

From: Pritchett, Deisy <deisy.pritchett@fema.dhs.gov>
To: Pritchett, Deisydeisy.pritchett@fema.dhs.gov
CC: valentemickie@gmail.comvalentemickie@gmail.com
a williamsawilliams@eda.gov
Alexander, Robertrobert.alexander1@fema.dhs.gov
Diaz, Alexis (FEMA CORPS)alexis.diaz@fema.dhs.gov
Moring, AlexisAlexis.Moring@fema.dhs.gov
Cortez, Alfred (FEMA CORPS)alfred.cortez@fema.dhs.gov
allen fountaina.fountain@emd.sc.gov
Allen, Glennglenn.allen@fema.dhs.gov
Podraza, Amyamy.podraza@fema.dhs.gov
Arno, JonJon.Arno@fema.dhs.gov
Barker, MelanieMelanie.Barker@fema.dhs.gov
Becker, Derrec (SCEMD PIO)dbecker@emd.sc.gov
Branch, Beverlybeverly.branch@fema.dhs.gov
Blackman, YvetteYvette.Blackman@fema.dhs.gov
Symmes, BrianBrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov
Carlson, SueSue.Carlson@fema.dhs.gov
Coley, Carmalla JCarmalla.Coley@fema.dhs.gov
Cody, Carolcarol.cody@fema.dhs.gov
Garcia, Carolina (FEMA CORPS)carolina.garcia@fema.dhs.gov
Adams, ChaneyChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov
Worth, CharlesCharles.Worth@fema.dhs.gov
Carr, Christopher (FEMA CORPS)christopher.carr@fema.dhs.gov
colton bowlescolton.b.bowles@usace.army.mil
Courtney Brockingtoncbrockington@emd.sc.gov
Salvucci, Danieldaniel.salvucci@fema.dhs.gov
Pritchett, Deisydeisy.pritchett@fema.dhs.gov
Walker, Diandrediandre.walker@fema.dhs.gov
Elizabeth robertseroberts@emd.sc.gov
elizabeth ryaneryan@emd.sc.gov
Farmer, Joe (SCEMD)jrfarmer@emd.sc.gov
Godfrey, Robrgodfrey@gov.sc.gov
Hardy, Gregorygregory.hardy@fema.dhs.gov
Harper, MarkMark.Harper@fema.dhs.gov
Hevesi, Lauralaura.hevesi@fema.dhs.gov
Heyliger, JacquelineJacqueline.Heyliger@fema.dhs.gov
Holmes, Shellishelli.holmes@fema.dhs.gov
Homstad, JimJim.Homstad@fema.dhs.gov
George, HunterHunter.George@fema.dhs.gov

Smith, JamesJames.Smith2@fema.dhs.gov
Mitchell, JessicaJessica.Mitchell@fema.dhs.gov
Daly, Johnjohn.daly@fema.dhs.gov
Dawkins, Johnjohn.dawkins@fema.dhs.gov
Martinez, Josejose.martinez2@fema.dhs.gov
Jowers, MalcolmMalcolm.Jowers@fema.dhs.gov
Seaburg, Julie AJulie.Seaburg@fema.dhs.gov
McKay, KathyKathy.McKay@fema.dhs.gov
katie norrisknorris@emd.sc.gov
Garrard, Kelsie (FEMA CORPS)kelsie.garrard@fema.dhs.gov
ken braddockkbraddock@emd.sc.gov
Holschbach, Kristin (FEMA CORPS)kristin.holschbach@fema.dhs.gov
Langhoff, SusanSusan.Langhoff@fema.dhs.gov
Trapp, Larissalarissa.trapp@fema.dhs.gov
Dennis, LatishaLatisha.Dennis@fema.dhs.gov
Lopez-de-Victoria, MayraMayra.Lopez-de-Victoria@fema.dhs.gov
Toro, Manny JManny.Toro@fema.dhs.gov
mary gipsonmary.gibson@sba.gov
McCoy, LetticeLettice.McCoy@fema.dhs.gov
McNeil, Elizabethelizabeth.mcneil@fema.dhs.gov
melissa pottermpotter@emd.sc.gov
Mills, MichaelMichael.Mills@fema.dhs.gov
Phillips, MichaelMichael.Phillips2@fema.dhs.gov
Moore, Mike (FCO)Mike.Moore@fema.dhs.gov
Heiligman, Molly (FEMA CORPS)molly.heiligman@fema.dhs.gov
morgan mo dennymdenny@emd.sc.gov
Nelson, JasonJason.Nelson2@fema.dhs.gov
Robinson, Philiciaphilicia.robinson@fema.dhs.gov
Stone Jr, PricePrice.StoneJr@fema.dhs.gov
R4-EAR4-EA@fema.dhs.gov
Guerrero, RangelRangel.Guerrero@fema.dhs.gov
Schimsa, RebeccaRebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov
Rice, John BJohn.Rice@fema.dhs.gov
scott brownsbrown@emd.sc.gov
Shafer, MaryMary.Shafer@fema.dhs.gov
Smith, Michael LMichael.Smith@fema.dhs.gov
Riley, Spencerspencer.riley@fema.dhs.gov
Stenson, Kim (SCEMD Director)kstenson@emd.sc.gov
steve batsonsbatson@emd.sc.gov
Patel, SwatiSwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov

Szczech, GraciaGracia.Szczech@fema.dhs.gov
Loy, TheolynTheolyn.Loy@fema.dhs.gov
Townsend, JamesJames.Townsend@fema.dhs.gov
Knight, WandaWanda.Knight@fema.dhs.gov
Bolton, Warrenwarren.bolton@fema.dhs.gov
Weiner, KeithKeith.Weiner@fema.dhs.gov
Wilson, BettyBetty.Wilson@fema.dhs.gov
Woodard, JamesJames.Woodard@fema.dhs.gov
Smith, Yolanda MYolanda.Smith2@fema.dhs.gov
young, matthew (SBA)matthew.young@sba.gov
Pippin, ZachZachPippin@gov.sc.gov
Zuniga, RicardoRicardo.Zuniga@fema.dhs.gov

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FYSA- Media Monitoring Report for DR 4241 SC 01/08/16

NEWS CLIPS

SOUTH CAROLINA-DR-4241

Friday, January 8, 2016

Issues:

- None.

Summary:

- Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Sumter Mayor Joe McElveen had a busy day Wednesday in Washington, D.C.
- The mayors spoke with Congressman James Clyburn, had a meeting with the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Jerry Abramson, and spoke with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Julian Castro, and his staff.
- County residents at meetings may provide input on their experiences during, after historic Oct. 4 storm
- County will use feedback to plan for future natural disasters
- This week, a group of college students spent their Christmas vacation helping those flood victims in Williamsburg County and Florence County rebuild.
- Devastating floods and videotaped officers are among the 2015 headlines that South Carolina legislators are responding to in bills proposed for debate this year.

Analysis:

- None

Social Listening Analysis:

- None

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Floods

[Midlands mayors travel to Washington, D.C. to request flood relief funding \(WIS\)](#)

By Chad Mills,

[COLUMBIA, SC \(WIS\)](#), Jan. 07, 2016

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Sumter Mayor Joe McElveen had a busy day Wednesday in Washington, D.C.

The mayors spoke with Congressman James Clyburn, had a meeting with the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Jerry Abramson, and spoke with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Julian Castro, and his staff.

"The floods of 2015 were devastating across the Carolina, seeing almost 12 trillion gallons of water dumped down into our community," Benjamin said.

The flood disaster is the reason Benjamin and McElveen took the trip to Washington, D.C.

"Letters and phone calls and e-mails are important, but sometimes, you need to look a man in the eye and say exactly what you want," said Benjamin.

The mayors had a full day of meetings with federal officials to make the case for more federal funds for flood relief.


"It's not lost on me that the money in the federal coffers are monies that come from people in our state. When we saw disasters in Texas or New Orleans or New Jersey with Superstorm Sandy, the federal response was significant. It was robust," said Benjamin. "We've got to make sure that our request is just that: it's significant, it's robust, and it's representative of the fact that our citizens have been paying taxes for years. They've been paying federal taxes year after year. It's time for the federal government to respond in kind."

Benjamin's eyes are on a \$300 million pot of money known as a Community Development Block Grant that's written into the federal budget for disaster relief for the areas affected by Hurricane Joaquin, the storm that fed the flood with moisture. He's hoping some of that money can be used to fix the Columbia Canal, which Benjamin calls the biggest project in the state, and fund the \$140 million that'll likely be needed to restore about 2,600 properties of low and moderate-income families.

"We're going to be vigilant. We're not going to slow down. We're not going to stop," he said.

As for the pot of \$300 million worth of federal funds, there's no word yet on when it'll be divvied up, but Congressman Clyburn told us in a statement:

"Officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development tell my staff the allocation of additional disaster relief funds will be made in the coming weeks based on the damage and unmet needs for recovery in the affected states. ...I will continue to work closely with local leaders to make sure these HUD officials understand the scope of our needs in South Carolina."

The mayor said he expects rebuilding the canal will require some state funding too. 

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[Richland County to use public input to plan for future natural disasters \(The State\)](#)

By Avery G. Wilks

[The State](#) (Columbia), January 7, 2016

County residents at meetings may provide input on their experiences during, after historic Oct. 4 storm

County will use feedback to plan for future natural disasters

RICHLAND COUNTY, SC -- Richland County this month will hold six public meetings to hear from residents about their experiences during and after the historic Oct. 4 storm that struck South Carolina, the county said Thursday.

The meetings, scheduled for Jan. 19-23 and called "The Community Input and Recovery Project," will help Richland County plan for future natural disasters, the county said in a news release.

Residents are invited to bring photographs or videos showing flooding damage to their home or property, Richland County spokeswoman Beverly Harris said.

"Whatever their experience was, we want to hear it," she said.

The county's disaster recovery contractor, Tetra Tech, will lead the community meetings and will work to learn where flooding occurred and how much damage residents and business owners suffered. The county said it will use the feedback gathered to develop a flood mitigation study of lower Richland County and the Gills Creek and Stoop Creek watersheds.

The six meetings are set for:

5:30 p.m., Jan. 19 at St. Andrews Park on 920 Beatty Road

Noon on Jan. 20 at Gadsden Park on 1668 Goodwin Circle in Gadsden

Noon on Jan. 21 at Bluff Road Park on 148 Carswell Drive

5:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 at Trenholm Park at 3900 Covenant Road

5:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 at the Hopkins Adult Activity Center at 144 Hopkins Park Road in Hopkins

Noon on Jan. 23 at Eastover Park at 1031 Main St. in Eastover.

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Longs residents worried new development could bring more flooding (WBTV)

By AJ Janavel

(WBTV), January 7, 2016

CONWAY, SC— Dozens of Longs residents attended Horry County Council's Meeting to express their concerns over increased flooding chances due to a new development.

In October, News 13 covered the damage caused by flooding in the Colonial Charters neighborhood in the Longs area. Carpets and furniture was littered outside of homes as people clean up after the storms.

But damages were just a part of the problems caused by flooding.

"I saw a lot of flooding; where we couldn't even leave the neighborhood," said Dreama Hunt.

Hunt lives in Colonial Charter.

She had her sons with her while she spoke to county council about her concerns with the new development.

The plan proposed to council is to add new commercial and residential property to the Village of Baytree area which is a few miles away from where Hunt lives in Colonial Charter.

She worries this new development will make flooding more likely for her home.

"When you purposely build an infrastructure that will cause harm to my family, or my neighborhood, or the homes where I live, it should be concern for everyone that showed up tonight," said Hunt.

Hunt wasn't alone. Dozens of people were concerned about flooding in the area.

Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus says people who live in Colonial Charters are in a bad situation for flooding.

"A lot of that area was built prior to us having any land development in place a long time ago and they've come now," said Mark Lazarus.

The new requirements are stricter than what was previously in place.

"This project is exceeding our normal standards by about 20 percent," said Lazarus.

He tells me the design plans for the Baytree area planned development district may actually improve flooding issues for families in Colonial Charter.

"I don't think it's going to increase any more than it does today. What we're trying to do is lessen it and I think the steps we're taking will help lessen it," said Lazarus.

Thursday was only second reading of the proposal.

Horry County Council will have third and final reading at its next council meeting on the 19th.

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College students spend Christmas break helping flood victims rebuild (WBTV)

By Taylor Herlong

WBTV, January 7, 2016, 7:36

HEMINGWAY, SC – Several neighbors in the Pee Dee area are still recovering from the October flood. Many of those people were not eligible for assistance from **FEMA**.

This week, a group of college students spent their Christmas vacation helping those flood victims in Williamsburg County and Florence County rebuild.

It's part of a partnership with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and the South Carolina Baptist Collegiate Ministries. On Thursday, students worked to replace the roof on the home of 89-year-old Lillian Joye.

"I think it's wonderful. They are precious," said Joye.

"It just comes kind of natural," said Brady Gladden, a student from Francis Marion University.

Alexis Richardson is also a student at Francis Marion, and she says she chose to volunteer because she feels it's what she was called to do.

"The Lord's just equipped it inside of me, you know. Yeah, I just love the Lord, and I love helping others," said Richardson.

Tom Vannoy is a North Carolina Baptist Men Team Leader, and he's been working with the students all week. He says the group is finishing repairs on Joye's roof and the back wall to her home.

"You could look in and see her kitchen cabinets when they got the wall out. It was that bad," said Vannoy.

"I'm too old. I can't walk around, you know, see anything like that, so I really wouldn't know," said Joye.

Joye says she appreciates their help, but she's even more grateful for their company.

"They're like my adopted children really cause they are so nice," laughs Joye.

The Rebuild Blitz group is made up of 50 college students from the University of South Carolina, Francis Marion University, Winthrop, and the College of William and Mary.

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SC road repairs top priority for 2016 legislative session (WACH)

By Melanie Barden

[WACH Fox 57](#), January 4th 2016

COLUMBIA, SC (WACH)- With the start of a new year comes new laws and another legislative session.

The biggest change South Carolinians will see going in to 2016 is an added sales tax for Amazon items.

Lawmakers also hope to see some unresolved issues from 2015 discussed.

According to Senator John Scott, a member of the transportation committee, the number one priority is repairing the state's roads.

Scott says, "Our biggest concern of course and we've seen again additional flooding across SC are challenges with the new figures that have come out how we even begin to pay for road construction."

Other topics of debate will be an abortion bill banning abortions after 20 weeks, and education reform.

The General Assembly will convene for the first time in 2016 on Tuesday January 14th.

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SC Legislature to Tackle Issues From Flooding to Cell Phones in 2016 (WSAV News 3)

By Brittany Shane

[WSAV News 3](#), January 1, 2016,

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, center, is applauded during a news conference in the South Carolina State House, in Columbia, S.C. Haley said that the Confederate flag should come down from the grounds of the state capitol, reversing her position on the divisive symbol amid growing calls for it to be removed. Devastating floods and videotaped officers are among the 2015 headlines that South Carolina legislators are responding to in bills proposed for debate this year.

Legislators are offering various ways to help residents still reeling from the Oct. 2-5 storm that brought catastrophic flooding. Proposals include distributing state surplus to victims, requiring property tax relief for damaged homes and loaning money to help repair dams.

Bills banning students from using cellphones during class follow viral video of a Columbia teenager being yanked from her desk and thrown to the floor after refusing to put hers away.

The massacre at a historic black church in Charleston also resulted in a wide array of measures. Subjects range from a monument honoring the nine victims to new rules for rallying on Statehouse grounds.

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Samaritan's Purse helps flood victims rebuild (WCTV)

By Caroline Balchunas, January 4, 2016

ANDREWS, S.C. (WCTV) -- A mission group that helps disaster stricken areas rebuild has made its way to the Lowcountry, helping folks in Andrews recover from October's flooding.

It's been almost three months, but there's still a lot to do.

The ground around Janice Smith's home is still damp a reminder of a very different time. With no flood insurance and little **FEMA** assistance, Smith said she was at a loss.

But now, a new phase can begin. Thanks to volunteers with Samaritan's Purse, flood victims like Smith are getting a fresh start at no cost to homeowners. The international faith-based mission group has set up shop in Andrews.

"It doesn't seem real, you know, that people would come in and do all this work for nothing," said Emily Gosselin with Samaritan's Purse. "But, we have volunteers every single week. God is faithful to bring them. We were booked up three months in advance."

"They truly are what they say they are Samaritan's purse," said Smith. "They are God's hand and feet extended and that's what they've been doing. They've been doing the work out of love can't say any more than that."

Inch by inch, board by board, it's progress Smith can see.

"Oh yeah, everyday something more is coming together. So, I'm looking forward to the next few weeks, where I hope I'll be back in."

For those who dedicate their life to this work, it's a labor of love.

"It doesn't feel like work. I mean, when you're doing this kind of stuff it's a ministry," said Gosselin.

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Georgetown County residents cope with man-made flooding as Santee River continues rise (South Strand News)

By Eileen Keithly

[South Strand News](#), January 7, 2016

The water continues to rise at the Carolina's home on Corner Loop Road in the Santee community.

Residents in the Santee community of Georgetown County were sandbagging their homes Jan. 6 and moving their families and belongings to higher ground as the Santee River continued to rise due to controlled releases from Santee Cooper's dam and dike systems upriver.

Santee Cooper issued a news release on Jan. 4 stating that the company was increasing the rate of release on the Santee Dam spillway to 97,000 cubic feet per second, up from 75,000 cubic feet per second late last week. The company began letting out water Dec. 25 at a rate of 20,000 cubic feet per second, but increased the rate of release because of recent rainfall.

Residents along Corner Loop Road in Georgetown County said their neighborhood began to flood on Jan. 1.

"We noticed areas around our home beginning to flood on New Year's Day," Everett Carolina said. "We called the county and told them that if the water continued to rise, we were going to have a serious problem out here, and the situation is now critical."

Jimmy Small, who lives around the corner from Carolina, said he was already experiencing serious issues with the rising river waters, and added he expected more to come.

"I've moved my vehicles and boats several times, the water just keeps rising and will probably be in my house tonight," Small said. "It's already up to the bottom of my front door, and it doesn't look like it is going anywhere but up."

For now, Small said, all he can do is pray that Santee Cooper stops releasing water into the Santee River.

Carolina said residents in the Santee community were outraged after reading excerpts from a press release by County Public Information Officer Jackie Broach that were published Jan. 6 in the Georgetown Times.

"The county public information officer had the audacity to say that if you came out here and talked to people, we are not very concerned," Carolina said. "That is not true. We are very concerned because the river continues to rise and has not even crested, and it's not expected to do so until sometime on Friday."

The county press release indicated the Santee River reached about 23 feet in the Crow Hill Road area, and that it was expected to crest by Friday, Jan. 8.

On Jan. 6, Georgetown County Emergency Manager Sam Hodge said the county is monitoring the Santee area and is working with the South Carolina Department of Transportation and Santee Cooper to ensure the safety of the community.

"We are out there every day keeping an eye on the situation," Hodge said. "We have gone door to door asking residents if they would like to evacuate, and so far, none of the residents in that area have elected to evacuate at this time."

Small said that he wasn't sure when he would be evacuating, but believed that time would be coming very soon.

“I don’t want to leave, but the water is continuing to rise and I just don’t want to take any chances,” Small said. “When you live along the river, you know that from time to time there might be a natural disaster, like the heavy rain that caused all the flooding this past October. But you don’t expect to have to deal with man-made disasters like this.

“It just doesn’t make any sense to me why they would release that much water, knowing that there are people, hundreds of people, that live along this river that are going to be put in harm’s way.”

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Disaster centers closing in Richland County as federal officials scale back operations (The State)

By Avery G. Wilks

[The State](#), COLUMBIA, SC, Jan. 7, 2016

Half of the disaster recovery centers in Richland County will close on Friday as federal assistance agencies continue to scale back operations in South Carolina.

Centers at 608 Main St. in Eastover and at 2850 Congaree Road in Gadsden will close at 6 p.m. Friday, while two more in Richland County will remain open as long as residents affected by the historic Oct. 4 flooding keep visiting them, disaster officials said.

Representatives from the **Federal Emergency Management Agency**, U.S. Small Business Administration and South Carolina Emergency Management Division still are available at centers in libraries at 1431 Assembly St. and at 7421 Garners Ferry Road. A Lexington County center at 6251 St. Andrews Road near Irmo also remains open.

Disaster recovery centers gradually have closed in the three months after the storm as residents stop using them. Just 14 of the 32 original centers will be left after Friday, **FEMA** spokesman Carl Henderson said.

The deadline to apply for federal disaster assistance was Monday, but disaster recovery centers that continue to receive visits will remain open to assist residents who already have registered for federal assistance, officials said. Centers close only after several days of minimal or no visits.

“We’ll see a peak, and then they’ll start dropping off,” Henderson said. “When they’re no longer needed, we’ll close them down.”

State emergency division spokesman Derrec Becker said closing centers is a good thing because it means the agencies have met the area’s need.

“DRC’s are designed to be temporary facilities to help people through their immediate, short term needs,” Becker said. “They’re not meant to be there forever.”

Help is still available for South Carolina residents who have registered with **FEMA** or applied for SBA loans.

FEMA’s helpline, 800-621-3362, remains open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, and applicants also can visit disasterassistance.gov.

“We’re still going to be around,” Henderson said. “We’re just not going to be as visible as we were with these disaster recovery centers open. This process is going to go on a lot longer than people probably realized.”

SBA loan applicants still can visit disasterloan.sba.gov/ela or call the SBA’s helpline at 800-659-2955. A listing of open disaster recovery centers is available at <http://asd.fema.gov/inter/locator/home.htm>.

Read more here: <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article53498815.html#storylink=cpy>

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Of floods and families (The Columbia Star)

By Cathy Cobbs

[The Columbia Star](#), Jan. 8, 2016

Cathy Cobbs Editor’s Note: This is the ninth in a series of articles by staff writer Cathy Cobbs chronicling her unique journey of the illness and death of her father and the loss of the family’s home in the Great Flood of 2015. This week, the story returns to Ohio as she recalls the events surrounding her father’s funeral.

“Your father was always so proud of you kids.”

Those nine words were one of the many interesting and sometimes unexpected revelations my sisters and I heard while standing in the receiving line at Anderson Funeral Home on the evening of October 19. My father was the associate director of the research department at the University of Dayton, and he had a group of secretaries who seemed to know more about him than we did—including the fact that he was proud of us, and talked about us. He was a man of few words—given more to making light of a situation than becoming mired in sentimentality.

I remember waking up in the hospital in December of 1980, during Christmas break, after having my tonsils removed at the advanced age of 19. The pain in my throat and head was nearly unbearable. Anybody who has had this procedure who is more than eight can attest to the fact the promise of consuming all the ice cream you can eat isn’t

even slightly funny. You don't want to swallow your own saliva, much less a teaspoon of rocky road. And there was Dad standing by my bed—"Hey, your boss wanted me to tell you that you're going to need to be back at work tomorrow."

I gave him the finger. It was not a proud moment, but hey, that was our relationship.

So hearing his former secretaries tell tales of our camping trip escapades, school accomplishments, and stupid Christmas videos, wherein all three girls came down the steps with pillows stuffed under our nightgowns that made us look eight months pregnant—all of that had been heard, remembered, and repeated. It was definitely a "Sally Field" moment—and I found myself on the brink of tears several times during the three hours we spent standing beside our father's coffin visiting with people we hadn't seen in decades.

But of course, there was still the flood—and that became part of the evening also. Our stuff was parked at the mansion with the One Eyed Wonder, and we were still battling with the insurance company about our claim, talking ad nauseam with **FEMA** about what help it could provide (practically none) and trying to assess the structural integrity of our still-waterlogged home. So when my father's friends and neighbors asked where the Cobbs family was living, the response of "Columbia, South Carolina," really got the conversational ball rolling. At the time, I found it curious it was more comfortable to speak about our tragedy 500 miles away, rather than the tragedy that was reclining in a coffin only three feet away.

But somehow it seemed like every day of my life since late September and early October, where the "new normal" meant moments of complete frustration, followed by tears, then laughter, followed by despair and longing for the "old normal." I found myself thinking about Tragedy A when I should have been thinking about Tragedy B.

Here's an example: on the day of Dad's funeral, I volunteered to be one of the family members present for the closing of the casket, a solemn and emotional occasion, where being "in the moment" was essential. Because even though that person in the coffin wasn't my dad anymore, I felt someone should be with him for his final moment above ground, with the sun shining on his face through the windows of Anderson Funeral Home's visitation parlor. As Lindsey, the woman in charge of the service, gently took off his wedding ring and his glasses (which we insisted he wear—idiotic), before closing the casket, I thought, "I wonder where my rings are—had I put them downstairs before I left for Ohio? As a matter of fact, I wonder where all my jewelry is? Did my glasses survive the flood..... STOP IT."

Conversely, when I was trying to concentrate on completing an Excel spreadsheet for our insurance claim (meaning every single thing we owned that was lost in the flood, when we bought it, what we paid for it, what it would cost to replace it), I found myself wondering what Dad would have rescued if the flood waters were rising in their Springboro home—his collection of arrowheads and shark's teeth? The antiques he had lovingly and painstakingly restored? And how much were those arrowheads worth? I should Google that..... STOP IT."

I realized I was no different than the funeral home visitors who wanted to chat about the flood rather than my father. Wikipedia calls it avoidance coping— "a maladaptive coping mechanism characterized by the effort to avoid dealing with a stressor. Coping refers to behaviors that attempt to protect oneself from psychological damage."

But whether or not I was employing avoidance coping, it still meant we had to get through the events of the next 24 hours—the funeral, the burial, the luncheon, and then, the dismantling of the team that had carried us through these three weeks of dad's illness and death. My sisters and their families, my aunt and uncle, cousins and friends all needed to return to their busy lives filled with swim meets, school work, golf outings, and jobs. The words "murderous envy" hardly covered the depth of emotions that swept over me as each family member drove away.

We were the last to depart Springboro and did so with great regret on the morning of October 21. Although we weren't exactly leaving paradise, where we were going seemed much worse. The endless paperwork, the continuous drain on our bank account for flood remediation, the mountains of information that had to be processed as we wrestled with the options of fixing, rebuilding, or walking away from the whole mess—it was all too overwhelming. But avoidance coping wasn't an option.

Time to return to Columbia and to the war. 

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Food & clothing distributed, donations collected for S.C. flood victims (WNCT)

By Kelly Byrne, January 6, 2016

GREENVILLE, NC (WNCT) – Donations poured in to the Churches Outreach Network's food and clothing distribution after the recent cold temperatures.

The Churches Outreach Network donates food to those in need on the first Wednesday of every month. Volunteers also made clothing available.

Donations were also collected for the victims of last year's South Carolina floods.

"We're hoping that today we would get some of the things that were requested," said Susan Turnage, a Churches

Outreach Network volunteer. “Things that they need, like cleaning supplies, because they have a lot of mold and mildew that was caused from the flood, but we’re hoping today they would be able to collect stuff that would assist them.”

Members will head to South Carolina at the end of the month to donate the items collected

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TV/Radio Clips



FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

01/07/2016 17:05:15

News 13 at 5 (News)

... floods.. many of them are not eligible for FEMA assistance...but today, they got some help from area college students.. they gave up their christmas ...

(click thumbnail to play)



FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

01/07/2016 18:07:40

News 13 at 6 (News)

... floods.... were not eligible for assistance from FEMA. tonight, news13's taylor herlong brings you a "good news" story from hemingway about a group of ...

(click thumbnail to play)



FEMA on WFXB (FOX) - Myrtle Beach, SC

01/07/2016 22:08:48

FOX News at Ten (News)

... floods.... were not eligible for assistance from FEMA. tonight, fox news at 10's taylor herlong brings you a "good news" story from hemingway .. about a group of ...

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FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

01/07/2016 23:00:49

WIS News 10 Nightcast (News)

... saturday and the middle 60s by sunday afternoon. two centers set up by FEMA to help flood victims chance on saturday. the most likely time for showers this saturday will be saturday ...

(click thumbnail to play)



FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

01/07/2016 23:01:52

WIS News 10 Nightcast (News)

... other recovery centers...or by getting in touch with FEMA representatives. if you need help with any part of the application process for getting assistance, you can still ...

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FEMA on WBTW (CBS) - Myrtle Beach, SC

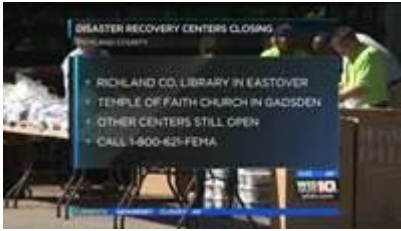
01/07/2016 23:08:37

News 13 at 11 (News)

... october floods. many are not eligible for FEMA assistance... but today, they got some help from area college students.. ...



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FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

01/08/2016 04:33:16

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... up to his brother to make the right decisions. two centers set up by FEMA to help flood victims in the midlands are shutting down. richland county officials say ...



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FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

01/08/2016 05:34:25

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... she expects that may reopen in the summer. two centers set up by FEMA to help flood victims in the midlands are closing today. richland county officials say ...



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FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

01/08/2016 06:34:08

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... she expects that may reopen in the summer. two centers set up by FEMA to help flood victims in the midlands are closing today. richland county officials say ...



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FEMA on WIS - COL (NBC) - Columbia, SC

01/08/2016 06:56:12

WIS News 10 Sunrise (News)

... approached by the suspects is currently being questioned. two centers set up by FEMA to help flood victims in the midlands are closing today. richland county officials say ...