

Title: **Hurricane recovery begins**  
 Author: Lee Hendren Staff Reporter  
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 Holly Hill, SC Circulation: 1178



# Hurricane recovery begins

*Lee Hendren*  
*Staff Reporter*

Our neck of the woods is less woodsy this week after Hurricane Matthew's one-two punch of rain and wind.

Some areas of eastern Orangeburg County reported nearly 10 inches of rain, which drenched soil that was already moist from previous storms and loosened the grip of tree roots. The winds delivered the final blow, toppling trees across roads, buildings, cars, and yards, and tearing down electric and phone lines as they fell.

Gov. Nikki Haley said the number of electric outages in South Carolina peaked at 850,000 and stood at 300,000 at midday Monday. She said there were 8,000 linemen at work across the state.

This was the situation locally as of Tuesday morning:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative reported 630 outages in Orangeburg County and 3,085 system-wide. At one point, 87 percent of the cooperative's customers were without power.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company said that 57,000 of its 706,000 customers were without power, including 3,483 of its 13,019 customers in Orangeburg County. More than 3,000 employees were assisting the restoration efforts. "Our plans are to substantially complete restorations in Orangeburg County by 11:45 p.m. Oct. 14," the company said on its website. SCE&G temporarily closed its business office in Holly Hill. The company reported 290,000 outages at the peak of the storm.

Ellore Elementary School's use as a shelter for

evacuees was being closed out as Orangeburg County's public schools prepared to resume classes Wednesday. The Consolidated School District Three Board of Trustees rescheduled its monthly meeting for Oct. 18. Lake Marion High School and Technology Center postponed its homecoming festivities to Oct. 28. Holly Hill Academy reopened Tuesday.

Orangeburg County government offices were preparing to reopen Wednesday, as were state government offices in Orangeburg County.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation said two roads in eastern Orangeburg County remained closed. One was Lodge Hall Street. The other was Vance Road (S.C. 210) between Old State Road (U.S. 176) and Interstate 26. At midday Monday, all of the interstate highways were open but 361 state roads and 29 bridges were closed, mainly due to flooding or fallen power lines, and 1,400 highway department employees and 709 highway patrol troopers were on the job.

The governor said residents who need help removing debris and patching up their homes can call toll-free, 1-800-451-1954.

Haley said people who want to volunteer their time can call toll-free, 1-888-585-9643.

The governor said people who are interested in helping with the disaster relief effort can make donations at [www.onescfund.org](http://www.onescfund.org) or mail checks to the Central Carolina Community Foundation's One SC Fund, 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204.

Title: **Hurricane recovery begins**  
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# Hurricane recovery begins

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Elloree Police Department

**Flooding and power outages in Elloree after Hurricane Matthew blew through. See more photos inside.**

Title: **8 Days of Hope coming to help flood victims**  
 Author: BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS Correspondent  
 Size: 20.61 column inches  
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## 8 Days of Hope coming to help flood victims

BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS

Correspondent

KINGSTREET — Jeff Singleton, on behalf of Williamsburg County's E911 department and county officials, spoke before the county council recently to remind people of the upcoming "8 Days of Hope" rebuilding blitz.

According to the Eight Days of Hope Facebook page, the work done in South Carolina will be the national volunteer group's twelfth such blitz. Volunteers from 40 states and Canada are coming, the site said.

Some 200 homes were scheduled to be rebuilt from last Saturday to this Sunday in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties.

The homes are those damaged by the flooding of Black River in the two-county area in October 2015.

There should be more than 1,000 volunteers coming into the area for the reconstruction of homes, Singleton said.

He added that Williamsburg

County was among the hardest hit, with 681 houses destroyed.

Steve Tybor, director of the Eight Days group, was in the county earlier this year to plan the event and said he could see the need in the area.

Kevin Shwedo, appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to lead South Carolina recovery efforts, said it takes years to rebuild from disasters such as the one the state suffered.

"If it weren't for faith-based organizations, we would not be where we are today," Shwedo said at a press conference in July to kick off the volunteer effort. Black River United Way is among those helping Williamsburg County recover, Singleton said.

"Forty-four percent of the damage from the flooding and storms happened in Georgetown and Williamsburg County," said Lucy Woodhouse, CEO and president of the Black River United Way.



Title: **Some have never seen this; others know it too well**  
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD The Associated Press  
 Size: 98.58 column inches  
 Florence, SC Circulation: 35092



# Some have never seen this; others know it too well

BY MEG KINNARD  
 The Associated Press

NICHOLS — To Natalie McDowell, whose family has lived in Nichols for three generations, the flooding from Hurricane Matthew that swamped the Marion County hamlet is like nothing in memory.

But Rawlings LaMotte knows it all too well. The Columbia resident was in Nichols on Tuesday checking on his mother-in-law's house and helping others get around when the only way to do so was by boat.

He did the same thing just over a year ago in a Columbia subdivision when flooding from a 1,000-year storm inundated the state's capital city.

Gov. Nikki Haley flew over Marion County on Monday to get a look at the damage and flooding. At a news conference later, she said South Carolina has gone from battling a hurricane to dealing with flooding and warned that the flood threat, especially in the Pee Dee, may not ease for days.

In Nichols, about 10 miles from the North Carolina line, McDowell, her husband, Tim, and two sons, ages 10 and 14 were having a late lunch Sunday after Matthew was headed to sea and thought they had safely weathered a storm that had dropped 15 inches of rain in the area.

"We were fine from the storm. There was no water," she said Tuesday.

That's why what happened next was so unexpected.

In only 45 minutes the Lumber River, more than a

mile away, rose so quickly the water covered the driveway of their house north of town. Just over an hour after that they grabbed some belongings and drove to the nearby hospital where they both work, spending the night with their family in two unoccupied patient rooms.

This week about 150 people from Nichols, a community of only 400, were rescued from rising waters. On Tuesday the National Guard had closed all roads leading to the small business district where buildings stood in several feet of water.

Many had sought refuge at Town Hall before flood waters forced an evacuation.

Linda Stroud said she lives just inside Marion County between Nichols and Lake View with her two dogs. "Whenever the rain from Hurricane Matthew stopped, the water started receding some and I went

outside and started picking up stuff that had been scattered because of the rain," she said. "I was evacuated around 8 p.m. Sunday night and was one of the first ones in Town Hall. The water started rushing again and I thought something was wrong because all of a sudden the water started rushing back after receding."

Stroud said the property has been in the family since 1980. "I never seen nothing like it," she said.

On Tuesday boats were

heading back into town to rescue animals and take them to a shelter in Mullins.

Flood waters reach as far back as the road on Fork Retch. Some residents with houses sitting on stilts said the water was just inches from reaching their homes.

Displaced residents were waiting for updates at a shelter inside Palmetto Middle School, operated by the American Red Cross and the Department of Social Services.

A shelter worker for the Red Cross, Rustie Langendorfer, said up to 186 people had registered and more than 80 spent the night at the shelter. "We provide food and support," she said. "They came in yesterday with buses loaded with people evacuated along the river and many came with little or nothing or wet so we're just trying to give them all the comforts we can."

Langendorfer said that although donations are appreciated, they should be made to the local chapter. "For hands-on donations, that is the best way to do it; otherwise connect with a local church or the local officials in your town," she said. "We have to have organized feeding just to be on the safe side. We had the Salvation Army come serve lunch and dinner last night and now the Southern Baptist Convention is set up with a kitchen to provide hot meals for us."

Langendorfer said the shelter has accepted water and some clothing donations but said the best places to donate are clothing closets and the Salvation Army. "The people have been working great with each other and it's like a big family over here," she said. "We're here and have a great network and just have to see how things go."

Nichols Town Councilman Michael Elliott was also hit hard by the storm. "Nichols is a close town and like a family to us," he said as he stopped by the shelter to give an update. "I was raised there and it's very touching for me and I'm in the same boat. It's a disaster and probably the worst we ever seen in our lifetime," he said. Elliott said he isn't sure when residents can return home but town officials intend to do all they can to help residents find assistance.

Still without electricity in her own home, Marion County Councilwoman Elista Smith opened the Marion County Hope Emporium clothing closet behind the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

"We really were going to open Nov. 1 but since we have so many people in shelters, we're out now getting sizes so we can start giving items out," Smith said. "I felt Hurricane Hugo was bad and did a lot of damage but this was more devastating because of the flooding."

Marion County Administrator Tim Harper said

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National Guard troops are protecting Nichols while evacuations are continuing. "We're starting to see more evacuations in the Brittons Neck and Gresham areas because the Little Pee Dee is now starting to rise as the water makes its way down," he said.

The shelter at Creek Bridge High School closed Sunday but the shelter at Marion High School remains open.

At the McDowell home, the water was over the porch and almost to the

bottom window sill.

"I've just never seen anything like this" Natalie McDowell said as she and her husband returned by boat to rescue some more belongings. "Luckily we had a little bit of warning. Some people had none."

Water has risen throughout the small community's downtown, which holds a couple of churches and public buildings and a main street with graceful homes with verandas -- one owned by LaMotte's mother-in-law.

He drove to Nichols on Tuesday to check on the home, which had standing water inside. He also helped others who needed to get around just as he did a year ago for residents in the flooded Kings Grant subdivision in suburban Columbia.

"You have thousands of people in Columbia ready to help each other. Nobody has even heard of Nichols," he said.

Now people in Nichols can only wait for the Lumber River to fall, something

they hope will happen by Friday.

Returning to her house on Tuesday reassured McDowell that her children's baby pictures, which she had left on the upper shelf of a closet, had survived the flood. The water had fallen a bit from Monday.

Despite her family's loss, she was thinking of others.

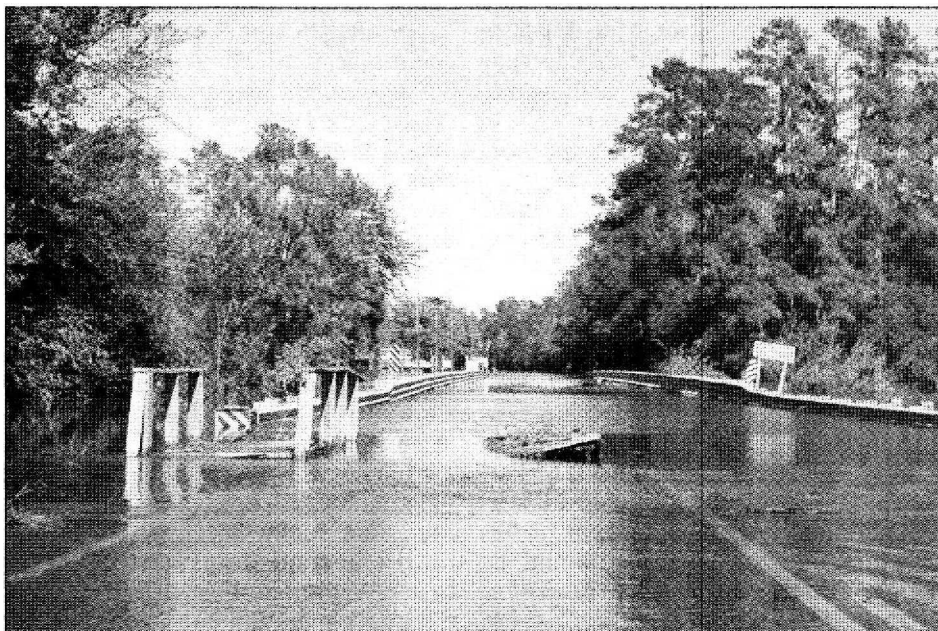
"So many other people have it so much worse than we do," she said.

Naeem McFadden of the Star & Enterprise contributed to this story.



**Flood waters from the Little Pee Dee River spread through Nichols following Hurricane Matthew.**

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PHOTOS BY NAEEM MCFADDEN/STAR &amp; ENTERPRISE

**Flood waters reached more than 16 feet at the Little Pee Dee River, forcing residents in Nichols to evacuate following Hurricane Matthew.**



Title: **ITS A DISASTER**  
 Author: BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON Morning News MRobertson@scnow.com  
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## HURRICANE MATTHEW

# IT'S A DISASTER

Florence, other Pee Dee counties eligible for federal aid

BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON

Morning News

MRobertson@scnow.com

**FLORENCE** — Florence County — along with Dillon, Darlington, Marion and Williamsburg counties — was declared a disaster area Tuesday afternoon by President Barack Obama at the re-

quest of Gov. Nikki Haley.

The declaration covers governments, state agencies and eligible private nonprofit organizations and electric cooperatives for certain expenses they incur as a result of the storm. It doesn't cover residential losses.

What it does do is allow for governments to apply for financial

relief from FEMA to cover at least 75 percent of the approved costs for debris removal and emergency services related to the storm.

The question of a disaster declaration for individuals who suffered losses associated with Hurricane Matthew will be determined by the Florence County damage assessment, which was at 60 percent complete Tuesday afternoon and already has topped an estimated \$12 million in damage to homes and property.

That assessment, so far, has found 29 homes that were

destroyed, 64 that had major damage and 768 with minor

See **DISASTER**, Page 5A

### MORE INSIDE:

- » School districts weigh options on when to reopen. **Page A6**
- » Complete storm coverage. **Pages A5-8**
- » A look at storm's impact on local high school and college sports. **Page D1**

## Disaster

From Page 1A

damage, said Andrew Golden, Florence County Emergency Management Division spokesman.

"That's the big thing right now," Golden said. "A joint FEMA and county assessment will be conducted tomorrow."

The damage assessment has to meet a threshold before Florence County can qualify its residents for a declaration that would open the way for individuals to apply for assistance, Golden said.

Toward that end, Florence County officials took to the skies Monday in

Florence County Sheriff's Office's Raptor 1 to do an aerial assessment of Johnsonville, Lake City and Florence. Photos from that survey show areas under water and communities where many homes have trees toppled either in the yards or onto the homes — or both.

When completed the numbers from the assessment will be used to see whether the county qualifies for a disaster declaration.

Florence County also moved Tuesday evening to close shelters at Lake City

and Wilson High School to consolidate evacuees at the South Florence High School shelter.

While it was still busy, Golden said, the county's communication center received a break Tuesday afternoon when 911 calls for assistance dropped as high water started to recede in many areas of the county.

Golden said the call center fielded more calls during Matthew than it did during the floods of 2015 and said that was likely the case because the calls during the 2015 floods were about rivers and creeks that

run through the county while the rains of Matthew caused more widespread flooding.

At one point Saturday Windy Hill firefighters had to evacuate two motels on East Palmetto Street where at least one family had taken shelter after leaving their Black Creek home for a safer area.

The frequent changes in the projected path of the storm, he said, may have also caused people to not take it as seriously as they should have and therefore not be as prepared as they could have been.



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## Rivers

Florence County streams that flooded are receding, Golden said, and National Weather Service officials have said that waters inundating communities around Johnsonville will not rise any higher than they already have.

However, Golden said there are law enforcement resources in place around Johnsonville should the river rise or any remaining residents need assistance.

Black Creek at Quinby dropped into minor flood stage below 15 feet on Tuesday and was projected to be out of flood stage by Friday night, according to the National Weather Service's hydrological website.

The Lynches River at Effingham on Tuesday had fallen a foot from its crest and was projected to be back in its banks by noon Saturday, according to the website.

The Great Pee Dee River at Pee Dee is forecast to peak right at moderate flood stage today before draining back into minor flood stage Thursday and continuing to fall throughout the week into the weekend.

Beyond Florence County, two rivers causing problems for the Marion County town of Nichols — the Little Pee Dee and Lumber Rivers — both had record-setting floods.

The Little Pee Dee, which passes the town to the west and into which

the Lumber River drains, was projected to crest at 17 feet at Galivants Ferry overnight Tuesday and remain above record levels through most of Friday. The previous record flood for the river was 16 feet, which was set by a hurricane in 1928 and is more than 5 feet above the river level caused by Hurricane Floyd.

The Lumber River, which flows past Nichols to the east, crested more than five feet above the previous record at Lumberton, and was forecast to remain at record levels through Sunday, according to the website.

The floods around Nichols have closed U.S. 76, a main artery through northern Marion County.

## Roads

The South Carolina Department of Transportation at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday reported 41 Florence County roads closed by conditions associated with Hurricane Matthew — washouts, floods or strewn with trees, powerlines and other debris.

Golden said preliminary estimates were that Florence County roads had suffered at least \$850,000 in damage as a result of the rains that Matthew dropped on the county.

Several key arteries through rural Florence County were reported closed because of washouts at various locations, including Big Swamp Road, Byrnes Boulevard,

Diamond Branch, East Friendfield Road, Francis Marion Highway, Huggins Road, Lakeview Drive, National Cemetery Road, Old River Road, Pamlico Highway, Price Road, Riverdale Avenue, Sandpit Road, Stagecoach Road and Willow Creek Road.

## Power restoration

Duke Energy and Santee Electric Cooperative continue to restore power to areas of their markets left in the dark by the storm.

Duke Energy has quadrupled its resources since storm preparations began (2,300 last week to nearly 9,000 this week). More than 1,500 additional resources were en route Tuesday, according to a company release issued Tuesday evening.

Utility companies sending resources to assist Duke included Duke Energy Midwest and Florida, First Energy, CenterPoint Energy and Delaware Electric Coop.

Crews came from as far away as Delaware, New York, Nebraska, Maine, Indiana, Florida, Oklahoma, Iowa, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Canada has also sent personnel.

Matthew caused significant damage to Duke's transmission system:

» Nearly 60 transmission lines were knocked out of commission (32 restored).

» More than 115 substations were inoperable due to damage or flood waters (98 restored; many of the remaining ones are sub-

merged).

Hurricane Matthew is the fifth-worst storm to hit the combined Duke Energy and Duke Energy Progress service area. Some liken the storm's effects to Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and Hugo in 1989.

"We may continue to lose equipment due to rising flood waters, which could cause additional outages," said Bobby Simpson, who is overseeing Duke Energy's restoration efforts. "The good weather certainly helps our restoration effort, but rising flood waters continue to place additional challenges on us in some areas."

The number of Santee Electric Cooperative's known broken poles rose to 300 Tuesday morning, up from 100 Monday, in Williamsburg, Clarendon, Georgetown and Florence counties, according to the cooperative.

As of Tuesday morning, Santee Electric Cooperative still did not have power to five substations, according to the company.

Outage numbers Tuesday morning by county were Clarendon County, 6,233; Florence County, 7,810; Georgetown County, 8,613; and Williamsburg County, 9,925.

Without knowing the exact damage in each area Santee Electric Cooperative employees cannot give restoration times, said Adrel Langley, manager of community relations for the cooperative.

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MATTHEW ROBERTSON/MORNING NEWS

**Bruce Parker hands a case of water to Woodrow Moses, and Justavius McPhail places a case in the parking lot Tuesday at Harris-Teeter in Florence. The men unloaded 16 pallets of water and two pallets of ice that the grocery store gave away to Hurricane Matthew victims.**



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## CLOSINGS/CANCELLATIONS

### SCHOOLS

- » Darlington County School District schools and district offices are closed for staff and students today. Maintenance and custodial workers should report to work as usual, if it is safe for them to do so. If they cannot do so safely, they should contact their supervisor.
- » Dillon County School Districts 3 and 4 are closed for the week.
- » Florence Darlington Technical College is closed today.
- » Florence County School District 2 is closed today.
- » Florence County School District 3 is closed today for students and staff.
- » Florence County School District 5 is closed for the week. Faculty report Friday, 8 a.m., for a staff day.
- » Francis Marion University is closed today. Classes will resume Thursday at 8:30 a.m.
- » Marlboro County School District is closed for students and staff today.
- » The King's Academy is closed today.
- » Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School in Darlington will operate on a one-hour delay today.

### EVENTS

- » Disney on Ice at the Florence Civic Center is canceled.

### MEDICAL

The following McLeod physician practices and facilities are closed today:

#### Florence

- » McLeod Urgent Care Center
- » McLeod Family Medicine West
- » McLeod Outpatient Rehab and Sports Medicine

#### Darlington

- » McLeod Urgent Care Center

#### Johnsonville

- » McLeod Family Medicine Johnsonville

### TRANSIT

- » PDRTA will resume bus service today. Normal daily bus service will resume, with the following exceptions: The Florence Transit System will begin operating at 7 a.m. with a one-hour delay. The Olanta to Darlington route will not operate today. All other services — including the LakeTran, DART, Darlington-Florence Commuter, Marion County-Myrtle Beach and Lake City Myrtle Beach — will operate the regular schedule. There will be slight deviations on the LakeTran due to road closings.



Title: **South Carolina faces 3 huge economic changes**

Author:

Size: 62.15 column inches

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# South Carolina faces 3 huge economic changes

**T**his the second of a three-part series on how demographic, economic and political trends are rapidly changing South Carolina.

I'm convinced that a New South Carolina is being born, very different from our traditional past. It holds great promise for us and our children for generations to come, if we're smart enough and bold enough to seize this opportunity. And that's a big if.

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 S.C. roots and represent "traditional" South Carolina – black and white. Haley and Ansari are "new" South Carolinians – both first-generation children of Indian immigrants, smart, media savvy and driven to succeed in a new, more culturally diverse environment.

## Dramatic shift

And just as these people represent a New South Carolina, so too is our economy going through dramatic changes. Three big ones are foreign investment, digital innovation and new economic leadership.

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

investment. There are over 1,200 international business facilities in our state – more than there are public schools. We are now home to major global companies such as BWW, 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.

The second big economic change is the impact of the digital economy. One simple statistic: Charleston alone has 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 world view unbounded by state or even national boundaries. This is not traditional South Carolina.

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 ten whitest men in the ten biggest corner offices on the top floor of the ten tallest buildings in the state. And, when these men decided what 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+ 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: 1) providing our people with the skills they need to be competitive in this new global economy and 2) overcoming the provincial political leadership that is holding back the changes required to be competitive.

## Importing workers

In a recent conversation with one of our state's top economic development leaders, he estimated that as many as 80 percent of the 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

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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, which simply does not realize – or does not care – about making the changes we need to become competitive.

If one were to devise a legislative agenda to stifle econom-

ic 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 are placed at a competitive 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 usually difficult and painful. Our transition to a New South Carolina is no different.

Reach Noble at [phil@philnoble.com](mailto:phil@philnoble.com).

## Guest column



Phil Noble writes a weekly column for the S.C. Press Association.

Title: **Haley expands One SC Fund to assist victims of hurricane**  
 Author:  
 Size: 18.6 column inches  
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## Haley expands One SC Fund to assist victims of hurricane

From release

**COLUMBIA** – Gov. Nikki Haley and the Central Carolina Community Foundation announced plans to increase fundraising efforts of the One SC Fund to help those impacted by Hurricane Matthew.

Established to assist South Carolinians recovering from natural disasters, the One SC Fund's first project was providing relief and recovery assistance to state residents in the aftermath of last year's devastating flood. One SC has distributed \$2 million in grants to nonprofit organizations supporting flood-recovery projects across the state and has helped over 1,500 families return home.

"South Carolinians from all walks of life have been so generous through the challenges of the last few years," Haley said. "We are now faced with a new chal-

lenge, and in the spirit of our state, of neighbors helping neighbors, we have expanded the mission of the OneSC Fund to help deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

"Thank you to anyone and everyone, in advance, for your gracious support. Trust that every dollar we raise will go directly to helping a fellow South Carolinian in need."

All donations go directly to nonprofit organizations helping our state recover and rebuild.

To donate, visit [www.onesc-fund.org](http://www.onesc-fund.org) to make an online donation using your credit card. Or mail a check to Central Carolina Community Foundation, One SC Fund, 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204. Questions? E-mail [info@your-foundation.org](mailto:info@your-foundation.org) or call (803) 254-5601.



Title: **Matthew thrashed outside my front door, screamina like somethina alive**  
 Author:  
 Size: 103.23 column inches  
 Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



# Matthew thrashed outside my front door, howling, screaming like something alive

*Editor's note: Michele Roberts, a former Lancaster News reporter, rode out Hurricane Matthew with her dog, Chewie, in their apartment at Garden City, just south of Myrtle Beach. Here is her account.*

**L**iving at the beach is, for the most part, a fine thing. The ocean is five minutes away, which is simply marvelous.

I moved to Garden City in March 2015 after living in the Lancaster area for 15 years. Up until now all has been well.

## Roberts

>>FROM 1

I've lived at the beach before and survived several hurricanes. But none of them worried me like this one, holding onto that category 4 strength for such a long time.

On Oct. 4, Gov. Nikki Haley announced evacuation plans. I was having car trouble – of course, right before a hurricane – and knew I couldn't go very far. But I have friends in Georgetown,

and I felt that I and my dog Chewie would be safe enough there.

I pulled out my hurricane list and started gathering things quickly, but became dismayed by how much would be left behind. These things I was packing could end up being all I have left in the world.

I pulled out for Georgetown, but soon changed my mind and returned home. Both

Being a Weather Channel junkie, I watched Matthew as it came off

the coast of Africa as a tropical wave and then marched west, pummeling places that typically don't see a lot of cyclones, like Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao just off the Venezuelan

coast.

Then it turned northward, dev-

astating Haiti and grinding across Cuba. Within days, I was in the crosshairs of a deadly storm.

See **ROBERTS I Page 3**

places were going to get hit anyway.

I waited with Chewie, my 10-pound best friend, smart as a whip and an all-around good kid. To call him a dog seems like an insult, really.

He was nervous Friday morning as the storm approached, jumping all around and doing a lot of stress yawning. I gave him half a Benadryl, and after that he was fine.

Friday evening, the winds picked up and the rain started. Tiny baby tree frogs were everywhere, so cute, and I hoped that God would keep them safe. I posted messages on Facebook, letting friends and family know I was thinking of them. Then I waited.

The winds increased all night, and the sound of the rain pelting the patio doors was a little nerve-wracking.

Title: **Matthew thrashed outside my front door, screamina like somethina alive**

Author:

Size: 103.23 column inches

Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696

Saturday morning, I watched from my front door as the storm came in. The trees across the street bent nearly flat from some of the gusts, and the sheets of rain ran like ghosts across the parking lot and roofs.

At times the wind roared like a jet engine. Several times I just knew that somehow an airliner was caught in the storm and was about to crash in my backyard.

Chewie was so brave. He even ventured outside to pee during the fleeting moments when the rain stopped. I hid from the wind behind a bush shouting, "Hurry up!"

To my amazement, my power stayed on and the TV kept working.

Through the day, I watched what was happening up and down the coast.

The eye passed over McClellanville around 11 a.m. Saturday, and shortly thereafter crossed the spot near

Georgetown to which I had planned to escape. (My friends are fine and suffered little damage.)

The eye passed Garden City just offshore, and after that things got really scary. The wind switched around from the west and northwest, much more ferocious than before.

It howled and screamed like something alive. The trees whipped violently, and I could not imagine how they weren't ripped right out of the ground. As eve-

ning approached, the wind ramped up with a final vengeance. Murrells Inlet recorded a gust of 87 mph. I felt every bit of it.

Then the storm began to die down. It seemed strange at first not to hear the roar. Miraculously, my power was still on, although the cable finally quit around 8 p.m. and stayed out until Sunday afternoon.

The damage in my neighborhood was very slight. There were leaves everywhere, like a green carpet rolled across the parking lot, and some shingles were missing from the roof of the apartment building across the street. Compared to the images I've seen from other areas,

we were blessed.

Springmaid Pier, a Myrtle Beach icon for generations, is gone. The dunes here on Garden City beach have disappeared, and all that is left is a flat expanse with stairs and pieces of beach-access ramps sticking out of the sand like broken bones.

Since the storm passed, the weather has been amazing. Sunday's brilliant blue skies and cool, light breezes made it difficult to believe that something so scary had just happened the day before. The ocean was so tranquil and inviting.

I'm thankful that we made it through safely. I don't plan on leaving this place, because most days living at the beach is still a fine thing.



courtesy of MICHELE ROBERTS

**Before Hurricane Matthew blew past Garden City, these stairways brought people over the protective sand dunes along the beach. After Matthew, little remains of the large mounds of sand.**

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**Roberts**courtesy of **MICHELE ROBERTS**

**Chewie weathered the storm in Garden City with owner Michele Roberts – with just a little help from a bit of Benadryl.**



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Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



Title: **Matthew drags on**  
 Author: Gregory A. Summers gsummers@thelancasternews.com  
 Size: 67.89 column inches  
 Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



# Matthew drags on

Swaths of S.C.  
 lack power,  
 still flooded,  
 shelters busy

Gregory A. Summers

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The massive cleanup and recovery from Hurricane Matthew were under way Tuesday, with 290,000 South Carolinians still without power and 434 state roads and 27 bridges still closed.

Interstate 95 was closed just north of the S.C./N.C. border. Fifteen dams, including three in the Pee Dee River basin, had been breached.

Roads remained flooded in Horry, Dillon, Marion, Georgetown, Florence and Williamsburg counties, as well as in a few isolated spots to the south in the Lowcountry.

But thankfully, said Gov. Nikki Haley, only three S.C. deaths

have been attributed to Matthew, which killed hundreds in the Caribbean and 27 as it churned through the Florida, Georgia and Carolinas coasts.

"Storms are not convenient," Haley said during a news briefing at noon Tuesday. "While I understand it's easy to get frustrated, whether you're sitting in traffic or whether you can't get to your home, I want you to take a second and count your blessings because you have your life."

"At the end of the day, while we have lost three people that we hold heavy in our hearts, so many were saved."

State officials are bracing for

rising floodwaters in the northeastern portion of South Carolina in the upcoming days.

Parts of Marion County are 4 feet under water, and the Department of Natural Resources expects the swollen Pee Dee River to crest by Thursday. But it could be a week to 10 days before the flooding threat from the Waccamaw River subsides, said DNR Director Alvin Taylor.

"Some of it is here, but more [water] is to come," Taylor said. "It's going to be really evident in the Waccamaw River. We're at a place where we're looking for a crest, but it's going to take a while before it's all gone."

See **STORM** | Page 3

## Storm

>>FROM 1

As of late Monday, the American Red Cross had shelters open across 12 counties to help those displaced by the storm. Seventeen shelters still held more than 700 people in Berkeley, Charleston, Georgetown, Hampton, Williamsburg, Beaufort, Horry, Florence, Dillon, Darlington, Marion, Marlboro counties. The biggest need for shelter was in Beaufort and Bluffton.

"In the aftermath of the hurricane, there are areas without power and roads threatened by floods," said Louise Welch Williams, CEO of the Palmetto SC

Region of the Red Cross. "We're working with the entire response community to make sure everyone safely gets the help they need."

Four islands off the coast — Fripp, Harbor, Hunting and Hilton Head — remain closed, though the road to Hilton Head

reopened to evacuees late Tuesday afternoon.

Haley urged patience among those who would be returning to their homes this week.

Forty-nine residents from Charleston White Oak Manor who had been staying at White

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Oak Manor in Lancaster since last Thursday returned to Charleston in two groups, one Monday afternoon and one early Tuesday.

Storm evacuees staying at the Citadel of Love on Lynwood Drive also left Monday, except for one family who was awaiting bus transportation late Tuesday to stay with family in Massachusetts, said Pastor James Pringle.

Approximately 2,300 S.C. National Guard soldiers and airmen have been activated since Haley declared a state of emergency Oct. 4.

Members of the S.C. National Guard's 178th Combat Engineer Battalion, which includes soldiers from Lancaster, Chester and York counties, are living up to their unit's nickname this week.

The "Ground Breakers," whose specialty is heavy equipment, as well as storm response and recovery, were helping clear roads choked by fallen trees.

About 200 members of the

178th are helping reopen roads into the hardest hit areas, including Edisto Island and Nichols, as well as other areas along the coast.

S.C. National Guard Capt. Paul Reed said the 178th is taking care of one obstacle at the time where they are needed.

"They're cutting their way in to create paths for first responders and utility workers and so residents can get back to their homes," Reed said.

After working in Lancaster County through the weekend to restore power to residents, local Duke Energy line crews are helping in the Cheraw area, said Rick Jiran, Duke Energy vice president of community relations in the state.

"Locally, in Kershaw County, we have gone from 610 customers without power at 8 a.m. to 262 without power," Jiran said. "Really, really good progress."

Other states providing resources include Delaware, New York, Nebraska, Maine, Indiana, Florida, Oklahoma, Iowa,

Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

"Our neighbors to the north, Canada, are also supporting restoration efforts," Jiran said.

On Tuesday afternoon, President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for 13 S.C. counties to provide financial assistance to local governments and state agencies as they dig out from the hurricane.

The declaration covers Berkeley, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion and Williamsburg counties. More could be added to that list after damage assessments are made.

"We've gone through two winter storms, a 1,000-year flood, two fire instances and now a hurricane that's turning into a flood," Haley said, in recounting disasters of the past few years. "Don't ever say South Carolina isn't resilient."

Contact Greg Summers  
 at (803) 283-1156



Title: **Haley: Floods coming to Little Pee Dee, Waccamaw**  
 Author:  
 Size: 32.24 column inches  
 Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



# Haley: Floods coming to Little Pee Dee, Waccamaw

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday at noon the state has had three fatalities as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

However, as most of eastern South Carolina cleans up after the storm, Haley said the state will be dealing with major flooding along the Little Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers during the next few days or even weeks.

As of Tuesday at noon, she said four islands along the coast were still closed, but access to Hilton Head Island was expected be open by mid-day.

Haley said 66 percent of the people who were

without power immediately after the storm now have power, but almost 300,000 were without electricity. At one point, 860,000 people were without power in the Palmetto State, she said.

"Don't ever say South Carolina is not resilient," she said. "We have had two winter storms, two floods and a hurricane turning into a flood, at least for this part we can be prepared and pre-positioned."

She said it is "heartbreaking" that so many people who are just recovering from the flood a year ago have been "sent back to square one."

Department of Natural Resources Director Alvin Taylor said more flooding is to come.

"We are waiting on the

water," he said. "Some of it is here and more is to come, particularly on the Waccamaw."

Nichols, a small community on the Little Pee Dee has been particularly hard hit, he said.

Taylor said the Little Pee Dee should peak in the next 24 to 48 hours, but it could be a week or more before the Waccamaw Rivers reaches its highest flows.

He asked residents not to go site-seeing along the rivers.

"With the waters so high, your wake can do damage to people's homes," he said.

In addition, McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence reported low water pressure, and Taylor said National

SEE **HALEY**, PAGE A5

## HALEY FROM PAGE A1

Guard personnel have been taking water out of the local system, purifying it and supplying it to the hospital.

State Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall urged residents to have patience and to listen to local officials.

She said all interstates in

South Carolina are open but I-95 is closed in North Carolina due to flooding there.

Hall said 92 primary roads were closed and 315 secondary roads were closed, mostly due

to downed trees involved with power lines and flooding. In addition, 27 bridges were closed

and inspectors had reported damage to three bridges.

Haley said residents who need help with "any issues" can call a hotline at 1 (866) 246-0133. Further information on road closures is available at 1 (855) 467-2368.



**HALEY**