

Title: **Storm's legacy in Beaufort County: Heavy damage, no deaths yet**  
 Author: BY KELLY MEYERHOFER, WADE LIVINGSTON AND LUCASHIGH newsroom@islandpacket.com  
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## HURRICANE MATTHEW

# Storm's legacy in Beaufort County: Heavy damage, no deaths yet

■ Hurricane dumped more than a foot of rain, snapped thousands of trees and flooded homes.

BY KELLY MEYERHOFER,  
WADE LIVINGSTON  
AND LUCAS HIGH

newsroom@islandpacket.com

Hurricane Matthew slashed Beaufort County in historic fashion Friday night and Saturday, dumping more than a foot of rain while snapping thousands of trees, flooding homes and causing a staggering amount of damage that is only beginning to be assessed.

For the untold thousands of residents who refused to heed a mandatory evacuation, it also left a terrifying impression.

FROM PAGE 3A

## BEAUFORT

Bluffton and Beaufort, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Neil Dixon.

The measurements, which are measured only once every 24 hours, were as of 8 a.m. Saturday, so total rainfall measurements are likely to rise.

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office delivered one piece of good news: No reports of storm-related fatalities as of early Saturday evening.

Still, worries remain. Fallen power lines and flooded streets could prove a deadly combination.

Residents who leave Beaufort County won't be

"It sounds like a million chainsaws going," said Hilton Head resident Tracey Ownes of the Category 2 storm as it ripped apart the Palmetto Bay Marina near her home Friday night.

Long comforted by a sense of safety earned over 30 years without a direct hurricane hit, Matthew shattered that illusion with a devastating punch. Damage was so complete that it was impossible for responders to

peel back more than the first layer of destruction that is expected to grow exponentially in the coming days.

Many barrier islands, for example, have yet to be assessed for damage by officials. That includes all of Hilton Head Island's gated communities.

Packing winds of 88 mph hour, Matthew also set records. A tidal gauge in Fort Pulaski, Ga., the closest instrument to Beaufort County, mea-

sured an all-time record of 12.56 feet that flooded nearby marshes and rivers, which in turn flooded homes.

Adding to the surge was heavy rainfall that swamped the county: 11 inches fell in Harbour Town in Sea Pines, 12 inches at Folly Field, 13 to 15 inches on the heel and north end of the island and 10 to 12 inches in both

SEE BEAUFORT, 9A

allowed back in until it's considered safe, warned the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.

### ISLANDS SEE WORSE IMPACT

Palmetto Bay Marina, Hilton Head's oldest marina, is under water, according to Capt. Bob Bromage, spokesman for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. "It's completely gone," he said.

The disappearance of the marina is one of what will be many losses to the island in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

The National Weather Service recorded peak wind gusts at 88 mph just

five to 10 miles off Hilton Head Island, the highest of anywhere in the Palmetto State.

The Town of Hilton Head reported "thousands of trees blocking major and minor roadways."

Barrier islands took the brunt of the storm, Bromage said, calling out Hilton Head, Fripp, Harbor, Coosaw and St. Helena islands out individually.

He reported the U.S. Coast Guard and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources have done flyovers of those islands, including Daufuskie Island, which Gov. Nikki Haley said "will be under-

water," at an earlier news conference. But an assessment of the island is yet to come.

Reports of extensive tree damage also came from Palmetto Dunes and Port Royal Plantation.

Mid-island mobile homes are in standing water. The bridges onto Hilton Head passed a preliminary inspection, but the S.C. Department of Transportation must perform one more before the public can access the island, said Hilton Head mayor David Bennett.

Until then, Hilton Head, like many other barrier islands across the state, remain inaccessible.



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With so much of the county off limits, Beaufort County School District schools will be closed Monday.

### **BLUFFTON, BEAUFORT DAMAGE**

While the barrier islands saw the most significant damage, Bluffton was also "hit pretty hard," said Bluffton mayor Lisa Sulka.

The Old Town neighborhood had the most fallen trees, said Sulka, who lives in the historic district and reported four trees down in her own yard.

As she drove through parts of Bluffton, Sulka noted flooding in The Farm and Westbury Park, fallen trees in the Buck Island-Simmonsville area and limited cell service

throughout the town. She did not know the status of Palmetto Bluff because she didn't drive through the area.

Rose Hill and Colleton River Plantation, two of the town's gated communities, are among the most affected areas in Bluffton, fire officials said.

There were reports of trees toppling cars on Goethe Road and on the storage center off Bluffton Parkway.

Just outside Sun City, parking lots show extensive flooding, cars submerged up to the bumper and fallen trees strewn across the saturated ground. Some road signs were bent at 45-degree angles.

In Beaufort, downed

trees and power lines were the largest issues, according to its mayor, Billy Keyserling.

### **PLAN TO HUNKER DOWN UNTIL MONDAY**

Gov. Nikki Haley spent the first part of her week urging South Carolinians to hurry up and evacuate in the face of Hurricane Matthew.

She's now asking them to be patient.

"Now is when the frustration sets in," Haley said at a Saturday news conference. "Between downed power lines and trees, I know you want to see your home. But in some cases, law enforcement's not going to let you back in."

Lane reversals aren't planned because people

returning home will be on a staggered schedule.

It's up to local leaders and law enforcement to make the call, she said.

Given that flooding shut down the portion of I-95 between Ridgeland and Hardeeville and S.C. Department of Transportation officials could not say when the interstate would reopen, a specific timeline for Beaufort County residents remains unclear.

Palmetto Electric spokesman Tray Hunter echoed residents' uncertainty about when they can return and the extent of damage Matthew unleashed on Beaufort County on their property.

"We know it's bad, but we have to figure out bad and where it is," Hunter said.

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REBECCA LURYE rlurye@islandpacket.com

A snapped tree hangs in front of Bluffton's Spartina.

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JAY KARR jkarr@islandpacket.com

These craft were left on the edge of Sea Island Parkway just east of the Woods Memorial Bridge by floodwaters.

Title: **Will schools open Monday? Is it safe to drink the water?**  
 Author: STAFF REPORTS newsroom@islandpacket.com  
 Size: 44.33 column inches  
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## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

# Will schools open Monday? Is it safe to drink the water?

### STAFF REPORTS

newsroom@islandpacket.com

The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette asked whether our readers had any questions about Hurricane Matthew and storm-related issues, and you responded. Here are some of the most-asked questions:

**Q: Will schools be open on Monday in Beaufort County?**

**A:** No.

School is canceled Monday in Beaufort County so that the district can have the buildings assessed for safety, according to district spokesman Jim Foster.

**Q: I haven't heard from my loved one who stayed behind. Is there someone I can call?**

**A:** Anyone who thinks a

family member is at serious risk can contact the Beaufort County Dispatch Center and ask to be connected to a local law enforcement agency to request a health and welfare check.

**Q: I'm a BJWSA customer. Is it safe to drink the water?**

**A:** That depends.

The main system is fine for places that still have water service, according to Pamela Flasch with Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer

Authority.

However, BJWSA officials and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control are advising residents of the following communities to boil their water, once service is restored, before using it for drinking, cooking or washing dishes:

- St. Helena Island
- Gibbs (Secession)
- Cane Island
- Cat Island
- Distant Island
- Warsaw Vivian's
- Coosaw Island
- Fripp Island
- Hunting Island
- Harbor Island
- Point South

There is no set time for when that water service may be restored for the places where it was turned off.

**Q: Can I drink the water on Hilton Head Island?**

**A:** You should not.

Hilton Head Town Manager Steve Riley said the town has not received word the water is safe to drink.

Residents should wait to hear assurance from the water companies before drinking it. You can check the providers website for updates below.

- South Island Public Service District, www.southislandpsd.com
- Hilton Head Public

Service District, hhlpsd.com

- Broad Creek Service District, www.bcpsd.com

**Q: I received an email about my power outage. Is this a scam?**

**A:** Yes.

In her morning address, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley warned residents of an email scam currently circulating.

"We have a cyber situation going on," she said.

Scammers tell you they have an update on your outage. Once you click there, they get into your computer.

If you don't know the person sending the email, delete it. Don't click.

**Q: Will there be checkpoints and an ID requirement to return to Beaufort County?**

**A:** At this time, there are no plans to lift the evacuation.

It is unknown at this time if checkpoints will be used once the evacuation is lifted, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Capt. Bob Bromage said Saturday afternoon.

**Q: My home is uninhabitable. Is it too late to go to a shelter?**

**A:** No. But be careful getting there.

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is warning

the residents who stayed behind that road conditions are dangerous.

Additional long-term shelters also might be opened for people without homes.

All the following shelters are open and accepting visitors.

### COLLETON COUNTY

Colleton County Middle School, 1739 Mighty Cougar Drive, Walterboro.

### HAMPTON COUNTY

Estill High and Middle School, 1450 Columbia Hwy. North, Estill.

Hampton Elementary School, 505 S Hoover St., Hampton.

### JASPER COUNTY

Ridgeland North Campus, 250 Jaguar Trail, Ridgeland.

**Q: Can you recommend a webcam?**

**A:** Traffic cameras showing areas throughout the county can be viewed on The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette website at [www.islandpacket.com/news/local/traffic](http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/traffic).

If you have a question or information you think is important or helpful to share, email newsroom@islandpacket.com.

Title: **Community continues to support evacuees at shelter**  
 Author: BY LARRY WOOD lwood@aikenstandard.com  
 Size: 71.76 column inches  
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



# Community continues to support evacuees at shelter

BY LARRY WOOD

*lwood@aikenstandard.com*

Area residents continued to bring towels, baby diapers and other supplies Saturday afternoon to the Red Cross shelter at South Aiken High for evacuees from Hurricane Matthew.

“Donations are still coming in, and that is wonderful,” said Dale Couch, the shelter coordinator. “It’s been great.”

Couch said a few new evacuees checked into the shelter during the night and in the early morning, bringing the total number of people staying at South Aiken High to 256.

Couch said the Red Cross did not open another shelter at Paul Knox Middle School in North Augusta and did not anticipate opening another shelter.

Couch said he is letting the evacuees know that S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley has asked displaced residents not to return home until conditions are safe and debris has been removed and power lines are back up.

“She’s trying to get the word out for them to stay and hunker down a couple more days,” Couch said. “Why risk it? You’re better off being safe than sorry.”

Couch said he expects the shelter to remain open probably through early this week.

“People should not leave until it’s safe for them to go back home,” he said.

Couch said the volunteers who have given their time to help at the shelter have been

“excellent, outstanding.”

Millbrook Baptist Church next door to the shelter has been running a shuttle from South Aiken to the church so that people can play basketball.

The church also has mobile showers and laundry facilities with washers and dryers.

Millbrook has worked with other churches to coordinate and prepare meals for the evacuees. The church has a SCDHEC-approved kitchen, which the state requires for all meals prepared for people in shelters.

Couch said people have come by the shelter to ask how they can help.

“The best thing to do, if

you’re not a Red Cross volunteer, is to go online to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), click on ‘Volunteer’ and fill out the volunteer information,” he said. “It usually takes a couple of days, but due to the disaster, we’re trying to speed it up some so people can help out, not only for Hurricane Matthew but for future disasters. Who knows? We might close, and two, three days down the road, it could happen again.”

The Red Cross also is accepting donations for hurricane relief. To make a donation, go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), and click on “Donate.”

**Larry Wood** covers education for the *Aiken Standard*.

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STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

**Dale Couch, Red Cross shelter coordinator for evacuees of Hurricane Matthew at South Aiken High, said people who want to help can do so online at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org). They can become a Red Cross volunteer or make a donation to hurricane relief.**



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

**Downtown Aiken stays busy during Hurricane Matthew.**

Title: **Former Aiken resident living near Charleston 'rides out' storm**  
 Author: BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND [ccleveland@aikenstandard.com](mailto:ccleveland@aikenstandard.com)  
 Size: 56.26 column inches  
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# Former Aiken resident living near Charleston 'rides out' storm

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

[ccleveland@aikenstandard.com](mailto:ccleveland@aikenstandard.com)

As Hurricane Matthew's path approached the South Carolina coast Friday afternoon, Devin Meek, a former Aiken resident now living in the James Island area, took a short commute to downtown Charleston, and described what he says was a "ghost town."

"The roads are pretty empty compared to what Charleston deals with," Meek told the *Aiken Standard* in a telephone interview Friday. "You can still see tourists walking around, people occasionally with their kids, people walking around with their umbrellas. ... It's 1/10 downtown than what it normally is."

Meek said many businesses also were boarded up, and added it was "weird" seeing the city so empty.

"I'm so used to it seeing full, packed with people all the time," he said.

Meek said he was "roughing out the storm," joining several people at his apartment who were doing the same, despite an earlier warning from Gov. Nikki Haley for people in coastal counties to evacuate to other areas in the state or at least, evacuate to a shelter.

He made the decision to stay and experience the storm.

"I think we're going to get a good storm out of it," he said. "I think we're going to experience a wicked storm."

Meek has been near Charleston after a move from Hawaii. He said he always liked big storms and has only lived by the ocean for a few years.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Devin Meek, a former Aiken resident living in the Charleston area, captured an empty downtown Charleston Friday. Meek said he wanted to experience the storm and stayed instead of evacuating.**

"I don't want to leave my home and be gone for five or six days when a hurricane beats around my town," Meek said. "... I think we're going to be OK. I think that's what my main belief is."

One person he said wasn't happy about him staying in town was his mother, who repeatedly asked him to join her, his brother and step dad and evacuate to Greenville.

"My girlfriend, myself, two best friend(s) and my cat are hunkered down at the apartment," he said. "We weren't forced to stay behind. We all just wanted to."

By Friday afternoon, he said winds were starting to come in, along with light rain. He also added the ocean was surging up because of the storm.

Unlike Meek, many did evacuate from the state's coast, some sheltering in Aiken, either at homes or at South Aiken High School, which was opened as a shelter in the county.

Chad and Sharon Horne, who were helping evacuees with

Millbrook Baptist, said Friday they had two family members coming from Charleston and two coming from Kings Bay, Georgia.

When the Hornes, who lived in the Charleston area before moving to Aiken, heard the news, Sharon said they were in constant contact with their family members and were concerned because they lived through and experienced Hurricane Hugo.

"When we saw the direction it was coming, we were definitely in major concern," Sharon said Friday, "and we were concerned with them leaving as late as they did for the safety of their travel but fortunately the impact is mild right now, so their travel isn't so bad, so that eliminated fear, I guess."

She said living near the coast, most residents learn its best to stay prepared and Chad added that most people get used to what to do during storms, so they stay less worried, but some don't.

Part of what happens when people do not leave, Sharon said, has to do with there be-

ing so many years between a major storm and people can get complacent and may think they won't get hit.

"Prior to Hugo, it was (years) since they had a major storm in the Charleston area, at least," she said.

## Saturday's storm, aftermath

Hundreds of thousands in South Carolina lost power on Saturday, according to state officials, several inches of rain were dumped on parts of the state, and crews worked to clear roadways and other areas of fallen trees.

Meek said Saturday he stayed up until 6 a.m. until they lost power.

"It was a whole night of hearing transformers going out one at a time," he said, though he noted the water still worked.

He and his neighbors played card games had fun but at one point, the storm picked up when they were under the impression it had passed. There were strong wind gusts and heavy rains, he said.

Meek reported Saturday afternoon everyone was OK. He said there was mostly debris and there some was flooding at his apartment around 6 a.m., but the water subdued roughly around 9 or 10 a.m.

During the time of the interview Saturday afternoon, he said it appeared the storm was moving toward Myrtle Beach.

He posted to Facebook that afternoon, "I'm alive."

**Christina Cleveland** is the county government reporter at the *Aiken Standard*.

Title: **Haley tells evacuees not to return home today**  
 Author: BY LARRY WOOD lwood@aikenstandard.com  
 Size: 36.11 column inches  
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



# Haley tells evacuees not to return home today

BY LARRY WOOD  
 lwood@aikenstandard.com

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley told residents who evacuated from Hurricane Matthew to “plan on continuing to hunker down today” and to wait until conditions are safe in areas affected by the storm to return home.

“Most injuries, most fatalities occur after a storm because people attempt to move in too soon,” Haley said during a

## HALEY

CONTINUED from 1A

unsafe structures and bridges make it unsafe for residents to return home today, Haley said.

“It is not going to be safe for you to go in,” she said. “In some cases, law enforcement is not going to let you get back in because roads are closed and you can’t get through.”

Haley told residents that stay-

press conference Saturday morning from Columbia. “I know you want to see your home. I know you want to get back. What I am going to ask from you is patience. Do not plan on going home today.”

Downed trees and power lines and

Please see **HALEY**, Page 5A

ing away from parts of the state affected by Hurricane Matthew will allow law enforcement, utility and S.C. Department of Transportation crews to begin surveying dam-

age and “start cleaning up as fast as they can.”

“That surveying the damage can’t happen if you’re in there,” Haley said. “Even if you got in, you would be in the way of ev-

eryone.

Haley said she knows residents want to know the status of their homes.

“Now is when the frustration sets in,” she said. “Just know that we want to make it safe for you to find out that status, and we are going to do it as fast as we can and as smooth as we can.”

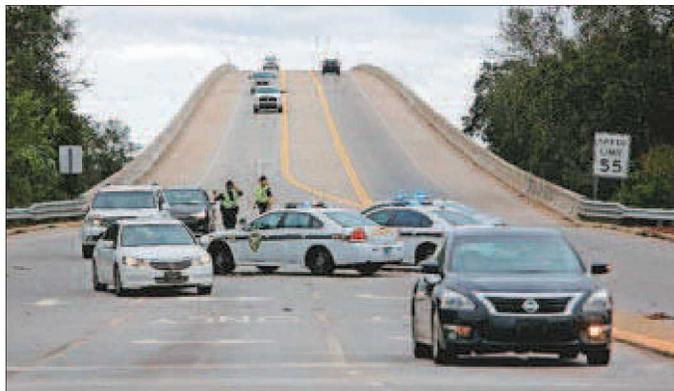
Haley said she would provide real-time information during press conferences “so that when you do go, you won’t be sent back. You will actually be able to go in, and it will be safe for you to go in.”

Coastal evacuation orders remained in effect Saturday, according to a press release from

the S.C. Emergency Management Division. “From Hilton Head to North Myrtle Beach, citizens are asked to stay away from evacuated areas until conditions improve and the danger subsides,” the release stated.

The SCEMD will send out emergency alerts, disaster preparedness tips and other information on its website at [scecmd.org](http://scecmd.org) and on social media feeds by an online search for @SCEMD. The division is on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media sites.

**Larry Wood** covers education for the *Aiken Standard*.



AP PHOTO/MIC SMITH

Isle of Palms police let residents back on the island as Hurricane Matthew’s tail winds hit the Isle of Palms Saturday.

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**Haley**

Title: **Homeless get a helping hand, but some don't want it**  
 Author: BY CHRISTIAN BOSCHULT cboschult@thesunnews.com  
 Size: 60.45 column inches  
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



# Homeless get a helping hand, but some don't want it

BY CHRISTIAN BOSCHULT

cboschult@thesunnews.com

As Hurricane Matthew bears down on South Carolina and residents leave per Gov. Nikki Haley's evacuation order, homeless shelters are preparing for those who choose to stay.

"We have secured everything that is around each one of the shelters to make sure that everything is secure," said Kathy Jenkins, executive director at New Directions. The organization operates a men's shelter, a women's shelter and family shelter. None of the shelters were subject to an evacuation order as of Thursday night.

"The evacuation plan is tied in

with Coast RTA," said Jenkins. "Coast RTA is evacuating people who do not have evacuation and that evacuation started at noon. If they evacuate Zone B, and all of our shelters are in Zone B, then we will follow suit with Coast RTA to get our people out as well."

In Horry County, some of the transient population are being sent to Ocean Bay Middle School and Ocean Bay Elementary to wait out the storm. But Jenkins said they've already "put the word out" to the homeless that they're welcome at

New Directions.

"We do have hurricane shutters

at the family shelters," said Jenkins. "We have picked up a lot of extra food. We have let the police, the city and other area agencies know that we are open to anybody who needs to come in and get out of the storm, no questions asked."

Some homeless residents like Russell Heath have other plans.

Heath, 56, said he stayed in a Dumpster in Florida during Hurricane Ivan, and experienced Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Heath said he's been living on

**SEE HOMELESS, 5A**

FROM PAGE 3A

## HOMELESS

the streets of Myrtle Beach since The Pavilion was torn down and he doesn't plan on getting on a bus or staying in a shelter.

"I've been to all those places," he said. "I don't even go there. There's too many wackos. Walking around, talking on their cell, cussing all the time doing this and that."

Heath said he'll be staying near a friend's business during the storm if the weather isn't too harsh.

"I got a place I can run to, down the road a bit," he said. "If it gets real bad, the lady I know, her husband is coming from Murrells Inlet to take me to their house. Otherwise, I do it on my own, man."

But for youth who stay in the shelters, going it alone isn't so easy.

Wendy Gore, development director at Sea Haven in Little River, said if appropriate, youth would be sent back home during a bad storm.

Sea Haven is an organization that serves homeless and abused youth ages 13 to 18, and the Little River shelter isn't always a permanent location for them.

"They're here on an emergency basis anyway, they're not here to stay," said Gore. "If we can send them back home for a couple days until the storm passes and then they can come back, that's what we do."

In case of an evacuation and if the youth are homeless have no place else to go, Sea Haven has partnered with other shelters in North Carolina and South Carolina to house the youth, who would

be accompanied by staff.

The shelter was not housing any homeless children on Thursday, but had been providing shelter for youth those who had been referred from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

"They have gotten in trouble maybe at school for truancy or incorrigibility or things like that, or they're awaiting a court date," said Gore. "And to keep them from going to jail up in Columbia, sometimes they'll stay here until they have their court date or until they can go back home."

If an evacuation is necessary, youth from DJJ need to be placed in detention centers away from the coast, and Gore said that Sea Haven sent those particular youth to detention centers

on Wednesday.

Christian Boschult,  
843-626-0218,  
@TSN\_Christian

“

**WE HAVE LET THE POLICE, THE CITY AND OTHER AREA AGENCIES KNOW THAT WE ARE OPEN TO ANYBODY WHO NEEDS TO COME IN AND GET OUT OF THE STORM, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

Kathy Jenkins, *New Directions*

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JANET BLACKMON MORGAN jblackmon@thesunnews.com

Russell Heath has been living on the streets in various towns for years, he said in Myrtle Beach's Nance Plaza on Thursday.

Title: **Charleston mayor: Stay inside if you're still here**  
 Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN [croldan@thestate.com](mailto:croldan@thestate.com)  
 Size: 117.33 column inches  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Charleston mayor: Stay inside if you're still here

■ Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg warned those who stayed in the Holy City to stay indoors as Hurricane Matthew approaches.

BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN  
[croldan@thestate.com](mailto:croldan@thestate.com)

## CHARLESTON

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg warned Holy City residents who opted to ride out Hurricane Matthew to stay safe indoors.

A countywide curfew was scheduled from midnight through 6 a.m. Saturday, as a potentially record-setting high tide loomed over the Lowcoun-

FROM PAGE 3A

## CHARLESTON

is expected to be the biggest threat Charleston faces with Matthew.

Forecasters are expecting storm surge as high as 8 feet. The storm is expected to bring around a foot of rain.

"When that water comes down, and the tide and the surge are in, that foot of rain has no where to go," Tecklenburg said.

The peninsula city is surrounded by rivers that will swell with ocean water as the storm comes in. Streets are low-lying and already flood during intense storms.

Gov. Nikki Haley warned of the storm's

try.

"It will be no time to be out and about," said Mark Wilbert, city emergency management director. "There will be water everywhere."

City officials hunkered down and prepared to spend Friday night at the Gaillard Center at Calhoun and George streets,

where Charleston's emergency operations center is housed.

Flooding from a combination of storm surge, rain and high tide

SEE CHARLESTON, 6A



THESTATE.COM: See a video from the Holy City.

threat to barrier islands, including Sullivan's, the Isle of Palms and Kiawah off Charleston's coast.

Also, the state Department of Transportation and local law enforcement are monitoring Charleston's Ravenel, Holt and Wando bridges. When the storm produces sustained winds of 40 mph, local law enforcement agencies will consider the bridges closed.

Earlier in the day, few residents wandered Charleston's streets, while others were seen making last-minute preparations to their businesses along

King Street. More than two dozen walked along The Battery, curious about how Hurricane Matthew was snarling the Charleston Harbor.

The 5 p.m. advisory from the National Hurricane Center predicted the storm, with 100 mph winds, would be off Charleston's coast around 8 a.m. Saturday. It had weakened to a strong Category 2 storm, a trend that forecasters said could continue.

Nonetheless, forecasters at the Charleston office of the National Weather Service urged

caution.

"If the current forecast is realized, the western eye wall of a category 2 hurricane could brush areas such as Kiawah Island, Folly Beach, Downtown Charleston, Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island with gusts in excess of 100 mph," wrote the forecaster in the 11:40 a.m. discussion. "Frequent gusts to hurricane force could occur as far inland as Summerville."

Cynthia Roldán:  
 803-295-0435,  
[@CynthiaRoldan](https://twitter.com/CynthiaRoldan)

Title: **Charlestonmayor:Stay inside if you'restillhere**  
Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN croidan@thestate.com  
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JEFF SINER jsiner@charlotteobserver.com

People mingle along Battery Park in Charleston on Friday. Hurricane Matthew is scheduled to skirt the coast of South Carolina early Saturday morning.



MARK WASHBURN mwashburn@charlotteobserver.com

Two women explore the unusually vacant downtown of Charleston, quiet in advance of Hurricane Matthew.

County: Richland

Title: **Charlestonmayor:Stay inside if you'restillhere**

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SEAN RAYFORD NYT

People pass by Nick's Bar-B-Q in Charleston. Hurricane Matthew is expected to continue to parallel the coast into Georgia and the Carolinas before turning out to sea.

Title: **Storm to punch SC coast at most vulnerable time**  
 Author: BY CLIF LEBLANC cleblanc@thestate.com  
 Size: 203.67 column inches  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Storm to punch SC coast at most vulnerable time

Hurricane will hit Beaufort County, Grand Strand during high tide; storm surge could reach 9 feet in places

BY CLIF LEBLANC  
 cleblanc@thestate.com

Hurricane Matthew is likely to strike Beaufort County at high tide before dawn Saturday and to plow into the Grand Strand after sun up – also at its most vulnerable moment, Gov. Nikki Haley warned on Friday.

Projected to be downgraded to a still-dangerous Category 1 storm, Matthew will spare Charleston by not hitting there at high tide, Haley said during an afternoon news conference.

“We need to really say prayers, not just for those in Florida and Georgia, but now it is about South Carolina,” she said. “I wish (for) all of you that you be safe, that you be careful, that you take care of each other.”

The hurricane’s storm surge could reach 6 to 9 feet along the state’s lower coast and 5 to 7 feet north of Charleston, said John

Quagliariello, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## HURRICANE

force winds could reach 60 miles from the storm’s center, and tropical-storm winds could extend 185 miles, hurricane center forecasts predicted.

Columbia is not expected to be hit as badly. Still, city officials have had crews and equipment ready since Thursday, public works director Rob-

“Just try to visualize just how high that water is,” he said.

Access to barrier islands, including culturally rich Daufuskie Island, could be severed. Haley said 19 Daufuskie residents left Friday, but that leaves about 80 stranded on the island already accessible only by boat. Earlier during the day, she had warned that Daufuskie would be “under water.”

“We did the best we could,” she said. “The rest of the residents, when we asked – they’re just not going to leave.”

The surge could be 4 to 6 feet northward of Edisto Beach to Cape Fear, N.C., the National Hurricane Center said in its 5 p.m. Friday update. That adds the tourist-rich Grand Strand to the other threatened coastal areas.

Beyond the coast, hurricane-

**SEE HURRICANE, 7A**

### ONLINE

Check [thestate.com](http://thestate.com) Saturday for the latest on Hurricane Matthew’s progress up the coast and its impact on South Carolina.

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How FEMA is preparing for the devastation of Hurricane Matthew, **7A**

### FIND A SAFE PLACE

As of Friday afternoon, 355,000 people had evacuated from the Lowcountry, an increase of 45,000 just since Friday morning.

That’s still 145,000 short of the 500,000 people state officials had encouraged to flee.

Haley urged those who stayed behind to “just

hunker down.”

She advised that they stay in a safe place, preferably houses that have second floors or higher. Make sure cell phones are charged in anticipation of power outages, Haley said.

The governor said 69 shelters have opened and are occupied by 4,249

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people. That's far from capacity. "There's lots and lots of room," she told evacuees that might need a shelter. An additional 17 shelters are on standby, state officials said.

Red Cross officials in Columbia reported 99 people are staying at a shelter at White Knoll High School in the Red Bank area and 91 at Dent Middle School near Forest Acres.

Interstate 26 had been converted into a one-way thoroughfare between Columbia and Charleston for two days to encourage evacuations. It was reopened Friday to any traffic bound for the Lowcountry.

No state-owned bridges were closed in South Carolina on Friday morning. Movable bridges have been locked down so that vehicles can still drive on them, but waterway traffic can not pass through, said transportation chief Christy Hall.

Larger bridges in Charleston will be closed if wind speeds hit 40 mph or higher, authorities said.

### POWER CREWS AT THE READY

The state also was preparing for power outages as a result of the storm.

"What we may be looking at is a lot of power outages for an extended period of time," Haley said.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. said it has maintenance crews in place and prepared to stare down another high-magnitude natural disaster like last year's flood.

"We feel we're in a proper position from a manpower standpoint to

be able to handle what is to come," said Keller Kissam, SCE&G retail operations president.

Power already was out Friday on upscale Kiawah and Seabrook islands south of Charleston. But that was intentional on the part of Berkeley Electric Cooperative, which said it was cutting power to substations to prevent storm surge damage.

Residents in those two communities might have to wait awhile to again flip their switches because it will take time to power up the substations, officials at the cooperative said. But it would take longer to repair them.

Kissam said utility companies will coordinate with law enforcement and the National Guard so that restoring power can be done safely and quickly.

Fripp Island officials have cut off the community's water supply, the governor said.

### STAY OFF THE ROAD

In Charleston County's McClellanville, heavy rain and strong winds had begun by 6:30 p.m. Friday.

The Charleston and Georgetown areas are expected to receive 13 inches of rain or more from the storm, according to the National Weather Service.

Inland flooding will be an issue up and down the coast.

Most of the state's coastal counties have imposed curfews from midnight Friday through 6 a.m. on Saturday. In Beaufort County, a curfew will be in effect from dusk Friday through dawn on Saturday.

Officials say they don't

want people driving or walking around while law officers and emergency workers have to deal with issues related to the storm.

Addressing Charlestonians who had not left by Friday, the city's emergency management director, Mark Wilbert, said, "It will be no time to be out and about. There will be water everywhere."

But evacuated residents may not return to their homes just because the storm has passed until National Guard troops and local law enforcement have declared their neighborhoods safe, Haley said.

About 2,500 Guardsmen have been activated to deal with the hurricane, she said.

Haley said 174 medical facilities have been evacuated from coastal areas. Patients at Beaufort Memorial Hospital were being relocated to facilities in Aiken, Anderson, Dillon and Cheraw, said the state's Health agency chief, Catherine Heigel.

Heigel said inspectors are keeping especially watchful eyes on 44 dams that are under emergency orders. Owners of those dams have been asked to lower water levels, she said.

### SUNNY SKIES AHEAD

Some retailers in Columbia will not open Saturday as a precaution. ITech Connections and Edible Arrangements in Five Points will be closed, along with Cupcakes Down South in the Vista.

The State Museum and Riverbanks Zoo closed, along with the Robert Mills House, Hampton-Preston Mansion, Mann-Simons site and the Wood-

row Wilson Home.

But EdVenture Children's Museum plans to be open.

The Soda City market on Main Street is moving into the parking garage at Taylor and Sumter streets as it usually does during bad weather.

Lexington County trash collection centers and libraries will close Saturday but reopen Sunday. The trash centers will open two hours early this Sunday, from 1-7 p.m. Libraries will resume normal hours Sunday.

The storm was having little to no effect on flights at Columbia Metropolitan Airport, according to manager Dan Mann. But Columbia's downtown airport, Jim Hamilton-L.B. Owens Airport, is closing.

Ken Aucoin, a former television meteorologist who now works in Richland County Emergency Services, said rain will be intensifying throughout the evening Friday in Columbia, with a steady downfall between 3 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Expected rain amounts have increased to 4 to 6 inches.

"Over that period of time, that's manageable," he said. "It's when we get that over two hours that it's trouble."

Wind gusts of 40- to 45-mph are expected.

"You'll see the stars out Saturday night," Aucoin said. "We might even get a nice sunset out of it. And Sunday, will be as picture perfect as you can get."

*State writers Cassie Cope, Tim Flach, Roddie Burris, Jeff Wilkinson, Cynthia Roldán, Sammy Fretwell and the Associated Press*

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*contributed.*



DAVID GOLDMAN AP

A motorist drives through a flooded street from Hurricane Matthew in Brunswick, Ga., on Friday.

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TIM DOMINICK tdominick@thestate.com

Ed Mills and Jay Desjardins stage sandbags at TD Bank in Five Points in preparation for possible heavy rain from Hurricane Matthew.

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TRACY GLANTZ tglantz@thestate.com

Dennis Oberhelman checks out his roof in advance of predicted heavy rains. The roof of the historic house, on Terrace Way in Shandon, has leaked during previous storms.



MIC SMITH AP

Adam Selent, at left, and Alec Selent, right, watch waves crash over an erosion control retainer wall at the Ocean Club condominiums in the Wild Dunes resort Friday.



Title: **Haley: Daufuski Island will be under water**  
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**HURRICANE MATTHEW**

# Haley: Daufuskie Island will be under water

■ Gov. Nikki Haley said about 100 residents had declined to evacuate as of Friday morning.

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN  
eheffernan@islandpacket.com

Daufuskie Island is expected to be flooded by a large surge of seawater from the onslaught of Hurricane Matthew and residents are at great risk, Gov. Nikki Haley said in her Friday 11 a.m. news conference.

Haley said about 100 residents had declined to evacuate as of Friday morning. There is not yet a count of how many people are left on the island.

In Daufuskie and other areas at the most risk, law enforcement went door-

to-door asking people to leave, Haley said.

The island has about 400 residents. There is no bridge, so the only way on or off the island is by boat.

In Haley's news conference, she had pleaded for people to evacuate and advised that residents should alert authorities if they know someone who stayed on the island.

"It is going to be underwater, so we have to get these people out," she said.

"If you don't evacuate now, you will likely be stranded," she said. "Dau-

**SEE DAUFUSKIE, 10A**

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## DAUFUSKIE

fauskie, it will be underwater. This will be the last time you hear my voice asking you to evacuate."

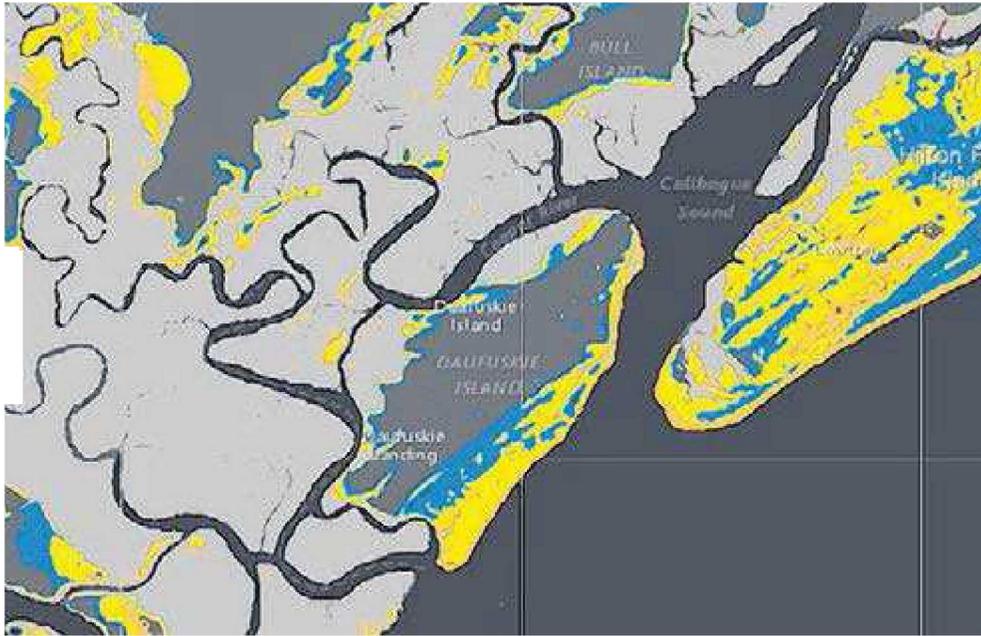
"We're trying to get them to leave," Haley

said. "They're just not leaving."

Haley said that DNR boats and National Guard helicopters will continue to try to get people off the island as long as it is safe.

Haley said the barrier islands are the biggest concern for South Carolina in the storm including Hilton Head, Hunting Island, Fripp Island as well as Daufuskie.

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NOAA

A map from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows the possible storm surge on Daufuskie Island. Blue areas represent a storm surge 1 foot above ground, yellow is 3 feet above sea ground and orange is 6 feet above ground.

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THIS IS IT

Forecasters predict surges of 8 feet or more

BY LUCAS HIGH
lhigh@islandpacket.com

As the brunt of Hurricane Matthew moved through the area overnight Friday and early Saturday, the deadliest threat might come from storm surges, forecasters say. Surges of up to 8 feet or more are possible along the South Carolina coast Saturday.

Forecasters had predicted that Beaufort County could see a storm surge of 8 feet or more, widespread power outages and the potential for massive devastation.

And with Hurricane Matthew's arrival in the Lowcountry overnight, the storm surge is underway.

After hours of driving rain and howling winds, storm surges from Hurricane Matthew remain a deadly threat for Beaufort County residents hunkered down near rivers or low-lying barrier islands such as Hilton Head Island, Hunting Island and Daufuskie Island.

National Weather Service meteorologist Neil Dixon said the surges "will really be a threat all day Saturday."

Just 3 feet of storm surge would overwhelm the portion of

Hilton Head Island south of Broad Creek, according to the National Hurricane Center's storm surge map. The same goes for Beaufort.

Patches of Hunting Island and Lady's Island also could be affected, though it's expected to a lesser degree.

High tide, which occurred around 1 a.m., only compounded the problem.

"A hurricane coming in at high tide would be a worst case scenario" in terms of generating powerful surges, John Quagliariello of the National Weather Service said Friday.

The hurricane track on Friday afternoon had the eye of Hurricane Matthew hugging Beaufort and barreling on to Charleston.

"It does look at its closest point to be right along the coast

of Hilton Head," National Weather Service Meteorologist Emily Timte said.

Officials did not mince words Friday in their warnings about the danger posed by the storm.

Gov. Nikki Haley said gravely that Daufuskie Island is "going to be underwater."

SEE SURGES, 10A

MORE INSIDE

- Beaufort under curfew, preparing for flooding. 3A
Safety personnel and workers from SCE&G prepare. 3A
Who should you call to report utility outages? 5A

ONLINE

Visit islandpacket.com and beaufortgazette.com for videos, photos and the latest Beaufort County storm news.

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SURGES

The island, which is only accessible by boat, has about 400 residents. About 100 remained as of Friday morning, she said.

Even President Barack Obama, addressing the country Friday during a news conference, made it a point to stress the dan-

ger of storm surges.

"This is still a really dangerous hurricane," he said.

He cited Hurricane Sandy as a recent example of a storm where surges did massive damage.

During that 2012 storm, "a lot of people were se-

verely affected" even after the worst of the wind and rain had passed, he said.

Like Haley, Obama urged residents from Florida to South Carolina to seek higher ground before the surges began.

"We can always replace property, but we can't

replace lives," he said.

In addition to lingering storm surges, locals may experience loss of power

long after Matthew has left the Lowcountry.

"We may be looking at a lot of power outages for an extended period of time,"

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Haley said. "... This is going to hurt."

A model created by the University of Michigan, Ohio State and Texas A&M predicts that 1.1 million people in South Carolina will lose power. Beaufort County is identified as one that will see some of the most wide-

spread outages.

Many who stayed behind, despite repeated calls for evacuation throughout the week, are left to fend for themselves.

Local hospitals closed down and moved patients Friday, while some first

responders such as Hilton Head Island Fire and Rescue and all state transit agency personnel were forced off the streets and into shelters.

A countywide curfew put in place Friday by the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is still in effect today.

Lucas High: 843-706-8128,  
 @IPBG\_Lucas



JOSH MITELMAN jmitelman@islandpacket.com

A gas station in the Coligny Beach area of Hilton Head Island boarded up Thursday, one of many local businesses shuttered for the storm.

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JAY KARR jkarr@islandpacket.com

A squad of tree service trucks is stationed Friday in the parking lot of the Quality Inn in Beaufort, as Hurricane Matthew approached Beaufort County.

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A trio of motorcyclists was the only activity on an otherwise empty and boarded up Bay Street as Hurricane Matthew approached Beaufort County on Friday.



PHOTOS BY JAY KARR jkarr@islandpacket.com

Numerous boats were anchored in the mooring field of Beaufort's Downtown Marina on Friday as Hurricane Matthew approached Beaufort County. During storms, boats are safer away from docks.