

Title: **County waiving fees**

Author:

Size: 26.04 column inches

Walterboro, SC Circulation: 5673



# County waiving fees

Colleton County residents coping with the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew won't have to pay to dispose of the storm debris and the fees for repairing the damage.

The waiving of fees was

one of two resolutions approved by Colleton County Council needed to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

Colleton County Administrator Kevin Griffin said

See FEES, page 3A

## FEES

Continued from 1A

that the county is in the process of putting together a schedule to collect debris from the hurricane, but many property owners have already started their own cleanup and want to get rid of the debris as soon as possible.

The resolution was amended before introduction to add building fees and building inspection fees to those being waived.

Effective immediately and continuing to at least Oct. 20, the county will waive the fees for disposing of residential storm debris at the Colleton County Solid Waste construction and debris facility on Green Pond Highway.

In addition, council called on the Colleton County Solid Waste construction landfill to be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for disposal of the debris. The convenience centers' hours will not be altered and residents are asked not to drop off storm debris at the convenience centers.

Residents bringing debris, both trees and damaged building materials, will have the items weighed and sorted but won't be charged. The county will have to keep track of

the weight of the debris to meet FEMA regulations.

The second resolution given council's approval agreed to renew the county's professional services agreement with Tetra Tech Inc., which will monitor the disposal of storm debris. The FEMA's regulations for obtaining disaster recovery funds require hiring an outside firm to monitor the debris disposal.

Tetra Tech Inc. served in that capacity several years ago when Colleton County received FEMA disaster recovery funds for the disposal of debris caused by the ice storm.

Matthew was well off the coast when it was decided to postpone council's Oct. 4 regularly scheduled meeting and reschedule it for Tuesday night.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, viewing the potential path of Matthew, had began preparing the state on Oct. 4, calling for schools to be closed beginning Wednesday and local governments in the path of the hurricane to begin curtailing their operations in order to prepare.

Title: **What to do with debris**  
 Author: By GEORGE SALSBERY gsalsberry@lowcountry.com  
 Size: 45.72 column inches  
 Walterboro, SC Circulation: 5673



## What to do with debris

By GEORGE SALSBERY  
 gsalsberry@lowcountry.com

Colleton County Administrator Kevin Griffin envisions the county dealing with the damage left behind by Hurricane Matthew a lot like it dealt with the ice storm damage of several years ago. When the ice storm hit, the county contacted with

See DEBRIS, page 3A

## DEBRIS

Continued from 1A

a company to drive the county's roadways and collect the vegetation debris placed on the side of the roads.

Debris removal contractors will begin removing storm related yard waste from the public right-of-way on Saturday Oct. 16.

Residents are asked to place any storm-related vegetative yard debris on the public right-of-way. The public right-of-way is the area of residential property that extends from the street to the sidewalk, ditch, utility pole or easement. This area does include city, county, and state rights-of-way. It does not include private drives.

Colleton County debris removal contractors will be removing only storm-generated vegetative debris. Do not attempt to place garbage, tires or other household refuse with the disaster debris; it will not be accepted.

Bagged debris should not be placed on the public right-of-way; only loose vegetative yard waste will be collected. Do not place debris near mailboxes, water meters, fire hydrants or any other above-ground utility. In an effort to expedite debris removal and also limit debris disposal costs, residents are asked to place disaster vegetative debris materials (trees, limbs, brush, etc.) in piles in the right-of-way at a minimum five feet beyond the edge of the roadway for pickup and disposal.

The county will notify the public at a later date when the debris removal will end, but is requesting that residents get any storm-generated vegetative debris moved to the edge of the right of way as soon as possible.

All contractors working debris removal on private property in Walterboro are responsible for disposal. For more information, please visit [www.walterborosc.org](http://www.walterborosc.org).

This notice does not apply to areas of Edisto Island in Colleton County. These areas will be addressed at a later date.

Griffin said, "Your cooperation in these efforts will help make the debris removal operation proceed as smoothly as possible and ensure that the community recovers quickly. You can contact Colleton County Solid Waste with any debris removal questions at 843-893-2313."

As with the ice storm recovery efforts, FEMA will absorb most of the costs.

The FEMA funding has two components: the public assistance side and the individual assistance side.

One of the first steps in securing the public assistance is to deploy a damage assessment team. Colleton County staffs its damage assessment team with employees of the county assessor's office.

In order to qualify for the public assistance, Griffin explained, the damage assessment team had to document public damage of over \$140,000.

The team limited their examination to Walterboro and Edisto Beach. Shortly after they began their assessment of the public damage at the beach, their estimate stood at \$6 million.

There was no need to continue assessing what Matthew had done to public infrastructure, Griffin said. The goal had been more than met.

Griffin said the public assistance goes to the state, county government, local political subdivisions and utility cooperatives like Coastal Electric and Palmetto Rural Telephone cooperatives to help them cover the cost of the damage to their infrastructure.

Griffin said he was informed that a preliminary price tag on the damage to Coastal Electric's operation was \$2 million.

The next step is to begin an assessment



Title: **What to do with debris**  
Author: By GEORGE SALSBERY gsalsberry@lowcountry.com  
Size: 45.72 column inches  
Walterboro, SC Circulation: 5673

of individual property damage. In that case, the county assessment does not seek to put a price tag on the damage, but needs to pinpoint where the damage is located.

It will take several days to put that information together and then FEMA officials will visit the county on Friday morning.

“They go out with us and look at it. Then they designate the county,” Griffin explained. “They don’t examine every home. They do a broad survey of the county.”

Even before Hurricane Matthew arrived, President Obama worked with the governors of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida to designate the states as disaster areas.

That early designation allowed FEMA to pre-position equipment to be brought into the hard-hit areas.

On Oct. 10, Gov. Nikki Haley asked the president to declare Colleton and 12 other South Carolina counties as disaster areas. The president made that designation Tuesday.

Title: **Self Regional Healthcare welcomes new board members**  
 Author: From staff reports  
 Size: 26.66 column inches  
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



## Self Regional Healthcare welcomes new board members

From staff reports

Three new members have been welcomed to the Self Regional Healthcare board of trustees.

Mamie Nicholson, program officer of The Self Family Foundation; David Tompkins, senior vice president and Greenwood market executive of Countybank; and Dr. Robert Tiller, program director of the Self Regional Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program were appointed by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve six-year terms.

Nicholson is a Greenwood native, graduate of Greenwood High School, Piedmont Technical College, Limestone College and the Council on Foundations Institute for New Staff. She is also a grad-

uate of Leadership Greenwood, Leadership South



**MAMIE W. NICHOLSON**

Tompkins began his career with Countybank in 1996 and is senior vice president and Greenwood market executive. Tompkins is a graduate of Lander University with a B.S. degree in business administration. He is a 2014 graduate of the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Pennsylvania.

He serves on the board of Greenwood Area Chamber



**ROBERT TILLER**

of Commerce, Self Regional Healthcare Foundation and Hospice Care of the Piedmont. Tiller joined the teaching faculty of the Self Regional Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program in 2001 and currently serves as the program director. Tiller oversees the training of the 30 family medicine resident physicians as well as the program's accreditation and curriculum. The resident physicians work within the hospital and conduct the outpatient portion of their train-

ing at the Montgomery Center for Family Medicine.



**DAVID A. TOMPKINS**

Tiller has a B.S. degree in chemical engineering and had a brief career as a process development engineer with Eli Lilly, a large pharmaceutical manufacturer. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from the Indiana University School of Medicine. He is currently board certified in Family Medicine with additional boarding in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Title: **Teacher**  
 Author: By Henry E. Green  
 Size: 55.64 column inches  
 Abbeville, SC Circulation: 6350



# Teacher

## *Carol Wilson is Farm Bureau's Volunteer of the Year*

By Henry E. Green

To say that Carol Wilson is a woman on a mission might be an understatement.

Carol, who resides in the Nation community in rural Abbeville County with her husband Randall, wants to educate people about the connection of agriculture to our daily lives.

Her zeal, reaching out to the young, the old, and everyone in between, was a major factor in her being recognized as the Farm Bureau Volunteer of the Year during the Abbeville County Farm Bureau annual meeting, held Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Abbeville County agriculture building in Abbeville.

Abbeville County Farm Bureau president Fred Raines presented her with a box of gifts, paying tribute to her as a woman who works tirelessly and gives unsparingly of her time to underscore the importance of agriculture to modern American life.

She has had a program at Clemson Extension's Farm City Day, for example, to educate young children on this vital link.

Wilson, upon accepting the award, quizzed the audience just a little on their knowledge of agriculture and its impact on everyday life.

What agricultural product

is used in making charcoal briquets?

Corn, of course.

And the dollar bill is made of cotton and linen, so that if you leave it in the washer accidentally it will not dissolve.

(It might give new meaning to the term "money laundering.")

Also Thursday night, Abbeville County Farm Bureau officers for the coming year were announced. Sam Milford will be the president.

Other officers will be Brantly Caldwell, vice president; Wayne Ashley, treasurer; Dale Wilson, state director, and Raines, alternate state director.

Farm Bureau state office representative Thompson Smith also spoke, recognizing State Rep. Craig Gagnon and State Sen. Floyd Nicholson. "These two people advocate on behalf of agriculture," Smith said.

The state Farm Bureau organization does lobby the legislature to promote agricultural interests. This past year the "crowning achievement" was to help secure the passage of the farm aid legislation to help farmers affected by the devastating floods of October, 2015.

A \$40 million package was appropriated by the General Assembly.

There was a snag, though. "We never convinced the Governor," he said.

Governor Nikki Haley vetoed the plan, but the legislature overrode the veto, with a push by Farm Bureau. Checks from the appropriation began appearing in farmers' mail boxes recently.

Entertainment Thursday night was provided by Abbeville High School FFA member Drake Boyd, who played the acoustic guitar and sang two country songs.

Raines noted in introducing him that he had taught the young man's father in high school. Drake not only sings but is a stellar fisherman as well, serving on a championship high school fishing team.

Also at the meeting:

--Clemson Extension Agent Jenny Mountford announced that Farm City Day will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9.

A livestock show was held Sept. 9-10 at the agricultural building.

--FFA contingents from Abbeville, Dixie and Calhoun Falls Charter high schools were also introduced, and the FFA mem-

bers talked about activities of their respective chapters.

Abbeville FFA president Evan Hughes said that the chapter will have a hash sale coming up on Oct. 1 at Long Cane Fire Department.

Calhoun Falls Charter FFA president Philip Rhodes noted that the chapter had been named a two-star Gold Emblem Chapter.

Dixie president Tyler Lusk noted that the Dixie chapter had received a Gold Emblem award as well. The chapter recently held a fund raiser to help victims of the recent floods in Louisiana.

Rhodes thanked Farm Bureau for having sponsored him to attend the Commissioner's School for Agriculture, an experience which allowed him to see Clemson's Experimental Forest.

--Lauri Pearman spoke about attending the Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program.

The crowd of slightly more than 200 people enjoyed a meal provided by Somebody's House.

Abbeville County Farm Bureau, an "advocate for agriculture", is part of state and national Farm Bureau organizations.



Title: **S.C. Senate rules an impediment to progress?**  
 Author:  
 Size: 35.96 column inches  
 Gaffney, SC Circulation: 8218



# THEIR VIEW S.C. Senate rules an impediment to progress?

Depending on which senator is talking about the S.C. Senate rules, they hinder progress or are good for the Senate as a deliberative body and protect the rights of the minority.

"Senate rules are the biggest single problem in making progress," said Greg Hembree of Little River.

He alludes to the inglorious demise of legislation that would have placed mo-peds under state traffic laws like other motor vehicles, including motorcycles. Mo-peds and their operators remain totally unregulated in South Carolina; neither the two-wheelers nor their drivers are required to have licenses.

The General Assembly passed reasonable reform but Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the legislation, claiming it would be wrong to require mo-ped operators to wear reflective vests and to require that riders under age 21 wear helmets. The House overrode the veto, but one senator, Gerald Malloy of Hartsville, blocked a vote to override by delaying action. It was late and everyone was tired and ready to leave. Soon there was no quorum and no vote.

"It was terribly frustrating," Hembree said after the legislature adjourned, sans mo-ped reform. "I want everybody to remember how this feels," Hembree told his fellow Republicans, to have come so close and be hamstrung by a single member of the Senate. Hembree remains determined to work again in the upcoming session of the General Assembly for mo-ped regulation. "Passing laws is not supposed to be easy," Malloy says.

Both Hembree and Malloy are on a special committee named by Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman to study senate rules. Sen. Luke Rankin of Myrtle Beach also is on the committee. Other members include Majority Leader Shane Massey of Edgefield, Minority Leader Nikki Setzler of West Columbia and Ronnie Cromer of Prosperity who has been chairman of the Rules Committee.

Hembree and Malloy also share assignment to another special committee on guns. Malloy, a Democrat, is chairman of the guns committee, which held a public hearing Thursday in

Greenville, the first of four.

Malloy's view of the Senate rules differ considerably from Hembree's. "The Senate rules are very, very good rules," Malloy says. "The minority deserves an opportunity to be heard. The Senate rules are there to protect the minority." Republicans have held the Senate majority since 2001. Malloy says the rules are based on Thomas Jefferson's rules of order. "Every senator should have a right to stop or start" deliberations and so forth. "The Senate is the deliberate body."

On the mo-ped reform legislation, Malloy says his objection was to the requirement for protective vests. "I missed it" when the Senate approved the House version of the mo-ped legislation that went to the governor. Malloy acknowledges that on the override attempt he "used the Senate rules to say 'present'."

As to changing the rules, Malloy says, "I think there's always room for improvement." That's not slamming shut the door, but it suggests change is far more difficult than regulating mo-peds.

— *The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News*