



Title: **State grants property owners permission to take action against erosion**

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Size: 52.39 square inch

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State grants property owners permission to take action against erosion

Emergency orders allow Harbor Island and Daufuskie Island residents to use sandbags.

By STEPHEN FASTENAU
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Some Daufuskie Island and Harbor Island homeowners in danger of losing property to erosion have received permission for a short-term fix, but long-term solutions will be more complicated.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control's Ocean and Coastal Resource Management division has issued eight emergency orders for property in Beaufort County, agency spokesman Jim Beasley said Friday. Four orders are for homes on Harbor Island. The remaining four are on Daufuskie.

Under the orders, homeowners are allowed to use sandbags and to bring in sand from elsewhere on the beach for minor renourishment. One of the Harbor Island orders only allows sandbags.

Possibilities for long-term fixes include a larger scale beach renourishment, with or without groins — man-made structures that trap sand as it drifts down the beach. Homeowners could also move their

houses back on the property or relocate them to another lot, Beasley said.

ONGOING ISSUE

Erosion at Daufuskie has long been an issue. Even before this past week, two homes had been deemed uninhabitable after the sand washed from beneath them.

Property owners are proposing a large-scale beach restoration. Melrose Property Owners Association has asked DHEC and the Army Corps of Engineers for permission to pump 1.4 million cubic yards of sand from the Calibogue Sound onto 5,000 feet of Daufuskie shoreline.

That application is still under review, pending an opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Beasley said. Funding the project once a permit is granted will be the issue, said Mitch Evans, a property owner and past Melrose POA president.

A federal designation as an unde-

veloped coastal barrier prohibits the area from receiving federal grants from the work. Evans said his hope is that Beaufort County will be able to chip in and that increased property values on Daufuskie will increase the county's tax base.

At a September meeting between county leaders and the Daufuskie Island Council, state Sen. Tom Davis said he was working with U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford to update the federal maps designating the coastal areas.

The prospect was raised of using county accommodations tax money or a proposed capital sales tax commission to pay for the dredging. Property owner Len Pojednic said the Melrose association had already invested \$85,000 on the beach.

"We don't expect Beaufort County to solve all of our problems," he said, according to meeting minutes.

Please see EROSION on 11A

EROSION

Continued from 1A

EXPENSIVE FIX

Short term or long term, none of the erosion-control options is cheap.

Harbor Island residents Tricia and Lew Gardner shelled out \$30,000 for 150, 1-ton sandbags last year, Tricia Gardner said. Those bags were tossed around within six months, the couple said.

The Gardners then wrote Gov. Nikki Haley and Sanford, asking what could be done. The couple was directed to a wave dissipation

system, the subject of a study at The Citadel.

State law restricts the use of sea walls, bulkheads and similar measures for the effect on the surrounding beach. The wave dissipation system was presented as a permeable alternative.

The wall of heavy-duty pipe works to breakup waves before they reach homes and to trap sand as water recedes.

The Gardners paid \$60,000 to install the system, which several neighbors also now

employ. They thought it was working well until the water level cleared the wall during historic high tides and rain this past weekend.

DHEC has not reached any conclusions about the system's effectiveness and will evaluate data at the end of the study, Beasley said.

Mike Ricci, the Gardners' neighbor, also installed the system to keep waves from crashing into his house. Ricci left his home during the storms after the footings on his pilings were exposed.

He said the system has not

been in place long enough to judge its effectiveness.

"In fairness, it's too early to tell," he said. "It certainly helped me in the storm; there's no doubt about that."

The Harbor Island Owners Association board of directors discussed the possibility of restoring the beach in 2011, board member Dennis Nolan said. But association rules say its funds can only be used for association property.

That does not include the beachfront owned by the

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homeowners, said Nolan, a retired law professor. He noted the limited options available under state and federal laws. The board will hold its regular meeting today and will discuss options of what can be done, president Craig Aull said. “We’re all very sympathetic,” said Nolan, whose home is on a part of the beach not affected by erosion. “We certainly want the beach to be healthy and all the owners to have their places protected. But some- body has to make a proposal to do something.”

Follow reporter Stephen Fastenau at twitter.com/IPBG_SStephen.

Title: **Crop losses could total more than \$300M from flood**
 Author: By ADAM BEAM and SUSANNE M. SCHAFER The Associated Press
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Crop losses could total more than \$300M from flood

By ADAM BEAM and
 SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
 The Associated Press

BRANCHVILLE — Thad Wimberly tugs on a clump of peanuts, shaking off the mud as he cracks the soggy shells to inspect his crop. But all he can do is sigh as his livelihood disintegrates between his fingers.

Just a week ago, the 2,500 acres Wimberly farms with his partner, Jonathan Berry, baked in a drought that wiped out his corn crop. Now, his fields 60 miles south of Columbia in Branchville are filled with water. Moisture is trapped in his peanuts, creating mold and other toxins that make them unfit for humans and animals to eat.

He expects to lose as much as \$1 million this year, as crop insurance only covers a portion of market prices. It paid out only about \$120 an acre for his corn, which he estimated he could have sold for \$300 to \$400 per acre.

"That's the life of a farmer. You put your heart and soul into the ground, then something devastating happens like this and you are done,"

Wimberly said. "Farming is gambling."

Across South Carolina, the misery continues: Preliminary estimates show crop losses could total more than \$300 million in the state's \$3 billion-a-year agriculture industry. Interstate 95, vital to the East Coast economy for trucking, remains closed over a stretch of 13 miles, forcing travelers to take a massive detour. The capital city is fighting to keep its water system running while people have to boil tap water before drinking it.

And even more rain could be on the way. A storm system will stall near the coast this weekend, bringing as much as an additional inch of rain to some areas, according to the National Weather Service. The heaviest rain is expected today, although forecasters said it shouldn't be enough to flood any additional areas.

"Underneath that water is the South Carolina we remember. Underneath that water is that state that is so

beautiful — that is damaged, but we have to fix it," said Gov. Nikki Haley, who warned that any final damage estimates could still be weeks away. "We'll get there."

Flood waters continue to move toward the sea, although authorities don't expect the devastating damage that happened in Columbia when up to 20 inches of rain fell over two days last weekend.

Haley continued to urge people in Georgetown County and other coastal areas to be vigilant as flood waters rise. No one has had to be evacuated yet, but the water was isolating some homes, and the governor warned emergency officials could start knocking on doors any time.

It just isn't residents who are inconvenienced. The foundations under some of the 18 small bridges that crisscross two rivers and swamps on a 13-mile closed stretch of Interstate 95 have been washed away and

must be repaired before the highway can be reopened, South Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said Friday.

A contractor will begin working on the bridges 24 hours a day starting today, said Hall, who had no estimate when the road which carries 30,000 vehicles a day could reopen. In the meantime, travelers who would normally drive 74 miles between Interstate 26 to Interstate 20 must take a 168-mile detour through Columbia.

For farmers, the worst of the flood damage was in low-lying fields that spent days in standing water, hitting peanuts, cotton and soybeans especially hard, Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers said. However, those crops account for a small percentage of what's grown across the U.S. And the state's top agriculture products — timber and poultry — took less of a hit, so national supplies shouldn't be too severely affected.

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The Associated Press

Thad Wimberly, left, and Jonathan Berry inspect the damage to a field of peanuts following record rainfall and flooding in Branchville on Friday. Wimberly, co-owner of Wimco Farms in Branchville, said he expects to lose 75 percent of his crop.

Title: **at loss after floods**
 Author: BY ADAM BEAM AND SUSANNE M. SCHAFER Associated Press
 Size: 77.19 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Farmers at loss after floods

BY ADAM BEAM AND
SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

Associated Press

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Floodwaters continue to move toward the sea, although authorities don’t expect the devastating damage that happened in Columbia when up to 20 inches of rain fell over two days last weekend.

Haley continued to urge people in Georgetown County and other coastal areas to be vigilant. No one has had to be evacuated yet, though, and

there was some hope the worst could be over.

The Waccamaw River has crested and the Black River is near crest, Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway said Friday afternoon. It will take days or maybe more

than a week for the rivers to go below flood stage, but the water should start dropping.

“Crested — I’ve been waiting for that word to be expressed here for a week,” Hemingway said.

It isn’t just South Carolina residents who are inconvenienced. The foundations under some of the 18 small bridges that crisscross two rivers and swamps on a 13-mile closed stretch of Interstate 95 have been washed away and must be repaired before the highway can be re-opened, South Carolina Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said Friday.

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Nikki Haley, South Carolina governor

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AP PHOTO/ADAM BEAM

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Title: **Flood destruction brings out 'heartwarming' volunteerism**

Author: BY SARAH ELLIS AND TIM FLACH sellis@thestate.com, flach@thestate.com

Size: 54.87 square inch

Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



HGTC enrollment slides as economy improves

Flood destruction brings out 'heartwarming' volunteerism

Swarms of volunteers clog hard-hit neighborhood at foot of Lake Katherine

Teens, church groups, neighbors reach out to clean houses, give supplies

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley salutes 'people of compassion'

BY SARAH ELLIS
AND TIM FLACH

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COLUMBIA

"Heartbreaking and heartwarming."

Eugenia Hardwick described the scene around her in a friend's east Columbia yard, where heaps of unsalvageably soaked possessions lay pulled from the house. All along Kilbourne Road and in the neighbor-

FROM PAGE 3A

FACES

hood behind it, similar scenes unfolded, flanked by lines of cars that had pulled in just to offer help.

Volunteers clogged the hard-hit neighborhood bordered by Gills Creek and Lake Katherine, behind Whole Foods near Fort Jackson, where historic rainfall this weekend caused unprecedented flooding.

Even if the floods didn't reach their houses, the people of the Midlands and beyond felt the deeply devastating effects of the weekend's catastrophic weather. "I'm just amazed at all these people that are helping people that they don't know, or they didn't know before," Hardwick said.

before," Hardwick said.

Sixteen-year-old Russell Isaacs and his family were

SEE FACES, 5A

County: Horry

lucky enough not to feel the hurt of the floods. But he felt the hurt of his community, all the same, and that drove him to action.

On Wednesday, he and his mother, Tammy Neff, rallied a group of boys from the A.C. Flora ROTC program and the Columbia chapter of DeMolay, an international young men's organization, and descended on Kilbourne Road, ready to assist. With swarms of other volunteers, they helped homeowners gut their drenched houses.

In that neighborhood, floodwaters rose several feet in many houses, even above the roofs of some, neighbors

said. "Your eyes are opened to how lucky you are, and other people weren't as lucky," Isaacs said. "I just wanted to help them through this time of need."

At a news conference Wednesday, Gov. Nikki Haley saluted all the volunteers who were showing up to do this kind of work.

Haley said the flood has brought out "neighbors helping neighbors and people helping strangers."

"We are people of compassion," she said.

Mallory Gore, a 17-year-old student at Ben Lippen School, came to the neighborhood at the foot of Lake

Katherine with a youth group from Columbia's First Baptist Church despite hobbling along on a crutch. "I can't do much physical (work), but I can help brighten people's day," she said.

Gore was part of a group that her older sister, Brittany Hoffman, led from First Baptist in downtown Columbia. Hoffman said the group came because "the city is hurting."

Hoffman, a teacher in Richland 2, and many of the teens have the time off from school as the city and county continue to recover from the flooding.

They were directed to the Kilbourne area by church groups who had been checking in with different authorities about where to go to give help. She said more than 100 young people from the church spent the day handing out drinking water, running supplies to different areas and helping clean up at homes.

Some members of downtown's Midtown Fellowship forewent Bible study to come help clean up the neighborhood instead.

"We're trying to help out any way we can," George Thomas said. "Most of us were fortunate enough not to be affected."

Another group came down

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from the Christian Life Church in the St. Andrews area.

"How can we take it easy when our community is suffering?" said Sonia Isom.

Another church member,

Samuel Burton, said the work has been hard, "but this community was hit hard."

Reach Ellis at (803) 771-8307.

Reach Flach at (803) 771-8483.

“

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Eugenia Hardwick



MATT WALSH mwalsh@thestate.com

Beverly Steinhaus hugs Carol Hill, a friend who helped clean her house on Burwell Street after it was submerged in floodwater.

Title: Haley shows GOP can't be trusted**Author:****Size: 9.14 square inch****Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564**



Haley shows GOP can't be trusted

As co-chairman of Ronald Reagan's 1980 S.C. campaign and one of the first Republicans elected to the S.C. House, I have a message for the people of South Carolina: "Don't trust the Republicans."

Since the days of Lincoln, they have always aided their cronies in big business. They provide corporate welfare to line their pockets and advance personal political agendas. Yet recently they have stooped lower to achieve their aims.

Nikki Haley has remade herself at the expense of the good names of South Carolina's 22,000 Confederate dead by colluding with the enemy. With the staging assistance of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, her shameless exploitation of the families of the nine victims gunned down by a deranged lone-wolf shooter made her a national Republican figure.

None of the Republicans are what they seem. They will continue to betray the trust and traditional values of South Carolinians.

*- Richard Hines
Mayesville*

Title: **Homeland Security chief to visit S.C.**
Author: Associated Press
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Homeland Security chief to visit S.C.

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson plans to get a first-hand look at flooding in South Carolina.

Johnson is scheduled to travel to Columbia and Charleston on Friday to meet with federal, state and local officials and view ongoing response and recovery efforts in areas affected by severe flooding.

While Johnson is in Columbia and Charleston, he is scheduled to participate in joint news conferences with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley; Sen. Tim Scott; Reps. Mark Sanford, Joe Wilson, Jim Clyburn, and other federal, state and local officials.

Title: **'Dangerous situation'**
 Author: BY ANDREW KNAPP, GAVIN JACKSON and CHRISTINA ELMORE The Post and Courier
 Size: 230.64 square inch
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'Dangerous situation'

Residents along Edisto, Santee urged to evacuate as others in Lowcountry face mess, long for normalcy

BY ANDREW KNAPP, GAVIN JACKSON
 and CHRISTINA ELMORE
The Post and Courier

Once stricken with helplessness as floodwater filled their homes, many Lowcountry residents set their sights Thursday on getting life back to normal even as authorities, including Gov. Nikki Haley, warned of more devastation to come.

After flying over the Georgetown and Givhans Ferry areas in a helicopter, the governor urged people along the Santee and Edisto rivers to consider evacuating. At points on the Edisto south of Givhans Ferry, residents already have seen significant flooding, and it will get worse as runoff from heavy rainfall last weekend in

closures, go to postandcourier.com/live-map

For an interactive map with tweets, photos and video of the flooding, go to postandcourier.com/flood-map

For an updated forecast, go to postandcourier.com/weather

Inside

- Floodwaters to linger, **A5**
- Officials warn of FEMA scams, **A7**
- Farm losses to top \$300M, **B1**

Please see **EVACUATE**, Page A4

Online

To keep up with Lowcountry road

Tri-County Flood Recovery Fund

Trident United Way, in partnership with The Post and Courier, has launched the Tri-County Flood Recovery Fund. You can donate as little as \$10 by texting FLOOD to 27722. For more information, see **A6**.

Residents urged to evacuate

EVACUATE, from A1

the Midlands and the Upstate reaches the Lowcountry, she said.

The predictions came from experts who were "erring on the side of caution," and they haven't been wrong yet, she said. It's better to get out now than to wait for mandatory evacuation orders from local officials, she added.

Still, many residents in the area insist on staying, Haley said.

"I know you've lived there a long time. ... I know you may have been through flooding

before," she said of residents in those areas. "This is different. ... Please try and leave."

The water that has built up in South Carolina's creeks, rivers, ponds and reservoirs continued to put pressure on dams statewide. Fourteen of 50,000 in South Carolina have failed, and the number of dams being monitored by emergency officials grew Thursday from 62 to 70.

Downstream from some of those dams, the greatest risk for further flooding lies along the Santee River in the South Santee and Germantown areas, Haley said. Flooding in Georgetown

could last for 12 days, she said. U.S. Highway 17 and S.C. Highway 41 are expected to be closed.

The Santee reached 19.01 feet on Thursday, with an additional 5.5 feet expected by the weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

In Charleston County, deputies and National Guardsmen have set up two command posts to deal with emergencies along the Edisto and the Santee — one on U.S. 17 south of Ravenel and one in McClellanville.

If people along Edisto in Charleston and Dorchester counties choose not to evacu-

ate, they should keep a close eye on the river levels and be prepared to get out, Charleston County Assistant Sheriff Mitch Lucas said.

"This truly is a dangerous situation in many parts of the county," he said. "The time to move is now."

At the greatest risk for flooding are people on Parkers Ferry Road in Adams Run, on U.S. Highway 17 near the Charleston and Colleton County line, and in parts of Jacksonboro.

The Edisto reached 16 feet early Thursday, and it was expected to rise one-third of a

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foot, nearing record height.

"I'm pleading with citizens in affected areas to hear and heed our warnings," Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey said. "We've been fortunate in Charleston County not to have had any deaths."

Mason Fayne, 62, was one of the people who didn't leave home despite predictions last week of historic rainfall. He stayed in his home on Arbor Oaks Drive near Summerville. It's where he had lived with his late wife, and it's where Fayne told her he would stay until his own death.

"When you see that water come in, you just have to sit back, pop open a beer and say, 'What the hell are you gonna do?'" he said. "I've been through Hugo. I've been through a lot. I think I can make it through this."

A painful wait

Other Lowcountry residents who decided to stay in their homes as floodwater inundated their communities caught a glimpse of hope Thursday as the nearby rivers backed away.

In Ashborough off Dorchester Road near Summerville, residents long for normal. For school days. For air conditioning. For getting up and going to work. For a chance to drive a car to the grocery store without getting wet. For a time when strangers don't drive up to the floodwater's edge just to get out and snap a picture of themselves in rubber boots.

For now, they wait for the water — 4 feet of it in spots — to recede. The overflowing Ashley River still swirls through their fences, their garages and their cars. They kill time by registering for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They take 30-minute shifts to keep watch at night, looking for looters in rafts. They use their own public transportation system: A resident whose house didn't flood keeps three kayaks in the front yard for people to

borrow on the honor system.

Their neighborhood remained a concern Thursday for National Weather Service forecasters. The fresh water pouring into the Ashley and the Cooper rivers, coupled with high tides, make the area slow to drain of floodwater.

"A lot of people ask why the water won't get out of there faster," meteorologist Richard Thacker said. "Well, there's just so much of it, so much volume."

Sharon Maralit has been cooped up in her home for a week with her four children, her mother and her husband. Her Hampton Drive house is an island, and they're marooned on it. They find ways to keep busy. "Texting," one of her sons said of a pastime that helps pass the time.

The family crowded on the front porch Thursday, sitting on sandbags stacked in the doorway or on the steps. An armadillo scurried inside a kayak tied to the railing. They had rescued the critter they found stranded on a floating log.

What they saw was promising. The river had dropped 1 foot in a day, they estimated. It was a contrast from a few days earlier, when they saw their neighbor's Mini floating by.

They watched as two youth pastors from Seacoast Church paddled up to their new dock on the Ashley. It was the grocery delivery. They brought some of the essentials: hamburger meat, Captain Crunch, Oreos and a gallon of milk.

"Right now, we're just waiting for the water to clear so we can start the cleanup," Maralit said. "You can just see all the grime on everything."

Across the street, Eric Perez cursed the people who told him he didn't need flood insurance when he bought his home six years ago. His real estate and insurance agents told him not to bother because his property had never flooded.

"A lot of us are finding out the hard way," he said. "Now, we're at the mercy of FEMA."

Perez spent Thursday pulling out stereo speakers, furniture and pictures that had been sitting on the floor. He started ripping out the hardwood on his first floor, which had filled with water.

Two of his cars were destroyed. He opened the doors of an SUV sitting in the driveway, unleashing a ripe stench from the floodwater intensified by the heat inside. The odor mixed with the fumes from fuel that formed a colorful sheen on the brown water.

Like others, Perez longed for an ordinary day when he could be with his wife and children without wading through water. The family members were staying with friends and relatives.

"This was our little patch of heaven here," Perez said, standing beside a swimming pool teeming with minnows and full of twigs. "It's just a mess now. ... The water just can't go down fast enough."

'A helpless feeling'

As floodwaters receded entirely in other areas, residents came home Thursday to the heartbreaking reality of just how much they've lost.

In North Charleston's Pepperhill community, Milton Green had spent \$34,000 adding on to his house 18 months ago. His mortgage is \$2,800 a year, and he is four years from paying it off. But during the storm, a flooded drainage ditch overflowed into his house, so he and his wife are living in a hotel for \$400 a week.

"I really can't afford that, I'm using up all my reserves," Green said. "I'll be good for about another week, and then I'm in the red. I'll have my credit cards maxed out."

A retired Charleston firefighter, Green, 65, already has been denied coverage by his insurance

company. He didn't have flood coverage and wasn't required to have it, unlike new homeowners in the neighborhood.

"Now I'm stuck with this damage," Green said. "What FEMA doesn't do, I'm screwed."

Ron Bycroft, a volunteer with the Charleston Baptist Association, was going door to door with a crew to assess damage in the neighborhood where poor drainage led to damage to 50 homes.

The group is backed by the Southern Baptist Convention's disaster relief services. They have crews feeding 7,000 people in Columbia and working on James Island and Johns islands, and they plan to head into Kingstree once floodwaters recede. Teams from Alabama, Florida and Georgia — places where Baptists from Charleston have volunteered — are en route to help clean out houses, cut drywall and sanitize homes so people can start over.

"Some of these people, their houses are totally destroyed from the inside," Bycroft said. "When my crews walk out of this house next week it will be dry, clean and safe. It won't be put back together completely, but it will be dry, clean and safe, so they can start rebuilding their lives."

In the Arbor Oaks neighborhood south of Summerville, residents piled couches, refrigerators and mattresses on sidewalks.

Inside Bryon Teegardin's house, a crew tore up soaked wood flooring, revealing a crack in the foundation that stretched from wall to wall. He suspected that the flood had caused it.

"When the water started coming in, that was a helpless feeling," he said. "There's nothing we could do. Now, I have a feeling they're going to condemn this place."

The water had rushed into this community near Dorches-

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ter Road on Saturday night as it spilled from the Sawmill Branch Creek. It curled around door frames and seeped under walls.

It flowed into the three bedrooms of Eric Seitz's house as he watched a Clemson football game elsewhere. He returned to the sight of fish swimming in his foyer and his family's cat eyeing a new shoreline in his living room.

On Thursday, the most daunting mound of waterlogged trash rested outside his house: a piano, beds, his grandfather's China cabinet, classic children's books like "Goodnight Moon."

His wedding album and one of his children's baby books were still soggy. He wasn't throwing those away.

He hoped FEMA would cover the cost of things his insurance company won't.

Seitz praised the National Guardsmen who showed up unexpectedly Thursday and

hailed off the community's damaged possessions, which dripped as they were loaded into trucks. He had seen the kindness of others already — from someone who paid for his family's dinner to a group of friends who helped gut his house of damaged items.

"Everyone had pitched in," he said. "It's overwhelming. You hear stories of price gouging and looting, but we have been blessed."

Preparations

Communities elsewhere in the Lowcountry still haven't shed the floodwater.

Jamestown Mayor Roy Pipkin continues to keep his eye on the slowly rising Santee River as he and others prepare for heavy river flooding this weekend, a primary concern for state officials.

"They (Berkeley County emergency department) brought us some maps yesterday to show

us possible inundated areas that could be flooded," Pipkin said. "When you say inundated with water you may be talking about an inch. Based on their map it could be in some of the lower areas in town that could get some water."

As the mayor of the Berkeley County town of approximately 100 residents, Pipkin and officials have their phone list ready but he isn't worried at this point, even as forecasts call for the river to hit 23 feet by Satur-

day and climb nearly another foot by Tuesday.

The river's most historic crests in the town — 30 to 33 feet — occurred in the early part of the last century and in 1998, when it hit 21.67 feet. Pipkin said the town didn't evacuate then and likely won't now, even as water levels are expected to reach a major flood stage of 23 feet early Saturday and nearly 24 feet by Tuesday.

"On Saturday we'll make up our mind and possibly have an evacuation if needed, but I'm not too worried right now," Pipkin said, adding that floodwaters typically overflow into swamps on Williamsburg and Georgetown County side of the river.

The Congaree River runs southwest from Columbia to Lake Marion. The Santee River flows from the lake west to the Atlantic Ocean.

Plans are ready to execute should the Santee River do anything other than rise to projected levels, said Berkeley County Emergency officials.

"The issue right now would be the unexpected, if a dam failed; if the water didn't go the way we thought it would go," Berkeley County spokesman Michael Mule said. "Our preparations are for if the unexpected happens. That's what the sheriff, fire, EMS and the county supervisor are preparing for."

Title: **'Dangerous situation'**

Author: BY ANDREW KNAPP, GAVIN JACKSON and CHRISTINA ELMORE The Post and Courier

Size: 230.64 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



PAUL ZOELLER/STAFF

Diane Zimerle (right) hugs Melanie Yurczak as she walks through Summerville's Arbor Oaks neighborhood on Thursday, checking on everyone removing flood-damaged belongings from their homes.



ANDREW KNAPP/STAFF

Colleton County Sheriff Andy Strickland (left) inspects a flooded community near Ridgeville.

Title: **'Dangerous situation'**

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**Edisto River****Flood levels**

MINOR: 10 ft.
MODERATE: 12 ft.
MAJOR: 15 ft.

Latest level

16.02 feet (10 p.m. Thursday)

Flood forecast

Edisto River at Givhans Ferry is expected to reach 16.4 feet, its highest level, by 8 p.m. Saturday.

Santee River**Flood levels**

MINOR: 10 ft.
MODERATE: 17 ft.
MAJOR: 22 ft.

Latest level

19.01 feet (10:30 p.m. Thursday)

Flood forecast

Santee River at Jamestown is expected to reach 23.9 feet, its highest level, by 8 p.m. Monday.

Black River**Flood levels**

MINOR: 12 ft.
MODERATE: 14 ft.
MAJOR: 16 ft.

Latest level

19.08 feet (10 p.m. Thursday)

Forecasted level

Black River at Kingstree is expected to drop to moderate status (15.7 feet) by 8 a.m. Saturday.

SOURCE: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

BRANDON LOCKETT/STAFF

Three river warnings

Title: **S.C. farm flooding washes away \$300M**
 Author: BY JOHN MCDERMOTT jmcdermott@postandcourier.com
 Size: 103.38 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



S.C. farm flooding washes away \$300M

State agriculture chief says disaster adds to challenging year for farmers

BY JOHN MCDERMOTT
jmcdermott@postandcourier.com

From peanuts to pine trees, crop losses in South Carolina from last weekend's floods likely will top \$300 million, Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers said.

Also, the industry will largely "be shut down for a few weeks" until the soil can dry out, Weathers added.

"That is a direct impact to farmers," he said Thursday during a media update with Gov. Nikki Haley and other

officials in Columbia.

Weathers said he was shocked by the devastation he saw during aerial tours of the state's agricultural areas earlier this week.

Please see **LOSSES**, Page B6

For more

Farmers can

contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency office serving their counties, or Kenn Jameson at (803) 806-3820, ext. 107, or [kenn.jame-](mailto:kenn.jameson@sc.usda.gov)

son@sc.usda.gov. The S.C. Department of Agriculture can be reached at (803) 734-2210.

Area farm profits wash away

LOSSES, from B1

"I saw farms that looked like thousand-acre lakes," he said.

Damage assessments are underway, he said. The process involves the S.C. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and the Clemson University Extension Service.

Weathers recommended that

growers call their crop insurers as soon as possible.

"We advise farmers not make any additional investments in those crops until that assessment has been done," he said.

The state also is filing requests for federal financial assistance.

"That should be forthcoming," Weathers said.

The affected crops include

peanuts, cotton, fall vegetables, soybeans and some timber. Weathers said poultry farmers are working to repair access roads for their feed trucks. Timber harvesting is expected to resume when the logging roads are passable.

"Long term, this disaster will cause an income loss for local farmers and the rural counties of South Carolina," Weathers

said in a written statement.

He called 2015 "an exceptionally challenging year" for the state's agriculture business.

"We have dealt with a severe drought during the growing season and now excessive rainfall at harvest," Weathers said.

Contact **John McDermott** at 937-5572.

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BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

Clemson Experimental Station agent Zack Snipes looks over the mud-covered and dying cabbage plants on Freeman Farms on Johns Island this week. The state's initial crop-damage estimate from the weekend floods is \$300 million, which is considered a conservative figure.

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S.C. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture officials toured flooded farms around the state this week.