

Title: **The New South Carolina Part 2: The economy**
 Author: By PHIL NOBLE Guest column
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The New South Carolina Part 2: The economy

By PHIL NOBLE

Guest column

Editor's note: *This the second of a three-part series on how new demographics, economic and political trends are rapidly changing South Carolina.*

I'm convinced that there is a New South Carolina being born.

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

We can create a New South Carolina that can be globally competitive in the 21st Century and benefit all South Carolinians.

The question is will we?

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

Graham and Pinckney both have deep South Carolina roots and represent "traditional" South Carolina – black and white.

Haley and Ansari are "new"

South Car-

olinas – both first generation children of Indian immigrants, smart, media savvy and driven to succeed in a new more culturally diverse environment.

And just as these people represent a New South Carolina, so, too, is our economy going through dramatic changes.

We now have an economy that would have been unrecognizable to most South Carolinians less than a generation ago.

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

Foreign investment

South Carolina leads the nation in per capita direct foreign investment. There

are more than 1,200 international business facilities in our state – more than there are public schools.

We are now home to major global companies such as BMW, Volvo, Daimler Benz, Michelin, Haier, Giti Tire and countless others.

This foreign investment in South Carolina employs more people per capita than in any state in the country.

Where once the biggest impact on our economy was the change in cotton prices on the commodity exchanges in Memphis or Chicago, today, it's the fluctuations on the global currency exchanges in Hong Kong and London – and the rising demand for

consumer imports by China and India.

Digital economy

The second big economic change is the impact of the digital economy. One simple statistic: In Charleston alone, there are more than 300 digital businesses and the growth rate of these new digital companies is 26 percent faster than the national average.

The average wage in these new digital businesses is nearly three times that of the traditional tourism and hospitality industry.

This new digital economy demands smart people, with high levels of creativity, gender and cultural diversity and a worldview unbounded by state or even national boundaries.

This is not traditional South Carolina.

Economic leadership

The third big change is in the demographics of our economic leadership.

One astute observer recently noted that a few years ago the state's economic leadership was essentially the 10 whitest men in the 10 biggest corner offices on the top floor of the 10 tallest buildings in the state.

And, when these men decided what they thought ought to be done, they called in the (white male) governor and the legislative leaders and told them what to do – and they largely did it.

Now, our state's economic leadership is found

in 250-plus low rise office parks; there are lots of women, people of color and folks who did not go to USC or Clemson. They look different, think different and are different – and this is a good thing.

The huge challenge we face in the New South Carolina is:

◆ Providing our people with the skills they need to be competitive in this new global economy and;

◆ Overcoming the provincial political leadership that is holding back the changes required to be competitive.

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

Think about that for a moment – more than 80 percent of these new jobs are beyond the current skill levels of South Carolinians – and it's only going to get worse as the trend toward increasingly tech-based jobs escalates.

And the other great barrier is our current political leadership that simply does not realize – or does not care – about making the changes that need to be made to make our state competitive.

If one were to devise a

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legislative agenda to stifle economic progress it would be: 1) neglect education so our people won't have the job skills required; 2) ignore our crumbling roads and other infrastructure so that S.C. businesses were placed at a competi-

tive disadvantage; and 3) perpetuate a corrupt political system based on personal greed and special interest lobbyists – instead of a common agenda based on doing what needs to be done to make our economy competitive.

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

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

Our transition to a new

economy and a new South Carolina is no different.

Phil Noble has a technology company in Charleston and writes a weekly column for the S.C. Press Association. E-mail him at phil@philnoble.com



NOBLE

Title: **Failed traffic lights create obstacles for drivers**
 Author: BY ADRIENNE SARVIS adrienne@theitem.com
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Failed traffic lights create obstacles for drivers

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS

adrienne@theitem.com

Now that Hurricane Matthew has gone, the state is in support mode, Gov. Nikki Haley said during a news conference on Monday.

The state works for the counties now to provide assistance with clean up, traffic control and other resources, she said.

Haley said the state is also waiting on President Obama to issue an expedited major disaster declaration in order to quickly provide security and debris pick up.

Christy Hall, secretary of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, said there are about 1,400 highway workers repairing the 390 closed roads and bridges in the state. She said there are 29 closed bridges and 250 secondary roads closed as of about

1 p.m. on Monday.

Haley said South Carolina Highway Patrol reported three fatalities in the state, two in Florence and one in Columbia.

There were about 3,000 calls for service in the state during the weekend – about 1,400 of those calls related to traffic, she said.

In Sumter and surrounding areas, local law enforcement agencies urge drivers to take caution when approaching intersections without working signal lights.

If the signal lights are not working, treat the intersection as a four-way stop, said Sumter County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Ken Bell

He said there have been some instances where people have driven through intersections as if they have the right of way. That creates a dangerous situation, he said.

Tonyia McGirt, Sumter Police Department public information officer, said the signal lights at the intersection of Alice Drive and Broad Street are working as of Monday morning.

She said police officers are out conducting traffic at some intersections throughout the city.

If the light is blinking yellow, proceed with caution; if the light is blinking red, stop, she said.

McGirt said officers responded to 46 wrecks between 5 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. on Monday. She could not con-

firm how many wrecks happened at intersections without working signal lights.

Sumter County Emergency Management Director Erik Hayes said there about three roads in the county that have been blocked off, but there are no isolated areas in Sumter. People are able to travel if they take detours or safely maneuver around debris, he said. Residents should be mindful that there will be power and tree crews in the area for a while, he said.

Hayes also urges people to be aware that some trees may have been weakened during the storm and could still fall.

In other news, he said city and county offices will be open today.

4-WAY STOP RULES

When approaching intersections without traffic signals or signs, or four-way stop intersections, yield to the driver on the right if you reach the intersection at the same time as another vehicle. Yield to any vehicle that reaches an intersection before you.

Title: **Lancaster escapes with 1,200 outages, downed trees, 27 blocked roads**
 Author: Gregory A. Summers gsummers @thelancasternews5.com
 Size: 79.51 column inches
 Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



Lancaster escapes with 1,200 outages, downed trees, 27 blocked roads

Gregory A. Summers

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Hurricane Matthew made landfall north of Charleston at 11 a.m. Saturday as a category 1 storm, cutting power to nearly a half million coastal residents and causing much flooding, but there were no early indications of casualties.

Lancaster County escaped with a night of heavy rain and moderate winds. As of 11 a.m. Saturday, an estimated 1,200

homes in Lancaster County were without power.

Darren Player, director of Lancaster County Emergency Management and Fire Rescue said the outages were scattered across the county, caused by trees falling across power lines.

Twenty-seven instances of trees blocking roads had been reported by

noon, with 23 of them already cleared.

"At first, it was mostly older and dead trees," he said, "but we're now starting to see trees come out of the ground by the root balls. Our volunteer firefighters and staff are out assisting other county workers, our law enforcement folks and SC-DOT crews to get them up."

Player said Matthew

briefly came ashore as a category 2 early Saturday along the S.C. coast near Pritchards Island, before slightly turning out the sea.

"It's stayed so close to the coast that they're having a hard time figuring it out," he said. "Hurricane Matthew is pretty much doing what it wants to do."

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Storm

>>FROM 1A

The National Weather Service reported at 11 a.m. Saturday that Matthew finally made landfall just southeast of McLellanville as a Category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Hurricane-force winds extend 25 miles from the eye of the storm and tropical storm force winds extended 185 miles out.

Player said wind gusts of up to 46 mph were recorded here, though most of them seem to be in the 20- to 25-mph range.

While an estimated 10 to 14 inches of rain drenched Coastal South Carolina overnight, almost 3 inches of rain had pelted portions of Lan-

caster County. The National Weather Service also issued a flood warning for Lancaster County until 1:15 p.m. Saturday. A high-wind advisory was also in effect for the county until late Saturday, and a flash-flood watch is expected to expire this morning.

The National Hurricane Center categorized the hurricane as a "serious inland flooding event unfolding."

At a 10 a.m. Saturday briefing, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley reported that 437,000-plus state residents were without power and urged evacuees to stay put through Sunday.

Haley said a combination of storm surge, rising

tides and heavy rains were causing significant flooding in many eastern coastal counties.

Charleston Harbor was 9.29 feet higher than normal, and rivers swelled across the state, raising

the risk of flooding continuing into next week, she said. Tide levels in Charleston Harbor were higher Saturday than during Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

Emergency management officials were bracing for Saturday's 1:30 p.m. high tide that would add to the storm surge.

"A lot is still going on," Haley said. "It is still a very serious situation, and we are not out of the woods."

While no deaths have

been reported in the state, Haley cautioned that search-and-rescue teams were just now making it through to some of the hardest-hit areas along the coast.

The National Weather Service was also trying to determine if a tornado that started offshore as a water spout had touched down in North Myrtle Beach, damaging several homes.

Though it was weakening, the storm was expected to remain a hurricane with the eye reaching Myrtle Beach about 4 p.m. Saturday.

Player said based on the latest weather information, the storm wouldn't be completely away from the state until

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about 2 a.m. today.

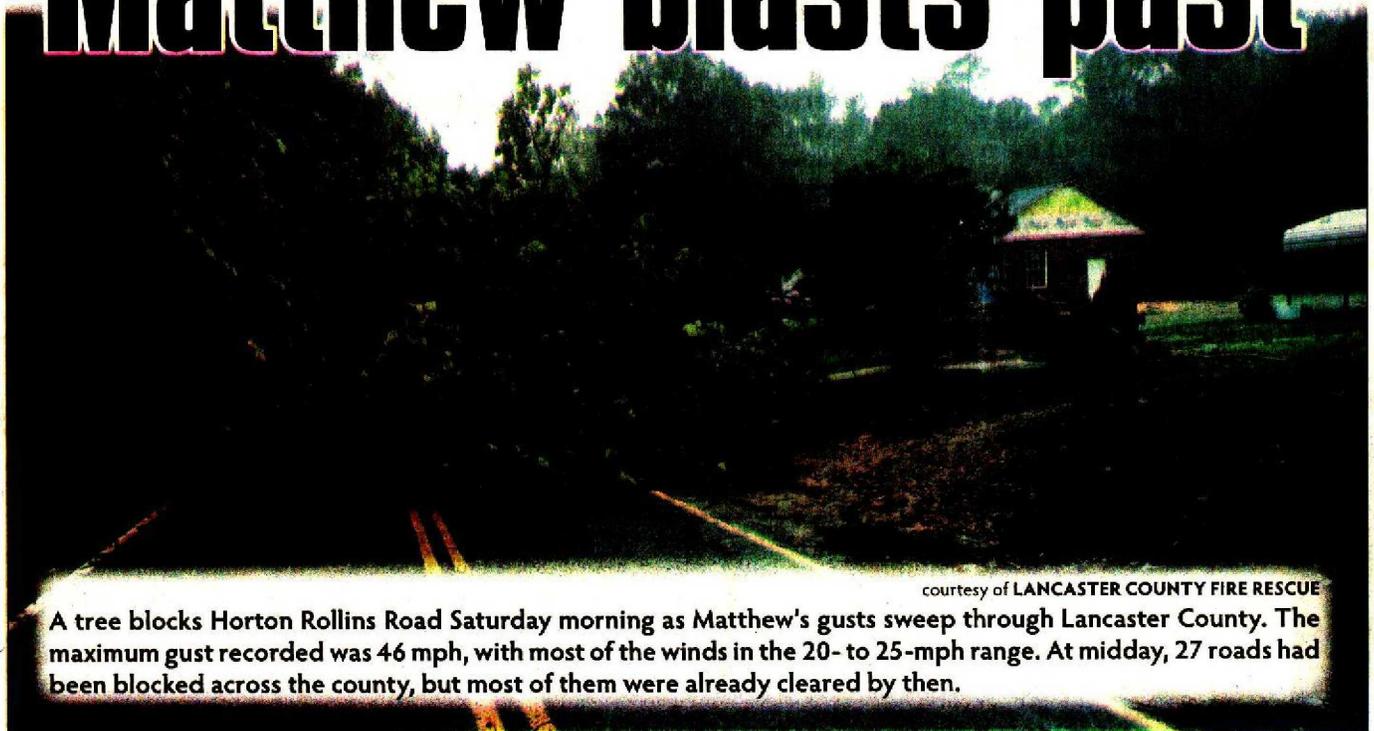
Cancellations

The 22nd-annual fire safety expo set for Saturday in Lancaster's Walmart parking lot was canceled due to the bad weather.

NASCAR officials postponed the running in the Bank of America 500 at Charlotte Motor Speedway until noon today, with the XFINITY Series race set to follow.

And USC's football game with Georgia was also reset for 2:30 p.m. today.

Matthew blasts past



courtesy of LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

A tree blocks Horton Rollins Road Saturday morning as Matthew's gusts sweep through Lancaster County. The maximum gust recorded was 46 mph, with most of the winds in the 20- to 25-mph range. At midday, 27 roads had been blocked across the county, but most of them were already cleared by then.

Title: **Haley: Evacuees should not expect to return home today**
 Author:
 Size: 68.04 column inches
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Haley: Evacuees should not expect to return home today

CHARLESTON (AP) — South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley warned South Carolinians that Hurricane Matthew is still a danger across the state.

Haley met with reporters late Saturday morning to urge the state's residents to continue to be careful as the storm moves northeast along the coast.

The governor said no deaths have been attributed to Matthew

in South Carolina.

She said those who have evacuated should not expect to go home either Saturday or Sunday while crews check to make sure areas are safe.

The governor said about 437,000 electric customers have lost service across the state.

She said nearly 7,000 people were in shelters.

The governor also said part of Interstate 95 was blocked in

southern South Carolina. The state transportation department said the southbound lanes are blocked from near state Highway 462 and the South Carolina-Georgia state line. A number of trees were down in the area.

Emergency officials were reminding people that all evacuation orders are still in effect as Hurricane Matthew moved up the coast.

Matthew hit the state early Saturday with hurricane and tropical storm force winds, heavy rains and flooding along the coast and in areas well inland.

In Charleston, the soaring Ravenel Bridge linking the battered city and Mount Pleasant is closed in the wake of Hurricane Matthew so Department of Transportation engineers can inspect the span.

There's no timetable for the reopening, although the DOT says it intends to have the eight-lane, \$500 million bridge open as soon as possible.

The bridge opened in 2005,

and its design allows for some movement of bridge elements. However, Hurricane Matthew is the first time the bridge has been exposed to sustained high winds.

While the bridge can be monitored with remote sensors, department officials want a closer look after the span's brush with Matthew.

Closing the bridges means those traveling between Charleston and Mount Pleasant must take a 30-mile detour on Interstate 526.

Elsewhere along the coast, Beaufort County sheriff's deputies say it may be days before vehicles can get onto some of the county's smaller islands after Hurricane Matthew passed closely by the area.

Sheriff's Capt. Bob Bromage said Saturday the state department of transportation will need to send engineers to check on the bridges to several small

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HALEY FROM PAGE A1

islands east of Beaufort. Bromage said the engineers are needed just to be on the safe side.

He also says a dusk to dawn curfew will continue Saturday night and into Sunday. Beaufort County was under an evacuation order before Matthew struck the area.

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg says the city is starting to assess the damage from Hurricane Matthew, which caused

about 100 roads and streets in the city to be closed because of high water.

Tecklenburg said the all clear to return for the thousands of people who evacuated will have to come from Gov. Haley and state officials. Tecklenburg said even when Charleston is

cleaned up, there could be problems with roads or flooding in other areas of the state that would prevent people from re-

turning.

The mayor spoke just minutes after the hurricane made landfall Saturday morning near McClellanville, about 40 miles northeast of Charleston.

The streets near the popular Charleston Market were flooded and U.S. 17, the main north-south route along the South Carolina coast, is impassable where it passes through Charleston.

A year ago, during what has

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been called a 1,000-year rain storm, there was so much flooding in Charleston that the downtown area was closed to traffic for several days.



HALEY



RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter Fire and Rescue units were dispatched throughout the county to deal with downed branches and trees covering roadways. This tree was down on U.S. 401 near Crestwood High School, which was serving as an emergency shelter.

Title: **Lowcountry campers fill Poinsett**
 Author: BY RICK CARPENTER rick@theitem.com
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Lowcountry campers fill Poinsett

BY RICK CARPENTER

rick@theitem.com

People with trailers and recreational vehicles who exited the Lowcountry for higher ground were happy campers at Poinsett State Park last week.

On Friday, the campground overflowed with campers escaping the coastline, which was expected to take the brunt of Hurricane Matthew.

The campground includes water and electrical services as well as public showers and restrooms.

Friday morning, before the rain started, they were busily cooking breakfast, preparing to go fishing and playing Frisbee in a field.

Deb Lecuyer of Seattle has been on the road in a recreational vehicle with her husband since June 1. They had planned to visit Myrtle Beach this week but saw the hurricane headed

that direction.

"We decided to get out of the path and head inland," Lecuyer said.

If Charleston survives a direct hit, they plan to head that direction on Sunday with about a quarter-million other drivers.

Joe Dadamo arrived at Poinsett from Mount Pleasant on Thursday with his wife, a dog, an 11-year old and a newborn.

After serving 20 years in the Coast Guard Reserves, he remembers being dispatched to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. He said the Coast Guard goes in after an event to rescue those who stayed behind or got caught in it.

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CAMPERS FROM PAGE A1

He remembers ceiling high mud in homes, debris everywhere and trees down.

"If it was just me, I would have stayed around," Dadamo said.

"But I've got a family, and I don't want to have that visual

in their minds."

Last year he almost sold his trailer to buy a boat. Now he's glad he kept the camper.

He offered a bit of advice about deciding whether to ride out a storm.

"If it crosses your mind that you should go, you should go," he said.

The Mitchell family from Conway was staying in a

school bus converted to a recreational vehicle.

Farah Mitchell said the family has been to Poinsett State Park multiple times, but this was the first time they had seen the campground full.

When the October 2015 flood hit in Conway last year, water flooded their home, and they had to move four kids, two

parents and a grandparent from a four-bedroom to a two-bedroom home. They never moved back into the four-bedroom home because of mold and other flood damage.

All seven of them, and a cat, were living on the school bus, which she said now has wooden floors and bunk beds. They planned to head to Baker Creek on Friday be-

fore returning home on Sunday.

The Parks family just bought a 19-foot camper a year ago. They live in Myrtle Beach and pulled it all the way to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming last summer. When Gov. Nikki Haley declared a coastal evacuation on Tuesday, when the children got home from school, they loaded up the trailer and drove to Poinsett.

"Let's take the governor's advice and go camping," Donna Parks told them.

Michael Parks was teaching his sons Tanner and Duncan how to set up their rods and reels Friday so they could go fishing.

They plan to stay until the "coast is clear." Literally.

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RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Jan Cooke, left, and Farrah Mitchell of Conway were using a converted school bus as a camper for three adults and four children. They were leaving Poinsett Friday and heading to Baker Creek State Park near McCormick.



DADAMO

Title: **Matthew mauls Palmetto State**
 Author: BY JIM HILLEY jim@theitem.com
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Matthew mauls Palmetto State

Storm downs power lines, trees in its path

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

"It's just all over," said Sumter County Sheriff Public Information Officer Ken Bell when asked Saturday morning about damage and road closings in Sumter County.

"Now, the frustration begins," said Gov. Nikki Haley Saturday as Hurricane Matthew worked its way northeast along the South Carolina coast, leaving behind a path of destruction stretching from Florida to North Carolina.

Tonyia McGirt, public information officer for the Sumter Police Department, said Sumter police have been out in full force.

"There are a lot of downed trees throughout the city and, of particular concern, power lines downed with the trees."

Roads were being closed as quickly as they were being opened around the Sumter area during the early morning hours and into the day Saturday. Many high-

ways in and out of town and many major streets were closed or made impassable.

MATTHEW

FROM PAGE A1

conference it was clearly the worst storm since Hugo, 26 years ago.

Along the coast, storm surges were reported of over 12 feet just across the state line in Georgia and 9.29 feet in Charleston.

A tornado was reported in North Myrtle Beach, he said.

Wind gusts of 88 mph were reported at Hilton Head, 82 mph at Beaufort, and 71 mph at Georgetown, Quagliariello said.

Haley said more than 430,000 South Carolinians had been without power at some point, and more than 6,600 people were staying in emergency

shelters. Police scanners cackled incessantly during the day Saturday with reports of downed trees, downed power lines, flooded roads and power outages.

McGirt said downed trees were being cleared as soon as possible, but warned residents to remain home if they could.

"Don't go around traffic cones or barriers," she said. "They are there for your protection."

According to the National Weather Service, nearly 5 inches of rain had fallen at Shaw Air Force Base by 11 a.m. Saturday, and wind gusts of 56 mph. NWS forecasters were predicting at least another inch before the storm moves out sometime about midnight. Reports of from 10 to 15 inches were common in areas near and along the coast.

John Quagliariello, warning coordination meteorologist for the NWS in Columbia, said during Haley's press

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shelters.

She said that in the coming days, 2,700 Department of Transportation personnel will be out assessing damage and clearing roads in the wake of the storm.

To make matter worse, Haley reported on an email scam in which citizens were receiving emails promising the latest updates on power outages, which are actually attempts to take-over computers.

"If you don't know the email address of the sender, don't click on it, delete it," she said.

Haley also warned the storm is a rainfall event and that major rivers would not peak until Tuesday.

"This is still a very dangerous situation," Haley said, and asked people to be patient.

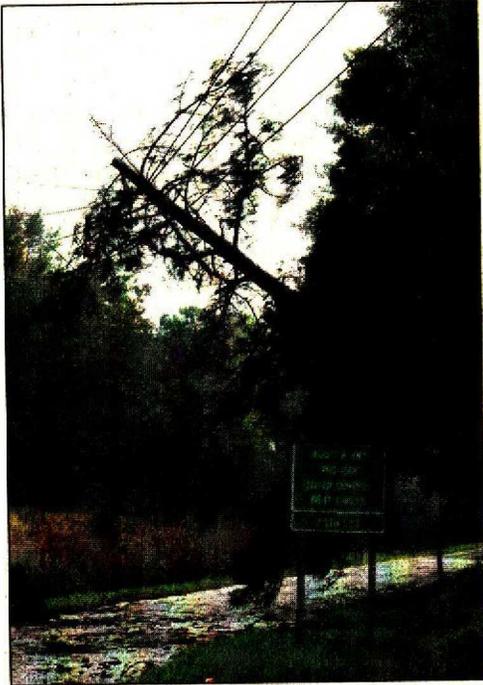
"People try to move back too soon," she said.

She said the situation would be clearer Sunday and Monday.

"It will be all search and rescue at this point," Haley said.

Haley advised resident to continue to visit www.scecmd.org for more information.

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RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM

A downed tree leans on powerlines across Seargant Road near Navigator Circle in Sumter County near the Linwood Plantation subdivision.



RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter city crews remove a tree that had fallen on Liberty Street near Sumter County Civic Center.

Title: **Shaw status at HURCON1**
 Author: FROM STAFF REPORTS
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Shaw status at HURCON 1

FROM STAFF REPORTS

As of Friday, Shaw Air Force Base was at Hurricane Condition 1 (HURCON 1), which indicates that winds of 50 knots or greater were possible within 24 hours, according to the base's Straight Talk Line.

An earlier press release said a change to HURCON 2 (winds of 50 knots or greater were possible within 48 hours) followed Gov. Nikki Haley's declaration of a state of emergency for South Carolina in preparation for Hurricane Matthew.

"The safety of Team Shaw members and their families is the No. 1 priority during Hurricane Matthew," the news release said.

The release said 20th Fighter

Wing commander, Col. Daniel Lasica, authorized dismissal of all 20th Fighter Wing non-mission essential personnel for Friday because of the inclement weather.

Only mission essential personnel were to report for duty Friday, the press release said.

Personnel who are unsure of their status for reporting were to contact their supervisor or work area for further guidance.

No information was available at press time concerning the base's status for today.

For more information, call the Shaw AFB Straight Talk Line at (803) 895-8942, or access the 20th Fighter Wing Facebook page at www.facebook.com/20fighterwing.

Title: **Haley hearing interpreter video goes viral**
 Author: BY JAMIE SELF The State Newspaper
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Haley hearing interpreter video goes viral

BY JAMIE SELF

The State Newspaper

COLUMBIA — You may have seen him on television or the internet — standing next to Gov. Nikki Haley and other S.C. officials this week as they discuss Hurricane Matthew — his hands and arms moving in rapid, calculated motions.

Jason Hurdich, a nationally certified deaf interpreter, has been sharing with deaf S.C. residents what they need to know about the approaching storm and the state's plans.

The Charleston-based counselor for the State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation — who once interpreted for President Obama — has created some buzz on Twitter from people watching Haley's news conference.

"Nikki Haley has the GREATEST SIGN LANGUAGE GUY EVER!" one tweeter wrote.

Another tweet said Hurdich upstaged Haley: "The sign language interpreter is the best part of Nikki Haley's press conference," and adding his facial expressions were hot — expressed by three flame emojis.

Hurdich is a newcomer to the Palmetto State.

The New York City native moved to Charleston only two months ago.

"I'm a newbie to the state. I love it. It's a beautiful state. People are so friendly," Hurdich, who was born deaf, told *The State* through interpreter Shonna Magee, with whom he works at Vocational Rehabilitation.

Hurdich said he did not expect to become part of the story this week, adding he is a humble guy who is happy just to help get information to the people who need it.

"My job is not about me," he said. "It's about the state and what they need and the governor needs. I'm just giving that information and interpreting it to the deaf citizens of South Carolina."

In his everyday low-profile state gig, Hurdich counsels the deaf and hard of hearing.

Having worked with the deaf for more than 20 years, Hurdich said he finds the counseling rewarding.

He appreciates "really seeing deaf people succeed and know that they can do anything except hear," he said.

Because Hurdich cannot hear what Haley and other state officials are saying about the state's hurricane plans, Magee sits in front of him, listening to Haley and others speak, and then signs that information to Hurdich.

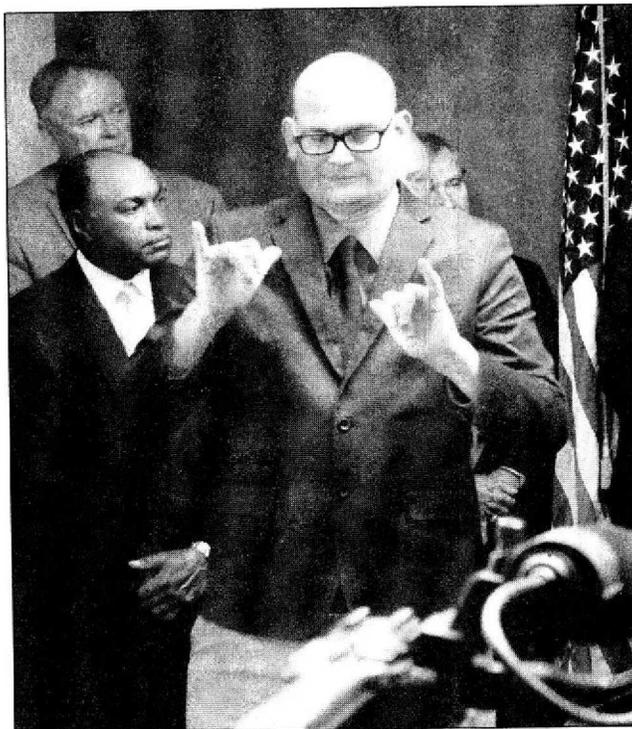
He then reinterprets the information for a deaf audience.

"Interpreting work is not easy," he said. "It's hard work."

But sometimes it also is exciting, like when he interpreted for Obama, who was campaigning in Florida, he said.

"When you get to interpret for the president, it's an honor. It's an honor because you're also serving your country."

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jason Hurdich, a nationally certified deaf interpreter, signs on Tuesday as Gov. Nikki Haley announces plans to call for the evacuation as Hurricane Matthew threatens the coast of South Carolina.

Title: **Haley: 'Hunker down'**
 Author: BY JIM HILLEY jim@theitem.com
 Size: 46.19 column inches
 Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



Haley: 'Hunker down'

Governor advises residents to heed warnings as Matthew hits

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

"Hunker down, stay home," is Gov. Nikki Haley's advice to South Carolina residents as Hurricane Matthew tracks very near or along the South Carolina coast through the day today.

The hurricane is expected to be "very near" Charleston at 8 a.m. this morning, potentially as a very dangerous Category 2 storm with sustained winds of 96

to 110 mph.

"We are looking at major storm surges and major winds," she said at a Columbia press conference late Friday morning.

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HALEY FROM PAGE A

Haley said more than 310,000 people have evacuated their homes.

During the press conference, John Quagliariello, of the National Weather Service, said hurricane and storm surge warnings are in effect all along the South Carolina coast today.

He said the latest track at that time showed Matthew could make landfall somewhere in the state today and then start moving away tonight.

"Given this track, we have significant concerns in terms of impact," he said. "We are looking at the potential for disastrous and life-threatening conditions especially for the central and south part of the South Carolina coast."

Quagliariello warned of widespread and potentially long-lasting power outages throughout areas affected

by the hurricane.

He said the storm surges over normally dry ground could be more than 8 feet and could extend miles inland.

"That is a lot of water," Quagliariello said.

Haley said she had hoped the storm would move away from the South Carolina coast.

"I think we are seeing it is getting worse," she said.

"There is nothing safe about what is going to happen."

Quagliariello said to expect significant damage to coastal structures and roads in and out of barrier islands could be impassable.

In the Sumter, Lee and Clarendon County areas, a high wind warning will be in effect until 2 a.m. Sunday,

said NWS Meteorologist Leonard Vaughan in Columbia. He said sustained winds

could be from 30 to 40 mph, with gusts as high as 50 mph.

Rains will be heaviest in the south and eastern portions of the tri-county area, he said, with estimates ranging from about 5 inches in Lee County and approaching 10 inches in eastern Clarendon County.

Sumter County residents can expect 6 to 8 inches of rain.

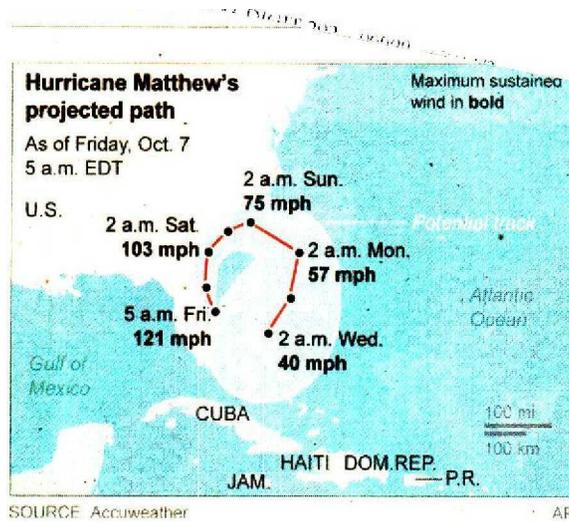
Vaughan said conditions should begin to improve after midnight.

Matthew should be south-southeast of Myrtle Beach by 8 p.m., he said, and by sunrise Sunday it is forecast to be 100 miles east of Wilmington, North Carolina.

Haley recommended residents should monitor local media and online sources for the latest information.



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RICHLAND COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Board won't give Haley key document she sought

■ But members agree to turn over 500 pages of other documents

BY JOHN MONK

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A document that could provide crucial evidence on whether board members governing the Richland County Recreation Commission have grossly mismanaged commission affairs and personnel is being withheld from Gov. Nikki Haley.

Board members made the decision to keep the document secret from the governor in a three-minute special public meeting Thursday evening at the commission's Adult Activity Center on Parklane Road. But first, they met out of public view in a small conference room near the larger room.

However, the commission did vote to turn over some 500 pages of documents the governor requested in an Oct. 19 letter to commissioners. The documents will be delivered to Haley's State House office Friday morning.

Haley is trying to decide whether to fire five of the seven board members, including board chair J. Marie Green. Haley requested the report allegedly detailing the results of an internal sexual harassment investigation – as well as other information – to help her decide what to do.

Green and the five board members at the meeting refused

comment and left the meeting without speaking to reporters.

A spokesman for the board said later the board decided not to provide the report because it is the subject of litigation.

Haley press secretary Chaney Adams told The State newspaper late Thursday, "The governor isn't going to comment on information she hasn't yet seen, but once she has the opportunity to review what has – and what has not – been provided in response to her request, she will almost certainly have something to say."

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RECREATION

The report, commissioned by board members, contains details of an internal investigation into alleged wrongdoing by former Recreation Commission executive director James Brown III.

The State newspaper asked for a copy of the report months ago. Ten of the 17 lawmakers who represent Richland County in the General Assembly also have asked for a copy. Lawyers representing current and former alleged victims of Brown and commission mis-

management are also seeking the report in federal court actions.

In her Oct. 19 letter to board members, the governor also asked for personnel documents that would show if nepotism, or the practice of hiring family members, is widespread at the commission.

In an Oct. 13 letter to Haley, a majority of members of the Richland County Legislative Delegation asserted the report "provides conclusive evidence of wrongdoing" by

Brown during his tenure as executive director.

Despite that, they wrote, five of the seven directors voted earlier this year not to take any action against Brown. The board's willingness to keep Brown employed was inexcusable, the lawmakers said, and asked the governor to remove the five board members who refused to fire Brown.

Delegation members wrote the letter to Haley one day after a Richland County grand jury indicted Brown on charges

of misconduct in office, or specifically, using his position "to coerce and attempt to coerce female employees into having sexual contact with him."

Brown, whose annual salary was \$151,800, faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty. Brown resigned after he was indicted. He says he has done nothing improper.

Haley also requested documents that would show how much Brown was compensated, how his salary rose from \$110,000 in 2010 to \$151,800 be-

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fore he resigned. The documents also include Brown's contract.

Brown and the commission, along with some other top employees and a pair of board members, are named as defendants in numerous pending civil lawsuits that accuse the director of various inap-

propriate behaviors, including sexual harassment, retaliation, bribery, nepotism and creating a hostile work environment.

During Thursday's meeting, commission human resources director David Stringer told the commissioners the 500 pages being turned over to the governor contain

"confidential personnel information." However, Stringer said later the commission wanted the governor to get the documents Friday before making any of them public.

The five board members the delegation wants Haley to fire are Green, Barbara Mickens, Weston Furgess, George Martin Jr.

and Joseph Weeks.

Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, said Thursday night the board's action to withhold the report from Haley is "a blatant example of why this board needs to be removed. ... I hope the governor will respond appropriately and put an end to this craziness."