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Hurricane Matthew:

Associated Press: Haiti braces for a grim, rising death toll from Matthew

<http://bigstory.ap.org/e9d1a38c927e4a3bb2920bfe7d22f525>

Haitians braced for a grim, rising death toll Friday as help slowly trickled into marooned areas of the country's southwestern peninsula that was pummeled by Hurricane Matthew, the first Category 4 storm to hit Haiti in decades. At least 283 people died in just one part of Haiti's southwest, the region that bore the brunt of the storm, Emmanuel Pierre, an Interior Ministry coordinator in Les Cayes, told The Associated Press late Thursday. The overall death toll in Haiti is not clear. Authorities expect the number of deaths to increase, with local officials in isolated areas reporting higher numbers. Most deaths are believed to have occurred in the southwest region. "Devastation is everywhere," said Pilus Enor, mayor of Camp Perrin, a town near the port city of Les Cayes on the peninsula's south shore. "Every house has lost its roof. All the plantations have been destroyed. ... This is the first time we see something like this."

Associated Press: The Latest: Matthew's eyewall brushing Cape Canaveral

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b1c41a6ac31c469199d8973022d0f4d1>

The western edge of Hurricane Matthew's eyewall is brushing Florida's coast at Cape Canaveral. The National Hurricane Center said at 6 a.m. EDT Friday that during the last hour, a wind gust of 100 mph occurred in Cape Canaveral. The Category 3 storm is centered about 25 miles east of Cape Canaveral and is moving north-northwest at 14 mph. More than 300,000 in Florida are without power Friday morning.

Associated Press: Hurricane party breaks out as Matthew misses Fort Lauderdale

<http://bigstory.ap.org/caf41c8d0d2b42aa87736c00b4215389>

With Hurricane Matthew out at sea and aimed well north of this city known for parties, a big one broke out Thursday across the street from waves churned up by the storm. A huge crowd spent the day tossing back beers and singing along with a guitar player at the Elbo Room, situated on a corner in the heart of an area that's typically overrun by college students during spring break. A smaller crowd partied at another bar one block over. And just up the street, Kim Siegel pranced like a gazelle atop a squat beachside wall as a friend shot videos. "I'm happy to have a breeze. We haven't had one in months," she said. Although Fort Lauderdale was initially in Matthew's crosshairs, forecasters said the hurricane didn't move inland as far south as first expected. So rather than hunkering down in her home just off the coast, Melody Fortunato took her German shepherd for an afternoon walk. She also spent a few hours watching TV and cleaning out files on her two computers.

Associated Press: Last-minute shoppers buy cups, icepacks ahead of hurricane

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cNsSpi1J

One problem with stocking up ahead of a hurricane is you never know exactly what you'll need. Will the storm take out your power, your water - and for how long? "It's a little scary only because the

meteorologists can't really predict exactly what's going to happen," Natalie Elizur, 25, said while joining lines of shoppers making last-minute purchases at a grocery store in Fort Lauderdale ahead of Hurricane Matthew. "They can only track the storm, but they can't really predict exactly what's going to happen." Elizur, who said she already had stocked up on water, was now buying cups, plates, icepacks, food and a flashlight. "A lot of styrofoam cups and plates so we have things to eat - because we're probably not going to be able to wash dishes without water. Ice packs to keep things cool - we're probably not going to have electricity, for a couple days - or we don't really know how long," she said.

Associated Press: Matthew hammers Florida, begins dayslong beating of coast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3dba1c13500848bc95f077325eea22db>

Hurricane Matthew's howling wind and driving rain pummeled Florida early Friday, starting what's expected to be a ruinous, dayslong battering of the Southeast coast. The strongest winds of 120 mph were just offshore, but Matthew's wrath still menaced more than 500 miles of coastline. Two million people were warned to flee inland as the most powerful storm to threaten the Atlantic coast in more than a decade charged toward Florida. Matthew left more than 280 dead in its wake across the Caribbean. "This storm's a monster," Florida Gov. Rick Scott warned as Matthew started lashing the state. "I'm going to pray for everybody's safety." The number of homes and businesses without power jumped by the hour as the storm edged closer to the coast. More than 300,000 were in the dark by Friday morning. The winds picked up along Vero Beach, midway between West Palm Beach and Cape Canaveral, stripping away palm fronds, ripping awnings and blowing sand that stung the face. Waves crashed on the beach, and rain came in short bursts.

Associated Press: 'A monster': A deadly Hurricane Matthew closes in on Florida

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NhXZx26J

Hurricane Matthew pelted Florida with heavy rains as the deadly storm steamed ever closer to the coast with potentially catastrophic winds of 130 mph Thursday. Two million people across the Southeast were warned to flee inland. It was the most powerful storm to threaten the U.S. Atlantic coast in more than a decade, and had already left more than 280 dead in its wake across the Caribbean. "This storm's a monster," Gov. Rick Scott warned as it started lashing the state with periodic heavy rains and squalls around nightfall. He added: "I'm going to pray for everybody's safety." "As it moved north in the evening, Matthew stayed about 100 miles or more off South Florida, sparing the 4.4 million people in the Miami and Fort Lauderdale areas from its most punishing effects.

Associated Press: The Latest: 'Scary as heck' as hurricane nears Florida

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=GVx1Z9PP

Robert Tyler had feared a storm surge flooding his street, which is only two blocks from the Cape Canaveral beach. But he and his wife, Georgette, felt fortunate Friday morning when they looked out the front door of their one-story cinder block apartment and there wasn't much water. The oak trees held up. Tree branches littered the road and he could hear the transformers blowing up overnight. But his home didn't appear to have damage on first inspection and his vehicles were unharmed. He says it was "scary as heck" overnight, adding that at one point "it felt like the windows were going to blow even though they all were covered with plywood." In the end, he says he's just "glad we didn't hear the ocean coming down our street."

Associated Press: Hurricane Center: Hurricane Matthew weakens slightly to Category 3 storm as it moves closer to Florida

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=knZ8esQp

Associated Press: The Latest: Hurricane conditions expected in next few hours

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C7Eap6tg

Forecasters say hurricane conditions are expected to reach the Florida warning area in the next few hours. The National Hurricane Center says Hurricane Matthew still has maximum sustained winds near 130 mph (215 kph) but is forecast to weaken to a Category 3 in the next two days, when it moves north into Georgia and South Carolina. President Barack Obama on Thursday night declared a state of emergency for Georgia. He had already issued states of emergency for Florida and South Carolina. Matthew is about 125 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Cape Canaveral, Florida, and moving northwest at 13 mph (20 kph). Florida Power and Light reports that about 95,000 customers - about 42,000 in Palm Beach County alone - are already without electricity.

Associated Press: Flooding threatens US coasts well ahead of Hurricane Matthew

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4SgG2pHs

The major threat to the Southeast U.S. won't be Hurricane Matthew's pummeling winds, which newer buildings have been constructed to withstand. It will be water - the deadly storm surge churned up by such a massive and powerful hurricane. That surge could threaten lives and property long before its eye nears shore, so the Miami-based National Hurricane Center has issued experimental storm surge watches and warnings for life-threatening flooding for some 500 miles of coastline from Boca Raton in South Florida all the way up into North Carolina. Matthew already has left more than 100 dead in the Caribbean. Storm surge and rainfall flooding have combined for three-quarters of U.S. deaths from hurricanes, tropical storms and cyclones over the last half-century - including at least 1,500 deaths during Hurricane Katrina, according to the hurricane center.

Associated Press : President Obama adds South Carolina to emergency declaration ahead of Hurricane Matthew; Florida designated earlier

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kSpBIOFq

Associated Press: The Latest: Haley: 'I am begging you' to evacuate the coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qasQKXs3

Gov. Nikki Haley says she's "begging" people to understand the seriousness of Hurricane Matthew and evacuate the South Carolina coast. Haley says 280,000 people had evacuated as of 3 p.m. Thursday, but that means hundreds of thousands more need to leave. She says forecasts are getting worse, but "we can't take you by the hand and bring you to the Upstate." Medical facilities to evacuate their patients include Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Haley says that should be an indication of the seriousness. Authorities say the storm surge in some areas along the southern coast will exceed those when Hurricane Hugo hit the state in 1989. Haley says "imagine floor-to-ceiling" storm surges. Eastern parts of the state could see 8 to 14 inches of rain. She says more than 1,400 residents are staying in 64 shelters. That includes three pet-friendly shelters.

Associated Press: South Carolina officials urge residents to flee coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UO0JLw0k

South Carolina officials are making another plea for residents to flee the coast as Hurricane Matthew approaches. Derrec Becker with the state emergency preparedness office said Friday morning people need to evacuate immediately. Becker said dangerous conditions are expected along the East Coast. Officials are especially worried about the storm surge of water that will flow in from the ocean, driven by strong waves. The storm surge is expected to reach as much as 11 feet anywhere south of Georgetown. A surge of up to 6 feet is possible from Little River south to Georgetown. He says those

leaving the coast should head Upstate or find a shelter in the Midlands. A hurricane warning is in effect south of Georgetown. A tropical storm warning is in effect north of Georgetown.

Associated Press: News Guide: Normally hospitable mayor says pack up and go

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tdUOafob

As Hurricane Matthew approached South Carolina Thursday threatening torrential rains, a brave few remained on Hilton Head Island, Kiawah Island barred its gates and the mayor of usually hospitable Charleston urged people to leave. A look at developments in South Carolina as the storm approaches...

Associated Press: The Latest: 4 Beaufort islands losing water because of storm

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=X1yVhu9M

Four islands in Beaufort County will lose their water service because officials worry the storm surge from Hurricane Matthew could damage the system. The Beaufort Jasper Water Authority said it will shut off the water to Hunting Island, Fripp Island, Coosaw Island and Harbor Island at 3 p.m. Friday. The islands are east of Beaufort. The authority says the water will remain off until the storm passes. All of Beaufort County is under an evacuation order. Forecasters say the storm surge could cover much of the county, with up to 9 feet of water in the hardest hit areas at the peak of the storm Saturday morning.

Associated Press: Muschamp: Georgia game changed to Sunday

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IZRaIqaD

South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said his team's home game with Georgia has been moved from Saturday night to Sunday because of Hurricane Matthew. The school and the Southeastern Conference announced Thursday night that the game would be played at 2:30 p.m. "Due to the potential impact of the hurricane on Columbia and the surrounding area, it is in the best interest of safety to play the game on Sunday rather than Saturday night," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said. "I appreciate the cooperation of the schools who worked closely to make the appropriate operational adjustments in order to accommodate this change in the schedule. The decision capped a long day of speculation about whether Matthew would significantly impact Williams-Brice Stadium.

The State: Matthew roars toward South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106598792.html>

Hurricane Matthew bore down on the South Carolina coast Thursday, becoming a major threat to the state and prompting urgent warnings for people to leave seaside communities before the powerful storm arrives this weekend. The hurricane at one point looked as if it would spare South Carolina substantial damage, but the forecast changed as Matthew crossed the Bahamas and approached the Florida coast. Forecasts showed the storm, packing sustained winds of up to 140 mph, coming dangerously close – perhaps 50 miles – to Hilton Head Island and Edisto Beach south of Charleston on Saturday, before gradually moving offshore. Hurricane warnings extended Thursday along much of the state's 187-mile-long coast, meaning that hurricane conditions are expected in the area. The storm's eye wasn't expected to make landfall in South Carolina, but it would be close enough to the coast to cause problems through early next week, forecasters said. An expansive storm that has been building for weeks, Matthew could be carrying winds of at least 110 mph when it reaches the Hilton Head Island area, according to the National Weather Service.

The State: Hurricane Matthew's storm surge could surpass Hugo's destructive force, Gov. Haley says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106532007.html>

Hurricane Matthew's projected path has moved closer to the Atlantic shore, heightening concerns South Carolina's southern coastal communities are in for a devastating punch, Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday evening. High winds could cause "extensive tree damage" and knock out electricity for an extended period. Eight to 10 inches of rain could cause flash floods. And the battering force of Hurricane Matthew's storm surge could exceed Hurricane Hugo, according to Haley, who pleaded with those remaining along the coast to evacuate. "It is getting worse, and we're seeing that it's getting worse," Haley said "... There is no excuse to risk your life. There's no excuse to risk the lives of your family members." President Barack Obama has declared a state of emergency in South Carolina. That means federal aid can help state and local responders. The order also authorizes the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to coordinate disaster relief. About 500,000 people live in areas under evacuation order. As of 3 p.m., about 280,000 of them had departed, up from about 175,000 early Thursday, Haley said.

The State: Haley made right call on hurricane, former governors say

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article106530432.html>

When Hurricane Bertha took a brief turn toward the Isle of Palms in 1996, then-Gov. David Beasley said he entered "a whole other level of praying," hoping the storm would miss the island community he had not ordered evacuated. It did. Three years later, when Hurricane Floyd threatened the state, then-Gov. Jim Hodges took the blame after S.C. motorists inched along Interstate 26 westbound, spending hours in their vehicles as they tried to obey his coastal evacuation order. Tuesday, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley got an early start to her hurricane planning, calling for coastal evacuations to start Wednesday. At the time, Hurricane Matthew was pummeling Haiti, more than 1,000 miles and four days away from the Palmetto State. Haley ordered school districts and government offices in more than half the state's counties to close. She also announced lane reversals on I-26 to help motorists fleeing the coast. The actions disrupted lives, forcing some Midlands parents to stay home from work to watch children who could have been in school. But Haley made the right call, Republican Beasley and Democrat Hodges told The State Thursday. Haley's decisions are part of the tough calls a governor has to make to keep people safe, the former governors added. "It's got to be an orderly process and, if you wait to late, the roads get jammed and then tempers flare and there's catastrophe," Beasley said. "You err on the side of caution. You can't err on the side of convenience."

The State: Charleston mayor urges evacuation as Hurricane Matthew comes closer

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106441917.html>

Echoing Gov. Nikki Haley's earlier remarks, Charleston officials on Thursday urged residents to leave the city as soon as possible. Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg did not have estimates for how many city residents have left the city during his 2 p.m. news conference. He cited Haley's numbers, 175,000 residents, which she said were not enough. "It really goes against my grain and against my nature to be inhospitable, but we're asking everyone to please leave town," Tecklenburg said. "It's that time. Tecklenburg stressed businesses would not be operating as usual, making the city not a "great place to be hanging out over the next couple of days." He lauded Haley's Wednesday evacuation order, calling it a "wise move on her part." Tecklenburg said the evacuation during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 was last-minute and it was "pandemonium." Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen said the evacuation of the city has gone well. He once again stressed to those who choose to stay that the city will have "very limited response capabilities" once the storm arrives.

The State: Troops evacuating from Hurricane Matthew begin arriving at Fort Jackson

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106511487.html>

Military personnel from South Carolina's coast have begun trickling into Fort Jackson in anticipation of Hurricane Matthew. About 200 Army and Navy personnel from the Charleston area began arriving Wednesday night, after an evacuation order was issued at Joint Base Charleston. "It's more than a handful, but in the grand scheme of things it's not a huge deal," Fort Jackson spokesman Pat Jones said. The Charleston base, which includes a mix of commands from various military branches, ordered most of its personnel to evacuate individually, rather than as a unit, according to the base's Website. They were offered a per diem to move themselves and their families to a safe haven of their choice, just as civilians do, with the added option of moving to another military installation. Fort Jackson is the nation's largest training base, with plenty of barrack space to absorb evacuating soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, Jones said. For instance, each week a battalion of recruits graduate from basic training and ship out, which opens an entire barracks of about 1,000 beds. And there are plenty of other on-post housing options, including temporary barracks, hotels, apartments and single-family dwellings.

The State: Columbia is home away from home for nervous evacuees

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106575282.html>

Hurricane Matthew evacuees who fled to Columbia as the storm advances shared their accounts Thursday of the hitting the road to safety. Some found the ride stressful. Others said that, compared to the interstate mess in 1999 caused by Hurricane Floyd, the trip was manageable. All are stressing about what the storm surge from Matthew might do to their coastal homes – while members of a bus-tour group from Arkansas just hates they didn't get a chance to visit Charleston.

The State: Shelter clients saying fleeing oncoming storm was right decision for them

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106517997.html>

The governor's evacuation order pushed a Beaufort family of 14 and a young Charleston couple to throw together a few things and head toward Columbia.

"I did not want to," Sylvia Blake, 47, said Thursday afternoon of leaving home for a city she had never visited. If the decision was hers alone, the Beaufort native said she would have ridden out Hurricane Matthew as it heads toward the South Carolina coast. Yet, sitting in a temporary shelter in the gym of Dent Middle School while her three children and the kids of her relatives played and laughed, Blake is persuaded that leaving was a good idea – though perhaps a bit premature. She and her family were among 61 people at the shelter by Thursday night, including 20 children. As many as 200 are expected, said shelter supervisor Carolyn Johnson. "We all live in mobile homes now," Blake, a home health aide, said of the relatives who formed a five-vehicle family caravan and left Beaufort at 9 a.m. Thursday. "We got them big, double-wides," but they're not stable enough to risk their lives, she said. Five hours later, the brood found the shelter along Decker Boulevard with the aid of the Red Cross and their mobile phones. They plan to sleep on cots and eat meals cooked in the school kitchen until it's safe to return home.

The State: Many Lowcountry residents delay evacuations, stay put despite Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/article106514802.html>

David Burke had a customer at his Hilton Head pharmacy Thursday who was surveying those who had not yet evacuated the island. "I wanted to see who the dumb people were who were working today," the customer told Burke. "Put us at the top of the list," replied Burke, who chose to stay in the Lowcountry Thursday despite the looming arrival of Hurricane Matthew. Burke was one of an estimated 75,000 Lowcountry residents who had not yet evacuated Thursday despite Gov. Nikki Haley ordering the evacuation of the Beaufort and Charleston areas at 3 p.m. Wednesday. That number prompted Haley to tell a Thursday morning press conference that too many Lowcountry

residents were not evacuating. In an afternoon news conference, she said about 280,000 of the 500,000 people who live in evacuation areas had departed, up from 175,000 earlier in the day. Haley pleaded with those who had not yet left the coast to do so right away. Many of those who stayed behind said they were waiting to miss the initial rush of evacuees. Others, however, intend to ride out the storm.

The State: Unexpected school closures wreak havoc on some working parents

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106499572.html>

Betsy Blake remembers the chaos of Hurricane Floyd all too well. "It took people 21 hours to get from Charleston to Columbia during that evacuation because they just waited too late to evacuate and because they didn't redirect (Interstate) 26 soon enough," said Blake, a professor in the University of South Carolina's College of Pharmacy. Blake and her husband, Kevin, lived in Charleston and were part of the mass evacuation there in 1999. For that reason, the Blakes – who today have two children in Lexington 1 – understand Gov. Nikki Haley's early call for evacuations and closing of many area schools for the rest of the week. But that kind of understanding wasn't shared among many other working Midlands parents, who were struggling to find child care options for three days. "It's just too extreme," said Carla Johnson, who was at Riverbanks Zoo Wednesday morning with her 8-year-old son, a Richland 1 elementary student. "There's no reason they can't be in school at least today, and probably the whole week."

The State: Pets Inc. looking for volunteer pet sitters as it takes on 70 animals from Pawleys Island

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article106575847.html>

Pets Inc. in West Columbia is coping with 70 extra animals evacuated from the All 4 Paws shelter on Pawleys Island. "It's all hands on deck," Pets Inc. director Sammy Wullmer said. Pets Inc. also is helping people who evacuated to Columbia find homes and kennels able to foster their dogs and cats for a few days. Midlands evacuation shelters are not taking pets, and neither are many motels and hotels. Volunteers are needed to help care for the temporary influx, Wullmer said. Donations of food and blankets also are welcome. Call (803) 739-9333 or go online at info@petsinc.org.

The State: USC-Georgia game moving to Sunday

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article106542442.html>

South Carolina will play Georgia this weekend after all. Just not on the day originally planned. The Gamecocks' home game against the Bulldogs, which was originally scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, has been moved to 2:30 p.m. Sunday because of the predicted impact of Hurricane Matthew on the state. The game will be played at Williams-Brice Stadium and broadcast by the SEC Network. "Due to the potential impact of the hurricane on Columbia and the surrounding area, it is in the best interest of safety to play the game on Sunday rather than Saturday night," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said in a statement released by South Carolina at 9:15 p.m. "I appreciate the cooperation of the schools who worked closely to make the appropriate operational adjustments in order to accommodate this change in the schedule." Gamecocks coach Will Muschamp announced the news on his weekly "Carolina Calls" radio show after receiving a phone call from USC athletics director Ray Tanner shortly before 8 p.m. Tanner was unavailable for comment Thursday night after the announcement. "It's all about the safety of our student-athletes and being very sensitive to a very catastrophic situation hitting our coast," Muschamp said after his call-in show. "They went through everything. I had nothing to do with it other than game planning for the game. I just told them to let me know what we're going to do."

Post and Courier: Hurricane Matthew poses significant threat to S.C. coast

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009656/hurricane-matthew-poses-significant-threat-to-sc-coast>

Gov. Nikki Haley said the time is fast approaching where there will be nothing left to do but pray. Hurricane Matthew is getting dangerously close to the Lowcountry, bringing heavy rain, severe wind and flooding. "This is a scary storm. This is a storm that should be taken seriously," Haley said. "We have started having a chaplain in our conference meetings because now is the time for the state to pray." She begged residents who had not followed the evacuation order to leave coastal areas before the closing of roads, bridges, gas stations and stores begins. The Ravenel Bridge and others will be closed once winds hit 40 mph on Friday. The storm was packing 130 mph winds late Thursday, according to the National Hurricane Center. A hurricane warning was issued for coastal communities, including Berkeley and Charleston counties, up to the South Santee River. The National Weather Service in Charleston has issued a tropical storm warning for many counties near the coast, including Dorchester and Colleton. A flash flood watch is also in effect for the Charleston area through early Sunday.

Post and Courier : Obama approves federal assistance to S.C. ahead of Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009650/obama-approves-federal-assistance-to-sc-ahead-of-hurricane-matthew>

Federal emergency declaration for direct assistance has been approved giving South Carolina additional federal resources to deploy ahead of Hurricane Matthew's arrival in the state Friday evening. So far 280,000 coastal residents have evacuated with areas up and down the Palmetto State's coast under evacuation orders, as of Thursday evening. The number climbed by more than 100,000 since the morning, but with conditions expected to rapidly worsen Friday, Haley said more remain. Lanes on Interstate 26, which have been only flowing west-bound since Wednesday at 3 p.m., are expected to return to normal directions Friday to allow officials to position equipment in the vulnerable Lowcountry. The coast could see storm surge worse than Hurricane Hugo, one forecaster said, which peaked of 21 feet of water at Bull's Bay in 1989. With a worsening storm headed toward the state, Gov. Nikki Haley begged residents late Thursday to leave coastal areas before the closing of roads, bridges, gas stations and stores begins. The Ravenel Bridge and others will be closed once winds hit 40 mph on Friday. "This is a scary storm, this is a storm that should be taken seriously," Haley said. "We have started having a chaplain in our conference meetings because now is the time for the state to pray."

Post and Courier: Matthew to run most of the coast before turning out to sea; weather to worsen today

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161007/161009578/matthew-to-run-most-of-the-coast-before-turning-out-to-sea-weather-to-worsen-today>

Hurricane Matthew is now expected to wrack the entire South Carolina coast Saturday, moving 50 miles or less offshore with winds that might as strong as 100 mph, before turning out to sea north of Charleston. The National Weather Service, Charleston, called for: Hurricane force gusts up to 80 mph and tropical force winds up to 55 mph to start Friday afternoon and continue into Saturday. Rainfall up to 14 inches or more along the coast and up to 8 inches farther inland. Power outages and tree damage. Storm surge up to 8 feet and coastal roads impassable. Significant flooding in poorly drained areas. Brief tornadoes possible along the coast. Forecasters' confidence is increasing that the storm will hold that track, said weather service meteorologist Steve Rowley.

Post and Courier: People pack into tri-county shelters, with 500 camped out at North Charleston High

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009607/people-pack-into-tri-county-shelters-with-500-camped-out-at-north-charleston-high>

Nearly 500 people had arrived at North Charleston High School by Thursday afternoon and more were on the way as Hurricane Matthew approached the eastern coast of Florida as a Category 4 storm. The Charleston County school near Park Circle is the largest hurricane evacuation center in the tri-county area, according to Jennifer Heisler, a spokeswoman for the American Red Cross. A few people leaned against concrete ledges outside the school. Some smoked cigarettes; others just looked out into the parking lot with blank stares. Inside, the fluorescent-lit hallways were lined with dozens of people, many lying on top of blankets and articles of clothing. They were moved to the school's gymnasium later in the evening. The most common complaint from people staying there earlier in the day was the lack of blankets, pillows and cots. Heisler said the organization had brought in about 400 cots in the afternoon and that another delivery was expected by nightfall.

Post and Courier: Dorchester County providing sandbags, transportation to shelters

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009640/dorchester-county-providing-sandbags-transportation-to-shelters>

Dorchester County will distribute sandbags to residents on Friday and provide transportation to its two emergency shelters as Hurricane Matthew is expected to impact the area. Three additional shelters will be on standby in case more space is needed. The county will have a limited number of sandbags available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 10 a.m. Friday and continuing while supplies last or until 5 p.m. Each household will be limited to 10 sandbags. They can be picked up at the following locations:

Post and Courier: Political football: USC-UGA game goes on Sunday over Haley's objections

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009584/political-football-usc-uga-game-goes-on-sunday-over-haleys-objections>

Hurricane Matthew's powerful winds have disrupted much of South Carolina with a coastal evacuation, but the fierce storm has not blown away the state's major college football game this weekend. The University of South Carolina will play the University of Georgia at William-Brice Stadium on Sunday, a day later than scheduled — and against the wishes of Gov. Nikki Haley. No game time was announced Thursday. A rift over holding the Southeastern Conference contest has formed with the different impacts Hurricane Matthew is expected to have on each side on Interstate 95. The coast is predicted to get pelted with intense winds and storm surge on Saturday — in some areas worse than 1989's Hurricane Hugo. Meanwhile, areas west of I-95 will receive essentially "a bad thunderstorm," according to a National Weather Service forecaster, news that is doing little to stop talk about the status of the rivalry game among rabid Gamecock fans.

Post and Courier: Charleston airport flights could end by Friday evening ahead of Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161006/161009595/charleston-airport-flights-could-end-by-friday-evening-ahead-of-hurricane-matthew>

The state's busiest airport could be a ghost town by Friday night. Flights in and out of Charleston International will taper off Friday as Hurricane Matthew approaches the coast, according to Paul Campbell, CEO of Charleston County Aviation Authority, which oversees the airport. JetBlue Airways canceled its service Thursday to the Lowcountry, he said. Delta Air Lines will stop service at 1 p.m. Friday. American Airlines has canceled all flights after noon Friday. The last flights for Southwest Airlines and United Airlines are expected by late afternoon or early evening Friday as winds pick up. Alaska Airlines also canceled its Friday flight. The Air Force controls the runways and will dictate when to close the airfield. Service flights could resume Sunday.

Island Packet: Matthew downgraded to category 3; still major threat to Florida, SC

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article106626107.html>

Hurricane Matthew weakened to a category 3 hurricane overnight, but remains a “very dangerous” storm expected to unleash fury on Florida this morning with life-threatening winds, flash flooding and power outages throughout the weekend, forecasters say. Matthew, the strongest Caribbean storm in almost a decade, is moving closer to Florida with maximum sustained winds at 120 mph. The hurricane was about 40 miles east-southeast of Cape Canaveral, Fla. , according to a 5 a.m. news release from the National Hurricane Center. Matthew’s center will be moving near or over the east coast of the Florida peninsula through tonight, and near or over the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina on Saturday, according to the National Hurricane Center. It’s expected to hit the Lowcountry within the next 24 hours.

Island Packet: Hurricane Matthew storm surge could be ‘worse than Hugo’ <http://www.islandpacket.com/news/weather/hurricane/article106337637.html>

Hurricane Matthew is taking a slightly more westerly path than forecasters expected, and this could have dangerous consequences for the Lowcountry. “(The track) shifted slightly closer to the coast, which is cause for concern,” according to John Quagliariello of the National Weather Service, who accompanied Gov. Nikki Haley at her 6 p.m. news conference. “(This is) going to mean stronger winds, greater storm surge, and maybe heavier rainfall.” Storm surge is of the greatest concern, Quagliariello warned. “Disastrous and life-threatening storm surge is more likely for the south coast of South Carolina,” Quagliariello said. In Beaufort County and Charleston he said storm surge is likely to be worse than that during Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center upgraded Matthew to a Category 4 hurricane Thursday as the colossal storm system tracked closer to the U.S. after slamming the Bahamas. A hurricane warning has been issued for Beaufort and Jasper counties as the area prepares for a fierce and relentless Hurricane Matthew to move up the Carolina coast later this week.

Sun News: Hurricane Matthew track shifts farther up S.C. coast before curving out to sea

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article106627987.html>

In the latest forecast, powerful Hurricane Matthew’s track will ride farther up the S.C. coast before taking his dramatic turn out to sea, shifting the storm’s projected arrival into Grand Strand area waters to Saturday afternoon. The storm’s track now shows a slight adjustment to the north by about 40 miles before the hurricane spins eastward, forecasters with the National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C. said. The storm will likely weaken to a Category 1 or 2 storm when its in S.C. coastal waters. If that track holds, storm force winds would be felt a little further northward up the coast blowing into Northeast South Carolina and Southeast North Carolina during Saturday afternoon, so wind speeds and gusts have been slightly modified upward by about 5 mph, mainly along the coast, according Michael Caropolo, meteorologist with the weather service. A tropical storm warning was issued Thursday and remained in effect Friday for Horry and Georgetown counties. A flash flood watch is also in effect for portions of northeast S.C. and southeast N.C.

Sun News: Update: Flood impacts from Hurricane Matthew elevated to ‘extreme’

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article106339572.html>

In the latest forecast, Hurricane Matthew still remains on track to ride up the South Carolina coast then make a dramatic curve out to sea, but weather authorities ramped up flood impacts to “extreme” Thursday afternoon. More rainfall than previously expected Wednesday is now expected to hammer Grand Strand coastal regions and trees could easily topple from wind gusts. Increased storm rainfall

total amounts with a potential for more than 10 inches along coastal areas was announced as a possibility early Thursday morning, which could lead to road washouts and sinkholes, along with flooding at vulnerable structures in low-lying areas. That statement was echoed in an afternoon update as forecasters stressed extreme flooding was possible. "Heavy rainfall and flooding is likely, especially during Saturday with rainfall exceeding 10 inches at the coast," said Steve Pfaff, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wilmington, N.C. in a 2 p.m. threat assessment. A morning update Thursday mostly mirrored previous updates from Wednesday evening with "no significant changes" made to the latest forecast storm track, but showed more rainfall could pound the coastline, Pfaff said.

Morning News: PDRTA to offer bus rides to Florence County shelters

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_ccc5cef2-8c05-11e6-9a92-b36575627ff6.html

The Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority in coordination with Florence County Emergency Management will make buses available for Florence County citizens seeking transportation to a Florence County shelter on Friday. The buses will be at a designated location in Coward, Scranton, Olanta and Johnsonville. These locations include...

Walterboro Live: Haley orders evacuation of Colleton east of I-95

<http://walterborolive.com/2016/10/haley-orders-evacuation-colleton-east-95-news-press-standard/>

As Hurricane Matthew continues to threaten the southeastern United States, Governor Nikki Haley today ordered an evacuation of additional coastal areas in Jasper and Colleton, South Carolina. Residents and visitors in Zone B of Jasper and Colleton Counties should begin evacuating effective immediately TODAY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6. This evacuation is in addition to the previous evacuation for the areas of Jasper and Colleton Counties in Zone A, which went into effect yesterday, October 5. Colleton County's emergency shelter is at Colleton Middle School on Tuskegee Airman Drive. People who live in the following coastal areas should evacuate immediately...

Jasper Sun Times: Gov. Haley orders more Jasper evacuations

<http://www.jaspersuntimes.com/news/2016-10-06/gov-haley-orders-more-jasper-evacuations>

Gov. Nikki Haley ordered an evacuation of additional coastal areas in Jasper County. Residents and visitors in Zone B of Jasper (and Colleton) should evacuate effective immediately. Haley previously ordered an Evacuation of Zone A. To verify whether you are located in an evacuation zone, please visit www.scecmd.org and click, "Know your Zone," to enter your home address. Evacuation details, by region, are listed below and detailed via an interactive map at that South Carolina Emergency Management Division's website. Maps of coastal evacuation routes, including interactive and downloadable maps, are available at the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) website. To verify whether you are located in an evacuation zone, please visit www.scecmd.org and click, "Know your Zone," to enter your home address. Evacuation details, by region, are listed below and detailed via an interactive map at that South Carolina Emergency Management Division's website.

Jasper Sun Times: UPDATE: Former Jags football star Scott helps at shelter; 500 at Ridgeland evacuation site

<http://www.jaspersuntimes.com/news/2016-10-06/well-over-200-ridgeland-shelter>

Former Ridgeland High football star Wesley Scott is volunteering at the evacuation shelter in Ridgeland. Scott, who competed in the 2011 Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas and played football at NCAA Division I FBS Miami (Ohio), said the looming hurricane is unlike anything he's experienced. "All the 18 years I've lived in Ridgeland before going to college I've never experienced anything out of

the ordinary other than rain and thunder," said Scott, who graduated in May and works for Jasper's Department of Social Services in Ridgeland. "To ease the population taking shelter the staff writes updates of the progression of the hurricane. People, including myself, aren't as nervous. The ones who aren't nervous tend to be curious, or in doubt because nothing on this degree happens in town. "As of 7 p.m. Thursday, about 500 people are at Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School, according to Becky Bowie of the American Red Cross.

Aiken Standard: Hurricane Matthew drives out-of-town visitors to Aiken

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161006/161009692/hurricane-matthew-drives-out-of-town-visitors-to-aiken>

There was no wind, no rain, no floods, but instead Matthew hit in the form of thousands of evacuees heading west into Aiken from Hilton Head to Charleston to avoid the Category 4 storm. The wind and rain associated with Hurricane Matthew aren't expected to impact South Carolina and the Aiken area until early Saturday, but the human side of the storm hit Aiken Wednesday, filling hotels, packing restaurants, supermarkets and shops, spending money on par with Masters week in April. Visitors sounded just as excited as local business owners. Maybe more so. "This is the most amazing town I've ever seen, no parking meters," said Terry Martin, in Aiken from the metro Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area by way of Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island. "The weather is beautiful, the downtown area is so picturesque, and parking is free. This is the first place I've been to that didn't charge for parking, and there were places to park."

Aiken Standard: 'God's got this:' Evacuees in Aiken talk Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161006/161009693/x2018godx2019s-got-thisx2019-evacuees-in-aiken-talk-hurricane-matthew>

Evacuees continued arriving to Aiken County on Thursday, as South Carolina and surrounding coastal areas closely monitor Hurricane Matthew. South Aiken High School, the primary shelter in the county, had around 150 evacuees by Thursday afternoon, with roughly 80 employees from Sea Pines Resort in Hilton Head arriving by bus. Christine McElroy said her husband, Jared, works for Sea Pines Resort and the 80 employees are from out of the country. She and her family evacuated to the same area to help them. McElroy was calm and waited outside of South Aiken during the afternoon, where she cradled her 6-week-old baby, Beckett, while watching her two other boys, Reese and Holden – ages 5 and 3. The family, of Bluffton, arrived in Aiken on Thursday morning after loading their van with essential items – clothing, toiletries and things for the baby – before leaving home.

Aiken Standard: Equine evacuees welcome in Aiken

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161006/161009694/equine-evacuees-welcome-in-aiken>

Horses and ponies evacuated from coastal areas that could be in the path of Hurricane Matthew have found stalls and a warm welcome in Aiken. "The hospitality has been just amazing," said Joanna Lacey, who was standing with a pony that was munching on some grass at the Aiken Horse Park's Bruce's Field on Thursday morning. "They've checked on us, they've asked if we need anything, and they are allowing us to be here. They've also offered coffee, and coffee is important to me." The pony was from the Stable at Stono Ferry near Hollywood, which is in Charleston County. Cyndi Simpson is Stono Ferry's manager, and she had to scramble to find a place that had room for 23 evacuees with hooves and manes. "We've mostly got kids' ponies," Simpson said. "I called one farm up here, and it was already full. I also called McGhees' Mile and the Aiken Training Track, but couldn't get anybody on the phone." Then Simpson found a phone number for the Horse Park's vice president, Tara Bostwick, and her problem was solved.

The Item: State facing largest evacuation in 17 years

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/state-facing-largest-evacuation-in-17-years,277446>

The projected path of Hurricane Matthew changed Wednesday, shifting farther off the coast of South Carolina; but Gov. Nikki Haley and leaders are still taking every precautionary measure - starting the state's largest evacuation in at least 17 years.

Haley initiated the evacuation plan on Wednesday as hundreds of thousands of people began making their way inland from Hilton Head Island, Beaufort and Charleston to avoid the hurricane. The governor's order covers all of Beaufort County and most of Charleston and Jasper counties. Low-lying parts of Berkeley, Dorchester and Colleton counties were also included in the evacuation. The change in the projected forecast also showed the hurricane moving at a slower pace, not affecting the coastal areas until Saturday morning. With the change, Haley did delay evacuations for Georgetown and Horry counties until today at noon. "Because the storm changed, we are changing with the storm," Haley said. State Highway Patrol troopers turned the eastbound lanes of Interstate 26 from Charleston to Columbia, a 100-mile stretch, into inland evacuation lanes for the first time. The plan was put into place after evacuations during Hurricane Floyd in 1999 turned a typical trip of less than two hours from Charleston to Columbia into an up-to-24-hour ordeal.

Greenville News : Haley begs residents to evacuate ahead of Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/06/hurricane-watches-issued-sc-matthew-strengthens/91654260/>

Gov. Nikki Haley pleaded with residents to evacuate ahead of a Category 4 hurricane that battered Florida Thursday night as it took dead aim on South Carolina. The governor, warning that the storm surge from Hurricane Matthew has the potential to be worse than Hurricane Hugo in 1989, begged residents to "understand the seriousness of the storm." "When we're looking at storm surges that surpass Hugo, you know it's a problem," Haley said. As if to reiterate the threat, President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency in South Carolina ahead of the storm's arrival. Officials said roughly 280,000 people had evacuated the coast as authorities implemented lane reversals on Interstate 26 to aid with moving people from the eastern part of the state. The lane reversals will end Friday, Haley said, and officials plan to shut down high bridges once winds pick up.

Greenville News : Hurricane Matthew slamming Florida now, Haley begs residents to evacuate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/10/07/hurricane-matthew-batters-fl-haley-begs-residents-evacuate/91719518/>

South Carolina was in a State of Emergency about 24 hours from impact on Friday morning. Hundreds of thousands were without power in Florida after Hurricane Matthew battered the southeast coast overnight. The storm, which has been blamed for more than 100 deaths, is now a Category 3 storm with 125 MPH sustained winds as it continues its path up the Florida coast. Those without power will have to wait until the storm has left the state before Duke Energy crews will begin working to restore power, according to Duke Energy. The hurricane is expected to make landfall early Friday north of Palm Beach County, which has about 1.4 million people, and then slowly push north for the next 12 hours along the Interstate 95 corridor, through Cape Canaveral and Jacksonville, according to the National Hurricane Center. From there, it's set to hug the coastline up through Georgia and South Carolina. Forecasters expect it to weaken to a Category 1 before hitting the southern coast of South Carolina, then to a Tropical Storm as it approaches The Grand Strand.

Greenville News: Why some people are choosing to ride out Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/06/why-some-people-choosing-ride-out-hurricane-matthew/91668226/>

On Pawleys Island, a picturesque sliver of land almost certain to flood under the fury of Hurricane Matthew, Paul Saylor has given official notice that he plans to welcome the storm from the most precarious of positions. By Thursday afternoon, he was the only one residing among the 600 homes on the island to sign an evacuation refusal document that makes clear the price for staying. "I have been informed that Town of Pawleys Island is under an evacuation given by the governor of the state of South Carolina," it reads. "I have refused to comply with the evacuation and leave the island." And then it asks for next of kin information. "I said to these guys, 'What do you want to do? Give me a tag for my big toe?'" Saylor said of the form to which he penned the name of his wife, who is staying elsewhere in Miami. "She hasn't complained," he deadpanned. In downtown Charleston on Thursday, others said they had decided to stay in the face of Gov. Nikki Haley's evacuation order and city Mayor John Tecklenburg's urging to leave.

Independent Mail: No hotel vacancies in Anderson amid hurricane prep

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/06/upstate-helping-hurricane-matthew-efforts/91660396/>

Throughout the Upstate, emergency crews are headed to meet Hurricane Matthew or are standing by to learn where they'll meet the storm and its damage. There were no hotel rooms available in Anderson County on Thursday night, said Taylor Jones, who heads the county's emergency management division. He said there were about 20 hotel rooms available in the entire county for Saturday night, but those will likely be booked fast. Gov. Nikki Haley said in a news conference Thursday morning that most of the hotel rooms in the state had been booked with the exception of a few in Anderson County. As evacuees from the coast head to the Upstate, their first stop will be at shelters in Spartanburg County. But once the Spartanburg Expo and Events Center, with a capacity of about 3,300, is half full, evacuees will be routed to Anderson County.

Independent Mail: Lowcountry horses finding shelter in Anderson area

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/06/lowcountry-horses-finding-shelter-anderson-area/91661358/>

Upstate residents are opening their stall doors to horses evacuated from the Lowcountry because of the threat of Hurricane Matthew. Social media helped connect people from Charleston to those in the Upstate with extra room to house animals. A Facebook page, called Animal Evacuation from Hurricane Matthew Needs, has been created to help people in finding places for their animals. Linda Kriegel took in a man's two horses after social media friends connected them. The Easley resident received a Facebook message earlier this week from a friend asking for her help. Her friend asked if Kriegel could take in horses owned by Greg Grochowski. "He was frantic," Kriegel said. "The first thing he said to me when we talked was 'Oh my God, thank you so much!'" Kriegel said she took in the stranger without hesitation.

The Herald: Region's citizen-soldiers prep for National Guard's role helping victims

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article106495717.html>

Almost every day, Timmy Catoe hustles a hard living, processing wood pulp at York County's Resolute Forest Products. But that's not all he does. For a year in 2004 he served in Iraq with the Lancaster unit of the Army National Guard. He missed the birth of a daughter while guarding convoys from bombs. For a month last year, he worked 18-hour days to fix roads and bridges washed out from flooding. Thursday he prepared to leave for as long as it takes to help people in South Carolina as Hurricane Matthew approaches. Catoe, a 36-year-old father and husband, is the face of South Carolina's resolve that Hurricane Matthew will not leave victims without hope -- even if they lose power or have property damage. With him are a warehouse worker and a beauty school financial aid

officer born in Ecuador and a college student and a store clerk and others. Citizen-soldiers who dropped their lives to help; 53 others already have headed to the coast.

WIS: State officials prepared as Hurricane Matthew approaches SC

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33338022/state-officials-prepared-as-hurricane-matthew-approaches-sc>

The damage in the Bahamas gives some idea why officials are begging residents along the coast to evacuate. So far 280,000 people in the Lowcountry and Grand Strand have packed up to get out of the storm's path. Now officials are focusing on how to respond to the storm. That response plan will include how to safely get people off the coast if they're caught in the path of this storm. In a briefing Thursday, the National Guard did announce that additional aircraft are being flown into South Carolina to help with emergency evacuations. Water rescue units are also getting ready in several coastal counties ahead of Hurricane Matthew's arrival. This all comes as Gov. Nikki Haley and others made the case Thursday that the longer people along the coast wait to leave, the harder and more dangerous that could become. State officials are expecting the surge from this storm to be strong enough to flood roadways and that could leave people stranded as conditions worsen into the weekend.

WIS: SCDOT: I-26 lane reversals to end Friday morning

<http://www.wistv.com/story/33337482/scdot-i-26-lane-reversals-to-end-friday-morning>

Lane reversals for Interstate 26 are planned to end Friday morning, per the S.C. Department of Transportation. The process for returning I-26 to normal operations will begin by law enforcement stopping traffic from entering the reversed lanes at Interstate 526 in Charleston. The S.C. Department of Public Safety will then begin the process of removing traffic control points on I-26 eastbound from Charleston to Columbia. Once the traffic control points have been removed and a final check has been performed, all lanes will return to normal operations, DOT officials explained. This process could take three hours or more. Westbound I-26 will remain open during this operation, except for intermittent closures, officials said. All motorists evacuating the coastal area are strongly encouraged to leave prior to the time state emergency officials and National Guard personnel will be returning to their office quarters until the storm has passed.

WACH: Haley: We really need you to evacuate

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-we-really-need-you-to-evacuate>

Governor Nikki Haley asserted the need for people who have been ordered to evacuate to do so during a news conference Thursday evening. "This is the time we absolutely need to get out," said Haley. "There is no excuse to risk your life." The governor said so far 280,000 people have evacuated and a few hundred thousand more are expected to. Haley emphasized throughout to evacuate and that to do so immediately as the lane reversals on I-26 is expected to be shut off around noon Friday. Those who have evacuated will have 64 shelters available to go to and some hotels remain available in Anderson and Charlotte. The governor said as the winds pick up high bridges, like the Ravenell Bridge, will be shut down once winds hit 40mph. DHEC Director Catherine Heigel said 88 DHEC facilities have been evacuated, including Beaufort Memorial Hospital and Haley noted for residents to take that as a sign.

WACH: Bus evacuations ahead of Matthew to end at 6pm

<http://wach.com/news/local/bus-evacuations-ahead-of-matthew-to-end-at-6pm>

If you need to evacuate to a local shelter and do not have transportation, buses will be provided by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Rides are only available until 6 p.m. tonight. If you are not at a local pick-up point by 6 p.m. you will not be transported. All you have to do is find the

nearest local pick-up point and a bus will take you to a shelter. Pick-up points are identified by blue "Hurricane Evacuation Bus Stop" signs. Do not go to the North Charleston Coliseum. When local shelters reach 50% capacity, evacuees will be transported to the Coliseum initially, then to shelters in the Upstate. If you are disabled and cannot get to the nearest evacuation pick-up point, contact the Charleston County Emergency Public Information Line at (843) 746-3900, and a vehicle will be dispatched to transport you to the nearest available shelter.

WACH: Haley orders additional evacuations for Jasper & Colleton Counties

<http://wach.com/news/local/haley-orders-additional-evacuations-for-jasper-colleton-counties>

Governor Haley has announced additional evacuations for counties along the coasts. The governor is ordering residents of Colleton and Jasper Counties in Zone B to evacuate immediately. An evacuation for the two counties for residents in Zone A was issued Wednesday.

WOLO: Governor Haley: 'We really need you to Evacuate'

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/2016/10/06/governor-haley-really-need-evacuate/>

In an address to the State of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said "We really need you to evacuate." The Governor updating the path of Hurricane Matthew from the State Emergency Operations Center, saying "Now is the time for South Carolina to pray" Haley says the Hurricane is a storm that should be taken seriously. Governor Nikki Haley ordered an evacuation of additional coastal areas in Jasper and Colleton, South Carolina. Residents and visitors in Zone B of Jasper and Colleton Counties should evacuate. This evacuation is in addition to the previous evacuation for the areas of Jasper and Colleton Counties in Zone A, which went into effect yesterday, October 5.

WMBF: Businesses along evacuation zone closing shop before Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33337778/businesses-along-evacuation-zone-closing-shop-before-hurricane-matthew>

Grand Strand homeowners aren't the only ones evacuating before Hurricane Matthew arrives. Businesses are closing up shop throughout Zone A as well. Gas stations, banks and pharmacies are all closing their doors until the storm passes. "We're going to go to Wilmington for a little bit and see how it goes," said Orr Maman, who operates a hair salon with his family. Maman said after getting plenty of notice about Hurricane Matthew, they decided not to take any chances. "Being so close to the beach, we just really want to play it safe and protect our business," he said. Businesses all along the Grand Strand are closing down until Matthew passes, along with essential services like pharmacies, medical clinics and gas stations. Some have called the preparation efforts overly cautious, but Maman doesn't see it that way. "Yeah, I for sure say it's a safety precaution, and I mean we're hoping it swings the other way completely," he said. "But hey, if it does come at least we're prepared."

WMBF: No traffic issues as Horry County evacuates

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/33336735/no-traffic-issues-as-horry-county-evacuates>

r Zone A in Horry County ahead of Hurricane Matthew, traffic was not heavy or backed up throughout the afternoon for the evacuation routes. "It's been very light traffic," South Carolina Highway Patrol Cpl. Sonny Collins said. "Everything is moving smoothly. So if you're still out there and you're still thinking about evacuating, the roads are still available for that because there's not much traffic." Collins said U.S. 501 started getting busy Tuesday night and a steady stream of cars continued out Wednesday. "I think a lot of people did heed that early warning and now that we're actually in the evacuation the majority of people that were going to leave have left," he said. He added campgrounds emptied out ahead of an actual evacuation order, which helped traffic Thursday afternoon. Collins said

traffic could pick up in the evening hours as people get out of work.

WPDE: Gov. Haley praises proactive evacuees; next press conference set for 11 a.m. Friday
<http://wpde.com/news/local/watch-live-governor-nikki-haley-giving-update-around-6-pm-on-hurricane-matthew>

Governor Nikki Haley held a news conference Thursday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m. to give an update on Hurricane Matthew's potential impact to the state and the evacuation of coastal areas. Haley announced the evacuation of Zone A locations beginning at noon in Horry and Georgetown counties earlier Thursday during her morning news conference. At the evening press conference, Haley focused on reminding the public to take Hurricane Matthew seriously, while also praising progress thus far with evacuations. Haley said, at present, about 280,000 people along the coast have evacuated. Haley said officials can't force you to leave your home and go elsewhere, but evacuations are encouraged. Officials hope the number of evacuees will rise to numbers as high as 500,000. "This is a scary storm. This is a storm that should be taken seriously. We really need you to evacuate," Haley said.

WPDE: Locals have mixed reactions about evacuating ahead of Hurricane Matthew
<http://wpde.com/news/local/mixed-reactions-from-locals-about-evacuating>

Governor Nikki Haley ordered an evacuation for Zone A in Horry and Georgetown Counties Thursday in response to the threat of Hurricane Matthew to our area. South Carolina no longer does voluntary evacuations. All evacuations are mandatory, though officials cannot force you to leave your home. If you decide to stay despite an evacuation, you do so at your own risk. Emergency vehicles park once wind speeds reach 60 miles-per-hour. The traffic on the evacuation routes was light most of the day Thursday. Gov. Haley has been talking about the possibility of an evacuation for parts of our area for several days so many people that planned to evacuate have already gone. Once the official order came to evacuate, it was clear to many that there was a threat for major impacts to our area. That's when part-time Horry County resident Bobby Morgan decided it was time to leave, even though he doesn't live in an evacuation zone. "Well we were sitting around talking this morning and said that the weather is obviously going to turn bad and it won't be much fun," he said.

WPDE: Flights to and from MYR canceled Friday <http://wpde.com/news/local/flights-to-and-from-myr-canceled-friday>

Some flights to and from Myrtle Beach International Airport are canceled for Friday, October 7 according to flymyrtlebeach.com. The status of arrivals and departures listed below were canceled as of 6:35 a.m. Friday. We will continue to update this list throughout the day.

WBTW: Georgetown county prepares for flooding from Hurricane Matthew

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/06/georgetown-county-prepares-for-flooding-from-hurricane-matthew/>
This time last year people in Georgetown county had to deal with serious flooding from the historic floods. Now, with recent forecasts calling for up to nearly a foot of rain, flooding could be a problem again. County officials gave out 4,000 sandbags in just over an hour Thursday and that was their whole supply. They've ordered 5,000 more for Friday. The National Weather Service has coastal areas of Georgetown county under a flash flood watch from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon. Police patrols in Georgetown have also increased to discourage looting of vacant homes and buildings. People who do choose to stay in their homes do so at their own risk. According to Georgetown county spokesperson Jackie Broach, emergency response is not guaranteed for those who may end up needing help. The county is "strongly urging people to follow the governor's order and evacuate the area that is indicated, zone A, she said. "We see hurricanes approach this area so frequently that I

think a lot of people get complacent about it and when we do have one that gets close and poses a real threat they sometimes don't take that as seriously as perhaps they should."

WBTW: Already wet ground means more trees could fall during Hurricane Matthew

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/05/already-wet-ground-means-more-trees-could-fall-during-hurricane-matthew/>

Several businesses along Ocean Boulevard and Kings Highway were boarded up on Wednesday afternoon as people prepare for Hurricane Matthew. However, staff members with Santee Cooper were busy preparing to answer calls should the storm cause damage. "We have been making sure that our vehicles are stocked with materials, that our warehouses are stocked, that our fleets are gassed up," said Santee Cooper Public Relations Specialist, Susan Mungo. While power lines coming down are a concern during storms, perhaps a larger concern for this storm are downed trees. The ground is already soaked from a large amount of rain in September, in large part due to Tropical Storm Hermine, which could make trees more susceptible to falling. "We are aware that that may be a concern for us," said Mungo. "We have brought in additional tree crews that will be on standby in the area Friday evening and ready to respond on Saturday should we have damage."

WBTW: Georgetown hands out 4,000 sandbags in 72 minutes

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/06/georgetown-out-of-sandbags-expects-more-to-arrive-thursday-afternoon/>

Georgetown County Emergency Management says they are currently out of stock of sandbags. The full supply obtained Wednesday was given out to the public within 90 minutes yesterday. Officials were expecting a larger supply Thursday afternoon and said they would begin distributing again at 8 Oaks when it arrives. Spokesperson Jackie Broach with Georgetown County said they had run out for the day around 4 p.m. but they had more on order. News13 was told that Georgetown County handed out 4,000 sandbags in just 72 minutes Thursday. The county has ordered 5,000 more sandbags and expect them to arrive sometime Friday.

WBTW: Surfside Beach asks residents who plan to stay to pick up an ID band

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/06/surfside-beach-asks-residents-who-plan-to-stay-to-pick-up-an-id-band/>

Surfside beach officials are asking people who plan on staying in town during the storm to visit the fire station and pick up an identification band. On Thursday, the Town of Surfside beach posted the announcement on their Facebook page. The post says that after the storm is over, the band will easily identify you to those who check on citizens, which includes federal agencies, state agencies, and staff. "If you have a problem during the storm, please contact the fire department at 843.913.6369 or police department at 843.913.6368. Remember, once sustained winds are at 45 miles per hour, there will be no response from either the ambulance, fire, or police," the Facebook post says. Officials also say that if you get a band, and then decide to leave town, you should call the fire station and let them know you are leaving.

WBTW: People scramble to fill prescriptions last minute as pharmacies close

<http://wbtw.com/2016/10/06/people-scramble-to-fill-prescriptions-last-minute-as-pharmacies-close/>

Several people scrambled to get to CVS's on Thursday night after receiving calls the store would close at 8 p.m. Shirley Ferguson said she got the call and knew she had to get to the store to pick up her husband's medicine. "We had to kind of go shuffle through all his reserves and make sure that he had everything because he is a diabetic with high blood pressure and everything else so his medicine is definitely a need," said Ferguson. She's staying in Myrtle Beach to ride out the storm and hopes she is prepared. "I have a dog," she said. "And because of my husband's needs we decided that it was best to ride it out. We are somewhat in a flood zone but pray to God that it's not as bad as they say."

"Unlike Ferguson, Richard Young and his family are headed out of town." "My wife's scared," Young laughed. "I wouldn't mind staying but we've got two kids so we're trying to get out of here." Both Ferguson and Young didn't know the stores would be closing and were glad they got there in time.

WCIV: Evacuated North Charleston family catches looter on security video

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/evacuated-north-charleston-family-catches-woman-on-camera-inside-their-home>

A North Charleston family evacuated their home Thursday, only to find out someone broke into their home while they were gone. Fortunately, it was all caught on camera. Angela Jones said she has a security system on her phone, called Canary, that notified them at 9:15 p.m. Thursday that someone was in their house. "We were here with some family outside of town and our phone notified us there was activity within our home," Jones told ABC News 4's Dean Stephens. "She was only in the house a couple of minutes but hopefully police will be able to find her." They called police who, as of 11:15 p.m., were still at the home fingerprinting inside the house. Jones has no idea who the woman is. "I've never seen this woman before in my life," she said. She's not sure yet what was taken.

WCIV: Mount Pleasant police stepping up patrols in response to social media posts

<http://abcnews4.com/news/local/mount-pleasant-police-stepping-up-patrols-in-response-to-social-media-posts>

Mount Pleasant police are stepping up patrols in response to social media posts about possible burglars knocking on doors during evacuations. Inspector Chip Googe said they've seen multiple social media reports about people knocking on doors in Dunes West, Hamlin Plantation and Park West neighborhoods. No one has filed a report with police, Googe said. Anyone who sees suspicious behavior is asked to call police at (843) 743-7200. If you see something in progress you should call 911.

WCIV: Hurricane Watch issued for eastern Colleton, Beaufort, Jasper counties

<http://www.live5news.com/story/33321015/hurricane-watch-issued-for-eastern-colleton-beaufort-jasper-counties>

A hurricane watch was issued late Wednesday night for eastern Colleton, Beaufort and Jasper counties as Hurricane Matthew continues moving towards the Bahamas and the Florida coast. The late Wednesday night update has the eye of Hurricane Matthew located near latitude 23.4 North, longitude 76.4 West. Matthew is moving toward the northwest near 10 mph, and this motion is expected to continue during the next 24 to 48 hours. On this track, Matthew will be moving across the Bahamas Wednesday night and Thursday, and is expected to be very near the east coast of Florida by Thursday night. The current track has the storm strengthening to a Category 4 before it reaches the Florida coast, Chief Meteorologist Bill Walsh said. "As we move the storm to the north and east, we're talking about still a very strong Category 4 hurricane approaching from the south, and then diminishing to about a Category 2 hurricane, and that's in about 24 hours, just off our coast at about 105 miles per hour."

WTOC: Beaufort Memorial Hospital evacuating patients, closing ER

<http://www.wtoc.com/story/33335754/beaufort-memorial-hospital-evacuating-patients-closing-er>

Beaufort Memorial Hospital officials announced they will begin evacuating hospital patients and closing the ER immediately. According to a release, staff are preparing to evacuate approximately 70 patients, and are treating and releasing emergency room patients as appropriate. Patients' family members and/or emergency contacts will be notified when transfer arrangements are made with receiving facilities in South Carolina and Georgia.

WTOC: Hilton Head Island issues urgent evacuation notice for residence in need of assistance
<http://www.wtoc.com/story/33333729/hilton-head-island-issues-urgent-evacuation-notice-for-residence-in-need-of-assistance>

Hilton Head Island officials say the last evacuation bus will leave the BI-LO at Port Royal Plaza (95 Mathews Drive) at 4 p.m. Thursday. This will be the last trip the bus will take and the last attempt for residents who need assistance to leave the island. If you cannot walk to BI-LO, please contact the Town of Hilton Head Island Dispatch at 843-682-5125 to request a pickup to take you to BI-LO. If you need assistance leaving the island you need to pack your belongings and leave now. Town Officials are urging everyone to evacuate the Island as it is now under a Hurricane Warning. Also, due to Governor Nikki Haley's evacuation order associated with Hurricane Matthew, the last public ferry boat from Daufuskie Island will leave at 3 p.m. Thursday afternoon. Affected residents should make plans accordingly to evacuate the island as safely and expeditiously as possible. For more information, residents should call the Daufuskie Island Ferry Service at 843-940-7704.

WYFF4: Evacuation help forces Greenville County to cancel bus service for third day
<http://www.wyff4.com/news/evacuation-help-forces-greenville-county-to-cancel-bus-service-for-third-day/41995114>

For a third day, the Greenville County School District has canceled bus service to students as its fleet continues to assist in the evacuation before Hurricane Matthew. District representative Beth Brotherton said in a release that the majority of the district's fleet and its drivers have not yet been released by South Carolina Emergency Management officials. "The buses are in Charleston County and on standby to transport last-minute evacuees," Brotherton said. "The changing speed and track of the storm have delayed evacuations." Gov. Haley and state officials said during a 6 p.m. news conference that the last evacuation pickup for Greenville County buses in Charleston will take place Thursday night. The official said the buses will be returning after that. Sixty-seven of the Greenville County buses were used to evacuate nursing home patients, state officials said. The release about no bus service on Friday was sent before the Haley news conference. Brotherton said despite the return of the buses, the no-bus service for Friday still holds.

Townville, SC Shooting:

Associated Press: SC school officials hope to turn shooting site into park
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7sPpuP1P

An elementary school playground where a South Carolina gunman opened fire could be turned into a "tranquility park" to honor the 6-year-old boy who died after being shot. Anderson 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery says a new playground for Townville Elementary students will "help with the healing." The district hopes to raise \$750,000. That estimate includes putting new play equipment elsewhere on school property and creating an open park in the existing space. Avery says just 10 students were absent when classes resumed Thursday, a day after Jacob Hall's superhero-themed funeral. Authorities say a 14-year-old boy killed his father before driving to the school Sept. 28. Bullets struck Jacob, a classmate and his first-grade teacher. Jacob died Saturday. The other two were treated and released on the day of the shooting.

Associated Press: Prosecutor wants to try teen as an adult in school shooting
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7sPpuP1P

Prosecutors want to try a 14-year-old South Carolina boy as an adult on charges of killing his father and fatally shooting a first-grader at an elementary school. Solicitor Chrissy Adams announced filing a

petition Thursday to transfer the teen from family court, where he's charged as a juvenile, to circuit court. Her petition comes a day after the superhero-themed funeral of 6-year-old Jacob Hall, who was laid to rest as Batman. His family encouraged attendees to dress as the superheroes he loved, and so they did. His mother dressed as Robin. Speakers celebrated the boy who imagined himself roaming his small, rural town to save people as others slept.

Independent Mail: Solicitor wants to try Townville suspect as an adult

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2016/10/06/solicitor-wants-charge-teen-adult-townville-elementary-shooting/91689426/>

Anderson County prosecutors are seeking to try 14-year-old Jesse Dewitt Osborne as adult in the Sept. 28 shooting at Townville Elementary School that killed a 6-year-old boy. Osborne has been charged with two counts of murder in the deaths of the child, Jacob Hall, and his father, 47-year-old Jeffrey Osborne. The 10th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office filed the motion Thursday to prosecute Osborne as an adult on those charges, as well as three charges of attempted murder and five charges of possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime. Osborne is already charged as a juvenile on those offenses. A hearing on the motion will be set by the Anderson County Family Court following an evaluation of the teen, according to the solicitor's office. Osborne is accused of fatally shooting his father before going to the Townville Elementary, where he allegedly shot two students and a teacher and a third student suffered minor related injuries. Jacob died of his injuries Saturday. The other students and the teacher were treated the day of the shooting.

Independent Mail: Students welcomed back to Townville with teachers' hugs

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/10/06/students-welcomed-back-townville-teachers-hugs/91683462/>

A breeze rustled the balloons in the memorial placed at the base of the school sign, as the children left Townville Elementary School to go home Thursday afternoon. Some parents were worried to send their children back to school after the shooting on Sept. 28 that left one student dead and another student and teacher injured. But only a few students didn't attend school. "As superintendent, I am pleased that there were only ten absences," said District 4 Superintendent Joanne Avery in a statement Thursday. "Our parents demonstrated resilience, trust and support for our Townville community school. We thank them for their faith in us and our ability to protect their children." Several parents said the students were welcomed back to school with high-fives from firemen and hugs from their teachers. The support from law enforcement, teachers and the community made several parents feel better about dropping their children off Thursday morning.

WYFF4: Students return to Townville Elementary a week after shootings

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/students-return-to-townville-elementary-a-week-after-shootings/41994900>

For the first time in more than a week, students returned Thursday to Townville Elementary. Balloons, stuffed animals, cards made up a memorial by the school's sign. Handmade signs stuck in the ground read, "Hope Lives Here" and "Love Heals." Therapy dogs, counselors and chaplains offered comfort to students and teachers. Representatives of SC Upstate Heroes, alongside officers and firefighters, offered a sense of security. Anderson School District 4 superintendent Joanne Avery said there was sadness, but also joy. "I'm just so proud of the teachers and the staff here and the principal. A week ago, we had the story of a tragedy, and those folks put their lives on the line for the safety of our children, and one week later they're here," Avery said. "The school doors are open and they're receiving children and teaching them and instruction is happening again, and I just could not be more proud of them." (Teachers are) so excited to be back with their children. They love their children and the children are excited to be back in school, and so I would say it's a feeling of joy."

SC Political News:

Associate Press: Voter registration times extended due to holiday, closures

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6XLQdrZA

SC State Wire

South Carolina Election officials are extending voter registration deadlines because of closures caused by Hurricane Matthew and the upcoming federal holiday. Election officials said Thursday they will accept applications postmarked as late as Tuesday. The deadline had been Saturday. South Carolina is among states where voter applications are accepted up to 30 days before an election. But that falls on a Sunday this year. Monday is Columbus Day, when there will be no postal service. The election agency says the extension will also help people who cannot register in person in government offices closed as Hurricane Matthew approaches. Applications submitted online or by email will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. Sunday. The deadline for people applying in person at county voter registration offices is still Saturday.

Greenville News: Furman students wait for judge to decide whether they can vote

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/10/06/furman-students-wait-judge-decide-whether-they-can-vote/91690288/>

Voting matters to Katherine West. She registered to vote on the day she turned 18 when she lived with her parents in northern Kentucky. She still has her first "I voted" sticker. So when she came to Greenville to attend Furman University, she wanted to vote in Greenville, the place she considers home now, even though she lives in a residence on the university campus. "I love it here and I want to be more involved in local politics because of how important it is," West said. "And I want to be able to vote here." When West mailed her voter registration in to the office of Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections, she received a questionnaire in return. It had 11 questions that the county office said would help the local voter registration board decide whether she was truly qualified to vote in Greenville County. West refused to answer the questionnaire because she considers it invasive and unlawful. It had questions about where she banked, how involved she was in the community, where her vehicle was registered and where her parents live.

Greenville News: Greenville County seeks to throw out Furman students lawsuit

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/10/06/greenville-county-seeks-throw-out-furman-students-lawsuit/91669042/>

Greenville County's election director has filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit against him prior to a court hearing scheduled for 2 p.m. today, saying the Furman University students who filed the lawsuit didn't properly complete their voter registration information. The lawsuit was filed by three Furman University students who want the Greenville County Board of Voter Registration and Elections to stop issuing a questionnaire to students who live on college campuses in Greenville County as an extra step to verify their legal residences when they attempt to register to vote. The motion, filed Wednesday by Belangia's attorney Nick Nicholson, also seeks to dismiss the students' lawsuit saying they should have filed their voter registration forms and waited for a decision by the Greenville County Election Commission and then filed an appeal to the decision. The court has the option to dismiss the case if a plaintiff failed to exhaust administrative remedies, the motion argues.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Lessons from Hugo and Floyd

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20161007/161009583/lessons-from-hugo-and-floyd>

Editorial

Hurricane Hugo in 1989 taught us to evacuate when authorities say to evacuate. Ten years later, Hurricane Floyd taught us that a successful evacuation requires statewide coordination or it becomes a gridlocked disaster in itself. Hurricane Matthew has taught us that residents and public officials statewide and especially in the Lowcountry can, after all, learn from previous mistakes: It appears that the evacuation, initially slow, was largely a smooth operation. Traffic was heavy and halting on I-26 Tuesday. Then Gov. Nikki Haley reversed the east-bound lanes of Interstate 26 on Wednesday so that all lanes of traffic were headed out of Charleston, and the traffic moved well. It was nothing like the bumper-to-bumper gridlock before Hurricane Floyd when a two-hour trip took people 12 hours. The governor called for more evacuations Thursday to bring the total to about 500,000 people in the state — the largest evacuation in the state in at least 17 years. That's not to say the evacuation went without a hitch or that everyone followed the advice of emergency officials.

Aiken Standard: Editorial: Monitor, but don't dismiss Hurricane Matthew

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161005/161009751/editorial-monitor-but-donx2019t-dismiss-hurricane-matthew>

It looks bad for some. Coming on the heels of the one-year anniversary of the Oct. 3-5 storm that dropped more than 20 inches of rain on areas of rural Aiken County last year, Mother Nature stands ready to do it again in parts of South Carolina with Hurricane Matthew. County schools and government offices are closed for the rest of the week. The City of Aiken offices, though, are open and will remain open until conditions warrant otherwise. While the rain and wind won't arrive until Friday and Saturday, public safety officials are preaching the two C's – caution and common sense. Prepare for the worst, while hoping for the best. A lot can change, and happen, between now and Saturday when the brunt of Matthew will scrape by Aiken. As of Wednesday at 8 p.m., the worst of Matthew is expected to stay east of Aiken County.

Aiken Standard: Editorial: Still much to be done in battling domestic violence in S.C., Aiken County

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/20161006/161009710/editorial-still-much-to-be-done-in-battling-domestic-violence-in-sc-aiken-county>

There's much to be happy about the state of South Carolina dropping in ranking of women murdered by men. However, cases of domestic violence still shown in the state and in Aiken County remain the fact that there's still work to be done. Last month the Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C. reported South Carolina dropped to No. 5 from No. 1 in the nation for the rate of women murdered by men in 2014. The drop in rank was accompanied by a drop in the state's rate of women murdered by men: from 2.32 per 100,000 in 2013 to 1.73 per 100,000 in 2014, according to the report. However, the report showed the 2014 rate is still higher than the national average of 1.08 per 100,000. Violence against women, including in Aiken County, continues to be a problem.

Local News:

Associated Press : Inman man gets 20 years for assault of 10-year-old girl

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0KumzpER

An Inman man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to raping a 10-year-old girl. According to a statement from 7th Circuit Solicitor Barry Barnette, 44-year-old Cecil Quinn Jr. pleaded guilty Thursday to criminal sexual contact with a minor. The crime was reported to the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office in September 2015. The statement says a family member told deputies they realized something was wrong when the girl began asking what rape was. The child

underwent a forensic examination at the Children's Advocacy Center. The statement says the child gave descriptions of tattoos on various locations of Quinn's body. Assistant Solicitor Megan Moricle says the girl showed "a tremendous amount of courage" when telling investigators details of the crime.

The State: Former Dutch Fork students insist Dennis was aggressor in fatal stabbing

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article106564757.html>

Two competing narratives clashed Thursday during the ongoing murder trial of a Lexington High School graduate accused of murder in the fatal stabbing of a rival Dutch Fork High student after a 2014 basketball game. On one hand, prosecutors put up five youthful witnesses, all recent Dutch Fork graduates, who testified the defendant, Kierin Dennis, now 21, not only endangered Dutch Fork student lives by almost recklessly running them over but also, without justification, shoved a knife into the heart of their friend, Da'Von Capers. Capers, then a 17-year-old Dutch Fork senior, died within minutes after being stabbed in the parking lot of the Lexington Cook Out eatery after a 2014 Dutch Fork-Lexington High School basketball game. The two schools are fierce rivals.

Presidential Election 2016:

Associated Press: Trump, Clinton campaigns watch for Matthew's impact on Fla.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5db59ec569474b4f99090fef4afc5354>

Like other Americans, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are steering clear of battleground Florida, where Hurricane Matthew threatened to wreak havoc on the final stretch of presidential campaigning. The campaigns rushed Thursday to move staff and volunteers, close offices and cancel events in the path of the storm. And as many Floridians heeded calls to evacuate, both candidates began the delicate and difficult task of pursuing votes during a crisis. "Even if you want to do politics, no one is there to listen," said Steve Schale, a Democratic consultant who directed or advised Barack Obama's campaigns in the state in 2008 and 2012. Clinton's campaign asked the state for more time to register voters — a request Florida Gov. Rick Scott rejected — and the Trump team pulled its negative TV ads.

Associated Press: 2016 campaign can't shake Bill Clinton's scandals

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b962791bc41a4d558986df7ace1a4719>

Monica Lewinsky tends to avoid politics these days, after becoming instantly famous nearly 20 years ago as the White House intern who had an affair with President Bill Clinton. Unfortunately for Lewinsky, the 2016 presidential race keeps getting stuck in the past. In the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, the Republican hinted at the Clintons' marital problems and brought up Bill Clinton's infidelities directly soon after. For now, Trump says he won't discuss the subject at the debate on Sunday. But he has been known to change his mind. "Let's see what happens," Trump said at a town-hall event Thursday night in New Hampshire, referring to whether he will hold off on the topic. "I think we're all better off if we can do that because it is about issues, it is about policies." Hillary Clinton may not want to relive this period. But Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said any attack by Trump on the topic would backfire, showing Trump to be "combustible and erratic." Some political analysts said Trump risks showing Clinton in a sympathetic light as the wronged wife — hardly helpful as he struggles to draw support from women.

Associated Press: Daughter of Trump surrogate Rudy Giuliani backing Clinton

<http://bigstory.ap.org/da715af4a1ce4834a9a5f755c37740d5>

The daughter of vocal Donald Trump surrogate Rudy Giuliani is publicly supporting Hillary Clinton in

the presidential race. Caroline Giuliani included Clinton's campaign logo in her Facebook profile picture recently. The page's cover photo is a shot of Clinton's #ImWithHer campaign slogan banner. The younger Giuliani tells Politico, "I love Hillary," and adds that she thinks Clinton is "by far the most qualified candidate that we've had in a long while." She says her father knows about her support for the Democrat and "is fully comfortable with it and thinks I have a right to my opinion." Politico says she wouldn't comment about her father's support for the GOP nominee, Trump.

Associated Press: Campaign stop latest bump in rocky Ryan-Trump relationship

<http://bigstory.ap.org/f360673a99994b578728113bf689e1aa>

It's long been clear that House Speaker Paul Ryan is, shall we say, not wholly comfortable with Donald Trump's presidential candidacy. The announcement of Ryan's and Trump's first joint appearance of the campaign on Saturday in Wisconsin — just four weeks before the election — was simply the latest reminder. The awkwardly worded missive on Thursday said that Ryan would appear with top Wisconsin Republicans, including Gov. Scott Walker and Sen. Ron Johnson. Oh, and by the way, the third paragraph of Ryan's release says that Trump "will also join Wisconsin Republicans" at the annual party festival in Elkhorn, a small city in Ryan's congressional district.

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