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Charleston and Beaufort. People in both coastal counties were told to evacuate by 3 p.m. Residents and tourists in Georgetown, Horry and other coastal counties are expected to evacuate Thursday morning.

The latest predicted path of the storm from the National Hurricane Center had it hugging the east coast of Florida before approaching the South Carolina-Georgia border Saturday afternoon as a Category 2 hurricane and then taking an abrupt right turn to the east and another sharp turn south.

Where it goes from there is anyone's guess as some forecast models suggested it could loop around and make a second landfall in a powerful one-two punch to Florida.

At a Myrtle Beach Lowe's, the home improvement store had run out of bags of play sand to stack against rising waters and hurricane clips, used to ease installation of plywood against windows. Generators were sold out for a few hours, but a new supply arrived Wednesday evening as customers were dwindling.

Outside the store, Jan Fogleman of Fresenius Medical Care returned to his truck already stocked with plywood used in years past to cover one of the company's storefronts, which offers kidney dialysis services.

"We're probably over preparing to be honest," Fogleman said. The company advised patients who can evacuate to leave, but has also retooled scheduling to offer nearly uninterrupted care for those who stay.

Meme Nelson and her family stocked up at a Piggly Wiggly grocery a block from the beach, loading up on water, snacks, bread and other items that don't rely on refrigeration.

She said she had not decided whether she would take her children and a grandchild to family in Sumter or wait out the storm. The night would tell, bringing clarification and an answer in the morning.

"If it looks like a direct hit, we would be a fool to stay. The governor didn't tell us to leave. She said to go in the morning. If we need to go, we'll go. The safety of the kids is my priority," Nelson said. "I'm not worried about getting out. Half the people already left yesterday. It's getting back that's going to be the trouble."

Shawn Smetana, a spokesman for the Charleston County Emergency Management, said bridges to the islands are never closed but the county does issue high wind advisories. He said the county cannot put out barricades because the winds would not keep them in place.

He said shelters in the county that opened about 3 p.m. still were not filled Wednesday evening.

At the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston, people hoping to be evacuated to Greenville began filing in after noon Wednesday.

John Phillips, a Boeing manager from Seattle, said he hadn't been in a hurricane before and did not want to experience one.

"First I was thinking, maybe it would be kind of interesting to experience," he said. "But Charleston floods at high tide. And they are talking about storm surges. So it didn't seem like the wise thing to do."

Ann Bartlotti said her son expected she would drive from her Myrtle Beach apartment to his Kentucky home. But when the 79-year-old said she was staying put, she said her boy knew better than to argue.

"I live in a good strong apartment building that's concrete and metal and it's not going anywhere and neither am I,"

said Bartlotti, as she watched waves stir against a near-empty beach.

"I can walk along the top of the waves looking for shark's teeth and I'm in my own world," she said of a beach and a town she loves when it is bustling or quiet, as it is this Wednesday afternoon. "It doesn't matter if this beach is full or empty."

And of the governor's recommendation that Palmetto residents should pull back from the coast?

"That's her opinion, isn't it?" Bartlotti said.

With another day down, there's a clearer picture of when and where South Carolina might see the biggest impact.

Carl Parker, hurricane specialist with The Weather Channel, said forecast models show the state's southern coast from Hilton Head to Charleston can expect the worst of the storm Saturday.

The focus turned to evacuations Wednesday as the state Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol put lane reversals in place on I-26 to ease evacuations. Officials said those reversals would likely stay in place through Friday, as they expected evacuation numbers to grow to at least 500,000. Troopers lined the highway between Charleston and the Midlands.

Residents were encouraged to get at least 100 miles away from the coast, no matter which path they took.

Hotels across the state were full late Wednesday, according to Gov. Nikki Haley, who said she believes some rooms in the Midlands are being held by fans who are waiting to see what will happen with the South Carolina's game against UGA.

As for canceling the game, Haley said that's not her decision, but one left up to the school and the SEC.

"What we have informed USC is we

Title: Matthew track leaves forecasters guessing
Author: ELIZABETH LAFLEUR AND TIM SMITH THE GREENVILLE NEWS TONYA MAXWELL ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES

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will not be able to give any state support for that game," Haley said, meaning state troopers would not be moved from the highways to provide game security.

The University of South Carolina said a decision will be made today.

Schools in 45 districts in the Lowcountry and Midlands remain closed Thursday and likely Friday, but Haley said they're taking all decisions day by day as they closely track the storm.

Class wasn't canceled in Greenville

County, but students once again will be without bus transportation as buses and drivers remain in the Lowcountry today to assist evacuations. Students without alternate transportation will receive excused absences.

At least 11 deaths have been attributed to the powerful storm system. Forecasters say it could hit Florida as a Category 4 hurricane today.

Parker said Matthew is likely to be a Category 1 or 2 when it approaches South

Carolina and the effects will depend on what happens while it's passing over Florida.

Hurricanes rely on very warm ocean waters for fuel. Parker likened the system to a "big heat engine." Spending time over land weakens engine because the air is not typically humid enough, according to Parker. If the storm moves slightly west and hovers over land in Florida, it could weaken before arriving in South Carolina.



TONYA MAXWELL/STAFF

A traffic accident in the westbound lanes of Interstate 26, about 45 miles west of Columbia, slows traffic as drivers leave the coast.

Title: **Business as usual for Smart, Muschamp**
 Author: WILLIE T. SMITH III WTSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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USC FOOTBALL

Business as usual for Smart, Muschamp

Storm hasn't changed preparation, coaches say

WILLIE T. SMITH III

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COLUMBIA - There have been no decisions made as far as when, where or if South Carolina's football game against Georgia will be played.

For the time being the game remains scheduled for Saturday at Williams-Brice Stadium with a start time of 7:30 p.m.

The South Carolina athletic department released a statement Wednesday evening saying a decision would be made on Thursday, but whatever day and time, the game will be played in Columbia.

All USC classes have been canceled for the remainder of the week, in addition to several non-football related athletic events.

A volleyball match against Georgia, in addition to an equestrian meet also against the Bulldogs have been canceled. USC baseball scrimmages scheduled to take place on Friday and Saturday have also been postponed.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Ha-

USC

Continued from Page 1C

ball situations which we do anyway," said Muschamp. "Obviously, we do have some players from down on the coast with families who are evacuating.

"We practice in the mornings, so we have moved our scheduled back a little bit. Other than that, it has been no different than a normal week situation."

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said in a Tuesday briefing she could see the football game taking place at Williams-Brice Stadium. She did not

ley said at her Wednesday evening press conference the state would not be able to provide troopers to work the game if it takes place on Saturday.

"What we have informed USC is we will not be able to give any state support for that game," Haley said. "I can't take troopers off the road to go put them at a football game. If they do that, they would be working with the Richland County sheriff's office to get that done."

Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said his agency, the Columbia Police Department along with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department have plans to include using school resource officers as well as officers who are in training at the state police academy to handle game traffic and stadium security.

Both Gamecock football coach Will Muschamp and counterpart Kirby Smart at Georgia said during a

Wednesday afternoon conference call they are continuing to practice as if the game will take place as scheduled.

"The athletic director has been in touch with the SEC and those things," said Smart. "Me, I get daily updates, really hourly updates on the weather and what's going on with it.

"It's going to turn hopefully for the better as far as the storm slowing down a little bit. But I'm keeping up with it. I want to be abreast of it in case it affects some kind of practice plan that we've got."

The only change for the USC football team, according to Muschamp, has been a slight change in practice times.

That has more to do time flexibility since classes have been canceled.

"It hasn't affected our preparation at all, other than practicing some wet

See USC, Page 5C

mention the game during a Wednesday morning briefing, however.

USC Senior Associate Athletic Director Charles Bloom told Columbia radio station 107.5 FM that, if the game can not be played on Saturday, it could take place on Sunday or Monday.

"If you can't play it on Saturday night, I think that definitely has the potential of happening," said Bloom. "I would say, right now, the chances of this game being moved out of Columbia are very, very minimal."

USC has been talking with state and

local officials who are tracking the path of Hurricane Matthew.

As of Wednesday at 1 p.m. the National Hurricane Center said it has shifted eastward.

It projects the storm should hit the coast near Beaufort Saturday morning. Muschamp, who says he has not been given a timetable on when a decision will be made on the game's status, appeared somewhat confident it would be played as scheduled.

He quickly admitted he has nothing to do with the final decision, however.

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“I’ve been game planning,” said Muschamp. “(Athletics Director Ray) Tanner and President (Harris) Pastides, our administration here at South Carolina will make the best decision.”



LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

It's undecided whether USC players will get the chance to run onto the field on Saturday.

Title: **Haley says game unlikely to happen**
 Author: WILLIE T. SMITH III WTSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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USC FOOTBALL

Haley says game unlikely to happen

WILLIE T. SMITH III
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COLUMBIA - While South Carolina and the Southeastern Conference are monitoring Hurricane Matthew, Gov. Nikki



Gov. Nikki Haley

Haley doesn't believe Saturday's game between USC and Georgia at Williams-Brice Stadium will take place as planned.

"It's a complete decision based on the schools," said Haley during a news conference. "As of now, I can't imagine (the game) happening. Certainly, we're going to continue to monitor this."

The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be televised on the SEC Network.

There are plans to reverse the lanes on the interstate highways coming from the coast Wednesday at 3 p.m. as an evacuation order has been issued for coastal residents at the same time.

Schools across the Midlands and Lowcountry are being closed on Wednesday, along with government offices.

South Carolina and the Southeastern Conference office issued a statement saying they are monitoring the situation.

"The University of South Carolina and the athletics department are currently moni-

toring the movements of Hurricane Matthew," the USC statement said. "We are in communication with the National Weather Service, local authorities and the SEC regarding potential weather issues. The safety of everyone that could be impacted by this storm is paramount. Once forecasts call for action, we will use all means necessary to inform the public."

"As a matter of practice, the SEC communicates regularly with schools on significant weather issues and will remain in contact with the schools involved in both football games that have potential to be impacted by Hurricane Matthew this weekend," said the SEC statement.

The hurricane was originally believed to be headed back out to the Atlantic Ocean, but is now believed to be directed toward South Carolina.

"I would love nothing more than to see this take a right hand turn and go out to sea, but as it looks right now, we're looking at Friday night and into Saturday being pretty brutal," said Haley.

USC coach Will Muschamp is leaving the situation in the hands of USC and the SEC.

"Our administration is handling all that through the SEC office," he said. "All of my energies is game-planning for the game. Whatever happens, happens. I'm not the least bit worried about it."

Title: **1.1 million in state could be evacuated**

Author: ELIZABETH LAFLEUR ELAFLEUR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM AND TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

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1.1 million in state could be evacuated

Hurricane Matthew

bearing down on region

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COLUMBIA - Gov. Nikki Haley announced plans to evacuate more than 1 million residents from the coastal areas of South Carolina beginning Wednesday afternoon in advance of Hurricane Matthew's projected arrival in the state's waters this weekend.

The massive evacuation and the lane reversals on Interstate 26 are set to begin at 3 p.m. Wednesday but Haley said the time could be delayed as conditions warrant.

Storm

Continued from Page 1A

federal assistance and to enable the use of the National Guard.

The evacuations are not labeled mandatory or voluntary anymore, Haley said. "An evacuation is an evacuation."

Asked what would happen if people refuse to leave, Haley said she is encouraging everyone to depart.

"Our goal is to try and save everybody that we can," she said. "What I will tell those people who are thinking of not leaving, if you think you can take care of yourself, at least think of my law enforcement and my National Guardsmen because they are the ones that will have to go out and try to get you and you're putting their lives at stake when you allow that to happen just because you refuse to leave."

Greenville County is sending 235 regular school buses and 108 special needs school buses to help move residents out of Charleston ahead of the storm. Because of this assistance, Greenville County Schools will not run bus routes Wednesday. Students with no other way

The Carolinas are bracing for a possible direct hit from Matthew, which carried 140 mph winds Tuesday as it tore through the Caribbean heading for the Bahamas and a possible track into South or North Carolina, according to the National Hurricane Center. At least seven people died from the storm as of Tuesday, according to the Associated Press.

"I would love nothing more than to see this just suddenly take a right

hand turn and head back out to sea, but as of right now, we're looking at Friday night into Saturday being pretty brutal," Haley told reporters at the state Emergency Management Division's operations center.

The governor also declared a state of emergency Tuesday morning, a step already used by the governors of North Carolina and Florida to trigger

See STORM, Page 2A

to get to school will be excused.

Haley urged people to go ahead and leave if they can, because the evacuation process will not be quick. Haley said evacuees should expect to spend hours on the road, though "comfort stations" will be set up to help people who need water or bathrooms.

"It's not going to be a fast evacuation," the governor said.

Haley said the goal is to get everyone on or near the coast to move at least 100 miles inland before the storm's projected impact this weekend and to do so in phases to avoid tying up in knots the intersection of Interstate 20 and 26 in Columbia, known by motorists as Malfunction Junction. More than 3,700 law enforcement will be on the roads to aid in evacuations, Haley said.

She said the lane reversals, comfort stations and law enforcement presence are designed to avoid a situation similar to the evacuation debacle in the path of Hurricane Floyd in 1999, before the use of lane reversals.

"Everybody has done their homework," she said of state preparations.

Some people in Columbia reacted to the news Tuesday evening by running to the grocery stores and gas stations. Several convenience stores and gas stations were packed with cars Tuesday evening.

Schools in more than a dozen counties, as far inland as Richland County, will close Wednesday and some will be used as shelters, the governor said. State offices in coastal counties also will be closed. Greenville and most of the Upstate is still not in the direct path of the storm. Evacuees may be directed to Greenville's TD Convention Center and other locations. Some schools may also be used as shelters. If that is necessary, GCS said school cancellations will be considered. According to advisories by the National Hurricane Center late Tuesday afternoon, the Category 4 storm is projected to pass through the Bahamas Thursday, weaken some and then hug the Florida coastline before turning to the northeast and the Carolinas.

The 8 pm advisory has the eye of the storm just off the North Carolina coast by 2 pm Saturday afternoon near the border with South Carolina and a likely path



Title: **1.1 million in state could be evacuated**

Author: ELIZABETH LAFLEUR ELAFLEUR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM AND TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

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over the Outer Banks. The cone of the storm's possible path, however, stretched from the Midlands to eastern North Carolina. Hurricane winds extend up to 45 miles from the center of the storm, while tropical-storm force winds stretch 175 miles, according to the NHC. The storm carried maximum sustained winds of near 140 mph as of 5 pm, chugging north at 9 mph. "Some fluctuations in intensity are

The advisory noted that the storm was crossing the eastern tip of Cuba but did not change any watches or projections. **See STORM, Page 9A**

Storm

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possible during the next couple of days, but Matthew is expected to remain a powerful hurricane through at least Thursday night," the NHC said in its advisory.

The forecasters noted that it is difficult to be accurate in a hurricane's projected path beyond three days.

"When a hurricane is forecast to take a track roughly parallel to a coastline, as Matthew is forecast to do from Florida through South Carolina, it becomes very diffi-

cult to estimate impacts this far in advance," NHC Forecaster Lixion Avila wrote. "For example, only a small deviation of the track to the left of the NHC forecast could bring the core of a major hurricane onshore, while a small deviation to the right could keep all of the hurricane-force winds offshore. It will likely take another day or so for the potential impacts of Matthew in the United States to clarify."

The NHC posted a hurricane watch from

Golden Beach, Fla. to Deerfield Beach, Fla., meaning hurricane conditions are possible, generally within 48 hours.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory issued a state of emergency for 66 of the state's 100 counties Monday afternoon.

Meteorologist Jim Cantore said regardless if it's a direct hit, massive waves can be expected along the Carolina coast later this week.

The Citadel is alerting students and parents of potential changes to Parents Weekend, which

is scheduled to begin on Friday. The school plans to make a decision by 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

College of Charleston announced it will close campus at 6 p.m. Tuesday until further notice.

Charleston Southern University is closing its campus due to the potential impact of Hurricane Matthew. All classes and campus activities will end at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday. Athletic events that had been scheduled are postponed until further notice. South Carolina High School League officials have postponed the state

swimming championships that were set for this weekend in Columbia. That meet will be held the weekend of Oct. 14-15. Times will remain the same.

Title: **Florida, Carolinas brace for malicious Matthew**
 Author: John Bacon @jmbacon USA TODAY
 Size: 85.87 column inches
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Florida, Carolinas brace for malicious Matthew

Hurricane blasted through Haiti on its way to southeastern coast

John Bacon

@jmbacon

USA TODAY

Bottled water flew off supermarket shelves along Florida's Atlantic Coast and South Carolina prepared to evacuate more than 1 million people as the nation girded for Hurricane Matthew, the most powerful storm in almost a decade.

If the predictions of one top weather model are accurate, Mat-

thew would be "a disaster for the east coast of Florida from about West Palm Beach north up Interstate 95 to Jacksonville," WeatherBell meteorologist Ryan Maue tweeted Tuesday afternoon.

A hurricane watch was issued Tuesday for parts of Florida as Matthew roared through the Caribbean, pounding tiny Haiti with

heavy rain and powerful winds and tides. Hurricane-strength winds could reach Florida by midday Thursday, and the storm could linger there into Friday, National Hurricane Center spokesman Dennis Feltgen said.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott warned residents to prepare for power

outages and evacuations.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley ordered evacuations of some

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 2B**

Gov. Haley: Don't mess around with Matthew

► **CONTINUED FROM 1B**

coastal communities. The numbers of people to be evacuated had not been determined, but the total could exceed 1 million.

States of emergency were issued for parts of Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

"This is not something that we want to play with," Haley said. "The worst-case scenario is that you get stuck on the coast and have no place to go."

"We are preparing for the worst, hoping for the best and not taking any chances," Scott said.

The Category 4 hurricane made landfall in Haiti on Tuesday

with top sustained winds near 145 mph.

The latest computer models predicted a path edging closer to the U.S. East Coast, the hurricane center reported. "We still have the core (staying) off the Florida coast," Feltgen said. "But our present track does bring the possibility of hurricane force winds to Florida."

Feltgen said it was too early to determine a timeline or impact along the rest of the East Coast as Matthew sweeps north.

John Pendergrast, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Melbourne, warned that the storm remains unpre-

dictable, but Matthew "looks like it's going to be a close brush."

Long lines formed at supermarkets. By midafternoon Tuesday, the Publix in Fort Lauderdale

was stripped of bottled water and was running out of batteries and other hurricane supplies fast.

Sean Smith of Pembroke Pines told the *Sun Sentinel* newspaper he went to a Home Depot for water, batteries and flashlights.

"My wife is sending me out cause she's caught up in the hysteria — from the moment she heard 'hurricane,'" he said.

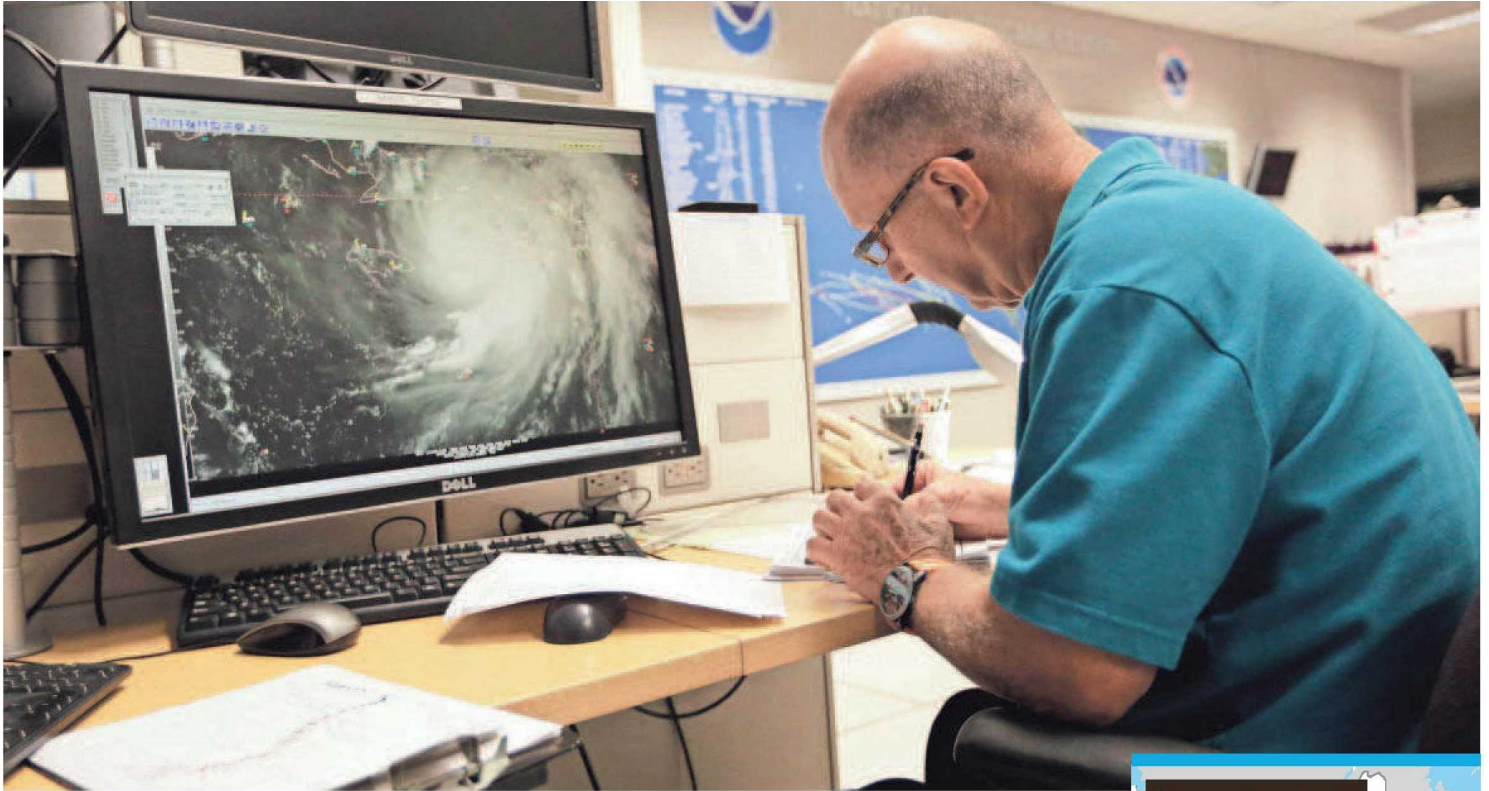
Contributing: Steph Solis, Doyle Rice, USA TODAY; J.D. Gallop, Florida Today

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LYNNE SLADKY, AP

Senior hurricane specialist Lixion Avila monitors the path of Hurricane Matthew.



NOTE Projection as of 8 p.m. ET

SOURCE National Hurricane Center, ESRI

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PATRICK DOVE, USA TODAY NETWORK

Ryan Hartmann, left, helps Travis Purvis load wood into a trailer in Vero Beach, Fla., anticipating Hurricane Matthew.

Title: **There's no diversity here**
 Author: MICHAEL GERSON COLUMNIST
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There's no diversity here

MICHAEL GERSON
 COLUMNIST

What do most of the chief advisers and surrogates of the Trump campaign have in common? I'm thinking of: Chris Christie, Roger Ailes, Stephen Bannon, Rudy Giuliani, Newt Gingrich.

What could possibly unite this diverse group? They are white, middle-aged (and older) males – not that there is anything wrong with that. They are almost psychotically sycophantic. (According to Gingrich, Donald Trump won an “enormous, historic victory” in the first presidential debate. Both Christie and Giuliani have called Trump a “genius” for avoiding federal taxes.) They are very forgiving about certain foibles (“everyone” commits adultery, explains Giuliani) and rather tough on others (Miss Universe Alicia Machado, says Gingrich, “was not supposed to gain 60 pounds”). They apparently lack the gene for irony (“America’s mayor” is smitten with a candidate who has flirted with 9/11 conspiracy theories).

But most of all they are very unhappy about the state of America. “There’s no next election,” Giuliani has declared. “This is it! There is no more time for us left to revive our great country.”

The ascendance of people like Gingrich, Giuliani and Trump in the Republican Party, from one perspective, is succeeding. A campaign of shouting, apocalyptic, white men has undeniably appealed to white men. A recent Washington Post/ABC News poll found Trump up 40 points against Hillary Clinton in this category. Up nearly 60 points among white men with no college degree. These results are remarkable, indicating both the limits of Clinton as a can-

didate and the fury in portions of middle class and blue-collar America.

If America is truly in the midst of a wave election, fed by the fears and discontent of white males, it will have enormous consequences in a country that has moved considerably in the direction of diversity, tolerance and inclusion.

Trump is an odd leader for this populist revolt. Every presidential candidate presents not just a vision of the future but a certain construction of the past – both Millenium and Eden. Ronald Reagan’s ideal, even though he was a product of Hollywood, was the small-town Midwest. For George W. Bush (who chewed tobacco in the back of the class at Harvard Business School) Eden was always West Texas.

America is seeing a movement of white grievance led by an avatar of the Playboy philosophy. In light of this, Trump’s deep support among evangelicals is the hardest for me to account for. I wonder how Trump evangelicals explain to their sons and daughters that this man is a suitable leader for a great country. I also know that if Trump ends up losing in November, it will be because women rally in large numbers to defeat him.

Conservatives oriented toward reform and outreach – longing for the leadership of Nikki Haley, Tim Scott and Marco Rubio – are largely waiting in shelters for the storm to pass. But what of the Republican Party will be left?



Title: **There is a new South Carolina being born**

Author:

Size: 58.9 column inches

Walterboro, SC Circulation: 5673



GUEST VIEW

There is a new South Carolina being born

There is a New South Carolina being born.

You can see evidence of it in a recent Time Magazine special issue featuring the 100 Most Influential. There are four South Carolinians in the magazine – two were chosen among the 100 Most Influential and two were chosen to write short profiles. Who they are and what they wrote says a lot about our state and who we are becoming – the New South Carolina.

How were they chosen? Editor Nancy Gibbs said, “One way or the other, they each embody a breakthrough; they broke the rules, broke the record, broke the silence, broke the boundaries to reveal what we’re capable of... each in their own way have lessons to teach.”

So who are the four South Carolinians and what are the lessons they have to teach us?

The first is Gov. Nikki Haley, a 21st Century South Carolinian. When she was chosen for the list it got lots of media attention, as well it should. She was pictured seated at a big desk surrounded by a crowd of former governors, politicians and church people as she held a pen to sign the bill to take down the Confederate flag.

Haley was born in Barnwell to Indian immigrant parents. She grew up different – not white not black – with all the challenges that brought. From childhood she worked in the family clothing business and she graduated from Clemson with a degree in accounting. Her husband has a military career as an officer and they have two beautiful children.

She’s got a wicked sense of humor, she’s smart and gritty and she made her way to success in the bare-knuckle world of South Carolina politics. She was born a Sheik, is now a member of the Mt.

Horeb United Methodist Church and is a Republican.

Sen. Lindsey Graham wrote the tribute to Haley. After citing the challenges she and our state faced with the Emanuel and Walter Scott shootings and the 1,000-year flood, he said “...Gov. Haley led with determination, grace and compassion... From shaking up the system to providing kindness and understanding to the individuals and families affected by these tragedies, she put a face on South Carolina that we are all extremely proud of.”

Graham is a traditional South Carolinian; his family roots are in South Carolina. He was born in Central to a hard-scrabble family and from childhood he worked in the family business – a restaurant-bar-pool hall-liquor store named the Sanitary Café. Both of his parents died when he was young; he went to USC Law School and had a military career as an officer. He has a deep and wide streak of “don’t tread on me... you can go straight to Hell” – South Carolina redneck independence.

He’s got a wicked sense of humor, he’s smart, gritty and he made his own way to success in the bare-knuckle world of South Carolina and national politics. He’s single, a member of the Corinth Baptist Church and is a Republican.

The second 21st Century South Carolinian featured in the magazine is probably the most famous South Carolinian that you have

never heard of – at least if you are over 35 years old. He’s actor, writer and stand-up comedian Aziz Ansari. He was pictured standing in a white suit against a white background holding a bouquet of wilted purple flowers.

Ansari was born in Columbia into a Muslim family from India; his father was a doctor. He grew

up in Bennettsville and went to the S.C. Governor’s School for Science and Math. Like so many bright young folks, he left South Carolina and landed at New York University’s Stern School of Business where he majored in marketing.

He began doing stand-up comedy in New York and his big break came when he starred in NBC’s comedy Parks and Recreation from 2009–2015. Now he plays Dev Shah on the Netflix series Master of None; Ansari created, writes, and stars in the show. The New York Times called it “the year’s best comedy straight out of the gate.” In 2015, he wrote a hot best-selling book, “Modern Romance: An Investigation.” He was deeply moved by the Boston Marathon Bombing in 2013 and he performed a benefit concert for the victims and their families.

He’s got a wicked sense of humor, he’s smart, gritty and he made his own way to success in the bare-knuckle world of big time television and media. He’s single, was raised a Muslim and is now an atheist and is a Democrat.

The fourth South Carolinian in the magazine is traditional South Carolinian Jennifer Pinckney, wife of Rev. Clementa Pinckney who was killed in the Emanuel Nine shooting. She is African American and her family roots are in South Carolina; she grew up in the rural area around Aiken and went to the University of South Carolina.

She has survived the unspeakable horrors of the shooting and its continuing aftermath with the upmost grace and dignity that all South Carolina is extremely proud of. She has two beautiful children, is a member of Emanuel AME Church and she is a Democrat.

Pinckney was chosen to write the profile of none other than Pres. Barack Obama. She wrote



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lovingly of Obama's similarities with her husband – "... two God-fearing charismatic black men dedicated to public service and to their wives and two daughters. They were both voices for the voiceless who got up with smiles when they got knocked down."

These four are the faces and voices of The New South Carolina. They are a combination of

traditional and 21st Century South Carolinians – one white male, two of Indian descent, two women, and one African American.

They all share South Carolina values, all are compassionate people, all have their own ideas about religion and politics and all share in the making of The New South Carolina.

There is much of traditional

South Carolina that is special, important and good. We need to recognize, protect and nourish it. It's who we are.

Welcome to The New South Carolina. It's who we are.

(Phil Noble has a technology firm in Charleston and writes a weekly column for the S.C. Press Association. phil@philnoble.com.)